

THE WOLVERINE GUARD



W.W. II POW exclusive

One-Stars in town

Road to Reintegration

TAPS help heal



★★ *From the desk of
The Adjutant General* ★★

TAG TALK

Photo by Master Sgt. Denise Rankin, JFHQ, MIANG Maj. Gen. Cutler and his wife, Chris Cutler (in red vest), talk with Gold Star moms and dads at the Summit in Lansing on Sept. 13 at a Gold Star Appreciation Day hosted by Sam's Club. From left is the mother of Senior Airman Jason Plite, who died in Afghanistan in 2003, Gordon Dibler, step-father of Spc. Byron Fouty, who was listed as missing and then found in Iraq in July 2008, and, talking with Gen. Cutler is, the former wife of Capt. Lowell Miller II, who was killed in Iraq in 2005.



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Tom Knaub, 46th Military Police Company Michelle Rudzitis receives a Defender of Freedom certificate from Maj. Gen. Cutler during Annual Training at Camp Grayling. Michelle, is now retired from the 46th MP Company, MIARNG. She was seriously injured while deployed to Iraq and now wears a prosthetic leg.



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Jim Downen Jr., JFHQ, Public Affairs Office Guests of the August 2008 legislative tour pose with Maj. Gen. Cutler on the flight line at the Alpena Combat Readiness Training Center. The group visited four Michigan National Guard installations. The Department of Defense encourages tours to the legislative bodies of government to showcase the Guard and inform the public of the National Guard's vital role.

I am writing this article on September 10th, one day short of our seventh remembrance of 9-11-2001. All of us certainly remember where we were on that day and how we responded to the attack on our country. I was exceptionally proud of our ability to immediately respond to our nation's need for security at our borders, in our airports and in our skies.

It was National Guard men and women who, without waiting for orders to do so, showed up for duty on 9-11-2001. We provided the security our nation needed on that day and we continue to answer our nation's call in this Global War on Terrorism. To date we have deployed approximately 12,000 Michigan National Guard members. That is the equivalent of our entire current force of Michigan Army and Air National Guard members. Our ability to respond in this manner is a real testimony to the spirit of our soldiers and airmen, and their families. Your willingness to serve sacrificially is something I am deeply grateful for and exceptionally proud of.

As I reflect on the sacrifice you have all made to serve our country, I am reminded that on September 19th we observe POW/MIA day. You may remember Army Specialist Byron Fouty from Oakland County was listed as missing in action on May 12, 2007 after his patrol was ambushed near Baghdad. Byron's remains were found in July of this year, finally bringing some closure to his family who had lived with this uncertainty for so long. I ask you to keep his family and each of the families who have a loved one listed as MIA in your thoughts and prayers.

As we observe the POW/MIA day here in Michigan, I'm also reminded that we still have Michigan National Guard members, past and present, who have been POW's. I am pleased to see one of my heroes, Brig Gen Dick Rann who is a former POW, featured in this issue of the Wolverine Guard. He's been a great mentor to me and I am proud to have served under his command!

As I close this article, I want to remember a great warrior who we lost recently. We were all saddened by the loss of Sgt. 1st Class Matt Hilton, on 26 June 2008. Matt was an outstanding soldier and leader. He had volunteered for his second deployment, because he truly believed in what he was doing and wanted the opportunity to continue to contribute in this way. Matt left behind a wonderful family that is tremendously proud of him. His wife, Master Sgt. Mary Hilton, is also a member of our National Guard and served proudly with the 177th Military Police Brigade during their recent deployment to Iraq. She and the rest of Matt's family are in our thoughts and prayers each day!

As we continue to answer our nations call, I want to thank you again for your willingness to serve. Each person, to include military and civilian members of this great team, is making a difference as we provide security for citizens here and abroad. I am proud to be part of such an awesome team. May God bless you for your service and sacrifice!


Maj. Gen. Thomas G. Cutler

ATAG From the desk of The Assistant Adjutant General- Homeland Security TALK

Just as you prepare your family for your overseas deployment, there is a need to prepare them in the event that you deploy in response to an event within our country, whether natural or man-made. Many National Guard members assist in response and recovery efforts around the country during times of disaster.

While we are blessed in Michigan to not be visited by hurricanes, our state could be subjected to tornadoes, floods, winter snow storms, wild fires and even earthquakes. It is imperative that you and your family are prepared, not only to handle situations that may arise while you are deployed, but also prepared as a family to handle disasters in general.

Ready Army (<http://ready.army.mil>) is an initiative to assist you and your family to prepare for emergencies. The Ready Army brochure, "Emergency Preparedness for the Army Community," takes you through three important steps to prepare for an emergency: get a kit, make a plan, and be informed. The "Get a Kit" section discusses items that should be included in a home emergency kit. A two-page fact sheet outlines the various emergency kits recommended, including a work kit and a vehicle kit, and the supplies needed in each. The "Make a Plan" section addresses the "who, what, where, when and why" that every family should talk about when making an emergency plan. The "Be Informed" section facilitates the process of identifying and learning about hazards that could affect you and your family. Emergency Preparedness for the Army Community also includes information about what the different notifications mean and corresponding emergency actions that you and your family may need to take.

It is your responsibility to ensure you and your family are prepared for emergencies. The efforts of Ready Army and other initiatives provide valuable assistance.

There are several local resources within Michigan to enhance family preparedness. The Michigan State Police Emergency Management and Homeland Security Division publishes "A Family Preparedness Guide," and the Michigan Department of Community Health, Office of Public Health Preparedness, has a booklet that guides families for "Preparing for a Public Health Emergency." Additionally, Ingham County has a campaign called "Do 1 Thing" (www.do1thing.us). This 12-month program encourages families and communities to take the steps to prepare to handle emergencies.

The Department of Homeland Security created the Ready Campaign at www.ready.gov, which "Ready Army" is based on. This is another resource available to assist individuals, families, and businesses to prepare for emergencies. It includes a section tailored to kids in cartoon format, to help them prepare for and better understand emergencies. This is an important resource that encourages preparation at all levels of the family. Ready Army and other tools, such as the Ready Campaign, American Red Cross (www.redcross.org), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (www.cdc.gov), and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (www.fema.gov/plan), can aid in effectively preparing for the next major disaster or emergency. Please check out these web sites, but most importantly, follow the three simple steps to preparedness. Being prepared is the crucial first step in successfully surviving an emergency. We all know that without advance planning, all our efforts are just good intentions.



Brig. Gen. Michael McDaniel



Photos by Jacqueline Fessenden, DVMA Homeland Security
Brig. Gen. Michael McDaniel works in his office at the Reserve Forces Support Center in Lansing.

"It is your responsibility to ensure you and your family are prepared for emergencies."



Members of Michigan's homeland security community discuss issues at the Homeland Security conference in Grand Rapids, Mich.



Michigan State University representatives meet with Brig. Gen. Michael McDaniel and staff to develop a new homeland security curriculum for MSU.

Bullets

Special Hunt

On Oct. 18 - 19, 2008, 35 disabled deer hunters can spend the weekend as guests of the Fort Custer Training Center in Augusta, Mich., and participate in the annual Freedom Hunt for disabled veterans.

For an application and to view pictures from previous hunts visit www.fortcusterhunt.org. Application deadline is Oct. 1, 2008.

Veterans are eligible to apply if they are considered 100 percent disabled, deemed individually unemployable by the USVA, are considered legally blind by the State of Michigan, or possess a valid DNR certificate showing they are eligible to hunt from a standing vehicle due to a permanent disability.

Hunters are required to have a current year Michigan deer hunting license.

Applicants selected to take part in this event can arrive at the base Friday evening, October 17, for a hearty dinner banquet followed by comments from special guests and celebrities, door prizes, and preparations for the morning hunt!

For more information contact Jonathan Edgerly at the Fort Custer environmental office, 269-731-6570.



Honor Guard

The Michigan Army National Guard Honor Guard based out of Lansing, Mich., is looking for soldiers from Detroit, Saginaw, Flint, Lansing, Kalamazoo and Grand Rapids areas to augment the ADSW staff. For more information visit the AKO website and search Honor Guard.



New Post 9-11 GI Bill

A new Post 9-11 GI Bill will be open to most service members who served on active duty after Sept. 11, 2001. Although the new benefits go into effect Aug. 1, 2009, officials are still working out some details. A few facts have been determined though:

Tuition - The Post- 9-11 GI Bill will cover tuition with payments sent directly to the school. The formula will be based on the highest cost of a state supported bachelor's degree program.

Housing- Veterans enrolled in a traditional college program as a half-time to full-time student will be paid a monthly housing stipend of approximately \$1,100 a month.

Books and Supplies - A maximum of \$1,000 per year will be allotted.

For complete information visit the Department of Veterans Affairs GI Bill website at:

<http://www.gibill.va.gov/Tutoring>



Cover photo: In 1944, Capt. Richard Rann stands in front of his P-51 Mustang at the Martlesham Heath airfield in Ipswich, England.

Photo courtesy of Brig. Gen. Richard Rann

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Hunter Richard Page and assistant Mark Hess bagged a beautiful four-point buck during the 2007 Freedom Hunt at Fort Custer in Augusta, Mich. Photo courtesy of Jonathan Edgerly, Fort Custer Environmental Office

CCMS

From the desk of
The State Senior Enlisted Advisor

TALK

“Join the military and see the world.” That slogan became a reality for me in June when I had the opportunity to join Maj. Gen. Thomas Cutler and a contingent from the Michigan Army and Air National Guard on a visit to Latvia, a participant in the National Guard’s State Partnership Program. Michigan is one of 43 states to partner with another country in military-to-military exchanges of training and support.

This was my first trip to Latvia. I had conjured up images of old men in trench coats and women in black babushkas carrying home their daily ration of food, perhaps inspired from the history channel.

We arrived in Riga to see a very westernized modern city. As we traveled around, we noted many buildings in need of repair. The Russian architecture was a reminder that the country was once part of the former Soviet Union.

The Michigan Air Guard brought a medical team of Airmen from the 127th Wing at Selfridge Air National Guard Base, the 110th Medical Squadron at Battle Creek, and the Combat Readiness Training Center, in Alpena. The team provided optometrists, dentists, nurses, doctors, general practitioners and others. This was the first time the Michigan Air National Guard had been involved with the State Partnership Program.

The medical screening event was the first time the United States military had been in one of the towns, Aluksne, which lies close to the Russian border. The mayor greeted us and showed a video about the historical and commercial aspects of the area.

The Airmen offered humanitarian medical screening to three communities during their deployment for training. While in Aluksne, patients young and old stood in line, eager to have their teeth checked or to receive free eyeglasses, donated by the Lions Club of Michigan. Some of our health care providers had eight or more patients at once, each with an interpreter. It was an amazing sight. Our doctors referred several senior citizens to their family doctor for additional consultation based on their examination.

During the following week, the medical team provided medical screenings in two other cities, Rezekne and Daugavpils, with continued success.

While the Air Guard performed their medical mission, the Michigan Army National Guard was training the Latvians on convoy maneuvers. We watched a live exercise take place on a road adjacent to a former Russian tank-training site. The competency and dedication of the Michigan ARNG was outstanding. They have worked with the active duty Latvian soldiers and the Zemessardze for many years and have developed a great relationship.

It was an amazing opportunity to visit the Latvian countryside with our Michigan ANG medical team and realize that we were in a former Soviet state, just miles from the Russian border.

The recent events of Russia crossing into Georgia and battling their forces serves as a reminder to never let our guard down. We must prepare for whatever the future holds.

Michael Dalton, Chief Master Sgt.
Command Chief Master Sgt. for MIANG



Chief Master Sgt. Michael Dalton
Command Chief Master Sgt. for MIANG

“The recent events of the Russian military crossing into Georgia and battling their forces serves as a reminder to never let our guard down. We must prepare for whatever the future holds.”



Lt. Col. Stephen Pittel, a dentist with the 127th Medical Group, provides fluoride treatments to a young Latvian girl in a rural area of the Michigan Guard’s partner country. Photo by Master Sgt. Clancy Pence, 127th Public Affairs

New Stars in Michigan Army and Air Guard



James R. Anderson, the assistant adjutant general for the Michigan Army National Guard, was promoted to brigadier general in August. He is responsible for the daily coordination, supervision, training and resourcing of the Michigan Army National Guard.

Regarding this advancement, Gen. Anderson said, "While I am honored to wear the rank of brigadier general, this promotion

and the new rank add a level of credibility when I represent the Soldiers and families of the Michigan Army National Guard."



James R. Wilson, the assistant adjutant general for future missions, Michigan Air National Guard, was promoted to the rank of brigadier general in April. He is responsible for formulating, developing and coordinating policies, plans and programs which affect more than 2,700 members of the Michigan Air National Guard.

Gen. Wilson's most recent military assignment was director, Plans and Program Directorate at the National Guard Bureau.

Best in the Nation

110th FW receives AF and NGAUS awards

By Lt. Col. Robert Decostser, 110th Fighter Wing

Air National Guard units throughout the U. S. compete annually for the honors which are presented by the Air Force Association and the National Guard Association of the United States. The Michigan Air National Guard's 110th Fighter Wing in Battle Creek has been selected to receive three of the national level awards for superior performance.

The 110th will receive the Air Force Association's "Outstanding Air National Guard Flying Unit" award, during the AFA's 24th Annual Air and Space Conference and Technology Exposition in Washington, D.C., Sept. 15, 2008. This award is given to an ANG unit for outstanding airmanship.

Col. Rodger F. Seidel, commander of the 110th Fighter Wing, expressed his pride in the men and women of the 110th, "We have worked very hard to earn this recognition. In the midst of numerous challenges such as deployments and a pending mission change, this is especially rewarding."

The Wing was also selected by the National Guard Association to receive the Maj. Gen. John Pesch Flight Safety Trophy and the Winston P. Wilson Trophy.

As its name implies, the Pesch Flight Safety award is given to the unit with the highest standard of flight safety. Only two units in the nation are selected each year. The 110th flew more than 52,000 mishap free hours, spanning five overseas deployments, three of which were for combat support.

The 110th Fighter Wing's workforce has integrated safety into their daily lives, identifying potential problems and developing appropriate solutions to resolve them.

The Winston P. Wilson Trophy is awarded for the Outstanding ANG unit equipped with jet fighters or reconnaissance aircraft. The 110th Fighter Wing flies the A-10C Thunderbolt. They were one of two flying units that implemented the A-10C upgrade, the first major reconfiguration since the weapon systems development in the 1970s. They were also one of only two units to deploy the new C-model into combat during their recent deployment to Iraq and Afghanistan.



Lt. Col. David SanClemente brings the A-10C Thunderbolt in for a landing at the Battle Creek Air National Guard Base on his return from deployment in Afghanistan in January 2008.

Photo by Master Sgt. Dale Atkins 110th Fighter Wing

110th Honor Guard Member-Best in the Nation

By Staff Sgt. Jonathan Stein, 110th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

Senior Master Sgt. Rolando Garza was recently selected as the 2008 Air National Guard Base Honor Guard Team Member of the Year. The competition included participants from all 50 states as well as Puerto Rico, Guam, the Virgin Islands, and Washington, D.C.

Sgt. Garza earned this distinguished award by mastering the basic honor guardsman manual and excelling as a trainer and team leader. He was involved with more than 100 patriot details. These ceremonies involved the moving of remains of fallen Soldiers, Airmen, Marines and Sailors between aircraft and holding facilities in preparation for their final trip home. Other duties included more than 400 flag folding details and team training.

Garza joined the Air Force in 1986 and transferred to the 110th Fighter Wing in 1993. He is currently the chief of Fire and Emergency Services at the Battle Creek Air National Guard Base. He and his wife of 22 years Olga, have two children, Roland and Jasmine.



MIARNG Chaplain's "take" on...

Christian Faith and Our World View

By Chaplain (Lt. Col.) James Chapin, Life Support Area, Kuwait

As a chaplain in the Michigan Army National Guard and currently on my third deployment to the Middle East, I've come to understand the clash between worldviews first hand. Daily, I am challenged to live out what I say I believe or face the sad reality that words alone will not make a difference in the lives of our military men and women. Change needs to begin with the people of God.

In author Chuck Colson's newest book he states we need "to know what we believe, why we believe it, and why it matters." This requires us to challenge our belief system.

I took the challenge and began an in-depth Bible-study on the subject of faith -- real faith, living faith, a faith that is not only heard but is seen in action daily; to the point of extreme devotion to God in the face of suffering and death.

The Bible teaches us "without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him." (Heb. 11:6) A key to increase our faith is in the action words "those who earnestly seek him."

Lee Strobel wrote it this way: "Faith is about a choice, a step of the will, a decision to want to know God personally."

Dallas Willard in turn said, "It's the person who wants to know God that God reveals himself to."

This means Christians need to actively pursue their faith in Jesus Christ through the daily routines of life so when a crisis hits - and it will - they are prepared to endure it. This is what is meant in the Bible passage "the righteous will live by faith." This is what it means to see all of life through the eyes of a true Christian worldview, which incidentally is not some delusional idea made up by the early followers of Jesus of Nazareth, but by Jesus Christ himself, our God with us, "Immanuel."

Some Christians, especially in America, do not help others come to a saving faith in Jesus because the way

they live is different from what they claim to believe. We have the power of the Holy Spirit within us to change the world around us, but it must begin with a change in us, a change that moves us out of the pew and into every area of operation through the full spectrum of the Christian mission to follow the great Commandant and His commission.

It's the person who wants to know God that God reveals himself to."

- Dallas Willard

Jesus comforted His disciples by telling them "anyone who has faith in me will do what I have done. He will do even greater [more in quantity] things than these, because I go to the Father."

Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines, and many civilians traveling through the Army Life Support Area here in Kuwait often seem helpless and hopeless, like sheep without a shepherd.

"How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can they preach unless they are sent?"

Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ. (Romans 10:14, 15, 17).

Let's begin today to live by faith and get the word out which is the good news!



Chaplain (Lt. Col.) James Chapin from Joint Force Headquarters, Michigan Army National Guard and chaplain assistant Sgt. Cory Kouts, of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, Special Troop Battalion, 37th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, Ohio Army National Guard, stand in front of the post chapel at Life Support Area in Kuwait. Photo courtesy of Chaplain Chapin.

Fallen Heroes, Wounded Warriors-Defenders of Freedom

Photos and captions by Master Sgt. Denice Rankin, JFHQ, MIANG

The July 25, 2008 Annual Training memorial and review began with a ceremony to honor the Michigan National Guard Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom fallen heroes. Gov. Jennifer Granholm and Maj. Gen. Thomas Cutler spoke to the families of the fallen heroes at the Fallen Heroes memorial site on the grounds of the Camp Grayling chapel.

After the solemn Fallen Heroes ceremony, the pass and review at the Camp Grayling parade field began with tributes and awards for the Michigan Army National Guard Wounded Warriors. Seven Wounded Warriors who attended the ceremony were awarded Defender of Freedom certificates and a National Guard Minuteman statue.

The wounded warriors pictured with military escorts and family are:

Spc. Derek Gagne, 46th Military Police Company, his parents, and his military escort, Sgt. Jeffrey Forsberg; Spc. Ira Brownridge, Company E, 1st Battalion, 125th Infantry Regiment and his military escort, Maj. Ravi Wagh; Spc. Justin Pelham, 1461st Transportation Company and military escort Spc. John Pelham; Spc. David Hoger, Company B, 1st Battalion, 125th Infantry Regiment and his military escort, Spc. John Hill; and Sgt. Douglas Szczepanski, Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 1st Battalion, 182nd Field Artillery, his parents, and his military escort, Maj. Scott Meyers. Just out of camera range are Sgt. Damon Suiter, 1461st Transportation Company and military escort Spc. Josh Garno, and Sgt. Philip Labonte, 46th Military Police Company and his military escort Sgt. Wes Amerson.

Sgt. Phillip LaBonte, (in wheel chair) and (from the left) former 46th Military Policeman, Matt Fox of Florence, Wis., Sgt. Wesley Amerson, 46th Military Police Company, and Lt. Col. Stephen Potter, Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 210th Military Police Battalion, gather for a picture after the memorial parade and review at Camp Grayling on July 25. Labonte was seriously injured May 26, 2007 while deployed to Iraq with the 46th Military Police Company.



Road to Reintegration

By Angela Simpson, Michigan National Guard JFHQ, Public Affairs Office

When a Soldier or Airman deploys, there are physical and mental adjustments required. Perhaps as challenging but not always as obvious, are the same adjustments that are necessary when our service members return home.

Family members, the Soldier, and the community are impacted when a Soldier comes home from a deployment. To assist with the process, the Michigan National Guard adopted a customized “road-to-reintegration” program for Soldiers and their supporters. Brig. Gen. Anderson’s compliments of the program listed in the ATAG Talk section of the Summer Wolverine Guard issue illustrate the significant impact this young program is already making. The resources and connections to services offered in the “road-to-reintegration” brochure alone are valuable tools but, when combined with personal discussion and interaction, the weekend workshop becomes positively critical to a smooth transition from deployment challenges to home site responsibilities and routines.

The dictionary defines reintegration as, “a restoration of unity,” which is precisely the goal of the majority of MING family programs: unity within ones self, unity with family, and unity with community and work environments. To that end, the reintegration programs offered in Michigan engage Soldiers and families in discussion and team and community building exercises in an effort to reintegrate the Soldiers and their families back to a quality of life as good as or better than before they deployed. Specifically the “road-to-reintegration” program is divided into breakout sessions where participants work on

communication skills, learn anger and stress management strategies, are given family support tools and financial planning and business development options along with other transition focused topics like health care and reemployment rights. Each session is led by experienced transition assistance advisors from within the Guard family of professionals and from business, educational and health care communities. The sessions run about 90 minutes.

According to Maj. Levetta Bennett, the State Family Programs Director, a number of workshops have been held across the state and several more are planned for the remainder of 2008 and into 2009. The exact number will depend on the number of troops coming home. The goal is to run a workshop within 45 days of a Soldier’s return to Michigan from active duty.

When asked about the general perception of the program by participants, Bennett replied, “I’ve talked with participants both Soldiers and family members, who tell me that it (the reintegration workshop) was the best post-brief they’d had on stress management and communication.”

Overall she is pleased with the quality and content of the “road-to-reintegration” program but added that enhancements are continually made to better serve Soldiers and their families.

The most recent workshop was held in honor of the return of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 177th Military Police Brigade and the JFHQ Brigade and Battalion embedded training teams, was held at the *Bavarian Inn and Lodge* in Frankenmuth, Mich., in August.

Reintegration Case Study – From Iraq to Oakland Police Academy

By Sgt. Ron Flowers, Unit Public Affairs Representative, 1775th Military Police Company

On June 13, 2008, four Soldiers from the Michigan National Guard’s 210th Military Police Battalion located in Taylor, Mich., and one Airman from the 110th Security Forces Squadron in Battle Creek, Mich., graduated from the Oakland Police Academy.

The graduating Soldiers recently returned from a deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The graduates now set their sights on service careers in civilian law enforcement.

Pictured at right are Senior Airman Nicholas Schram, Spc. Michael Norman, Staff Sgt. Gene Kind, Spc. Steven Lada, and Sgt. Jason Daw. The men received their certifications as law enforcement officers after intense training and testing in various areas of law enforcement.



WWII pilot to POW to MIANG

By Master Sgt. Denice Rankin, JFHQ, Michigan National Guard Public Affairs Office

On Sept. 8, 2008, Brig. Gen. Richard Rann, the assistant adjutant general for Air from 1976 -1983, was interviewed and spoke about his life in the military as a combat fighter pilot during World War II, the time he spent in a German prisoner of war camp, his discharge from the military, and his return to complete his military career with the Michigan Air National Guard and retire as the assistant adjutant general for Air in 1983.

Retired Michigan Air Guard Brig. Gen. Richard Rann always knew he wanted to fly airplanes. As age 17, he tried to join the U.S. Army pilot program but was denied because the Army required pilots to have at least two years of college to fly. Undeterred, he and two friends traveled to Windsor, Ontario in an attempt to join the Royal Canadian Air Force, which they had heard had less stringent entry criteria. Canada would accept pilots into their flight training program without college, but still required them to be 18. Rann and his friends were encouraged to come back in a year. In October 1941, Rann turned 18, and joined the RCAF in November, but his friends backed out.

While undergoing his pilot training in Ontario, Rann said he would often hitchhike home to visit his family in Perry, Mich., which he felt lucky to do, since most of friends who joined the U.S. Armed Force were stationed too far away to do so, or were already overseas for the war. This small detail was just the beginning of the favor (from heaven perhaps) that was on the young officer's life, and remained through his retirement from the Michigan Air National Guard in 1983.

Rann first learned to fly in the Fleet Finch, an open cockpit bi-plane with no radio, in London. In Aylmer, Ontario he earned his wings flying the T-6. With this honor came the inquiry if he would swear allegiance to the king of England, which he refused to do because he thought he would lose his American citizenship. Instead, he swore to obey the orders of his superior officers, which the Canadians accepted.

In November 1942, the young officer left Canada from Halifax, Nova Scotia, headed for England to join the Allied front against Germany. Rann remembers that they left port with "a convoy of ships that stretched as far as the eye could see." At the time, German U-Boats were patrolling heavily in the North Atlantic. They ran into a vicious storm that lasted two days. When the storm passed there were no ships in sight of theirs. Rann realized later that the storm that separated the convoy probably helped them stay under the radar of the U-boats.

In England, he flew the P-37 Hurricane, a single engine, light fighter plane with a partially canvas body. About this time he heard that they were going to stop allowing Airmen to transfer back to the U.S. Army Air Force. In July 1943, 1st Lt. Rann received permission to go to London to submit his request for transfer. Afterwards, he completed his training with the English and was transferred.

With the U.S. Army Air Force, Rann began to fly the Thunderbolt P-47; the biggest single engine fighter plane of its day, nicknamed the "Jug." He had about eight hours in it before he had his first airplane crash. While in flight, the electric propeller that controlled the pitch failed as he was coming into

land. He could not maintain altitude or slow the aircraft down and the aircraft went into fine pitch. He over-shot the runway by about a mile, missed a stone fence, and "plowed up a brussel sprout patch" with his landing. He had turned off the fuel and engine while in air and the big aircraft just "went into the dirt." He wasn't injured and the plane took minimal damage but was salvaged.

In November 1943, he joined the 356th Fighter Group in Ipswich, England as a wingman and started flying operations over Europe. He was still flying the Jug, initially into France. The unit was new, and they were all learning. Rann flew every mission he could. He'd read a lot of pulp magazines about World War I fighter pilots, and now he was living it.

Once, in May of 1944, while coming back to Ipswich from a mission, Capt. Rann was flying alongside his wingman, but the wingman was on his left side, rather than the correct position on the right. He motioned to the pilot to go to the other side. He could see that the wingman had his mask off.

At the time they had an unofficial policy -- when they got down where they didn't need oxygen, off came the mask and out came the cigarette. Rann's wingman dropped down to go under Rann's aircraft. A moment later he felt a bump. His wingman had "clipped" his right wing with the canopy of his aircraft on the way up. He looked out and saw the tip of his right wing was bent up, and his wingman's aircraft going down. His wingman never called for help, possibly because he was too busy trying to control the airplane and without his mask on, he couldn't call, or because he was knocked out. Tragically, his wingman did not survive the crash. Rann knew he couldn't make it back to Ipswich, but he managed to control the aircraft and land on a nearby bomber strip on the coast on England.

That month he completed his first tour of duty, which at the time equaled 200 hours flying combat missions. Rann was approved to take a 30-day leave. He'd just arrived home and on June 5, 1944, while lying on his bed, Rann's mother came in and told him the Allies were starting their invasion. He remembers thinking, "Gee whiz! I missed it." The next day was D-Day.

After his leave, he traveled back to the 356th, and the commander went on a 30-day leave. Rann was assigned as the operations officer of the squadron. Within two months they made him acting commander. When the real commander came back he requested a transfer and the 21-year old Capt. Rann was selected as the new squadron commander.

In November 1944, the 356th began to transition from the P-47 Thunderbolt to the P-51 Mustang which had a longer range and enabled them to escort bombers further into Europe.

With no more training then “learning how to start the thing and change fuel tanks” they began flying both the P-47 and the P-51 in combat missions.

During a bomber escort mission on Nov. 26, 1944, Rann and seven of his men encountered “the biggest bunch of enemy planes” that he had ever seen. Rann had dropped off eight fighters to guard one “box” of U.S. bomber aircraft, while his group of eight fighters continued on with the other bombers. His eight came upon enemy aircraft. Rann said, “It was estimated there were 70 190s (FW-190, a German fighter aircraft) with a top cover of about 30 109s (Bf-109, a German fighter and bomber escort aircraft). Even though badly outnumbered, Rann and his seven fighters attacked the enemy group and shot down nine airplanes that day. Rann shot down two 190s himself. During the fight, his plane was badly shot up. Rann noted, “I had a 109 on my tail, I don’t know how he missed me but he raked my airplane from the nose to the tail.” One bullet hit his instrument panel. Rann was separated from the rest of the squadron while he was evading the 109. When he landed he saw that a cannon shell had gone through the fuselage just behind the cockpit and exploded. Miraculously, all his planes got home. That was another close one.

The war in Europe began to draw to a close. It was February 1945. Maj. Rann was on a mission leading a fighter squadron, on what would turn out to be his last combat mission. He saw a ground target and decided to go down and strafe it. He peeled off, dropped the excess fuel tanks from his wings so he could descend quickly on the target; but one tank didn’t drop and it slowed him down.

The target turned out to be a trap, and he received ground fire from a nearby factory and from a train. The cockpit filled with smoke, and he remembers thinking, “Hey, my instrument panel says I have plenty of altitude, but the ground’s too close!” He realized the only thing he could do was crash land in the foothills of the Alps below, near Lake Constance, in Southern



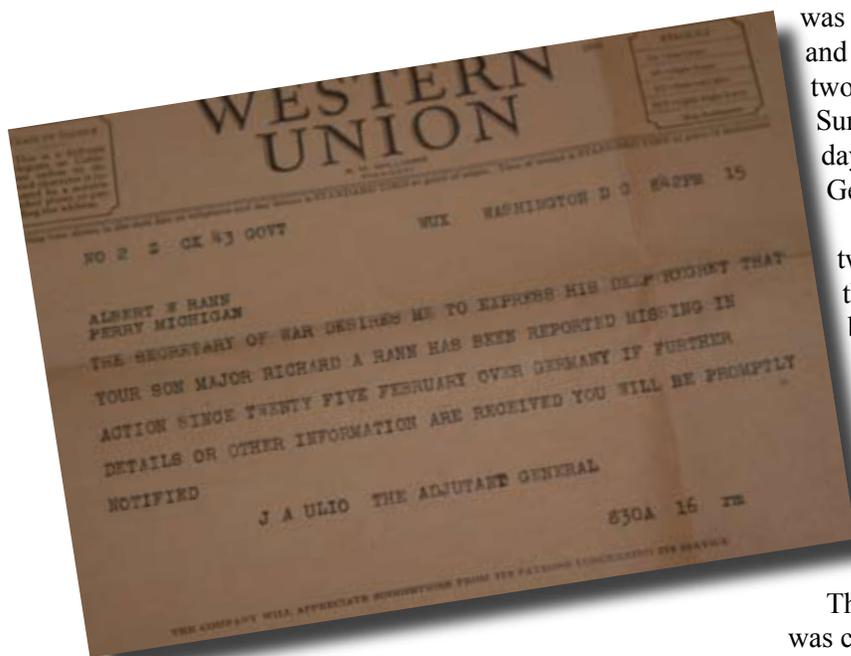
Brig. Gen. Richard Rann, assistant adjutant general for Air from 1976 - 1983, stands in front of a memory quilt his wife made for his 75th birthday. The quilt is a pictorial history of the general’s life, from a young boy who dreamed of flying, to his World War II fighter pilot days, through his years with the Michigan Air National Guard and retirement as ATAG. Photo by Spc. Michael V. May, 177th Military Police Brigade

Germany. His airplane was broken up and he had cuts on his face -- but he had survived another crash.

A member of his squadron tipped his wings to let him know he’d seen him, and he ran for a dense thicket of pine trees and hid. Soon, German civilians were in the woods searching for the downed pilot, but never found him as he was huddled on the ground wrapped in his leather A-2 jacket. He lay low all day and night. The next night he began to walk to what he hoped was the Allied line. For one week Rann slept during the day and walked at night, surviving off a square of chocolate and two bouillon cubes in his survival pack. By the following Sunday, he was so hungry and he started to walk during the day. While zigzagging up a hill, he came face to face with a German soldier and a military police dog. Rann surrendered.

The soldier took him into a small brick building where two other soldiers were. They searched him and noticed that his feet were frost bitten. Each soldier took a foot and began to massage it. When Rann saw this unexpected act of kindness from the Germans, he rubbed his stomach, and they gave him a slice of black bread and what appeared to be raw meat. It didn’t take him long to “put that down.” He asked for water and they gave him a glass of what turned out to be white wine. Then they locked him in a closet full of rifles with the bolts removed, and more importantly, a bushel of apples!

They moved Rann to a civilian jail and gave him food that was cooked in their kitchen. He didn’t realize it at the time, but the Germans probably knew their time was running out.



'Coach' makes diversity awareness practical

By Spc. Michael V. May, 177th Military Police Brigade

"I am an exceptional and excellent person — I am an excellent and exceptional leader." Keynote speaker "Coach" Joe Gilliam's self-improvement mantra was heard frequently from nearly 250 leaders within the Michigan National Guard and State Veterans Affairs during the Michigan National Guard's 7th annual Diversity Workshop in Lansing April 2008.

Army Guard Master Sgt. Oscar Flores, the Michigan National Guard's diversity manager and organizer of the event, said that this year's conference focused on coaching, mentoring and leading techniques they can put into practice in their jobs, to improve job performance and work relationships.

"Coach Joe," as Gilliam is known to his students, taught workshop participants multiple techniques to stimulate positive behavior change and growth in others such as; put expectation in writing and have employees sign; coach, mentor and counsel individuals equally in all three areas; manage ideas and not resources, and how to become comfortable creating change.

Gilliam's teaching focused on practical leadership and interpersonal techniques for job success. According to Flores, this included an over arching theme of diversity. Gilliam defines diversity awareness as the ability to see through a person's

"wrapper" which is his term for what an individual wears on the outside, which may be a combination of race, gender, or culture.

"People need to understand the differences they bring to the table," Flores said. "We all come from different backgrounds. Our ideas might not be the same but our vision is."

*"We all come from different backgrounds. Our ideas might not be the same but our vision is."
- Master Sgt. Oscar Flores*

After hearing comments from participants and reading their after action reviews, Flores said he feels this year's conference was a huge success.

"I've put on a lot of conferences in the past, but I think this one really stuck in peoples' heads," he said.

Sgt. 1st. Class Sheryl Berry, from 1st Detachment, Company D, Recruitment Sustainment Battalion in Flint, said that she will take what she learned at the conference and apply it to her leadership decisions in the future.

"Coach Joe was one of the best I have heard, and the conference was well put together, and" she said. "I came away from it very motivated. I definitely look forward to next year's conference."

For more information about diversity awareness contact your unit's equal opportunity advisor or visit www.deomi.org for free diversity tips and tools.

Pilot

They moved him to an interrogation center near Frankfurt, and later to a POW prison camp near Wetzler. The major complained about his feet and they let him see a doctor who gave him ointment. Soon they transferred most of the men from the camp at Wetzler, but because of Rann's feet, they didn't make him move on.

At that point, the Allied Forces were getting close. The men in the camp marked "POW" on the building so they wouldn't get strafed, and the next day, someone drove up in a jeep and the Germans gave up their weapons and surrendered. An Army colonel that was at the camp told the POWs that they were to stay put. The next day the colonel was gone and Maj. Rann was the senior officer in the camp. Within a day, a major from the quarter master corps came and told them that there would be airplanes coming the next day to fly them to Paris. They took most of the POWs and Maj. Rann and few others had one more long night in the camp.

When Rann arrived in Paris he was determined to get home by his mother's birthday, May 9. He sailed from France and arrived home May 2. He intended to stay in the service but while home he met the local veterinarian. He was discharged from the military July 31, 1945; married August 18; and then in September became a student at the Michigan State College of veterinary medicine.

His new passion was for his bride and also veterinary medicine. He graduated from college in 1950, and sometime later heard about the Battle Creek Air National Guard. He had not forgotten his first love of flying.

In 1956, he joined the Battle Creek 172nd Interceptor Squadron and was commissioned as a first lieutenant in the Michigan Air National Guard.

By 1960, his veterinary practice was busy, and 1st Lt. Rann knew something had to give. He resigned his full-time veterinary practice and was hired at the Battle Creek Air Base as a fulltime flight training instructor. He later became the group commander and was promoted to colonel.

In 1974, Col. Rann was transferred to Selfridge Air National Guard Base as the 127th wing commander. He served in that position until 1976. He was promoted to brigadier general and transferred to Lansing as the assistant adjutant general for Air at the Michigan National Guard Headquarters.

The pattern of leadership positions was played out in his life as he completed his military career with the Michigan Air National Guard. The decorated combat pilot and Air Force officer humbly progressed through different positions of duty and responsibility. Brig. Gen. Rann served his state and nation in Lansing until he retired in 1983. He finished his career wearing those wings that so inspired him as a young boy.

Freedom Academy begins with whirlwind

By Angela Simpson, Michigan National Guard JFHQ, Public Affairs Office

The 25th annual Michigan Freedom Academy began Sunday June 15, 2008, Alpena Combat Readiness Training Center with a tornado four miles north and large hail a few miles south. The CTRC experienced heavy rain and thunder but nothing severe and was blessed with a symbolic rainbow to wish the students well in their busy week ahead.

The 2008 agenda included rappelling, river rafting, laser-tag, volleyball, hiking, mentally challenging puzzles, in-depth leadership discussions, and presentations from local business, government, and media leaders.

Four Latvian students and three Michigan Youth Challenge Academy cadets: Rosalie Rucinski, Marquis Montgomery, and Cory Bigos, fresh from MYCA graduation the previous day, were special Freedom Academy candidates given the distance the Latvians had traveled and the fact that the Challenge Academy graduates had just spent 22 weeks away from home.

The Michigan Freedom Academy is a leadership development program that exposes youth to a variety of issues in the areas of education, business, elected government, law enforcement, drug demand reduction, national defense and basic perspectives on freedom as delineated in our Bill of Rights. More than 1,000 young Michigan students have completed this unique experience since its inception.

The vision of the Freedom Academy is to instill, promote, and sharpen a delegate's basic value and appreciation for human freedoms as made law by the U. S. Constitution. The academy encourages the pursuit of leadership roles as a means to ensure the survival and success of these ideals.

The academy is open to high school juniors who are active in extra-curricular activities, have a grade point average of 3.0 or better, and are college-bound. During their seven-day stay at the camp, academy delegates witness a variety of perspectives on freedom presented by political officials, spiritual leaders, business and industry executives, labor leaders, media representatives, education officials and military representatives. The delegates participate in discussions, field exercises, physical competitions and social activities building friendships and knowledge about community, business and global project management and objective setting. There is no cost to students who are selected to attend.

During opening day, Maj. Gen. Thomas Cutler, the adjutant general of Michigan, prompted a discussion on leadership



The sky over the Alpena CTRC offers a welcoming rainbow to the candidates and volunteer staff attending Freedom Academy. More than 115 students attended this summer's 25th anniversary of the annual week-long camp.

Photo by Master Sgt. Denice Rankin



Freedom Academy candidates and coaches encourage each other in the one-mile fun run. Photo by Staff Sgt. Helen Miller



and asked the Freedom Academy candidates what they thought were important leadership qualities. Their discussions included adjectives like courage, creativity, and charisma.

Michigan Youth Challenge Academy graduates could have added other "C" descriptors to the list based on the graduation speech delivered by MYCA Director, retired MIARNG Brig. Gen. Roger Allen. Allen suggested graduates make a sincere commitment to themselves to believe that successful futures are possible if they do their best to improve their world.

Allen urged students to build up the necessary confidence and courage to behave in ways that are appropriate and healthful when peers or other people try to negatively influence them. He concluded by suggesting that a compassionate approach to leadership and life in general would bring strength and clarity to decision-making and leadership roles.

At left, Freedom Academy candidates battle it out and the Orange team comes in first place in the raft race.

Photo by Staff Sgt. Helen Miller



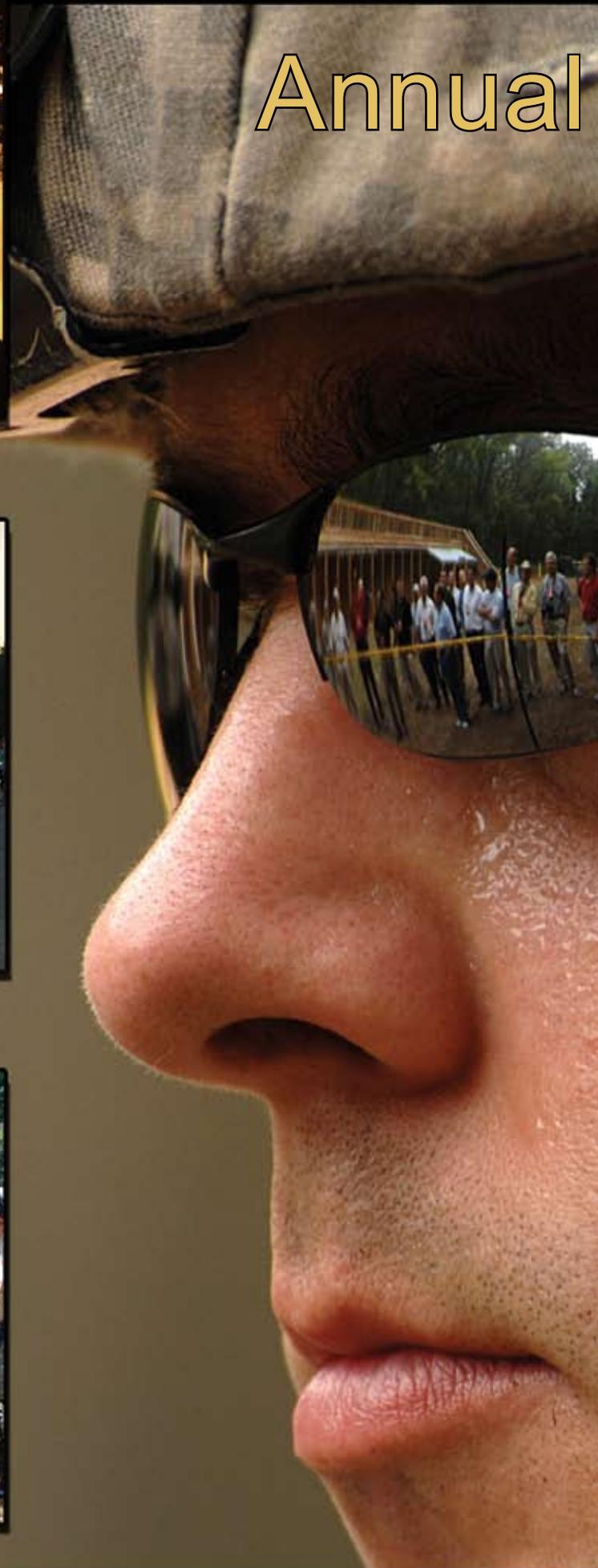
Members of the 1st Battalion, 182nd Field Artillery fire the Multi-Launch Rocket System. Photo by Staff Sgt. Jim Downen, Jr.



Soldiers of the 507th Engineer Battalion participate in the two-mile fun run. Photo by Sgt. Maj. Tom Herrin



Members of the 144th Military Police Company participate in a non-lethal tactics demonstration. Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Tom Knaub



Annual

Training 2008



During tour day, a reflection of special guests from the Michigan House of Representatives and Senate are seen in Spc. Benjamin Cameron's glasses, a member of Company A, 1st Battalion, 125th Infantry Regiment. More than 120 employers and the distinguished visitors were on post to observe the Michigan Army National Guard 2008 Annual Training.

Photo and photo collage by Staff Sgt. Helen Miller, JFHQ Visual Information



At right, Soldiers from the 177th Military Police company train in the rain. Photo by Staff Sgt. William Fogerty

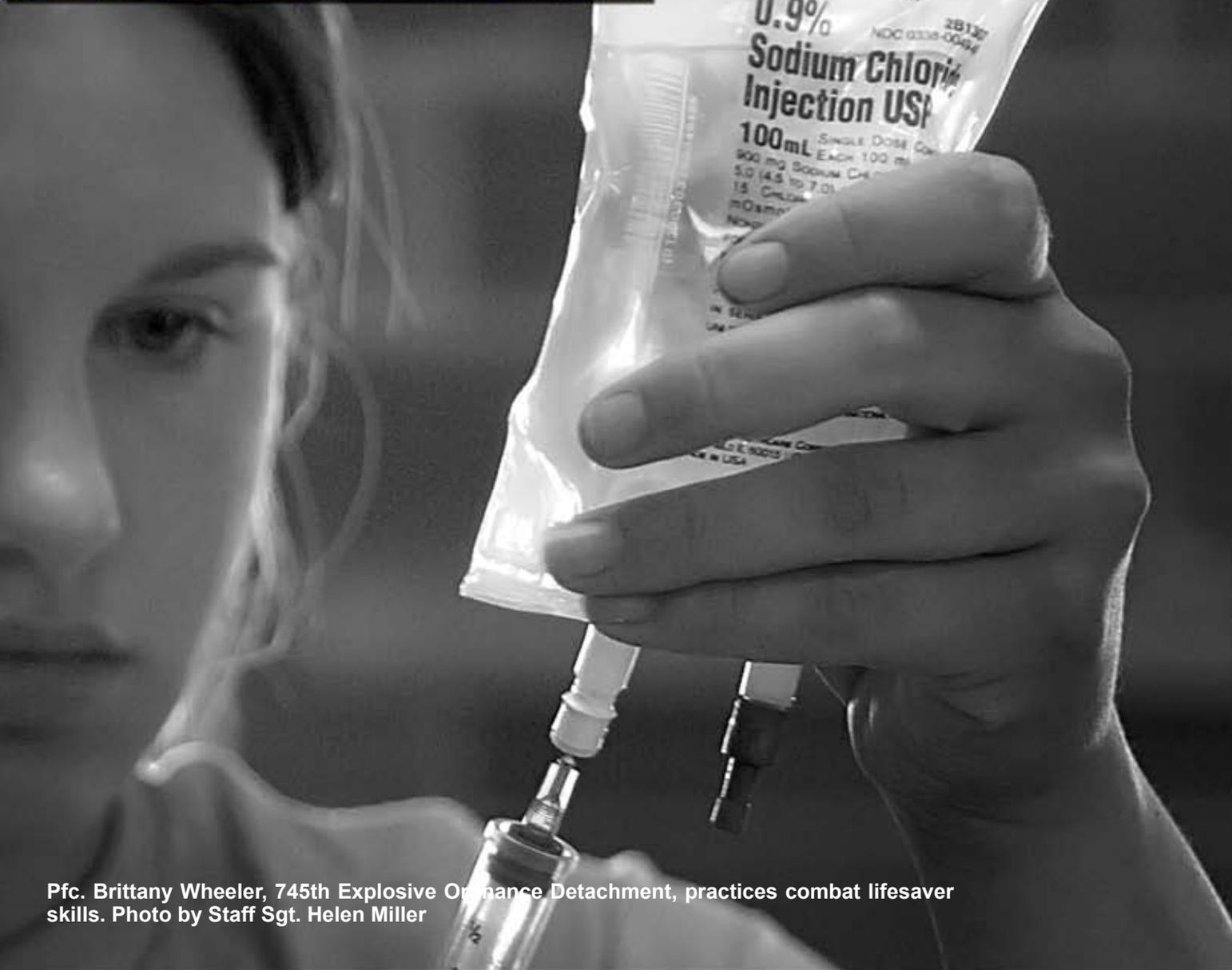
At left, Staff Sgt. Rob Manifold of the 1438th Fire Fighter Detachment, reacts during a helicopter crash scenario. Photo by Staff Sgt. Helen Miller

Spc. William Dittman (acting detainee) is taken down by Pvt. 2 Daniel Hopkins during detainee operations training. Both Soldiers are assigned to the 777th Military Police Detachment. Photo by Staff Sgt. Helen Miller





Pfc. Adam Pruden, 126th Network Signal Company, learns to operate equipment in the Vehicle Convoy Operations Trailer, a system which simulates convoy operations. Photo by Staff Sgt. Helen Miller



Pfc. Brittany Wheeler, 745th Explosive Ordnance Detachment, practices combat lifesaver skills. Photo by Staff Sgt. Helen Miller

Thomas Selfridge - 100 year legacy

By Staff Sgt. Dan Heaton, 127th Wing Public Affairs

Despite the fact that he apparently never set foot in southeastern Michigan, one man's name has long been at the forefront of military aviation in the state: Thomas Selfridge.

U.S. Army 1st Lt. Thomas E. Selfridge, the person ever to die in an aircraft accident during a flight, was killed after a crash landing Sept. 17, 1908, while flying with Orville Wright. Ironically, the men were flying just a few hundred yards away from Arlington National Cemetery in Virginia, where Selfridge would later be buried with full military honors.

In 1917, the Army leased (and would eventually purchase) Joy Aviation Field in Harrison Township and renamed it in Selfridge's honor. Initially, the base was used to train pilots in the run-up to American involvement to World War I. Over the years, the base's name has changed to reflect its changing mission from Selfridge Field to Selfridge Air Force Base in 1947 to Selfridge Air National Guard Base in 1971.

Selfridge, who graduated from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point in 1903 as part of the same class that produced future Gen. Douglas MacArthur, came from a family steeped in American military tradition. Selfridge's grandfather and an uncle, Thomas O. Selfridge Sr. and Jr., both served more than 40 years in the U.S. Navy, both saw combat action with the Union Navy during the Civil War and both men retired as admirals. The Navy named two different destroyers after the men, the second of which saw extensive action in World War II.

Selfridge's older brother, Edward Selfridge, served as a captain in the infantry and fought in the Battle of San Juan Hill in the Spanish-American War and is also buried in Arlington National Cemetery.

Selfridge, who was 26 when he died, was initially assigned to the infantry, but grew fascinated with aviation after reading about some work that Dr. Alexander Graham Bell, the same man who invented the telephone, was doing with kites in Nova Scotia in Canada. Eventually assigned by President Theodore Roosevelt as an observer to the Bell experiments, in 1907, Selfridge would take his first flight. Strapped into the center of a giant kite created by Bell, Selfridge made his first flight on Dec. 6 of that year, rising to 168 feet as the kite was pulled by a tugboat on Lake Bras d'Or.

The following summer, Selfridge was one of three Army officers to be trained to fly Army Dirigible Number One and his enthusiasm and advocacy for military air power was continuing to grow. Arguing that the Army needed to purchase its own airplanes, Selfridge was assigned to a small team to test out the Wright Flyers being made by Orville and Wilbur Wright, the famed brothers from Dayton, Ohio, who had made the world's first controlled, powered and sustained airplane flight on Dec. 17, 1903.

In a demonstration for the Army (the separate Air Force would not be created until 1947), Orville Wright brought a Wright Flyer to Fort Meyer, Va., for a series of flights. After several days of observing Wright fly his aircraft, for up to an hour at a time, Lt. Selfridge convinced Wright to take him aloft

as a passenger on one of the flights. Selfridge had to leave the next morning on other Army business.

The flight with Wright was to be Selfridge's last.

"The accident was witnessed by a throng of upwards of 2,500 persons, who were instantly changed from cheering enthusiasts to saddened and depressed sympathizers," the Washington Post reported the next day.

"The accident was caused by the breaking of one of the propeller blades. It occurred as the machine was making the second turn, at the lower end of the field, on the fourth lap.

"An end of the blade flew off, and Mr. Wright apparently completely lost control of the machine, which tacked about choppily for a hundred feet or more, soared ten feet higher, and then dropped to the ground with a frightful force, from a height of about 75 feet.

"The machine crumpled up into a tangled mass of wreckage, burying the two men. The horrified spectators dashed down the field, and those in the van lifted the machine and extricated the victims. Mr. Wright was conscious. Lieutenant Selfridge was unconscious, and his face was covered with blood, which gushed from a great gash on his forehead."

Selfridge died at the scene. Wright was hospitalized for several weeks but made a full recovery and eventually sold his airplane to the Army.

The Washington Post goes on to report that Selfridge was "one of the most enthusiastic and experienced aviators" in the military at the time of his death.

To mark the centennial of Selfridge's death, Lou Nigro, director of the Selfridge Air Museum at the local base, has created a presentation on the early aviator's life that is suitable for service clubs, libraries or other interested groups.

"Selfridge's legacy lives on here at the base that bears his name," Nigro said. "This base has a more than 90-year history of aviation excellence and service to the nation through the use of air power. I think Thomas Selfridge would be proud of how his name endures to this day."

For information on the Selfridge presentation, contact the Selfridge Air Museum at (586) 307-5035 or visit <http://www.selfridgeairmuseum.org/>.



On Sept. 17 this year, we commemorate the 100th anniversary of the death of Lt. Thomas Selfridge, (pictured above on the left) - the namesake of the Air Base. Photo courtesy of 127th Wing-PA

New Drug program brings the Battle to Michigan

By Spc. Michael V. May, 177th Military Police Brigade

Like many National Guard Soldiers and Airmen currently deployed to fight in the global war on terror, Guardsmen in Michigan are fighting a war in local communities across the state.

The Michigan National Guard's Drug Demand Reduction program provides fire support in the war on Michigan drug and alcohol abuse as it lifts off the ground in its inaugural summer.

"Its our charge to create a "Ban Across the Hand," which is a coalition of resources between the various drug abuse and prevention organizations and the citizens these organizations support to unite in a larger initiative for support and public awareness," said Michigan Army Guard 1st Lt. Demetries Luckett, the program's administrator.

The program's dedication to substance abuse prevention includes community drug prevention awareness events, alternative education activities, anti-drug coalition relations, and the Gateways to Success program.

"Our DDR team provides speakers for assemblies of any size or age group. The briefings are designed to educate the public on the far-reaching effects that illegal drugs have on their families and communities."

The program specifically targets youth, Luckett said, catering to schools by offering before and after school adventure based activities designed to develop decision making, problem solving and other critical life skills, all focusing on good choices for a drug free life.

The Gateway to Success program educates older teens on the dangers of gateway drugs (less dangerous, but illegal drugs which often lead to harder drugs), emphasizing the immediate harm drugs do to the body, he said. For younger children, the Stay on Track program uses a motor sports theme to educate sixth through eighth graders in schools about personal health, decision-making, peer pressure and media influences, all designed to prevent

and reduce substance use and abuse in adolescents.

"Statistics show that after completing the SOT program, students had more knowledge about the effects of illegal drugs and said they were more likely to resist them in the future. That's a big step forward," said Luckett.

Currently, the DDR program is operating in schools in 19 counties across Michigan with room to grow, he said. The Detroit-area schools in Wayne County are the newest and largest addition. He said that in Wayne County alone, the program will bring the "Ban across the Hand" message to nearly 71,000 children this year.

But the program cannot do it alone Luckett said. The Michigan National Guard welcomes partnerships with like-minded organizations in the community to help get the message out.



"It is not only important to support the service members fighting in the war on terror," he said. "It is equally important to support the Guardsmen fighting daily battles at home in the war against illegal drug, alcohol and tobacco abuse."



State Rep. Fran Amos, Counter Drug Commander Lt. Col. Leonard Rusher, Jessie Weston, office manager for State Sen. Martha Scott, Sen. Scott, 1st Lt. Mesha Cichon, and 1st Lt. Demetries Luckett, gather for a group photo after the Stay on Track drug-free youth presentation held at the Joint Force Headquarters in Lansing. Photo courtesy of Michigan National Guard Counter Drug

National Guard win-win at MIS

By 1st Lt. Corissa Barton, JFHQ Public Affairs Office, Michigan Army National Guard

The Michigan Army National Guard streaked through the first NASCAR race of the year at the Michigan International Speedway gaining visibility with nearly 50 million NASCAR fans and viewers.

Planning for the MIARNG's involvement in the June race began four months earlier when Sgt. 1st Class Randy Leffel, from the Michigan Army Guard's Recruiting and Retention Command was contacted by a friend.

"My friend who works for the speedway approached me and asked if we would be interested in coordinating some of the activities for the opening ceremonies," said Leffel. Those activities included posting the colors before each race, a military flyover, and an invocation by the state chaplain of the Michigan Army National Guard.

"Once I told my friend we were on board, he put me in contact with Sammie Lukaskiewicz, the director of communications for the track and plans got under way," said Leffel.

With plans in progress, Laurie Stone, a marketing contractor for the MIARNG had an idea of her own. She contacted her husband, 1st Lt. Chris Stone who is currently deployed to Iraq with the 126th Press Camp Headquarters. Together they came up with the idea to tape messages from Michigan National Guard Soldiers deployed to Iraq and then broadcast them during the race.

The 55,000 fans in attendance and millions of viewers at home watched as deployed Michigan Guardsmen Capt. William Archer, Spc. Brandon Grace, and Pfc. David Majeski, of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1-126th Cavalry Squadron; Sgt. 1st Class Christian Hamlett, and 2nd Lt. Thomas Piepkow, Troop C, 1-126th Cavalry Squadron; and Spc. Gerald Moyer, Company D, 237th Forward Support Battalion, wished "Happy Fathers Day" and other sentiments to their families. The messages were broadcast over two new jumbotrons purchased for \$2 million.

All three race-days scheduled the posting of the colors by the MIARNG honor guard. Friday's posting was cancelled due to inclement weather and gave the honor guard detail one more day of practice. The honor guard completes an average of 40 missions a week.

Spc. Johnny Dearing, Rear Detachment, Company A, 1-125th Infantry Battalion, has been a member of the MIARNG honor guard for three years.

"I started to participate originally because I needed a job, but ended up sticking with it because it really did become an honor," said Dearing.

According to Dearing, performing in front of millions of people can bring about mixed emotions.

"I am excited, nervous, and happy, but it is really just an honor to be able to participate," Dearing said.



Dale Earnhardt Jr. takes a moment to prepare himself for the LifeLock 400 NASCAR race at Michigan International Speedway. Earnhardt ended a 76-race winless streak in dramatic fashion at Michigan International Speedway after winning the NASCAR Sprint Cup Series LifeLock 400 on Sunday, June 15, 2008. Photo by Staff Sgt. Helen Miller

Also involved was state Chaplain (Col.) Herbert Heavner, who gave the invocation before the race. He prayed for the safety of our Soldiers overseas, the drivers and the crews. The stadium was near silent, united with the chaplain's words. When he finished, a low "Amen" whispered by all could be heard throughout the crowd.

To close out the day, National Guard driver, Dale Earnhardt Jr., driving car #88, grasped his first win in Sunday's Lifelock 400 and broke a 76-race losing streak.

One Soldier was lucky enough to watch the race in the pit with Earnhardt's crew an arm length away.

"It was the first time I have ever watched a race from the pit and it couldn't have been a better experience. Following Jr. to victory lane and being able to meet him and Mr. Hendrick (the owner of the #88 car) was more than I expected or could have asked for," said Capt. Ryan Keith, the operations and training officer at the Joint Force Headquarters in Lansing.

Sunday's race proved to be a win-win experience for many National Guard Soldiers and NASCAR fans alike.

Michigan National Guard returns thank you to the Lions

By Master Sgt. Denice Rankin, JFHQ Public Affairs Office, Michigan Air National Guard

This summer, on behalf of the senior leadership of the Michigan National Guard, the Battle Creek Air National Guard 110th Wing commander, Col. Rodger Seidel, and other members of the wing, Col. Frank Walker, Lt. Col Bryan Teff, and Master Sgt. Scott Liebhauser presented Tim Pendell, the Detroit Lion's senior director of community affairs, with a framed lithograph of Michigan National Guard aircraft and personnel.

The Detroit Lions have honored Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom veterans during the third quarter of each of their home football games since 2005. The Michigan National Guard leadership decided it was time to thank the Lion's organization again for their continued support of the program they call "Hometown Heroes."

Col. Walker and his son Chad, who is employed by the Detroit Lions, fostered the idea for the program in 2004 and the Detroit Lions have been team players ever since.

Walker maintains regular contact with commanders from Michigan Army and Air National Guard, Army Reserve, Marine, Navy, and Coast Guard units. He sends a letter to the

military commanders and asks them to select a member who has distinctively served in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom or Operation Enduring Freedom. The commanders reply back to Walker who serves as a liaison between the Lions and the military units.

Before the game, the Detroit Lions organization sends the military member four game tickets, a parking pass, and a welcome letter with special instructions for the recognition ceremony.

During the third quarter at each Detroit Lions' home game, the deserving military member is escorted to the field and introduced while a short description of their military service and photo is displayed on the large screens in the stadium.

The Detroit Lions tangible way of thanking the troops may be considered their way of tying the yellow ribbon round the old oak tree for all the nation to see. Col. Walker hopes to maintain this partnership with the Detroit Lions for as long as our fellow American heroes are serving their nation.



Tim Pendell (at left) from the Detroit Lions, receives a framed lithograph on behalf of the Michigan National Guard and their families. Presenting the photo from left to right: Col. Frank Walker, Col. Rodger Seidel, commander of 110th Fighter Wing, Lt. Col. Brian Teff, 110th Operations Support Flight, and Master Sgt. Scott Liebhauser, 110th Fighter Wing. Chad Walker, (not pictured) is Col. Walker's son. The father son team conceived the Detroit Lions' "Hometown Heroes Program" which honors a military veteran of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom with tickets to the game, a third quarter special appearance on the field and introduction to the fans. Photo courtesy of Col. Frank Walker

Governor's Twenty competitors score another bullseye

Story and photos by Sgt. 1st Class James Downen, JFHQ Public Affairs Office, Michigan Army National Guard

“Are you ready on the left? Left is ready. Ready on the right? Right is ready. The firing line is now ready. Watch and shoot. Watch and shoot.”

Lt. Col. Alan Lebioda sounded off with these commands over a bullhorn to jump-start the Governor's Twenty match at Fort Custer, Mich., on May 31, 2008.

The Governor's Twenty rifle match is a yearly competition held at Fort Custer Training Center (FCTC) and is open to Michigan Army and Air National Guardsmen. The competition starts with 100-meters standing, 200-meters kneeling, 300 and 400-meters prone, and 25-meters close quarters shooting in the standing position.

The Air Guard team was made up of Airmen from the 127th Fighter Wing in Selfridge, Mich. The team has an advantage over its Army Guard brethren because Air Guard Wings and their units are stationed on one base with range facilities that allow team training. Most Army Guard units are stationed at armories that do not have firing ranges and they have to travel to maneuver training centers such as FCTC and Camp Grayling to conduct marksmanship training.

The Army Guard shooters came from several Michigan Guard units, the largest contingent was 26 shooters from the Howell, Mich., 1462nd Transportation Company.

Sgt. Jennifer Garrett said that Staff Sgt. Ray Ruzzin inspired the mass participation by 1462nd Soldiers in this year's Governor's Twenty match.

“Staff Sgt. Ruzzin put out the information to the unit,” said Garrett, “He encouraged everyone to take advantage of this opportunity to shoot.”

Ruzzin said, “Soldiers who have a hard time at the 300 meter qualification range do better after shooting the Governor's Twenty match. You have to shoot out to 400-meters,

which is further than the 300-meter target at the qualification range. This match is a valuable marksmanship training tool.”

127th Fighter Wing Staff Sgt. Nikitas Kalafatis commented on the Air Guard team's cohesion advantage.

“We are located on the same installation and this allows us to train as a unit.” Kalafatis said, “We have many experienced shooters who coach the newer team members and sharing this experience makes us a strong team.”

Shooters are best served when they have an observant spotter with a scope during the match. Spotting scopes allow the spotter to tell the shooter where their bullets are, or are not striking the target. The spotter can see the vortex of the bullet fired by the disposition of the air and determine its clock location on the target. This assists the shooter to compensate for any windage errors. Not all shooters had scopes though, and binoculars were also used.

The match progressed from the 100-meter standing to the 200 yard kneeling firing event. The new Army qualification standards have a kneeling event, so the event gave the Soldiers an opportunity to train on a skill they will need for weapons qualification with their assigned units.

Many Soldiers had never fired beyond 300 meters, so the 400-yard event was especially challenging to them.

The last firing event was close quarter shooting at the 25-meter line. Muscle, memory, and hand coordination were critical in this phase because the shooters had to reload and fire all their ammunition in mere seconds.

Sgt. 1st Class Timothy Bender of the 126th Army Band was the top shooter with the highest aggregate score for the Excellence in Competition and Reflexive Fire matches. He was awarded the Governor's Twenty state rifle champion trophy.

Technical Sgt. Charles Cain, from the 127th Security Forces Squadron was the top shooter in the Reflexive Fire match and Senior Master Sgt. Michael Suwinski of the 127th Fighter Wing Security Forces Squadron, Selfridge Air National Guard Base was the top shooter in the Excellence in Competition match.

The winning team results were:

1st place: 1462nd Transportation Co.

(Staff Sgt. Ray Ruzzin, Sgt. Steven Wolf and Pfc. Sean Cogburn)

2nd place: 126th Army Band

(Bender, Staff Sgt. Patrick Buzzard, Sgt. Laars Helenius)

3rd place: 127th Security Forces Squadron,

(Tech. Sgt. Charles Cain, Suwinski, Tech. Sgt. Glenn Fetty)

Match officials, Lebioda and Staff Sgt. John Goodrich, gave advice on how to train, explained how to earn points in sanctioned matches to earn the excellence in competition medal and encouraged everyone to bring themselves and other shooters to next year's Governor's Twenty match.

Many of these shooters will find themselves using their sharpened skills on future Global War on Terror deployments.



Spc. Amy Dzierzyc of the Howell, Mich., 1462nd Transportation Company fires her M16-A2 rifle during the Governor's Twenty match at Fort Custer Training Center on May 31.



Welcome Home 177th!

Spc. Shen Song, a signal support systems specialist with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 177th Military Police Brigade, is welcomed home by his parents on May 2, after a one-year deployment with the 177th's HHC element. The 177th arrived in Iraq in August 2007 and had various duties and responsibilities to include charge of all detainee operations in northern Iraq. Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Jim Downen, Jr., design by Senior Airman Matt Mohundro

Currently Deployed

Operational Mentor and Liaison Team (OMLT)
 63rd Brigade Embedded Training Team
 126th Press Camp Headquarters
 1463rd Transportation Company
 1460th Transportation Company
 1st Battalion, 125th Infantry Battalion
 126th Cavalry Squadron

Location

Latvia
 Afghanistan
 Iraq
 Iraq
 Iraq
 Iraq
 Iraq/Kuwait

MICHIGAN NATIONAL GUARD IN HISTORY

Did You Know???

The Michigan National Guard and the Detroit Tigers share a common history that dates back to the turn of the 20th century.

The ball club asked the permission of the Detroit Light Guard, nicknamed, "The Tigers," to officially use their name upon the team's entry into the American League in 1901. While the team used the title, "Detroit Wolverines," during their previous major league stint with the National League from 1881 to 1888, the team used the name unofficially throughout the 1890s, with the nickname's earliest printed appearance in the Detroit Free Press on April 16, 1895.

Like their fellow, "Tigers," the Detroit Light Guard has seen a number of name changes in their long and storied history.

In 1832, at the end of the Black Hawk War, the military component, then known as the Detroit City Guards, were disbanded. A few years later, a number of young men, including some former members of the Detroit City Guard, formed a new independent, volunteer company in Detroit on April 2, 1836. The organization was soon renamed the Brady Guards after Brig. Gen. Hugh Brady.

In 1855, the Brady Guards became the Detroit Light Guard. This unit has had a continuous existence to the present-day and is now Company A, 1st Battalion, 125th Infantry located out of the Detroit Light Guard armory. Members of Company A are currently deployed to Kuwait in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

MIARNG softball team champions on and off the field

Story and photos by Spc. Lakeshia Tryon, JFHQ, Public Affairs Office, Michigan Army National Guard

The National Guard has expanded its reach and branded t-shirts, sport bottles, race cars, billboards, and other items to spread the “Go Guard” message. One of the newest brands and best-kept secrets in the Michigan Army National Guard is the coed softball team.

Team Hooah, headed by Master Sgt. Oscar Flores, has represented the MIARNG in Lansing area *Parks and Recreation* since Spring 2004. The team is comprised of eight male and eight female Soldiers with the majority of the team members from the Lansing area. However, a few of the players travel from Grand Rapids and Taylor.

With team members’ demanding schedules and the balance of National Guard duties and family time, team practice is not an option. Flores, known to the team as Coach Flo, explained that he encourages the team to practice individually and to make sure they are hitting the batting cages weekly.

“We don’t need to practice, we’re just that good!” said Sgt. 1st Class Vincent Williams with a smirk and a chuckle.

Williams has been a part of the team since it formed in 2004. His response could be construed as boasting overconfidence to someone who has never seen the team play. Yet, Team Hooah dominated the beginning of the season with five straight wins before its only season loss. The team won the remaining six games with an average 12-point lead and finished second in their league.

Coach Flo proudly told his team, “The second place finish this year is the best since this team has been together. As we build and work together we are only going to get better.”

According to veteran Team Hooah player Sgt. 1st Class Michael Williams, the MIARNG softball team doubles as a



Just before Team Hooah takes the field against the Dakota Diamonds, Coach Flo (Master Sgt. Oscar Flores) and the Michigan Guard team complete the huddle with, “Hooah on three- one, two, three, HOOAH !”

recruiting tool for the Michigan Army Guard. The team was able to purchase their uniforms by redeeming points earned from the Guard Recruiter Assistance Program.

The old adage, “practice makes perfect,” is true and time tested. It is not easy for any team to pull off many wins without continuous practice. However, as team member Sgt. 1st Class Vincent Williams stated, the MIARNG softball team can walk onto the field and communicate, cooperate and execute together, combined with brilliant coaching. Throw in some practice and Team Hooah would be invincible.



Front row:

#15 SSG Angie Aumick
#19 SPC Jemerie Lyman
#24 CW2 Deb Salters
#37 MSG Art Jones
#14 SGT Tina Hatchew,
#13 SFC Chris Bahr
#25 SFC Sheryl Berry

Back Row:

#42 Tim Noe civilian spouse
#36 SFC Vince Williams
#48 SPC Frank Whitehead
#47 MSG Oscar Flores (Coach)
#39 COL Bruce Bahr
#39 SFC Mike Williams
#35 SSG Dave Acker
#26 SGT Laurie Acker

Missing from photo
#28 LTC Beth Peters

Michigan Army and Air National Guard Promotions

Through Aug. 30, 2008

Air Guard

Brig. Gen.

Wilson, James R.

Col.

Furland, Donald A.
Martin, Sidney N.
Tenlen, David T.
Wilson, Ronald W.
Wingard, Walter R.

Lt. Col.

Decoster, Robert S.
Niedergall, Alice A.
Soave, John S.

Maj.

Bates, Ricco R.
Corl, Steve M.
Davis, Brian K.
Radmacher, Jason

Capt.

Carroll, Penelope T.
Fawcett, Daniel J.
Prichard, Jennifer M

1st Lt.

Amara, Bryan R.
Ferrell, Leonard T.
Forbes, Jason M.
Mestelle, Ryan S.
Tennapel, Daniel L.
Vaught, Mark D.

2nd Lt.

Harrigan, Duane M.
Holm, Jason R.
Klinger, Mitchell J.
Lee, Lemuel D.
Lesterson, Anthony
Shepherd, James J.
Sobran, Michael E.

Chief Master Sgt.

Baran, Thomas G.
Collins, Bruce S.
Moss, Sandra
Myers, David W.

Senior Master Sgt.

Armocida, Eric W.
Balabuch, Jenny R.
Bigelow, Keith J.
Garza, Rolando
James, Robert J.
Nozicka, Christopher
Wydryck, Robert F.

Master Sgt.

Baize, Jason A.
Brannan, Barry R.
Contrucci, John P.
Downey, James F.
Fickies, David S.
Gage, Steven K.

Herman, Thomas J.
Karth, Robert W.
Prough, Jeffrey M.
Scott, Mark J.
Senter, Lonnie E.
Smathers, Karl M.
Snyder, Charles W.
Vandriessche, Michael
Voyce, Christopher
Wenrich, Rickie L.
Yun, Yomin

Technical Sgt.

Amala, Andrew R.
Bell, Darcy S.
Bogosian, Lillian M.
Bohannon, Michael
Brunsmann, Kurt P.
Burton, Russell H.
Carley, Norma L.
Coleman, Richard A
Czerniak, Brian E.
Diephouse, Timothy
Durham, William T.
Edwards, Lawrence
Fetty, Glenn C.
Grandchamp, Hector
Halgren, David P.
Hauck, Gregory R.
Iwen, Brian K.
Klovski, Dean W.
Kurasz, Mark E.
Lafleur, Genevieve
Leonard, Brian A.
Lobbezoo, Joseph
Madden, Craig L.
Mclean, Robert A.
Michael, Brian S.
Moale, Michael J.
Morgan, Travis J.
Petty, Gerald R.
Pongratz, Ronald T.
Robinson, Sherilyn
Salaniuk, Michael
Sims, Emory F.

Staff Sgt.

Allwardt, Christian
Atkinson, Zachary J
Bates, Steven J.
Bonnell, Jeff A.
Burns, Heather R.
Carlson, Michael A.
Casteel, Aaron M.
Casteel, Aaron M.
Cooper, Todd R.
Cousineau, Scott M.
Crull, Leonard C.
Crull, Leonard C.
Defour, Jeremy J.
Drake, Bradley A.
Faulkner, Brian L.
Flaga, Jordan J.
Galvez, Sunshine M
Gee, Cailean T.
Gee, Cailean T.
Glenn, Brianne N.
Grabner, Eric L.

Greiner, Quentin R.
Hardin, Timothy S.
Hendrickson, Michael
Henkel, Nathan R.
Hitchcock, Scott D.
Holcomb, Adrian R.
Horton, Jonathon R.
Huhtasaari, Timothy
Kalafatis, Nikitas N.
Kalafatis, Nikitas
Kinsel, Robbi L.
Klemanski, Jason R
Lopez, Gabriel O.
May, Erik J.
Mills, Robbi L.
Ondersma, Mark E.
Penn, Christopher
Price, James G.
Rosendahl, Evan P.
Rurka, Eric S.
Schoettle, Daniel J.
Shepherd, Michael
Siryani, Sandi S.
Stockwell, Paul R.
Sutton, Jesse J.
Thompson, Tyrone
Villacis, Anthony K.
Yee, Justin D.

Senior Airman
Balcom, Chad M.
Barber, Eric S.
Barna, Jeffrey E.
Black, Matthew H.
Bowen, James D.
Bursott, Danielle A.
Butterworth, Michael
Cathey, Wytina L.
Cole, Matthew A.
De Jong, Brandon
Dejong, Brandon G.
Emery, Thomas B.
Fetters, Christopher
Gentry, Peter D.
Goldsmith, Bevin L.
Grinvalsky, Amy T.
Herron, Christina M.
Herron, Jiles W.
Hinkley, Eric W.
Howard, Adam G.
James, Clayton W.
James, Clayton W.
Juozapaitis, Robert
Kerchner, Christina
Kohler, Jeffrey D.
Lovelace, Elliott D.
Lockett, Joseph T.
Martin, Geoffrey P.
McClelland, Jamiee
Mcdaniels, Robert E
Moyer, Michael S.
Neumann, Mitchell
Newsted, Aric D.
Noll, Brett S.
Paulson, Kevin C.
Payne, William J.
Perrow, Michelle L.
Pierce, David W.
Preston, Matthew R

Roeper, Steven J.
Stevens, David C.
Tew, James V.
Thomas, Bryan S.
Wade, James A.
Watson, Dennis
Wieland, Ezekiel J.
Williams, Kenneth
Wilson, Michael A.
Airman 1st Class
Emelander, Kyle J.
Molet, Alvin E.
Reid, Timothy J.
Scott, James C.
Vanmeekeren,
Brandon J.
Zomerlei, Branden

Airman

Haygood, Michael L
Mayes, Chevis C.
Miller, Matasha R.
Miller, Natasha R.
Smith, Amanda K.
Williams, Shauntay

Army Guard

Brig. Gen.

Anderson, James

Lt. Col.

Pelot, Michael
Peters, Elizabeth
Tellier, Mark

Maj.

Bigenho, Kevin
Bremmer, Darin
Fitzpatrick, Todd
Howell, David
Johnson, Donald
Mayabb, Patrick
Mckeon, Brian
Rusiecki, Philip
Suehr, Jack

Capt.

Archer, William
Bedford, David
Calio, Charles
Caras, John
Cochenour, Michael
Lemelin, Stephen
Line, Michael
Mojica, Karen
Schantz, Levi
Senn, Ryan
Smith, Douglas
Smith, Michele
Stone, Christopher
Voss, Daniel

1st Lt.

Clark, David
Hamber, Charice
Hendriske, John
June, Brandon
Kidd, Jared
Martin, Trevor
Piepkow, Thomas
Reimann, Trip
Schulte, Kristin
Shook, Michael
Willson, Alek

2nd Lt.

Armstrong, Sara
Conquergood, Chad
Mason, Peter
Mcafee, Michael
Preidis, Charles
Warren, Michael
Willoughby, Amie

Warrant Officer 4

Chambers, Brian
Fransden, Lawrence
Snauko, Mark

Warrant Officer 3

Ellis, Dale

Warrant Officer 2

Foreback, Randy
Grenda, Stephen

Warrant Officer 1

Davis, Diedra
Humphrey, Roger
Mack, Joel
Mcdevitt, Kevin
Merice, David
Moody, Jerry
Teichman, Erica

Master Sgt.

Butler, John
Gross, Matthew

Sgt. 1st Class

Almeida, Wesley
Anderson, Chester
Baker, Jessica
Behm, Eric
Conrad, Alishia
Davila, David
Eubanks, Kimberly
Evans, Benjamin
Hamilton, Jason
Hartin, Dean
Horton, Duane
Kelsey, Bernard
Killoran, Jason
Kirschweg, Jeffery
Kwiatkowski, Matthew
Mitchell, Peter
Monroe, Michael
Oneal, Janice
Riley, Robert

Robins, James
Sherwood, Camie
Smith, Scott
Steinberg, Donald
Tigner, Duane
Vandenbergh, Nathan
Venneman, Jeffrey
Vliet, Jack

Staff Sgt.

Barnett, Lee
Barnett, Michael
Belka, Amie
Benigni, Carol
Best, Charles
Braley, Alan
Brooks, Darwin
Coleman, Kelly
Conlon, Erin
Dole, Anthony
Downey, Matthew
Dunmire, Marlin
Fields, Rayvonne
Gebhard, John
Hammond, Michael
Hart, Ronald
Hendricks, Richard
Hillaker, Nathan
Homrock, Edward
Hopkins, Kevin
Johnson, Jerred
Kimbel, Timothy
Kuehne, Aaron
Larsen, Christopher
Light, Edwin
Manifold, Robert
Martell, Paul
Mazur, James
Mccooy, Jamie
Mcintyre, Wayne
Mckay, Timothy
Mullins, Colin
Papke, Russell
Pauley, Jonathan
Perkins, Nick
Rogers, Jason
Rowe, Frederick
Schultz, Darin
Schultz, Scott
Smiles, Michael
Staines, Eric
Summers, Jennifer
Sweat, James
Teen, Jessica
Tirgui, Hassan
Towne, Mitchell
Vanloon, Sarah
Wheeler, Richard
Wiles, Julie
Wingate, Willard
Zeeryp, Nathan
Ziehmer, Ronald

Staff Sgt.

Bennett, Richard
Betz, Robert
Bradley, Andrew
Bragg, Doreia
Bravata, Jason
Bryan, Christopher
Bussard, Jeffrey
Campbell, David
Chehab, Maher
Crandell, Kenneth
Cyrus, Ronnie
Ferrel, Richard
Ganaway, Yvonne
Gurski, Brad
Herrick, Sean
Hughes, Thomas
Jedele, Douglas
Johnson, Allyn
Johnson, Matthew
Johnston, Benjamin
Kercher, Brad
Klockziem, Richard
Kovach, Jacob
Kuehne, Daniel
Lacey, Gerald
Letts, Steven
Little, Nathaniel
Lobert, Bruce
Martin, Devanne
Mcguffin, Patrick
Mcnees, William
Mitchell, David
Mix, John
Mooney, Christopher
Motley, Raymond
Murray, Daniel
Newton, Steven
Niswonger, David
Nodine, Troy
Nyquist, Jacob
Perkins, Michael
Peters, Scott
Pfeiffer, Ryan
Piper, Tyler
Platias, Marina
Polo, Joe
Post, Nicholas
Pyle, Corey
Rodriquez, Gonzalo
Sallee, Joshua
Sands, Anthony
Sawdy, Tracy
Schrader, Rick
Siklawi, Gassan
Smith, April
Stanwick, Steven
Stephens, Adam
Szymanski, Chelsea
Teepel, Shelia
Thompson, David
Trice, Edsel
Walkington, Shawn
Welling, Shannon
White, Jerry
Wilcox, Patrick
Williams, Derek
Woodard, Sheila
Woodhams, Todd

Army and Air National Guard Promotions continued

Young, Mark
Zangeneh, Masoud
Zarco, Nelson

Spc.

Amshay, Chad
Andersen, Ryan
Ashby, Mathew
Baak, Jonathan
Baker, Zachary
Baldwin, Wesley
Barnhart, William
Beaune, Andrew
Berry, Daniel
Bilich, Anthony
Bishop, Cathi
Blackstone, Matthew
Breisach, Stephen
Brockway, Kyle
Burden, Sean
Burke, Thomas
Butcher, Jonathan
Canyock, Travis
Carey, David
Carlson, Samantha
Cathey, Ashley
Cavazos, Carlos
Chapman, Gerald
Cherry, Ryan
Churchman, David
Clor, Andrew
Cobb, Eric
Conley, Charles
Copeland, Darryl
Daleiden, Kyle
Davison, Eric
Dillabough, Steven
Donegan, Joshua
Dyer, Donald
Edler, Michael
Eerdmans, Timothy
Eichhorn, Allen
Elliott, Brian
Ellis, Elissa
Fishel, Daniel
Flexon, Jonathan
Fowler, James
Frasure, Brandon
Fulkerson, Michael
Garris, Robert
Gasser, Toni
Geerlings, Jamie
Gill, Brandon
Grady, Robert
Griffin, Eddie
Groendyke, Gavon
Hall, Lisa
Harnett, Jon
Harris, Alexander
Harris, Brown
Heady, Charles
Heeren, Daniel
Heilig, Anthony
Hensley, Megan
Herbert, Donald
Heyworth, James
Higgins, Ryan

Hilleary, Elizabeth
Hoseclaw, Clinton
Hough, Joshua
Howell, Nathan
Hua, Chanh
Hubert, Anthony
Hudson, Tresa
Hurd, Michael
Huyck, Nicholas
Itrich, Jason
Johnson, Bryan
Johnson, Justin
Johnson, Kayla
Jokinen, Donnie
Kalm, Jordan
Kievit, David
Klump, Jonathan
Kretovic, Stephen
Kujat, Derek
Lafernier, Melvin
Lahaie, Peter
Lalonde, Richard
Landers, Robert
Larson, Thomas
Laurell, Robert
Leathers, Timothy
Lemley, Pamela
Levesque, Trevor
Lintemuth, Roman
Lovelace, Joseph
Majeski, David
Major, Joshua
Martin, Capri
Marzolf, Nathan
Matthews, Karl
Mcaffrey, Levon
Mcfadden, Mathew
Meijer, Nathaniel
Melhus, Russell
Mensior, Nicholas
Meyer, Casey
Mladenoff, William
Molin, Chase
Monroe, Kyle
Moore, Tabiatha
Mwangi, Martin
Nafe, Michael
Nakata, Joshua
Newell, Donald
Odor, Crystal
Oliver, David
Osborn, Robert
Oviedo, Benjamin
Owensmontgomery, R
Parham, Jared
Patterson, Sean
Peffer, Charles
Peterson, James
Porter, Travis
Powell, Erica
Prusi, Seth
Quintana, Mirasol
Richards, Robert
Rinckey, Lacey
Ritthaler, Matthew
Roeder, Eric
Rose, Matthew

Ross, Nicholas
Santillan, Eduardo
Schafer, Charles
Schroen, Jeffrey
Scoles, Steven
Seeley, Anthony
Sloat, Courtney
Smith, Andrew
Smith, Merlin
Smith, Michael
Smith, Timothy
Southard, James
Spohn, Casey
Spurlock, Donald
Stamm, Jonathan
Stitt, David
Stone, Patrick
Stroh, Jason
Suchland, Kristopher
Sweder, Joseph
Thomas, Christopher
Thomas, Josh
Tolentino, David
Tozer, Ashley
Vandervoord, Timothy
Vanigan, Joshua
Vannortrick, Jason
Vasquez, Ernesto
Vennekotter, Robert
Waldrup, Stanley
Ward, Alexander
Wawsczyk, Brian
Willemstein, Ryan
Wright, Robert
Wyatt, Matthew
Zimmer, Jason
Zuniga, Joseph

Pfc.

Achatz, John
Adams, Brian
Alicea, Clara
Allen, Antonio
Allstetter, Warren
Annear, Kyle
Apololarrea, Jose
Arganbright, Danielle
Ashithey, Peter
Ashman, Richard
Badgerow, Timothy
Baillie, Christopher
Baker, Brittney
Barker, Brittany
Bartok, Ryan
Baumgartner, Daniel
Beard, Matthew
Bedford, Ronald
Behmlander, William
Bewley, Brian
Bickford, Michael
Bigham, Christopher
Bliss, Matthew
Briolat, Christopher
Brock, Jasmine
Brown, Matthew
Brun, Christopher
Butler, David
Byerly, Chris

Calisti, Steven
Cavill, Bradley
Chace, Samantha
Champagne, Bradley
Clark, Jacob
Cline, Kevin
Conniff, Randy
Conn, Matthew
Cook, Douglas
Cramer, Joshua
Crocker, Jesse
Davy, Felicia
Day, Kenneth
Deman, Zeina
Demerly, Allen
Deromano, Carlos
Doin, Crystal
Dombrowski, Jason
Durnan, Nicholas
Fairfield, Marcus
Farmer, Paul
Fletcher, Herbert
France, Thomas
Frank, David
Fredianelli, Dominic
Garcia, Davy
Gilbert, Allen
Gipson, Nicholas
Gomez, Louis
Gordon, Zachary
Govert, Amanda
Grandowicz, Thomas
Hall, Tanicka
Harvey, Alexandria
Henderson, Michael
Hendrickson, Sarah
Hessel, Rine
Hite, Clinton
Hollinshead, Kyle
Holtz, Paige
Hopkins, Daniel
Horl, Monorum
Houghtaling, Aaron
Illikainen, Ronald
King, Brian
Kinnunen, Steven
Kovach, Johnna
Kryka, Richard
Kuhn, Derek
Lancour, Leroy
Langlois, Lance
Latreille, Kevin
Leal, Antonio
Leazier, Clifford
Leclair, Kyle
Lee, Charis
Lee, Charles
Levitski, Bradley
Lindle, Jonathan
Lorway, Sean
Ludwiczak, Ashley
Luebke, Michael
Martin, Christopher
Martin, Lamarr
Maxwell, Cory
Maybee, Luke
Mayor, James

Mcfarland, James
McLeod, Brian
Meyer, Taylor
Mikle, Jamie
Miller, Joshua
Miller, Michael
Miller, Nicholas
Milligan, Julio
Mills, David
Mobley, Steven
Moore, Jeffrey
Moriarty, Albert
Mosley, Dorohn
Navarre, Adam
Nichelson, Joseph
Olney, Thomas
Palmer, Kyle
Pardee, Phillip
Parsons, Christopher
Pepin, Aaron
Picard, Adam
Platias, Nicholas
Pollock, Matthew
Ponce, Johnathon
Porcaro, Angela
Proffitt, James
Ramirez, Mario
Ray, Derek
Ray, Mikal
Richards, Corey
Roberts, Phillip
Romero, Mario
Ross, Richard
Rossow, Laura
Rumph, Russell
Rundell, Jason
Sadiq, Najma
Sanderson, Nicole
Sargent, Joshua
Schaaf, John
Schatzberg, Steven
Shankster, Alicia
Shardlow, Brennan
Sheridon, James
Sherron, Joel
Sherron, Josiah
Shim, Maurice
Skiba, Travis
Smith, David
Smith, Dee
Smothers, D
Sperry, Amber
Spigelmyre, Joshua
Starr, Krista
Steinmetz, Jeffrey
Stoepker, Toni
Stull, Nicholas
Sullivan, Ronald
Swy, Jasin
Syarto, Adam
Taylor, Nathaniel
Taylor, Ryan
Thang, Pau
Thompson, Nathyn
Tibbles, Benjamin
Tiggs, Antwon
Tokarczyk, Renee
Tompkins, Andrew

Travers, Joseph
Vanbeest, John
Vandecar, Matthew
Vandeventer, Shane
Vasquez, Luisa
Vicari, Justin
Wahl, Scott
Ward, Michael
Warren, Wendall
Wessels, Megan
Wheeler, Benjamin
Whiteside, James
Wilhoite, Keith
Willoughby, Derek
Wilson, Jason
Winkel, Brett
Winters, Timothy
Woodrick, James
Wotring, Lisa
Wright, Steven
Young, Jennylyn
Young, Joseph
Zay, Eric

Private 2

Aldrich, Kenneth
Ashton, Samantha
Balduf, Justin
Block, Shon
Bouchard, Justin
Bromley, Bernard
Bush, Christopher
Carson, Daniel
Colburn, Kenneth
Crocker, Justin
Crow, Amber
Delisle, Michael
Diaz, Eric
Dilyard, Amber
Dubay, Ivy
Dunn, Brandon
Dupuis, Paul
Eitrem, Jeremy
Fawley, Gregory
Felzke, Christopher
Finkbeiner, Jordan
Fitzpatrick, Scot
Fudge, Lloyd
Garcia, Brandon
Geml, Justin
Gilmour, Michael
Girr, David
Idstein, Ryan
Jones, Eric
Kivela, Steven
Krzyzanowski, Angela
Lesoski, Justin
Macgregor, Corey
Mcgill, Dylan
Menara, Louis
Moore, Paul
Moore, Rachel
Niemi, Elwood
Patel, Nimeshkumar
Pena, Donovan
Piche, James
Pitcher, Nathaniel
Prochno, Michael

Rennells, Christa
Rogers, Brandon
Rogers, Cecil
Shoemaker, Orrin
Solinski, Kendall
Spivey, Bobby
Stepanski, Ryan
Sternhagen, Ross
Taylor, Mark
Tefft, Tyler
Torres, Miguel
True, James
Wallace, Scott
Watkins, Tony
Winegar, Matthew
Winkler, Jaykob

TAPS help heal

By Master Sgt. Denice Rankin, JFHQ Public Affairs Office

Military leaders are trained in many interpersonal skills, even those touchy, feely skills such as recognizing when a Soldier or Airman may need counseling because of family, financial, or other problems.

But it can be problematic when Soldiers and Airmen are covert and keep certain emotions like grief, off the radar screen.

A organization that understands the grief process is the Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors, Inc. TAPS director is Bonnie Carroll, founded the program following the death of her husband, Brig. Gen. Tom Carroll and seven others in an Army C-12 plane crash in 1992.

The surviving loved ones turned to various grief support agencies for comfort, but when they shared common fears and problems, they found strength and truly began to heal. They also realized that the death of a loved one in the line of military duty was different from other types of losses. Out of their loss and shared pride in their spouses' service, TAPS was organized.

TAPS regional meetings are held throughout the United States. The workshops are open to family members or loved ones who have had someone die while serving in the Armed Forces. In February, Michigan hosted a workshop in Lansing and in May the national conference was held in Washington, D.C.

The D.C. event began the Friday before Memorial Day with a police escort for five bus-loads of TAPS attendees through downtown D.C., to the Marine Barracks for a concert by *The President's Own United States Marine Band* and demonstrations by the Marine Corps Color Guard and the Silent Drill Platoon.

The opening night's events set the tone of respect and gratitude the TAPS organization upholds for our military members and their families.

Among the speakers at the national conference were retired U.S. Army Lt. Gen. Hal Moore, the author of *We Were Soldiers Once, and Young*, and author and T. V. personality, Ben Stein.

The conference hosted workshops on recognizing and coping with grief and anger for adults and a "Good Grief" camp for kids.

My husband Joe and I lost a son, Joel, to suicide in October 2006. Joel was a member of the Guard, although he had only attended a few drills. We attended the February workshop and in May, I attended the national conference. Grief is a process, and, as I learned from TAPS, you need to let yourself go through it, not around it.

A key component TAPS endeavors to convey is to honor the life of our loved one, rather than focus on their death. One workshop host, Dr. Darcie Sims, said she'd listen to us tell about our loss, but then encouraged people to come talk with her after the workshop and tell her one great memory about their loved one. I surmise that was part of her wisdom was to initiate the "healing balm" of good memories, something that death cannot steal.

One TAPS banner clarifies the message with, "Remember the Love, Celebrate the Life, Share the Journey."

For more information, call 800-959-TAPS (8277) or visit www.TAPS.org.



Sgt. 1st Class Matthew L. Hilton, 37, of Livonia, Mich., died June 26 in Afghanistan, of injuries suffered when his truck was hit by improvised explosive devices and small arms fire. Hilton was assigned to Company F, 425th Infantry Airborne, Long Range

Surveillance, Selfridge, Mich., and was also a Lathrup Village policeman. He deployed in February 2008 with the 63rd Embedded Training Team in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

He is survived by his wife Mary Hilton, a master sergeant in the MIARNG, his stepchildren, Brent and Hailie Robinson, and his parents, Mary Beth (Mike) Pluger and Leon (Sharon) Hilton.



TAPS

Sgt. George A. Gasser, 48, June 25, 2008
Staff Sgt. John E. Hawkins Jr., (ret), 81, May 13, 2008
Sgt. Russell E. Hetherington, (ret), 67, July 19, 2008
Sgt. 1st Class Matthew L. Hilton, 37, June 30, 2008
Lt. Col. Hans C. Jens, (ret), 82, July 13, 2008
Sgt. 1st Class Darnell M. Johnson, 41, July 26, 2008
Master Sgt. Roger A. Kadwell, (ret), 47, May 8, 2008
Lt. Col. Ralph J. King, (ret), 71, Aug. 4, 2008
Sgt. Maj. Albert R. Kyes, (ret), 78, Aug. 1, 2008
Col. Donald G. Mchenry, (ret), 85, May 24, 2008
Capt. David M. Mcleod, 53, July 13, 2008
Warrant Officer 3 David A. Roberts, (ret), 80, May 1, 2008
Col. Alan L. Schnipke, (ret), 68, July 17, 2008
Sgt. Maj. Gary D. Stockford, 56, Aug. 5, 2008
Master Sgt. John A. Turner, (ret), 80, May 10, 2008
1st Sgt. Chester H. Vandort, (ret), 92, June 22, 2008



Michigan Army National Guard Recruiting Command 2nd Lt. Kelly Marshall administers the oath of enlistment to her brother, Staff Sgt. Lucas Catterfeld of Company B, 1st Battalion, 125th Infantry Regiment, currently deployed to Ramadi, Iraq. The oath was accomplished by video teleconference on July 10, 2008 at the Joint Forces Headquarters, in Lansing, Mich. Photo by Staff Sgt. Jim Downen, Jr. JFHQ, Public Affairs Office

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