

# **MICHIGANDERS AIDING MICHIGANDERS**

## THE DMVA COVID-19 RESPONSE EFFORTS

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**MARCH 2020 - JANUARY 2021**





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# COVID-19 PANDEMIC

At the end of 2019, an infectious disease started to spread across Wuhan, China. It soon spread to the rest of the world and by January 20, 2020, the U.S. had its first verified case.

In early February, the World Health Organization had given the virus an official name. COVID-19 is the acronym that represents the coronavirus disease and the year it was discovered.

"Pandemic is not a word to use lightly or carelessly," said Dr. Tedros Adhanom, the director general of the WHO. "It is a word that, if misused, can cause unreasonable fear, or unjustified acceptance that the fight is over, leading to unnecessary suffering and death."

The WHO declared it a pandemic on March 11, 2020. It was approximately at this time that doctors around the world had an inkling about how easily it can spread since so many people are asymptomatic and can unknowingly spread it.

"I've been dealing with viral outbreaks for the last 40 years. I've never seen a single virus — that is, one pathogen — have a range where 20% to 40% of the people have no symptoms," said Dr. Anthony Fauci, the director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases.

Due to the virus being new, scientists are still learning from it and about it. By April, the public was advised to wear a face covering because it was proven to help slow the spread. Every day new things are being learned and new practices are being implemented.

"We need to learn the lessons that are being shown from this virus," said Dr. Michael J. Ryan, WHO Informal Advisory Group.



# DMVA LEADERSHIP



**Gov. Gretchen Whitmer**  
Commander-in-Chief



**Maj. Gen. Paul Rogers**  
Adjutant General & Director of  
Military and Veterans Affairs



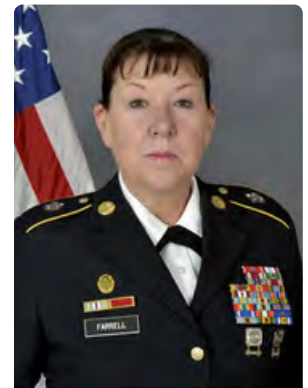
**Brig. Gen. Jeffrey Terrill**  
Director of the Joint Staff



**Brig. Gen. Bryan Teff**  
Assistant Adjutant General—Air



**Brig. Gen. Lawrence Schloegl**  
Assistant Adjutant General—Army



**Command Sgt. Maj. Catherine Farrell**  
State Command Sergeant Major & Senior  
Enlisted Leader



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



**Michael Price**  
State Operations Director



**Zaneta Adams**  
MVAA Director



**Anne Zerbe**  
Michigan Veteran Homes Director

# COVID-19 TIMELINE

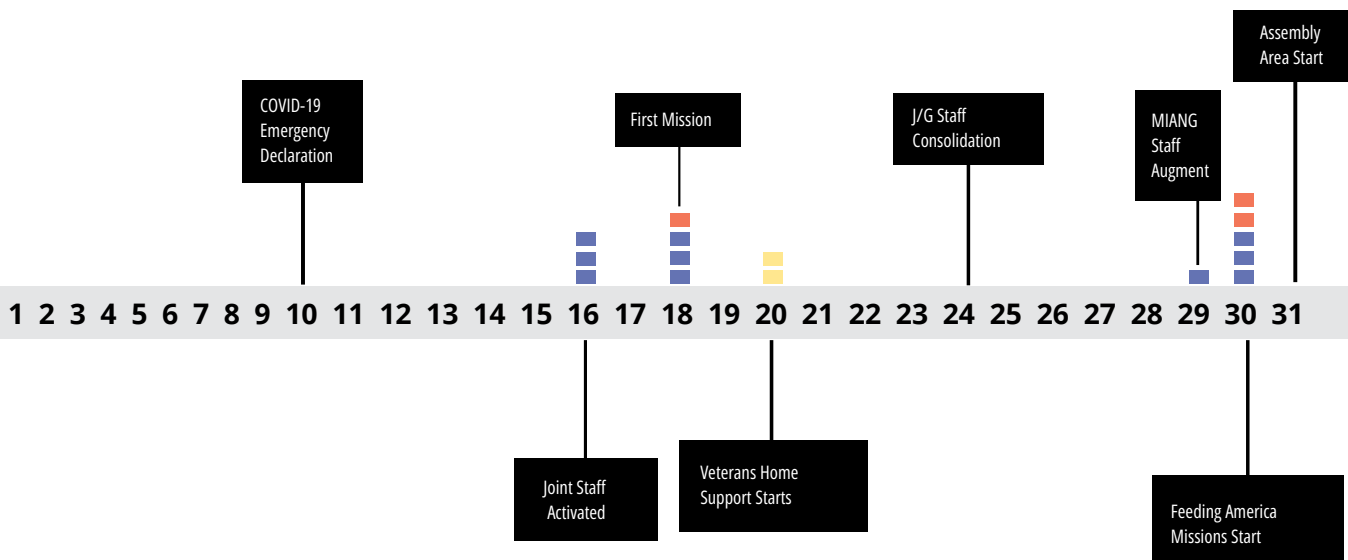
- **Feb. 11, 2020:** The W.H.O. proposed an official name
- **Feb. 28, 2020:** Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer announces the state will activate its emergency operations center to prepare for potential coronavirus cases. The State of Michigan Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) is where state, local and federal agencies coordinate the response to a disaster, emergency or terrorist event.
- **Feb. 29, 2020:** The United States reported its first death.
- **March 10, 2020:** COVID-19 cases confirmed in Michigan. Gov. Whitmer declared a state of emergency.
- **March 11, 2020:** COVID-19 was declared a pandemic by the World Health Organization.
- **March 13, 2020:** A national emergency was declared in the United States concerning the COVID-19 outbreak.
- **March 13, 2020:** Gov. Whitmer announces the closure of all Michigan K-12 schools
- **March 15, 2020:** Gov. Whitmer signs Executive Order 2020-8, which temporarily imposes enhanced restrictions on the excessive pricing of goods, materials, emergency supplies and consumer food items.
- **March 16, 2020:** Gov. Whitmer issues an order to close all bars and restaurants dine-in services, gyms, coffee houses, and most public places as COVID-19 cases total more than 50. Michigan expands unemployment to include those impacted by the closures.
- **March 17, 2020:** Michigan confirms its first COVID-19 related death.
- **March 18, 2020:** Michigan's Big 3 automakers announce plans to shut down. Gov. Whitmer calls on the Michigan National Guard to help with distribution of COVID-19 PPE.
- **March 21, 2020:** The US - Canada border begins to close to non-essential traffic.
- **March 23, 2020:** Gov. Whitmer issues a statewide stay-at-home order for all non-essential workers.
- **March 28, 2020:** President Donald J. Trump approves Michigan's Disaster Declaration. President Trump declared that a major disaster exists in the State of Michigan and ordered Federal assistance to supplement State, tribal, and local recovery efforts in the areas affected by COVID-19.
- **April 13, 2020:** Michigan COVID-19 cases break 25,000 mark.
- **May 14, 2020:** Michigan COVID-19 cases break 50,000 mark.
- **July 13, 2020:** Executive Order 2020-147 mandates individuals are required to wear a face covering whenever they are in an indoor public space. It also requires the use of face coverings in crowded outdoor spaces if proper social distancing cannot be maintained.
- **Aug. 14, 2020:** Michigan COVID-19 cases break 100,000 mark.
- **Dec. 16, 2020:** The Michigan National Guard assist in distribution and administration of the COVID-19 vaccination.





# MARCH

369  
Guard Members  
Activated



# MING Response

March 2020



**369**  
TOTAL GUARDSMEN  
ACTIVATED



**0**  
TESTS ADMINISTERED



**60,000**  
POUNDS OF FOOD  
DISTRIBUTED



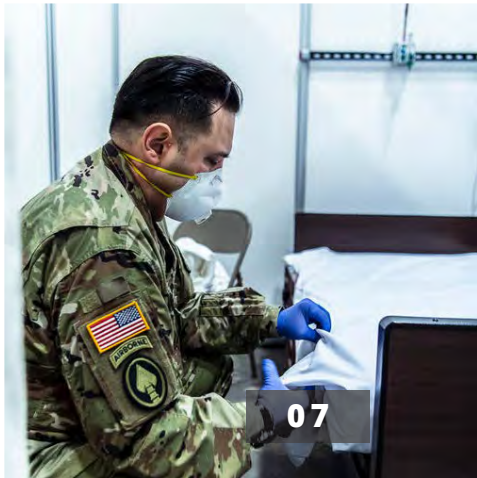
**20**  
LTCF SUPPORTED



**0**  
TEST KITS  
DISTRIBUTED



**20 OF 83**  
COUNTIES SUPPORTED





## 1ST COVID-19 RESPONSE

Soldiers from the Michigan Army National Guard assist Michigan Department of Health and Human Services with assembling and loading critical personal protective gear, such as gloves, gowns, and face shields, March 18, 2020. Once packaged, MDHHS will deliver the supplies to various local public health departments.

## ASSISTING THE HOME FOR VETERANS

The Michigan Guard is assists the Grand Rapids Home for Veterans (GRHV) by safeguarding veterans. As one of 152 state homes throughout the nation, GRHV and the Michigan Guard continue the tradition of serving those who served.







## FACES FROM THE FIELD



**"The National Guard stepping in to help during the COVID-19 pandemic has shown that we are all in this together, we are all doing our part to help, whether big or small."**

Spc. Jacob Collins 1436th Engineer Company from Brighton, Mich.



**“The aid that men and women of the Michigan National Guard will provide to Food Banks across Michigan is further proof that the Michigan National Guard is a true cornerstone of Michigan communities.”**

Gov. Gretchen Whitmer



## FOOD BANK SUPPORT

Food distribution sites requested Michigan National Guard personnel to assist with mobile food distribution, which serves between 300-600 Michigan families. Guard members will direct traffic for the drive-through distribution site and assist with packing bags of food for residents. Guard members will perform their duties with personnel protective equipment to mitigate the spread of COVID-19, including gloves and hand sanitizer.





## PROVIDING SOLUTIONS

U.S. Air Force Capt. Brynt Ellis, medical readiness officer, 127th Medical Group, Selfridge Air National Guard Base, Mich., works at Michigan's State Emergency Operations Center in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.



## PROTECTING MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS WITH INNOVATION

U.S. Air Force Capt. Brynt Ellis, medical readiness officer for the 127th Medical Group, Selfridge Air National Guard Base, Michigan, discusses with Army Command Sgt. Maj. Kevin Palmatier, Garrison Command Sergeant Major for Camp Grayling, modifications that could be made to PPE to ensure the health and safety of medical professionals combating the COVID-19 pandemic.



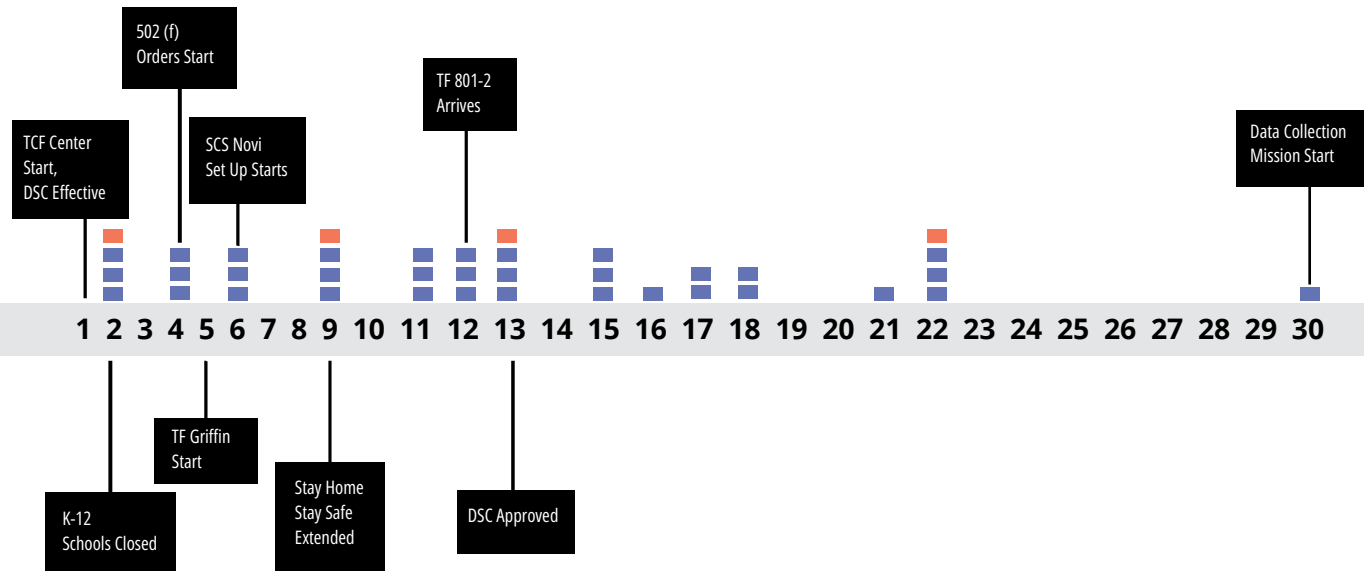
## MAKING CARDS TO LIFT SPIRITS IN VETERANS HOMES

Alice Hokenson, L'Anse, Mich., a widow of a Navy Veteran, makes a card for a veteran in her community on April 28, 2020. She has made 180 cards for the residents of the Jacobetti Home for Veterans during the Stay-Home, Stay-Safe state order.



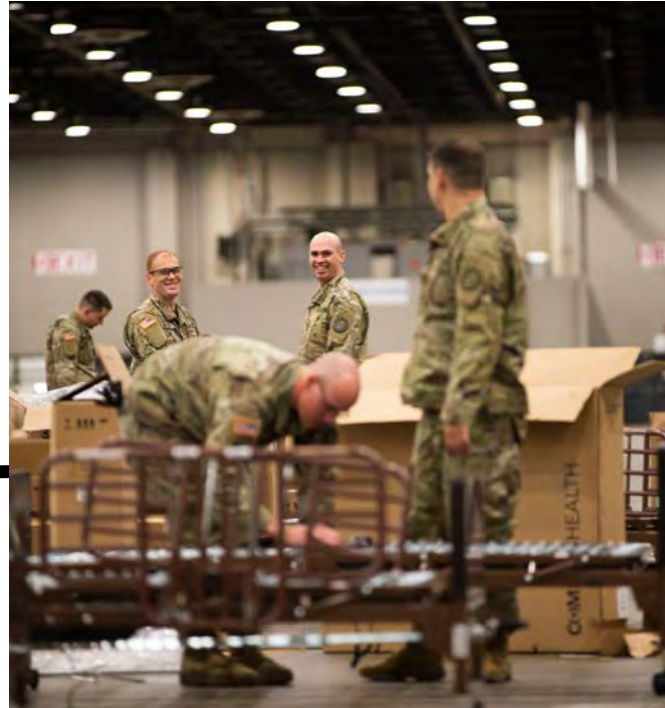
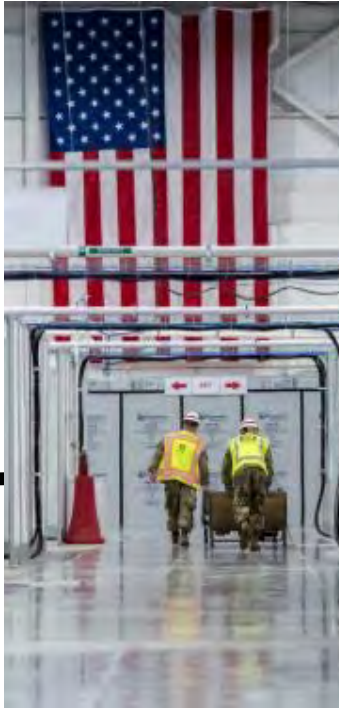


1100  
Guard Members  
Activated



# TCF

The TCF Center in Detroit has been converted into a 970-bed alternate care facility for COVID-19 patients by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, in partnership with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Michigan National Guard.



The Suburban Collection Showplace in Novi, Mich. has been converted into an alternate care facility in response to COVID-19 by the Federal Emergency Management Agency in partnership with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Michigan National Guard.

# SUBURBAN SHOWPLACE



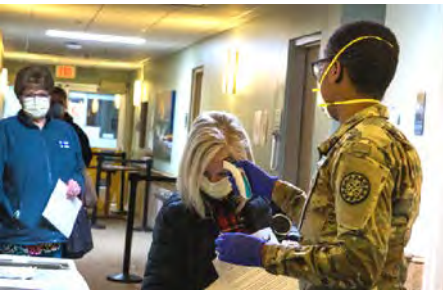
# ORGANIZING EQUIPMENT IN DETROIT

1436th Engineer Company, Michigan Army National Guard, assists with the inventory and organization of equipment for alternate care sites in Detroit, Mich.



# CHECK-IN STATIONS AT THE D.J. JACOBETTI HOME FOR VETERANS

The D.J. Jacobetti Home for Veterans implemented a number of procedures for those working at the homes to ensure the safety of its residents. The National Guard is assisting with the screening process upon entrance to the building.



# SOLDIERS HELPING FIRST RESPONDERS

1431st Combat Engineer Company (Sapper) delivers personal protective equipment in Munising, Mich., on April 29, 2020. Michigan National Guard Soldiers and Airmen are actively assisting the state's COVID-19 response and are supporting requests from local communities and state agencies.





## JRSOI

Joint Reception, Staging, Onward movement, and Integration sites help maintain the readiness of those supporting the COVID-19 response in Michigan.



Members of the 110th Civil Engineer Squadron, Battle Creek Air National Guard Base, were requested through the City of Lansing Office of Emergency Management and the State Emergency Operations Center to assist Sparrow Hospital in Lansing with the construction of a large medical screening tent on April 15 as part of the state's response to COVID-19.

## ALASKAN SHELTER TENTS AT LANSING SPARROW HOSPITAL



# ALPENA TRAINING

Approximately 120 members of the U.S. Marine Corps flying squadron VMA-542 will conduct combat readiness training at Alpena Combat Readiness Training Center for two weeks, beginning April 17. The squadron will fly their AV-8B Harrier aircraft, normally based at Cherry Point, N.C., on training sorties over Northern Michigan. This includes daily flights to Grayling Aerial Gunnery Range.

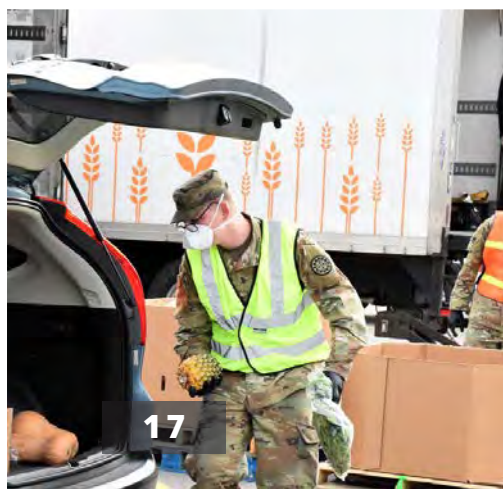


# RECRUITING EFFORTS

Michigan Army National Guard recruiters conduct a question and answer session via the internet due to social distancing restrictions imposed during the COVID-19 pandemic. Recruiters are charged to develop and implement programs and tools necessary to achieve mission success and recruiters have turned to innovative techniques in order to meet mission requirements.







## SERVING THE LOCAL COMMUNITY

Members of the 110th Attack Wing, Battle Creek Air National Guard Base, Mich., serve the local community by packaging food at South Michigan Food Bank in Battle Creek, Mich., on April 20, 2020.

## ASSISTING FEEDING AMERICA

Michigan Army National Guard soldiers assist Feeding American West Michigan Food Bank by distributing over 20,000 pounds of food which can serve close to 400 families in need in west Michigan during a recent mobile food distribution event as part of the Michigan National Guard's COVID-19 response, Kentwood, Michigan.

## SECRETARY OF THE ARMY TOURS TAYLOR ARMORY

The Secretary of the Army, Hon. Ryan McCarthy speaks to Michigan National Guard members assigned to the Taylor Armory. Secretary McCarthy, alongside Governor Gretchen Whitmer, Senator Gary Peters, and Representative Elissa Slotkin visited several prominent locations where the Michigan National Guard has provided support in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, April 22, 2020.



## PROMOTED DURING QUARANTINE

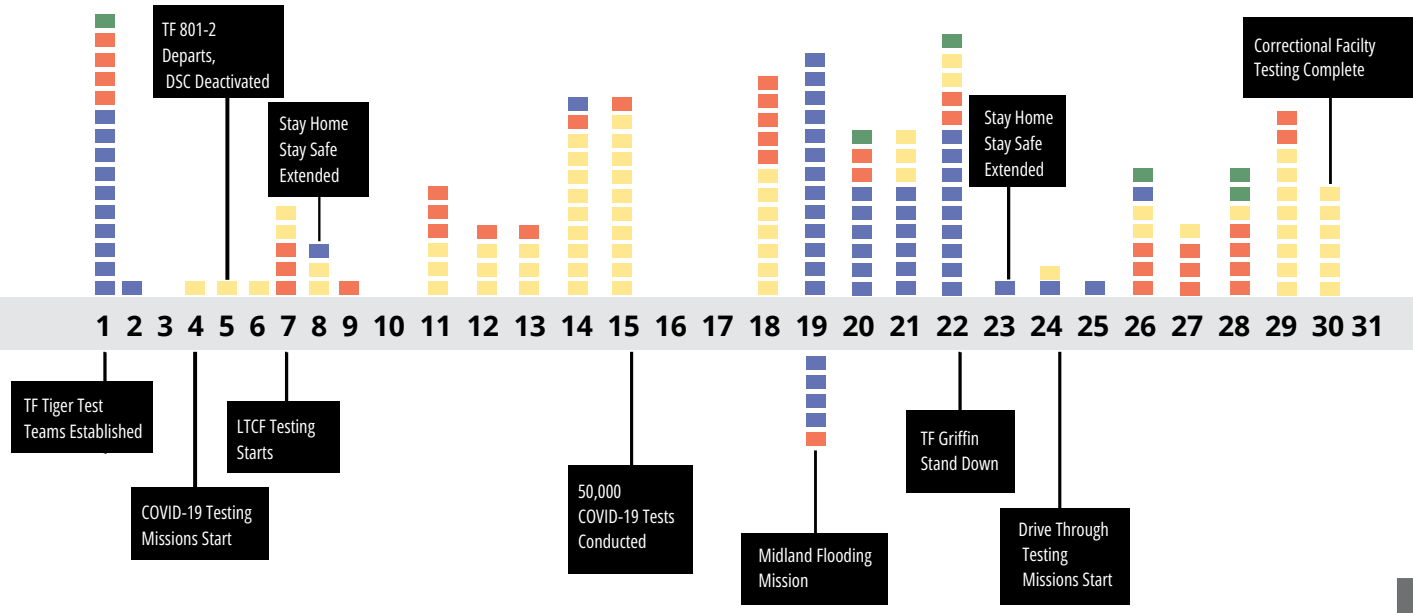
The Secretary of the Army, Hon. Ryan McCarthy and the Vice Chief of Staff of the Army, General Joseph Martin, pose with Spc. Oralía Gomez, Spc. Veronica Passkiewicz and Private First Class Brandon Banks from the 1434th Engineer Company, 507th Engineer Battalion, 177th Military Police Brigade, Michigan Army National Guard. These Soldiers were promoted by McCarthy during a visit to the TCF in Detroit, April 22, 2020.





# MAY

842  
Guard Members  
Activated





## MICHIGAN CIVIL AIR PATROL SUPPORT

The Civil Air Patrol partnered with the Michigan State Police, who handle emergency management and lead the State's Emergency Operations Center. The CAP, made up of volunteers, are using one of the ten available single engine aircraft assigned to the Michigan Wing and make multiple trips throughout the state, delivering test kits and picking up test kits that require processing.



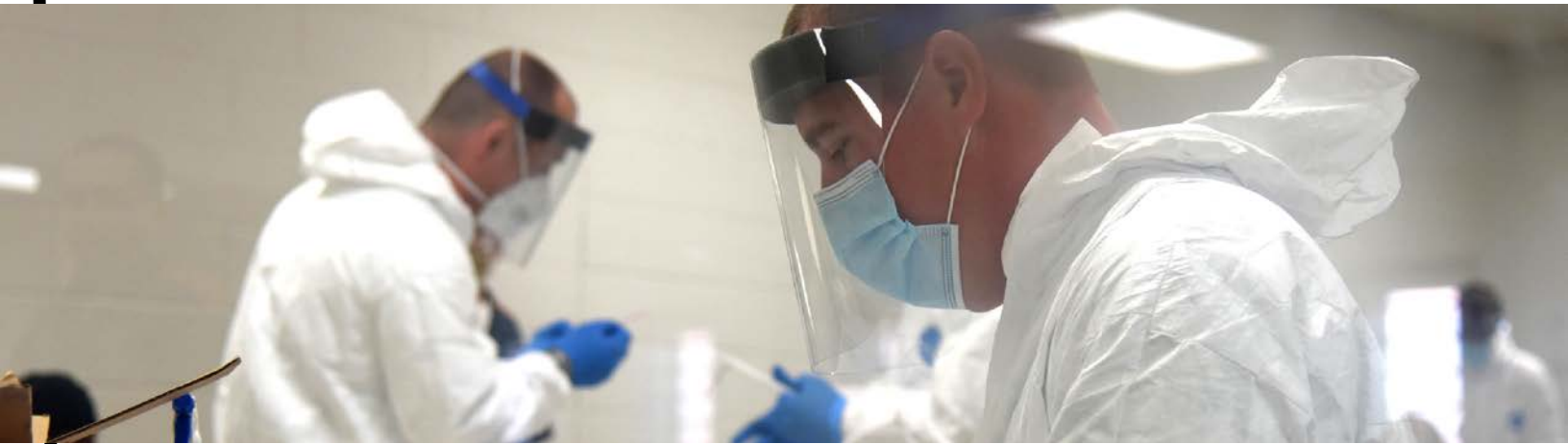
## MVAA CARE PACKAGES

The Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency and partners teamed together to give out care packages to 81 veterans and National Guard and Reserve members from across mid-Michigan. The care packages included gift cards, hand-sewn masks, hygiene kits, snacks, and hand-written notes of support from students across the country.



## ASSISTS DEPT. OF CORRECTIONS IN TESTING

Members of the Michigan Army and Air National Guard are sweeping across Michigan's Upper Peninsula (U.P.), assisting long-term care and correctional facilities in testing employees and prisoners.



## D. J. JACOBETTI HOME FOR VETERANS

Michigan National Guard Soldiers and Airmen from various units conduct COVID-19 testing at the D. J. Jacobetti Home for Veterans, Marquette, Mich. The Michigan National Guard was asked to assist in testing employees to ensure the safety of both the members and employees in the home.





## COMBINING THE WAREHOUSES

Michigan is changing where it stores all the equipment that is essential to fighting the pandemic. Where once the state was storing COVID-19 supplies within seven different warehouses, those warehouses are closing and everything is coming to one central location in Lansing. Task Force Tiger is operating the warehouse.



## INCREASES FOOD BANK DISTRIBUTION BY 41%

Soldiers from the 1433rd and 1434th Engineer Companies, Michigan Army National Guard, assist at Gleaners Community Food Bank in Pontiac, Mich., by packaging more than 1000 meal boxes a day in response to COVID-19.



## MICHIGAN YOUTH CHALLENGE ACADEMY CADETS AND STAFF MOBILIZE FOR COMMUNITY

Staff and cadets at the Michigan Youth Challenge Academy (MYCA) have mobilized to produce fabric face masks to fight the spread of COVID-19 in the local community and fulfill one of the program's eight core component requirements: service to community. Cadets are gaining valuable life skills as they learn to sew and continue to appreciate the importance of attention to detail.

"Our cadets have really had a lesson in life coping skills through the COVID-19 pandemic, just as we all have," said counselor Karen Gonser. "They've missed out on opportunities to get out to the communities and participate in service projects, as well as parent and mentor visits and field trips. They've been tested more than most of us, not having any change of scenery since this all started."



## MYCA GRADUATES CLASS 42; SETS RECORD

The Michigan Youth Challenge Academy graduating class 42, is Michigan's first class under COVID-19. The Michigan Youth Challenge Academy educates, trains, and mentors at-risk youth in a quasi-military environment at no cost to participants, giving young people the skills to become productive and responsible citizens. Applying the military model to alternative education, the Academy promotes competency development through academic opportunities, life skills, and vocational preparation.



**"I joined the National Guard to work on humanitarian missions, and being able to work in something like this is exactly what I wanted to do when I joined."**

Spc. John Nikutta



Drive-through testing has relied on various organizations, including the Michigan National Guard, Michigan Department of Health and Human Services and the State Emergency Operations Center.



## **COVID-19 TESTING**





# MICHIGAN NATIONAL GUARD RESPONDS TO STATE OF EMERGENCY FOR MIDLAND FLOODS

Michigan National Guard units from Bay City, Saginaw, Port Huron, and other nearby communities have responded to a request for assistance following massive flooding in the Midland area resulting from the breach of the Edenville and Sanford Dams.

The Michigan State Police (MSP) requested the units to provide assistance evacuating Midland area residents. Approximately 130 Soldiers and more than 40 specialized vehicles arrived in the area to provide assistance. The National Guard began missions Wednesday, May 20, at 4 a.m., evacuating citizens, augmenting emergency planners, and preparing logistical support.

The Michigan National Guard is using assets such as Light Medium Tactical Vehicles (LMTVs) that are capable of driving through high water for this mission. Over 200 Soldiers and additional equipment are expected to arrive throughout the day. Additional guard members are on standby with capabilities for other missions including aviation, rescue hoist, and logistical support, if required.

“Our priority is supporting the State of Michigan’s response to this situation and ensuring the safety and wellbeing of Michigan citizens,” said U.S. Army Maj. Gen. Paul Rogers, adjutant general and director Michigan Department of Military and Veterans Affairs. “Members of the Michigan National Guard are trained to respond at a moment’s notice when their skills are called upon – their professionalism is another reassuring example of the guard’s mission as ‘Michiganders helping Michiganders.’”





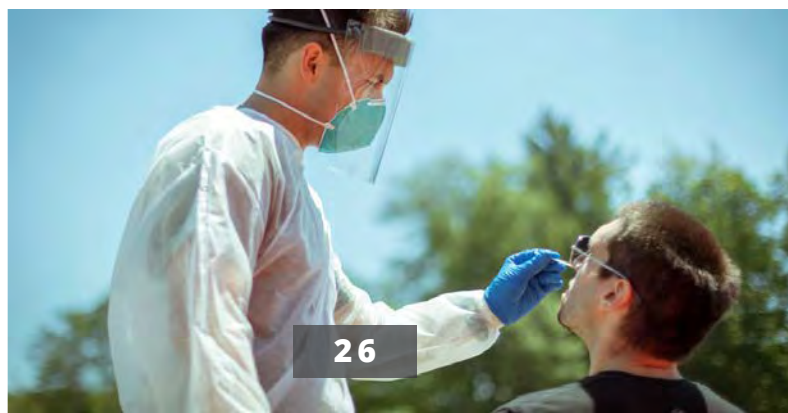
## COVID-19 TESTING

As COVID-19 continues to impact Michigan's population six months into a global pandemic, the Michigan National Guard was there for the citizens of Michigan – and still is. Guard members completed COVID-19 testing at 85 Michigan Department of Corrections Facilities and 236 Michigan long-term care facilities, and continue to distribute more than 109,000 COVID-19 tests at dozens of community drive-through testing sites across the state.



**"We thought it was very important that community partners come together to make this happen because we want to be able to mitigate the spread of COVID-19."**

Kathy Moore  
Public Health Director  
Muskegon County





# JUNE

842  
Guard Members  
Activated

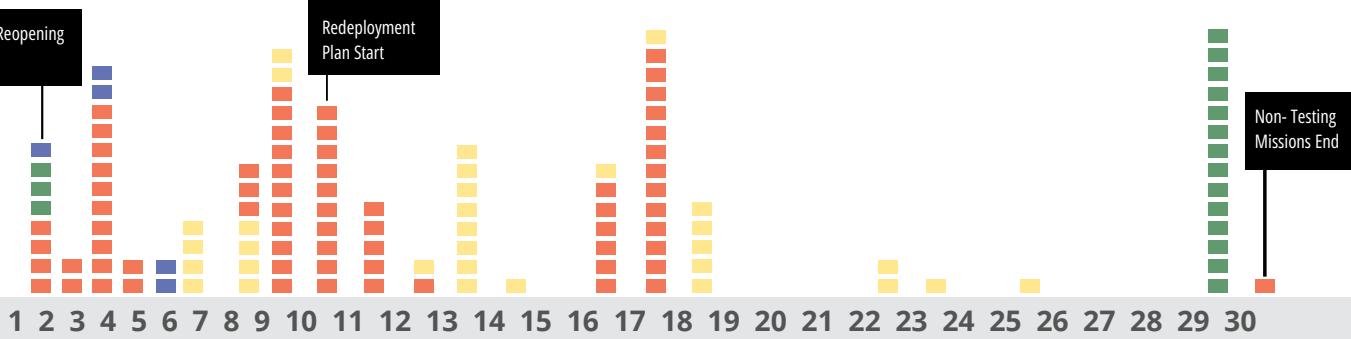
Statewide Reopening Begins

Redeployment Plan Start

Non-Testing Missions End

TF Tiger Off Mission

TF 182 Testing Mission TOA



# MICHIGAN NATIONAL GUARD AND DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

The Michigan National Guard's 1432nd Engineer Company and the Department of Natural Resources have been working together to conduct maintenance and upgrades to infrastructure at Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park in Ontonagon County.

The collaborative construction effort is part of the Army National Guard's Innovative Readiness Training Program. The IRT program leverages military skills with community resources to multiply value and cost savings. IRT missions produce mission ready forces, civil-military partnerships and stronger communities.



## ASSISTS WITH TESTING IN LONG TERM CARE FACILITIES

Across the state, the Michigan National Guard has more than 60 trained COVID-19 testing teams ready to assist, 15 of which are currently assigned to support long term care facility testing missions. Separate teams have recently supported Michigan Department of Corrections facilities throughout the state. These three-member teams include a certified medic to conduct the testing and two members to assist with paperwork, logistics, and non-medical tasks.





## MICHIGAN NATIONAL GUARD RESPONDS TO REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE FROM CIVIL AUTHORITIES

The Michigan National Guard has responded to requests from Kalamazoo, Lansing, and Grand Rapids civil authorities to ensure peace, augment local law enforcement, and reassure community members.

Approximately 90 guard members from units in Albion, Battle Creek, and Lansing have arrived in Kalamazoo to provide support to ensure the safety of people and mitigate property damage, in partnership with Michigan State Police and local law enforcement.

“When our members are activated, they are there to serve and protect our communities, which includes protecting the right of citizens to peacefully protest,” said U.S. Army Maj. Gen. Paul Rogers, adjutant general and director Michigan Department of Military and Veterans Affairs. “In addition to augmenting local law enforcement capabilities, the bearing, professionalism, and compassion of Michigan National Guard members is a reassuring and peaceful presence during challenging times.”

Two hundred Michigan National Guard members have been activated to assist with cleanup and ensuring peace in Kalamazoo, Grand Rapids and Lansing.





**"I'm thankful to serve my country and state.  
This mission has been an unforgettable  
experience on the fight against COVID 19."**

Staff Sgt. Stephanie Holdridge  
110th Attack Wing  
Logistics Readiness Squadron

## **FACES FROM THE FIELD**



# “MOTOR CITY MUSCLE” SOCIALY DISTANCED DEPLOYMENT CEREMONY

Members of the Michigan National Guard Detachment 1, B Company, 3-238 General Support Aviation Battalion, known also as the “Motor City Muscle”, from Selfridge Air National Guard Base, participate in a socially distanced deployment ceremony precluding a deployment as part of the Pennsylvania Army National Guard’s 28th Expeditionary Combat Aviation Brigade. Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer and U.S. Army Maj. Gen. Paul Rogers, adjutant general and director Michigan Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, were in attendance at this event.



# QUARANTINE WILL PROTECT OTHERS

Plans are made to be broken, at least they were for one Soldier.

Sgt. Quintin Shine planned to get out of the Army National Guard when his enlistment was over, then a pandemic rocked the nation and he decided to extend so he could help his community by continuing to serve.

"With everything going on with COVID-19, I realized that it was good for me to continue to be in the fight," said Shine. "I saw everything that was going on and I wanted to give back as much as I could."

Shine is a non-commissioned officer with Assembly Area Lions and is assigned to the tactical operations center for the Joint Reception, Staging, Onward movement and Integration facility. By doing this he is helping the other Guardsmen who are assisting Michiganders.

"Every job is important - every job is essential to helping our state get back to where it needs to be. Not just our state, but our country," said Shine. "The opportunity to help Soldiers reach their mission destination and allowing them to get peace of mind is what we have here. It's a way for them not worry about the other things. Someone has to give them a sense of relaxation with all the chaos that's going on."

After being on duty for three weeks, Shine got a day of leave to go home and visit his girlfriend of two years. She is an essential worker and had come into contact with someone who had the coronavirus.

"Before I even tested for the virus, I self-quarantined myself," said Shine. "I think that was a huge step in stopping any transmission, and by doing so it allowed other Soldiers to stay in the fight."

Shine was able to identify that his body was 'off.' He was weak, and his temperature was slightly elevated. He quarantined himself in his room for a few days, before his leadership decided to let him go home and help his girlfriend who had much stronger symptoms.

"Her experience was a lot different than mine," said Shine. "I took mine with kind of a smile, but hers was filled with tears, it's different for each and every individual as it was more painful for her than for me."

Shine's girlfriend was never put on a ventilator, but she did go to the hospital shortly because she had a lot of trouble breathing. He was constantly waking up in the middle of the night just to make sure she was still breathing. By this time he was fine and felt no ill effects, but he had other worries.

"I think that was the most concerning aspect about it, because we're always taught to be strong as Soldiers," said Shine. "When you see someone else going through it, it becomes a lot harder, so my sympathy goes out to anyone who has family members who are going through it. You may be strong, but you never know if that person is going to be ok. It's one of those things where you have more understanding, and you have more awareness that this could happen to anybody."

During this time, Shine was in contact with a friend whose sister had come down with the virus early on and had recovered to a point, if not 100 percent. The friend was able to give him some advice on what his sister had learned from being ill with COVID-19.

"We were always taught that you've got to stay strong and fight. We want to maintain that strength, but things happen. Sometimes it's out of your control. Sometimes it's the little things you want that you don't think about that will get you."

While Shine and his girlfriend are now fine, they know how easy it is to contract the virus and do not take for granted the protections that are now in place to help stop the spread, because they, like many, do not know how many strands there are.

"At the end of the day, it was not about protecting myself, it truly was about protecting other people by separating myself, and that's what I joined the military for, was to protect," said Shine.





# JULY

766  
Guard Members  
Activated



## TESTING DURING TOURISM

Task Force 182nd has been going around the state conducting tests on residents who choose to take one. In the U.P., they had more traffic than the health department was expecting, showing the desire to take the test is strong throughout the state.

**"The importance of us testing here is the fact that there are people from all around flocking to the area, so for us to test those people is important because they are combining in common tourist areas."**

Staff Sgt. Clinton Marshall  
Task Force 182nd



## MICHIGAN GUARD BAND SUPPORTS COMMUNITIES

Michigan Soldiers from the 126th Army Band, Michigan Army National Guard assist Feeding American West Michigan Food Bank by distributing food for families in need during a recent mobile food distribution event as part of the Michigan National Guard's COVID-19 response.

**"I'm proud to serve as a medic during the pandemic and provide testing to all the communities in my hometown."**

Airman 1st Class Courtney Grivas  
127th Medical Group



## ARMY VICE CHIEF OF STAFF VISITS SOLDIERS AT EXERCISE NORTHERN STRIKE 20

On the afternoon of July 27, 2020, eight Soldiers re-enlisted in the Michigan National Guard at an observation point overlooking some of the finest training grounds in the country. This week, the National All-Domain Warfighting Center (NADWC) is hosting Northern Strike 20 at these facilities – the National Guard’s premier joint fires exercise.

With the smoke of field artillery mixed with the growl of A-10 Thunderbolt jets overhead, the re-enlistment ceremony was made even more unique by its presiding official: Gen. Joseph Martin, 37th Vice Chief of Staff of the Army.

Martin also presented coins to six other Michigan Guard members, recognizing their outstanding performance not only at Northern Strike, but throughout the state’s response to COVID-19, historic flooding, and civil unrest during the first half of 2020.

“I’ve never met a four-star general before,” said Staff Sgt. Sue Wilcox, a human resources specialist with the Michigan National Guard’s 63rd Troop Command who has excelled in three different roles during the state’s missions to fight COVID-19. “This was a very special moment and I’ll always remember it.”

Martin, a Michigan native, took the opportunity to visit Soldiers in Northern Strike’s training fields because of the exercise’s unique contributions to the U.S. National Defense Strategy. Northern Strike fuses Michigan’s capabilities at the NADWC to offer a tailorable, scalable, and cost-effective readiness producer for the reserve component.

Participants at Northern Strike 20 include active duty forces from the U.S. Air Force, U.S. Army, and U.S. Coast Guard, as well as personnel from the Army National Guard, Air National Guard, U.S. Army Reserves, U.S. Marine Corps Reserves, and the NATO partner country of Latvia.

“This is an important visit because Northern Strike is an incredible exercise that challenges the training audience across multicomponent, multinational, and interagency partners,” Martin said. “The National All Domain Warfighting Center (NADWC) in Northern Michigan is an outstanding location to replicate the future operating environment, benefitting overall readiness of training units as well as DoD modernization efforts.”

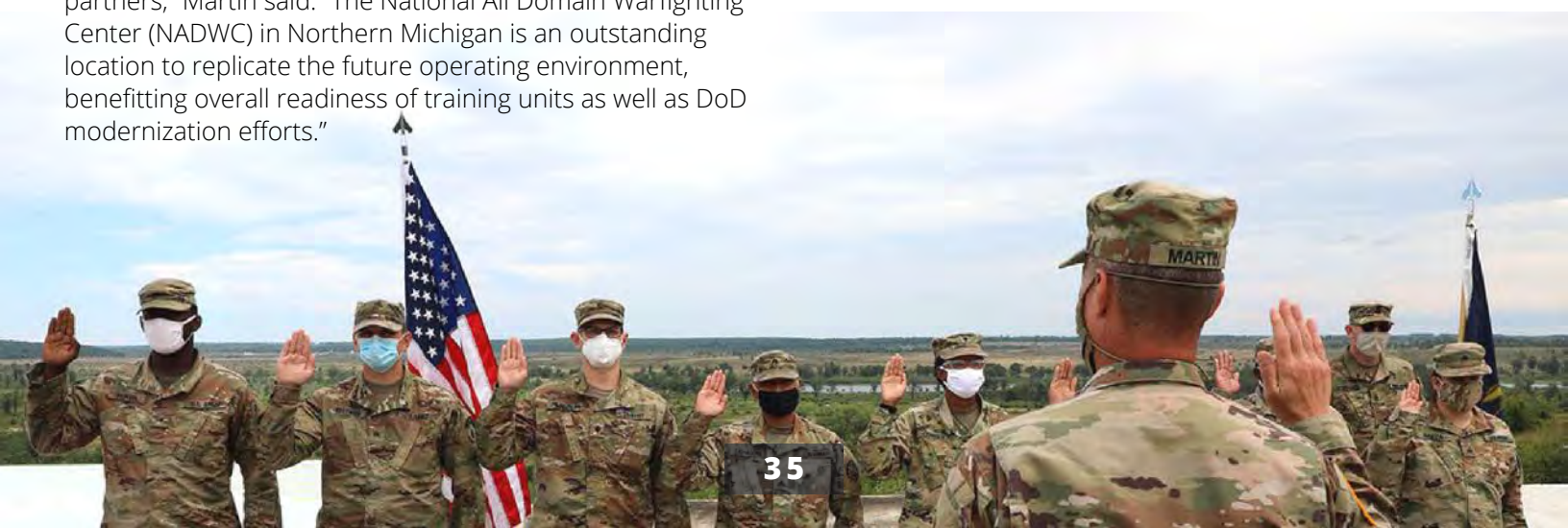
The NADWC, which includes the Michigan National Guard facilities of Camp Grayling Maneuver Training Center and Alpena Combat Readiness Training Center, is home to nearly 148,000 acres of training area and the largest special use airspace complex east of the Mississippi River. The Michigan National Guard has partnered with public health officials to develop a comprehensive plan that allows Northern Strike, held each year since 2012, to continue in 2020 during the COVID-19 pandemic while safeguarding participants and communities.

While acknowledging the importance of exercises like Northern Strike to fill training and task iteration gaps for the reserve component, Martin asserted that the future readiness of the force begins, at its most basic level, with the individual Soldier’s decision to serve. He also noted that the Soldiers assembled on this hill today were re-enlisting to serve the citizens of the State of Michigan – part of the National Guard’s mission to respond to State and Federal authorities when called upon.

Michigan National Guard Soldiers who re-enlisted include Spc. Raymon Baskerville, Spc. Eshaun Simmons, Spc. Isarel Conerly, Spc. Silvano Caldera, Sgt. James Purvis, Sgt. Johnathan Beerman, Sgt. Stephanie Garza, and Sgt. Shareef Sasnasopa.

Michigan National Guard Soldiers who received coins include Master Sgt. Rodney Roach, Staff Sgt. Sue Wilcox, Staff Sgt. Zachary Hein, Sgt. Dean Swoffer, Sgt. Jessie McMillan, Spc. Alex Zickfoose.

“When Soldiers raise their hand and swear an oath of allegiance; not to a king, not to a four-star general, not to a place, not to a monument, but to an idea – that sets us apart from most other countries across the face of the earth,” Martin told them. “When your kids and your grandkids ask you what you did, you can tell them you proudly served in the Michigan National Guard.”





**"I am grateful to aid in COVID-19 pandemic by providing residents testing. This mission has been an amazing opportunity to proudly serve the Michigan community."**

Staff Sgt. Stephanie Victor  
110th Medical Group

## **FACES FROM THE FIELD**



## 127TH SECURITY FORCES TRAINING

Members of the 127th Security Forces Squadron, at Selfridge Air National Guard Base, Michigan, receive operational training on a Mobile Security Tower, during the August 2020 Regularly Scheduled Drill. Mobile Security Towers are used for observing large areas from an advantageous perspective.



## NATIONAL ALL-DOMAIN WARFIGHTING CENTER SHOWCASED AT NORTHERN STRIKE COMMUNITY DAY

Michigan Lieutenant Governor Garlin Gilchrist II visits with Soldiers of the Michigan National Guard's 119th Field Artillery Regiment, at the National All-Domain Warfighting Center, Grayling, Mich., during exercise Northern Strike 20, July 28, 2020.

Northern Strike is the National Guard Bureau's largest joint, multi-component exercise and takes place at the National All-Domain Warfighting Center in Northern Michigan.

## 174TH MXG DET. 1 HOT-PIT MAINTENANCE KEY TO NORTHERN STRIKE 20

The 174th Maintenance Group Detachment 1 maintenance team performs hot-pit maintenance on an A-10 Thunderbolt II from the 107th Fighter Squadron, Selfridge Air National Guard Base, Mich., during Northern Strike 20 in Alpena, Mich., July 27, 2020.

The 174th MXG Det. 1 is a New York Air National Guard unit located in Ft. Drum, New York. The unit has provided maintenance support to Northern Strike since 2012.

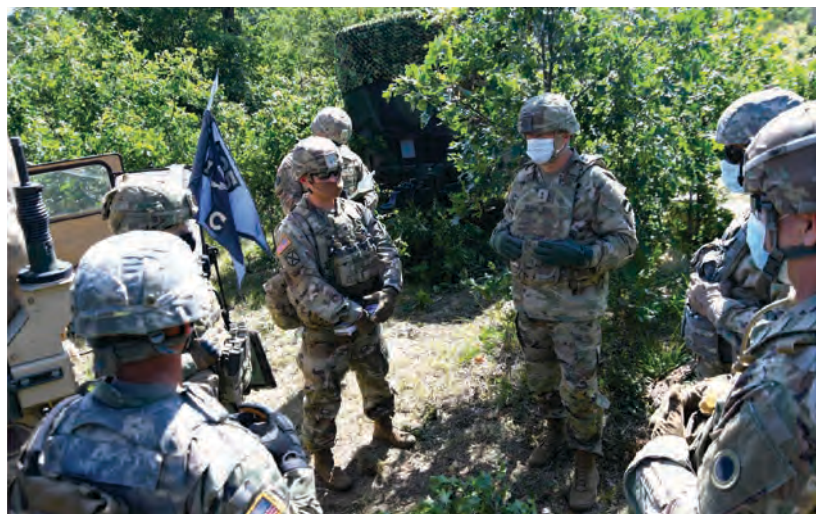
Northern Strike brings an average of \$30 million to Michigan's economy annually in military pay, travel, and local spending in Northern lower Michigan.



## NORTHERN STRIKE 20 SETS STANDARD, TONE FOR FUTURE INNOVATION

Multicomponent Joint Terminal Attack Controllers (JTACs) Joint Fires Observers (JFOs), and Tactical Air Control Party (TACP) members conduct training at Camp Grayling, part of the National All-Domain Warfighting Center in Northern Michigan during Northern Strike 20, July 23, 2020. Northern Strike is designed to challenge the training audience with multiple forms of convergence that advance interoperability across multicomponent, multinational, and interagency partners.





## MAJ. GEN. BRIAN C. HARRIS VISITS CAMP GRAYLING

U.S. Army Maj. Gen. Brian C. Harris, deputy commanding general, U.S. Army Forces Command, Army National Guard, discusses squad situational training exercises with leadership from the 1-125th Infantry Regiment, Michigan National Guard, at Camp Grayling, Mich., Aug. 6, 2020. Squad situation training exercises are designed to evaluate teams and squad leaders on various tactical scenarios.



## 46TH MILITARY POLICE COMMAND

On March 23, 2020, the 46th Military Police Command was activated to become Task Force Center, a hub of distribution of Department of Defense assets. This mission is in support of three Federal Emergency Management Agency regions, encompassing 15 states in the central United States. TF Center achieved initial operating capacity within 24 hours and achieved full operational capacity within 48 hours of activation, a rare feat.

"Deploying is a complex task with a lot of moving parts," said U.S. Army Maj. Gen. Michael Stone, commanding General of TF Center. "The officers and Soldiers of the unit effectively compressed seven days of work in less than 24 hours."

Normally, even in the case of a no-notice overseas mobilization, the entirety of the unit is given 96 hours to respond and report to duty. The citizen Soldiers of Task Force Center, all of whom live, work and study across Michigan, responded to the call to service in unprecedented time.

"The COVID-19 situation is historic; I don't think we're going to know as a country just how significant it is in American history until it's over," said Stone. "This is the greatest crisis our nation has faced internally in decades, if not a century."

TF Center operates at the direction of U.S. Army North, which is coordinating DoD's nationwide support to civil authorities. This is the first time in U.S. history that all 10 FEMA regions have needed support at once. In order to sustain the response in a concerted and active way, the unit's first priority is the health and safety of the citizen Soldiers called to duty.





## SUPPORT OPERATIONS WITH DOD, FEMA, AND CIVILIAN AGENCIES

Soldiers assigned to Task Force Center perform duties in support of the Department of Defense COVID-19 response at Battle Creek Air National Guard Base, Michigan. U.S. Northern Command, through U.S. Army North, is providing military support to the Federal Emergency Management Agency to help communities in need.



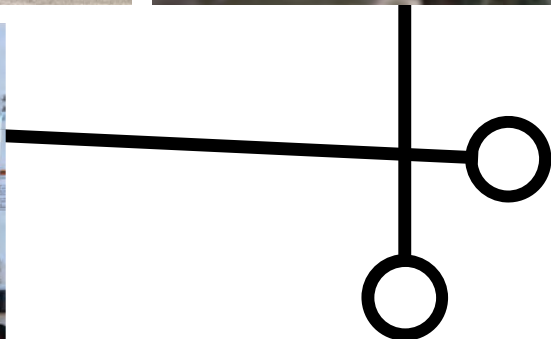
## TASK FORCE CENTER

Task Force 46 is U.S. Army North's flexible, adaptable headquarters responsible for supporting Department of Defense COVID-19 efforts, and providing command and control over DoD military assets as part of Defense Support of Civil Authorities in the event of an all hazards event of a chemical, biological, radiological or nuclear incident in the homeland.



# 63RD ESB ARRIVES TO BATTLE CREEK ANG BASE

Soldiers assigned to the 63rd Expeditionary Signal Battalion from Fort Stewart, Georgia, arrived in Michigan in support of the 46th Military Police Command, now Task Force Center on April 5, 2020, Battle Creek Air National Guard Base, Michigan. U.S. Northern Command, through U.S. Army North, is providing military support to the Federal Emergency Management Agency to help communities in need.



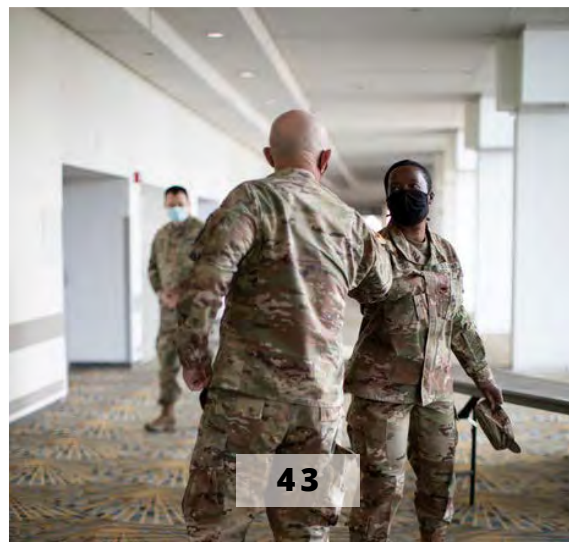
## TASK FORCE 46'S DEPLOYMENT READINESS EXERCISE

Task Force 46 headquarters rehearses its ability to simultaneously move for deployment and coordinate the activities of supporting units. Task Force 46 is the headquarters for the Department of Defense's Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN) Response Force (DCRF), prepared to rapidly deploy to a CBRN attack site with minimal notice.



# U.S. ARMY LT. GEN. LUCKEY VISITS DETROIT

U.S. Army Lt. Gen. Charles D. Luckey, Chief of Army Reserve and Commanding General, U.S. Army Reserve Command, talks with civilian and military personnel involved in the daily operations at the COVID-19 Regional Care Facility at the TCF Center in Detroit, Mich., April 20, 2020. U.S. Northern Command, through U.S. Army North, is providing military support to the Federal Emergency Management Agency to help communities in need.





## BETWEEN SHIFTS

U.S. Army Captains, Phillip McClain, an emergency room nurse, and Shannon Bigelow, an operating room nurse, pose for a photo at the TCF Center in Detroit, Mich., May 3, 2020. McClain and Bigelow are from the 801st Combat Support Hospital, now deployed to Detroit as part of the Urban Augmentation Medical Task Force 801-2. They have provided care for COVID-19 patients since the task force arrived in Detroit in early April.



## CELEBRATES THE U.S. ARMY'S 245TH BIRTHDAY

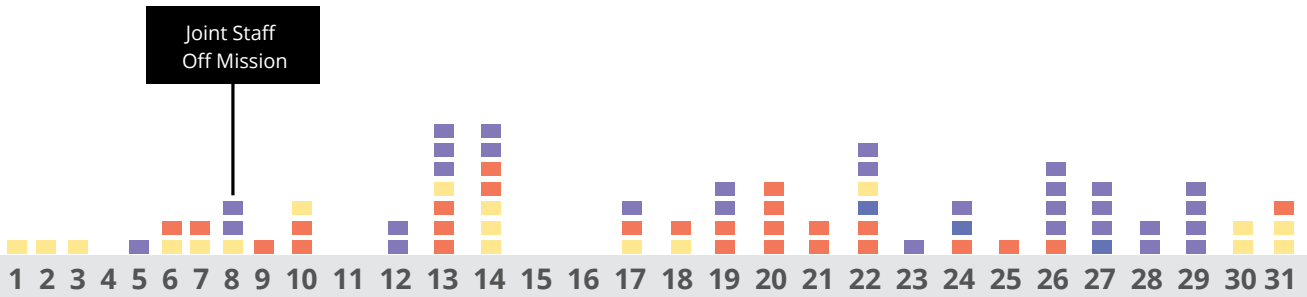
U.S. Army Major Gen. Michael Stone, commanding general of Task Force 46, briefs his Soldiers on the history of the U.S. Army as they celebrate the U.S. Army's 245th birthday, East Lansing, Mich., June 11, 2020.





# AUGUST

162  
Guard Members  
Activated

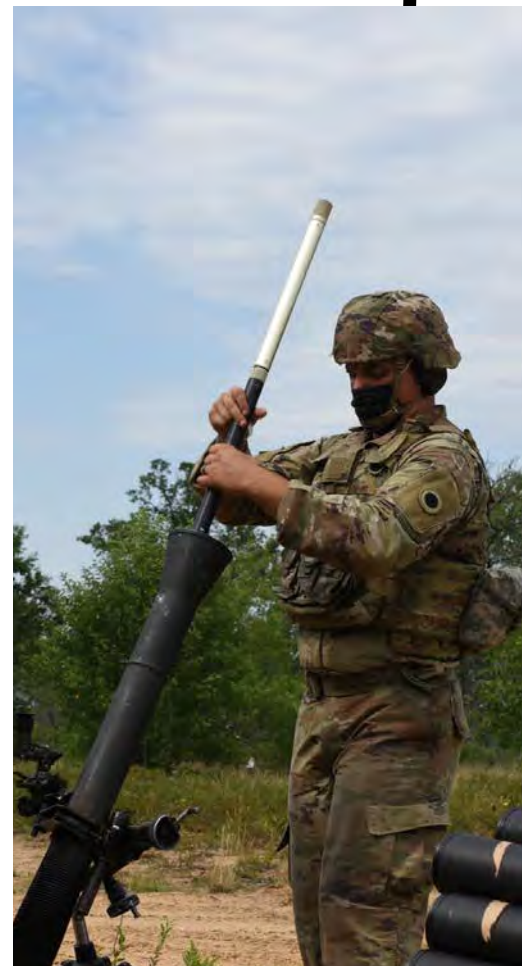


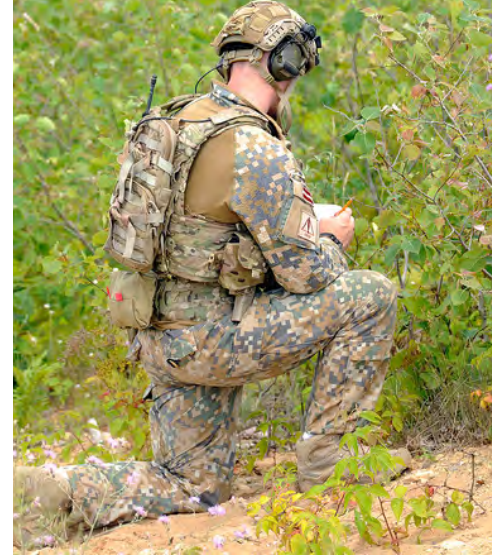
Joint Staff  
Off Mission

# MICHIGAN GUARD SOLDIERS CONDUCT MORTEP CERTIFICATION TRAINING

Annual training is one of the cornerstones of readiness for National Guard members which maintains and guarantees their skill level in the duties they must be prepared to carry out in a deployed setting. One Michigan National Guard unit continues improving their skills as mortarmen during annual training held at Camp Grayling Maneuver Training Center, located in northern Michigan. This vital opportunity to hone skills that could save lives in combat is even more critical in 2020 because of several weekend drill periods cancelled earlier in the year during the peak of the COVID-19 pandemic.

“We are conducting a Table 5 of MORTEP, which is a certification process for the mortars,” said Sgt. First Class Christopher Schultz, mortar platoon sergeant, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 125th Infantry Regiment, Michigan Army National Guard. “A MORTEP certifies us as a mortar platoon to conduct live fires for maneuver units on the ground during training exercises.”





## LATVIAN JTACS PARTICIPATE IN NORTHERN STRIKE 20

For 27 years, members of the Michigan National Guard and the National Armed Forces of Latvia have cooperated side-by-side under the National Guard Bureau's State Partnership Program (SPP). Since the early 1990s, this rich collaboration has included perennial readiness events in Northern Michigan and in Latvia and a trio of combined deployments to Afghanistan.

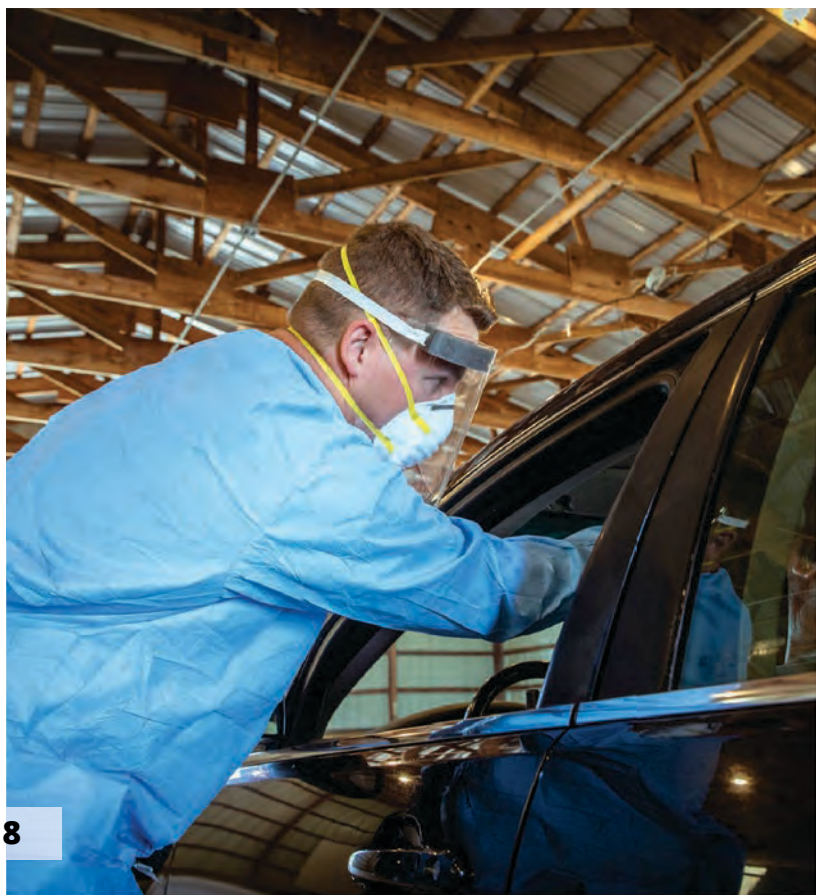
Latvia is one of the first NATO countries to send forces to the U.S. for readiness events since the COVID-19 pandemic began in early 2020. Risk mitigation policies for exercise participants at Camp Grayling and Alpena CRTC incorporate COVID-19 guidance from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC). These countermeasures include daily screenings, social distancing, required use of masks when social distancing is not possible, and frequent sanitization.

"I am very thankful and highly appreciate that organizers of the exercise Northern Strike have overcome COVID-19-related challenges and worked through to make the exercise happen this year. I am very proud and honored that Latvian soldiers have an opportunity to participate again and again in this very demanding, meanwhile, well-organized multinational exercise, which brings together the multi-spectrum, multi-domain, and joint live-fire integration environment and capabilities," said Lt. Gen. Leonids Kalniņš, Chief of Defense, Latvian National Armed Forces. "Exercise Northern Strike is a valuable opportunity to reinforce interoperability and long-standing cooperation between Latvia and the Michigan National Guard – this training experience is crucial for Latvia because the exercise provides an excellent platform to train in a realistic military environment."



**“The good thing about the Guard is that they are well trained for this and on short notice, it’s a good partnership.”**

Joel Strasz  
Health Officer  
Bay County Health Department





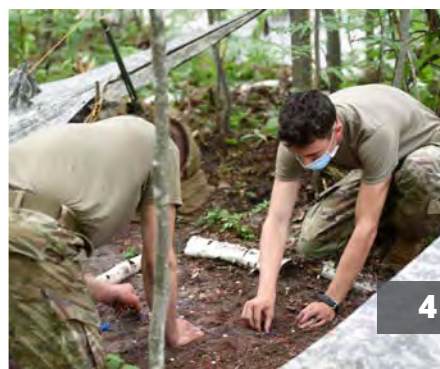


The Michigan Army National Guard's 1st Battalion, 125th Infantry Regiment was recently evaluated for proficiency in coordination with First Army. The Army National Guard's eXportable Combat Training Capability (XCTC) program is an instrumented brigade field training exercise that provides an experience similar to a Combat Training Center to Guard Soldiers. This training is essential even amid the COVID-19 pandemic, with precautionary measures in place to ensure the training could be conducted safely.

"This training is really critical for the training progression of an Infantry Brigade Combat Team," said Army Lt. Col. Michael Zultak, battalion commander, 1-125th Infantry Regiment, Michigan Army National Guard.

During the training, the Michigan Soldiers were observed by active duty Soldiers called observer-coach-trainers (OCTs). OCTs play a critical role in providing feedback to the unit, informally, through everyday interactions and formally through mid and final after-action reviews (AARs) plus the final exercise report. These events give the training audience actions to consider for sustainment and improvement.

## MICHIGAN GUARD EVALUATED DURING XCTC; TAKES ON OPFOR





## SEPTEMBER 2020 - JANUARY 2021

As COVID-19 continues to impact Michigan's population, the Michigan National Guard was there for the citizens of Michigan – and still is. Guard members have distributed more than seven million pounds of food at local food banks, completed COVID-19 testing at 85 Michigan Department of Corrections Facilities and 236 Michigan long-term care facilities, continue to distribute more than 109,000 COVID-19 tests at dozens of community drive-through testing sites across the state and has been assisting with vaccination for community members and guardsmen. Since March 18, a peak of 1,100 Michigan National Guard members have supported these missions.

"It's easy to look at the Michigan National Guard through the lens of COVID only, like this is all that we're doing, when in reality, these domestic support operations are merely a small piece of our total scope of operations," said U.S. Army Maj. Gen. Paul Rogers, Adjutant General and Director of the Michigan Department of Military and Veterans Affairs. "Meanwhile, none of our operational commitments to combatant commanders around the world have been reduced."



## MING STANDS UP JRSOI

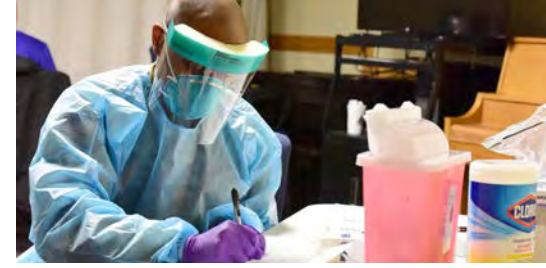
Soldiers with the Michigan Army National Guard's Task Force Spartan listen to briefings during a Joint Reception, Staging, Onward Movement and Integration (JRSOI) event, Lansing, Michigan, Dec. 13, 2020. Soldiers from the Michigan Army National Guard were mobilized as part of the COVID-19 vaccination testing team and will be augmenting to assist local healthcare organizations, as requested, in the delivery and administration for the vaccination to Michiganders.



## FOOD BANK SUPPORT

Michigan National Guard Soldiers with Michigan's Task Force Spartan work with Gleaners of Warren, Michigan, Community Food Bank. Michigan National Guard members work weekly as a team in the Gleaners warehouse, assembling approximately 1,600 lbs of quarantine cold and dry food boxes daily, with a goal of 90,000 lbs a week. The Food Bank warehouse serves 400 agencies in 5 counties. Since March, Michigan National Guard teams have supported food banks across Michigan, distributing more than 25 millions of pounds of food to local communities.





## MICHIGAN VETERANS HOMES COMPLETE FIRST COVID-19 VACCINATION CLINICS

On Wednesday, Jan. 6, both the Grand Rapids Home for Veterans (GRHV) and the D.J. Jacobetti Home for Veterans (DJJHV) began receiving COVID-19 vaccinations for its resident member and staff populations. The vaccination clinic at GRHV was administered by the Michigan National Guard (MING) and DJJHV was covered through the federal CVS partnership.

"Taking care of and supporting our resident members at the Homes is not only an honor but a duty," said U.S. Army Maj. Gen. Paul Rogers, adjutant general and director of the Michigan Military and Veterans Affairs. "Having this vaccine available to the resident members at the homes helps ensure they are receiving quality long-term care and is central to our 'member for life' concept."

The combined efforts of the Department of Military and Veteran Affairs (DMVA), the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, Kent County Health Department, and other stake holders, ensured that both GRHV and DJJHV were included in the first priority group to receive its vaccination allocation.

"It was truly a team effort getting the vaccine to our Homes," said Anne Zerbe, executive director, Michigan Veterans Homes. "All skilled nursing facilities are prioritized because the resident population is more vulnerable. We wanted to make sure to get the vaccine as early as possible to minimize the opportunity for our residents and staff to potentially get the virus."

While DJJHV received its vaccination clinic through the partnership with CVS, a different approach was necessary at GRHV. This required the Homes to work with several agencies in order to execute its vaccination efforts. Critical to this was the natural relationship that exists between the MING and the Homes (both branches of the DMVA).

"The National Guard did a walk-through and laid out the vaccination plan earlier this week," said Tracey Nelson, administrator, GRHV, adding the Michigan Guard arrived at the facility very early this morning. "This is the brightest light of hope we have had," said Nelson.

"This will help us get back to a normal way of life as it has been a long lonely road for our members who live here as our members have been isolated to their rooms since October and although all necessary precautions and social distancing will still be followed, this vaccine is going to be a breath of fresh air," she said.

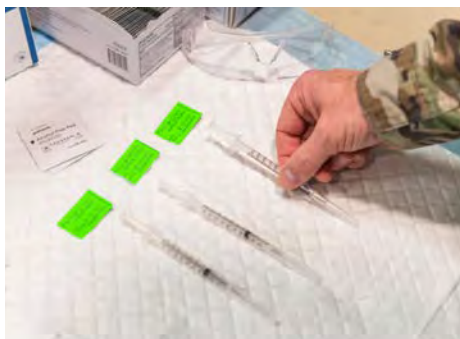
Every resident member and staff who wanted to receive the vaccination was able to get it today. The GRVH vaccinated 202 staff and 108 resident members. The DJJHV vaccinated 165 staff and 105 resident members.

"The veterans who reside at the Homes served our country and now we are participating in protecting and safeguarding them through the COVID mission," said U.S. Army Capt. Geoffrey Miller, 273 Regional Support Group, Michigan Army National Guard, currently assigned to Task Force Spartan, officer in charge of the response to Grand Rapids and D. J. Jacobetti Homes for Veterans.

With more than 80 Michigan Guard members mobilized to support both Michigan Homes for Veterans, their presence and assistance is critical as the Homes continue to fight against this virus and safeguard their resident members and staff.

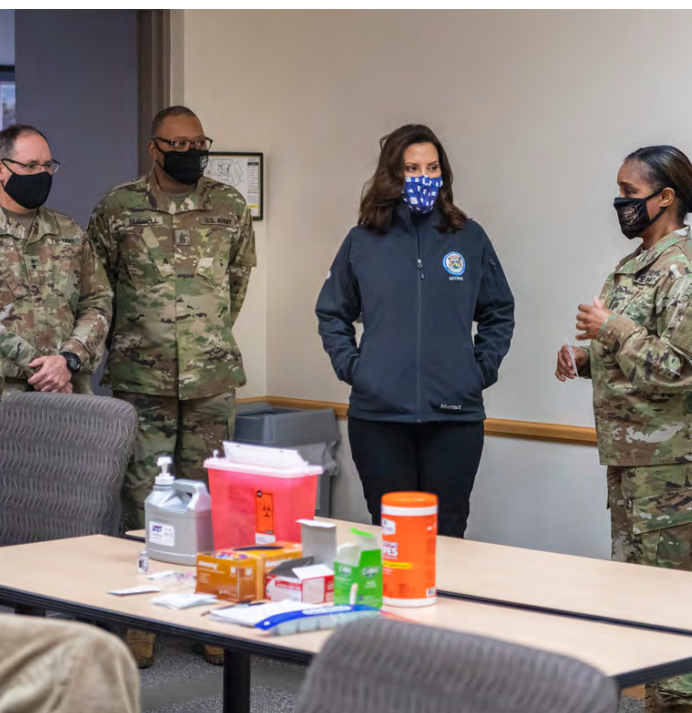
## MICHIGAN NATIONAL GUARD ADMINISTERS THE COVID-19 VACCINE

MING COVID-19 vaccination testing teams are augmenting with local health care organizations, as requested, in delivering and administering the vaccination to Michiganders.



## COVID-19 VACCINE ADMINISTERED TO GUARDSMEN

Approximately 300 Soldiers and Airmen of the MING were the first to be vaccinated over the first weekend of 2021 with vaccines provided by the DoD to the National Guard for Soldiers and Airmen in support of the state's COVID-19 response.



# MING Response

January 2021



**1100**  
TOTAL GUARDSMEN  
ACTIVATED



**207,068**  
TESTS ADMINISTERED



**25.32 MILLION**  
POUNDS OF FOOD  
DISTRIBUTED



**294**  
LTCF SUPPORTED



**44,273**  
TESTS GIVEN



**10,311**  
VACCINE DOSES



**83 OF 83**  
COUNTIES SUPPORTED

08 JAN 2021





Michigan was hit hard and fast at the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, and Governor Gretchen Whitmer responded by activating the National Guard on March 16, 2020, to conduct support operations to assist Michigan citizens due to this virus.

By April, 1,100 Soldiers and Airmen responded to the state of emergency as part of a Joint Task Force (JTF). Throughout this time, the Michigan National Guard has conducted almost 800 COVID-19 missions in 81 of Michigan's 83 counties.

"The true benefit of a JTF is the word joint. The missions that were assigned to the JTF leveraged the capability from both the Army and Air National Guard. Both branches have individual advantages when we work together, can be combined to create a highly functional and dynamic team," said U.S. Air Force Lt. Col. Joseph Meadows, Michigan Air National Guard Liaison Officer with the JTF. "The responsiveness, adaptability and flexibility of the Soldiers and Airmen from our state have been a true testament to their professionalism. Our members' selfless dedication to the citizens of this state have helped and saved lives."

One of the first missions of the JTF was the set-up and running of the TCF Regional Care Center in Detroit and the alternate care facility at the Suburban Collection Showplace in Novi. These alternate care facilities were imperative at the beginning of the pandemic when the state was seeing record rates of hospitalizations, and was third in the nation with the amount of COVID-19 cases.

"The Michigan National Guard remains a critical asset to our state as we continue the fight against COVID-19," said Maj. Gen. Paul Rogers, adjutant general and director of the Michigan Department of Military and Veterans Affairs. "We are honored to serve the communities that we live and work in, this service is a core function of the Michigan National Guard."

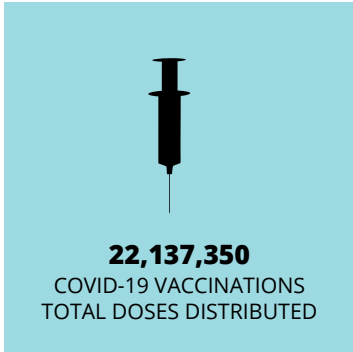
The missions have varied from keeping four warehouses across the state supplied with the personal protective equipment needed to combat the virus, to free community drive-thru testing events, to helping the eight community food banks distribute millions of pounds of food within the state.

"The Michigan National Guard has been instrumental in our efforts to flatten the curve and mitigate the spread of COVID-19 and will continue to play a vital role as we slowly and safely reopen our economy," said Whitmer.

The JTF has assisted with testing in long term care facilities and correction facilities. Since April, Soldiers have also monitored the health of the workers at both the Grand Rapids Home for Veterans and the D.J. Jacobetti Home for Veterans in Marquette. During this time the health of the task force was paramount, and the service members had their own health monitored on a daily bases at operating Joint Reception, Staging, Onward Movement and Integration sites.

Michigan National Guard's JTF has been operating to restore the state, and has helped it along its path to a new normal.

"I can't imagine how we would have tackled a lot of the challenges that we had without the Guard, and Michigan's National Guard really is one of the best in the country," said Whitmer.



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[www.Michigan.gov/DMVA](http://www.Michigan.gov/DMVA)  
[www.MiNationalGuard.DoDlive.mil](http://www.MiNationalGuard.DoDlive.mil)  
[www.MichiganVeterans.com](http://www.MichiganVeterans.com)

