

Summer 2008

THE WOLVERINE GUARD

New National Guard team member

127th Wing gets new wings

GVA gets a makeover



A publication of the Michigan Army and Air National Guard
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TAG From the desk of The Adjutant General TALK



As I go out and speak to community groups, I am often asked about the difference between, “the National Guard, the Reserves, and Active Duty.” After reciting “Guard 101,” I like to give several examples of how Guard members make a difference in their own communities, in their state, and around the world. I share the outstanding work being accomplished by our Soldiers and Airmen in Afghanistan, Iraq, and Kuwait and I also seize the moment to share other ways our Guard members serve. That list is long; however, I would like to provide a couple of highlights with you.

I was very pleased to have the opportunity in early April to visit our 1430th Engineer Company at Soto Cano Airbase, in Comayaqua, Honduras. The 1430th is a vertical construction engineering unit and their task while they were down there was to participate in the building and renovation of three different schools. As I traveled to each work location, I was awed by many things, but three things in particular. The first thing you could not overlook was the utter poverty of the families living in this particular area. Secondly, in spite of their poverty, the children and their teachers were extremely friendly and gracious. Through an interpreter they shared how much it meant to them to have Soldiers from Michigan there making such a difference in their schools. When this project is done, their schools will be by far safer and they will actually have functional bathrooms to use...imagine that! Lastly, I could not miss the passion with which our Soldiers accomplished their mission, and in turn, reached out to those Honduran children. They were awesome ambassadors for our state and our nation. I could not have been more proud of them. They, like each of you who have deployed on an overseas deployment training mission like this, have touched the lives of people around the world. We should all tell that story and be mighty proud of it!

I am also extremely proud of our involvement in Mentor Michigan. We were very pleased to have the First Gentleman, Dan Mulhern, come and speak to us at the Senior NCO Conference in January of this year. He spoke to us about an incredible opportunity, through mentoring, for us to add even more value to the communities we serve in. There are, as you know, literally thousands of young people in our state who are in desperate need of mentoring. We have, therefore, partnered with Mulhern and Mentor Michigan and are challenging ourselves to provide 500 mentors from the Michigan National Guard. Over the past few months, we have all been challenged as we have listened reverently to our very own Soldiers and Airmen reveal what a positive impact their mentoring has had on their “mentee,” and on them as well. Mentoring literally changes two lives at one time. This is an awesome way for each of you - Soldiers, Airmen, and family members - to make a huge investment in the future of our state and our nation. I encourage each of you to go the following Web site, www.michigan.gov/mentormichigan, and find out more about this outstanding opportunity to serve.

Whether it is taking on the tough challenges abroad or here at home, no one does it better than the Michigan National Guard. I thank each of you for your service to our state and nation. As always, it is truly an honor to serve with you.

Maj. Gen. Thomas G. Cutler

Photo by Master Sgt. Denice Rankin
Maj. Gen. Thomas Cutler speaks with media at the Chrysler Headquarters in Auburn Hills, Mich., on May 5, 2008 where Chrysler hosted a Blue Star recognition ceremony acknowledging the military service of 44 Chrysler employees nationwide serving in the military.



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class James Downen
Maj. Gen. Cutler honors Sgt. Richard Hendricks and his family with the presentation of the American flag at the Battery A, 182nd Field Artillery Freedom Salute in Detroit, Mich., on April 26, 2008. Battery A returned home after a 14-month deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.



Photo courtesy of Maj. Gen. Thomas Cutler
During Maj. Gen. Cutler's visit with the 1430th Engineer Company at Soto Cano Airbase in Comayaqua, Honduras in April 2008, he had the opportunity to interact with children at a Honduran school being renovated by the 1430th.



Col. James R. Anderson

The Michigan Army National Guard (MIARNG) just finished our annual leadership conference. The theme of this year's conference was: "Back to the Basics." We have been extremely focused and attentive to our missions in the Global War on Terrorism. We have sourced, trained, mobilized and deployed over 9,000 Soldiers since the war on terrorism began. We have done a tremendous job of answering the call to perform our Title 10 missions. In doing so for longer than we ever expected, we realize it is time to return to the basics. We have identified certain areas that have been neglected and we have formed and trained "tiger teams" to go out to the field and assist where a need exists. In the midst of process improvements, I can see progress already and I am confident we will continue to improve our service which equates to taking better care of Soldiers.

There have been several notable accomplishments and recognitions that I would like to mention. First, Staff Sgt. Deidra Piechocki, Recruiting and Retention Command's Marketing Section noncommissioned officer in charge, took third place in the Department of Defense Military Graphic Artist of the Year Competition for her work on the 126th Army Band bus wrap. The instructors

of the truck driver (88M) course at the Fort Custer Regional Training Institute (RTI)



were recognized by the Army Training and Doctrine Command for a 100 percent certification rating for the course they teach. The accomplishment authorizes the RTI to be considered an Institute of Excellence. The Adjutant General and senior leadership selected many teams from the MIARNG as recipients of the TAG Quality Cup to recognize excellence and exceptional progress toward improving processes and systems. Receiving Silver award recognition was the Army Aviation Support Facility in Grand Ledge. Bronze awards went to teams from Mobilization Force Readiness, Military Funeral Honors, and Army Aviation

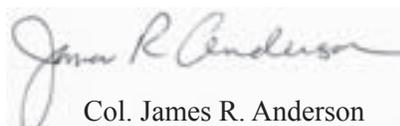
Support Facility at Selfridge. Diane Epps and the distance learning staff have achieved a number two rating as the most active distance learning program in the National Guard. Congratulations to all of them.

I want to spend a little time to talk about the "roadtoreintegration" program we are continuing to improve upon. Many of you know of and have participated in the Family Reunion Weekends that we try to conduct 45 days following the return of our Soldiers back to Michigan from their deployments. We have had a lot of positive feedback from these weekends and we have learned that in some cases the MIARNG cannot provide all the resources required for Soldiers and their families. We have identified other community and state agencies that provide the needed resources and we are meeting with all of them. The intent is to provide awareness to the other agencies of our needs and solicit their help to work together with the MIARNG throughout Michigan in order to reintegrate our Soldiers back to a quality of life as good or better than when they deployed. I ask you to help me organize all the best intended efforts toward a concerted and organized approach that will complete the mission of reintegration for our Soldiers and their families.



Read more information on the roadtoreintegration in the next issue of The Wolverine Guard.

Finally, I want to make sure and thank you for continuing to serve our state and nation. You are among a small percentage (1 percent) of Americans who have made the choice to serve in the military. You are a special and precious resource.


 Col. James R. Anderson

Bullets



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class James Downen
Cover: Michigan Army National Guard
Soldiers of F Company, 425th Infantry
Long Range Surveillance conduct
blank fire drills at Camp Grayling,
Mich., on April 11, 2008.

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SGLI costs will decrease July 1

Troops will pay less for Service members Group Life Insurance as of July 1, 2008, according to the Department of Veterans Affairs which manages the program.

Monthly premiums for the maximum coverage of \$400,000 will decrease from \$28 to \$26. The additional \$1 per month for severe traumatic injury coverage remains the same.

Premiums for Veteran's Group Life Insurance for veterans ages 30 to 64 also will decrease 4 percent to 12 percent on July 1.

The July 1 changes will not affect Family SGLI premiums, which decreased two years ago.

New rates and charts are available at www.insurance.va.gov.



Guard Spouses Get Career Training

Allied Schools is now offering no-charge career training for the spouses of Army National Guard Soldiers (ARNG) on active drilling status. Guard spouses study at no charge when Guard Soldiers enroll at Allied Schools using their Tuition Assistance benefits. ARNG spouses can choose from an approved list of courses in real estate, the medical field and business.

In addition to National Guard Soldiers on active-drilling status, the military spouses of active-duty Airmen, Sailors, Marines and Army are eligible for the program. Allied's no-charge career training for military spouses is an in-house program that is not affiliated with any other U.S. government spouse education programs.

To learn more about no-charge career training for military spouses, visit www.education4military.com or call (888) 501-5221 to speak with a military admissions representative.



Wolverine Guard Spring Corrections

In the Spring 2008 issue of the Wolverine Guard it was incorrectly printed that Margaret Ann Miller was the first enlisted Michigan Air Guard female in 1972. According to our records, Marie Stabile was the first female, enlisting in January 1970.

The Wolverine Guard staff apologizes for the misprint.

H2H Wounded Warrior Program

Helmets to Hardhats (H2H) is a national program that connects National Guard, Reserve and transitioning active-duty military members with quality career training and employment opportunities within the construction industry. The program was established to help service members and military veterans put their training to use as they transition to jobs in the building and construction trades.

H2H also offers a program for our wounded warriors. The Wounded Warrior program supports disabled veterans by providing the tools, information and community that will help veterans gain careers in the building and construction trades.

Disabled veterans may apply for and demonstrate their ability to perform any job listed on the H2H Web site.

To access the H2H "Wounded Warrior" page and view current career opportunities, you must login to the H2H Web site. If you are not already a member, simply click on the "Create Account" button and follow the instructions.

For more information about the program go to <http://helmetstohardhats.org/> or email Rob Schwartz at rschwartz@helmetstohardhats.org.



Ship parcels to troops for less

The United States Postal Service has a new Priority Mail Large Flat Rate Box. The new 12 x 12 x 5.5 inches or nearly 800 cubic inches boxes are available without cost to customers in post offices nationwide.

Family and friends sending packages to Army Post Office (APO) and Fleet Post Office (FPO) addresses will receive a \$2 discount. The new box can be shipped for \$12.95 to any U.S. address or \$10.95 to APO/FPO addresses.

For more information visit www.usps.com.



Army Personnel & DANTES testing

As of April 2008 all testing administered by the Education Services Office will be conducted only twice per month. For more information contact Timothy Grove at 517-481-7767



Photo by Master Sgt. Denice Rankin
 Command Sgt. Maj. Thomas Foster offers the “retirement handshake” to fellow Air Guard E-9, Chief Master Sgt. Dave Burcham at Burcham’s retirement ceremony on May 3, 2008 at the Joint Force Headquarters in Lansing, Mich.

PTSD, four letters that indicate a large problem with some of our Soldiers and Airmen’s lives. When you Google PTSD or Post Traumatic Stress Disorder on the internet you will receive 473, 000 “hits” with information about PTSD. This information is sometimes very good, telling us what the symptoms are, how to cope with those symptoms and self-help seminars.

The U.S. Army and the Army National Guard developed training plans to inform Soldiers about PTSD, how to recognize the symptoms and where to seek assistance. During pre-deployment training we conduct Battlemind Training to prepare Soldiers for combat and after our Soldiers return we hold unit reunions and once again inform Soldiers of the help available through the National Guard and the Veterans Administration.

There is a lot of information provided to our Soldiers and Airmen about PTSD; unfortunately one of the symptoms of PTSD is avoidance of people and places that remind the sufferer of the experiences that caused the traumatic stress. Many combat veterans do not want to seek help due to this and due to paranoia, which is also a symptom of PTSD. Many Soldiers and Airmen believe that if they seek help, they will be labeled as mentally deficient by their unit leadership and friends. I have seen statistics that up to 40 percent of combat veterans never seek the help they need due to paranoia. These Soldiers live the Army way; they suck it up and drive on to complete the mission. This does not help them survive in the civilian world.

Many combat veterans are missing the point when they return home, their mission changed from surviving in combat to reintegration with their family, friends and employers. If they ignore PTSD symptoms, they are not going to reintegrate, they are going to continue to have problems in their lives, problems that could be reduced or eliminated with help. I was told by a mental health specialist that Soldiers who do seek help are usually pushed by their family or friends; that it takes the involvement of friends and family to overcome a veteran’s reluctance to seek or accept the assistance they need.

National Guard veterans have several options in how to seek help. They can work with the Veteran’s Administration and schedule an appointment to see a PTSD specialist. A Soldier or their spouse can call Military One Source at 1-800-342-9647 and receive up to six free counseling sessions with a counselor in their area. Another method for Soldiers to obtain help or information is with informal assistance groups set up by several units for their combat veterans. The 125th Infantry and the 182nd Field Artillery have volunteer counselors, many of them combat veterans, who are willing to lead group sessions or talk with Soldiers needing assistance. These volunteers will talk to any Soldier who wants their assistance.

If you wish to get in contact with a unit support group, contact your first sergeant. If your unit does not have any information on these groups, you may contact me at 517-481-8203 or via e-mail at thomas.w.foster@us.army.mil.

Bottom line, if you are a Soldier or Airman experiencing problems, talk to someone. If you are a friend or family member of a Soldier or Airman with problems, talk to them. Work with them to accept the fact that combat changes everyone and that eventually they are going to have to accept help to change themselves back into the person they need to be.

Thomas W. Foster

Command Sgt. Maj. Thomas W. Foster

The National Guard has a new team member

By Staff Sgt. Helen Miller

Thinking about joining the military during his younger days, but having decided to take a different path in life, Harold Martin is very excited about his collaboration with the Army National Guard.

Known to racing fans and the drag racing community as the “EFI wizard” for his innovative designs, winning success and creating the fastest electronic fuel injection engine in the Pro Nitrous racing division, Martin will now proudly display the red, white, and blue colors of the Army National Guard on his Modified Pontiac Grand AM race car.

“It is truly an honor to be part of the National Guard and have the opportunity to join the special individuals who protect the security and defense of our homeland,” Martin said. “It gives me chills up my spine to think I have the opportunity to extend my mentorship of young people by representing the National Guard.”

Martin is a multi-time national event winner with several number-one qualifying positions in his professional racing career. He also boasts several first places and top-10 finishes in past International and National Hot Rod Association competitions.

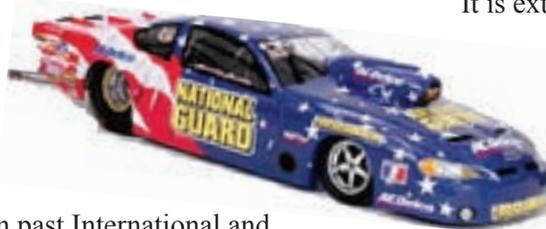
The best part of the story, Martin is from New Hudson, Mich. Native Michigan Army National Guard members are proud to have a Michigander of Martin’s caliber representing the National Guard.

Before the Detroit-area resident chose to step into the drag racing footsteps of his father, accomplished bracket racer Huston Martin, he was an engineer at General Motors, where his work resulted in 10 world patents.

Martin also strives to help others achieve success by serving as a mentor, a keynote speaker and through various scholarship programs he has represented. He believes



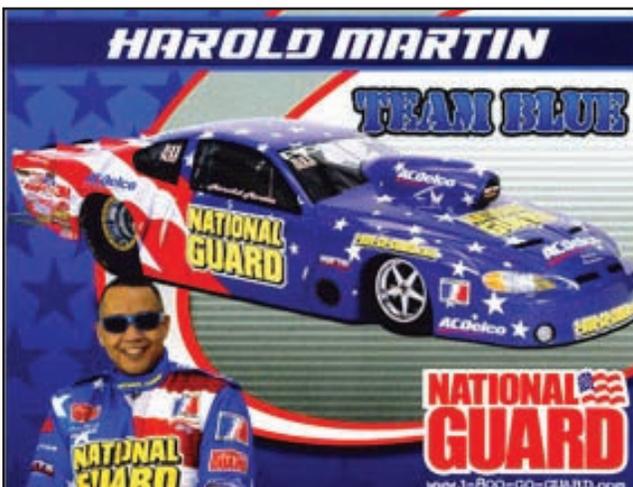
Courtesy of www.haroldmartin.com



his efforts to inspire future success stories, like his own, mesh perfectly with the Guard’s aim to create the best and brightest leaders of tomorrow.

“It is extremely exciting to help achieve the primary National Guard goals,” Martin said. “I fully accept the challenge of being a key part of their mandate for attracting, recruiting and retaining the right people to successfully execute their mission for our country.

For more information on drag racing, a schedule of racing events, or the Harold Martin success story log on to <http://www.haroldmartin.com>.



Courtesy of www.haroldmartin.com

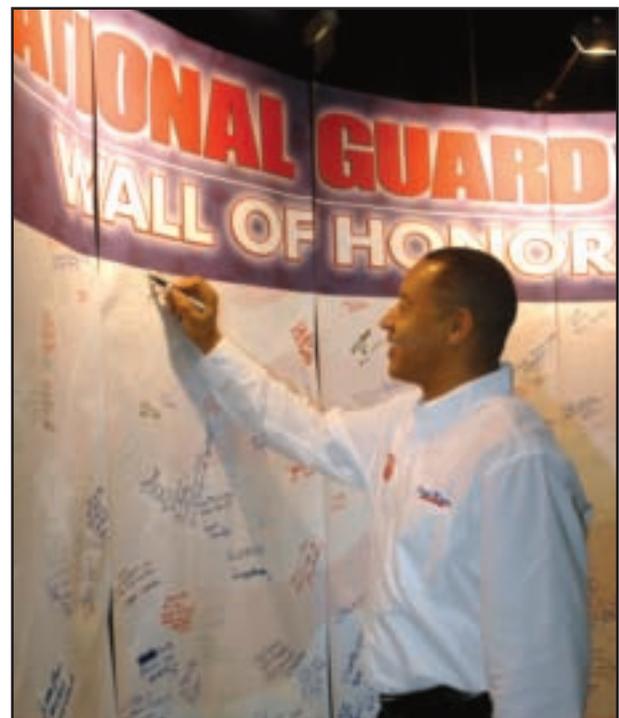


Photo by Staff Sgt. Helen Miller
Harold Martin adds his name to the National Guard Wall of Honor at the February 2008 Chicago Auto Show.

Desert Angel packs Pontiac

By Sgt. Ronald Flowers

On March 29, 2008 the Desert Angel hosted a packing party at the 1775th Military Police Company armory located at 233 N. Johnson St., Pontiac, Mich.

Louise Downs was given the name Desert Angel after she began to collect, pack, and mail needed items to deployed troops.

“The troops gave me the name “Desert Angel,” said Downs. “Out of the desert comes a box from someone they don’t even know... it must be an angel... it must be “The Desert Angel.”

With the assistance of more than 50 volunteers from Pontiac and the surrounding metro Detroit communities, more than 500 care packages were filled to be sent to Soldiers deployed overseas. Each package is loaded with cookies, beef jerky, candy and chips. The packages also contain writing materials, personal hygiene items and letters from the children that assisted with the event.

Some of the participants in attendance were Congressman Joe Knollenberg of the 9th District, Girl Scout Troop 3924, Soldiers from the 1775th and even a furry, four-legged supporter named Dolly.

Always including words of encouragement and hope and adding extra items to pass out the native people of the countries that troops are stationed in, the packages sent by Desert Angel shows Soldiers that they are not forgotten in deeds, not just words.

All participants worked diligently to ensure that every box was packed with love and concern for the Soldier that would soon receive a package at mail call.

For more information on future events or to make a contribution, please visit the Desert Angel Web site at www.thedesertangel.org.



Photo courtesy of Sgt. Ronald Flowers
Louise Downs (center), known as the Desert Angel, and other volunteers take time out from packing care packages at the Pontiac Armory on March 29, 2008.

Chaplain's Corner

By Chaplain Candidate (1st Lt.) Rick Brooks

Men and woman communicate differently. There are two fundamental elements to good communication – transmission and receiving. Talking and listening; however, in relationships what is said is often not what is heard.

Men and woman have unique language filters. Outside influences augment language receptors and decoders. Having a yelling parent while growing up may add to a person's inability to tolerate someone being loud. Parents who never deal with issues in front of their children may create adults unable to handle conflict with their spouse or co-workers. Our past says a lot of how we communicate with those around us – especially the ones we love the most and usually treat the worst. The way we express and receive love is another filter in which we communicate.

According to Dr. Gary Chapman's book, "The Five Love Languages," there are five ways in which both men and woman give and receive love. A key to a happier self and relationship with others is discovering your individual "love language." They are:

Words of Affirmation: compliments, words of encouragement, and requests rather than demands all

affirm one's self-worth. Encouraging words create intimacy, heal emotional wounds, and bring out the best in others.

Quality Time: one of our greatest commodities is time. Sharing quality time together, listening, and participating in meaningful activities expresses our genuine concern for others.

Receiving Gifts: gifts are a visual symbol of love. Whether purchased or hand crafted, gifts demonstrate that you value your relationship.

Acts of Service: acts of service are never coerced or done reluctantly. Serving another is done freely and completed as requested. Requests open the channels of love, demands suffocate and burden.

Physical Touch: physical touch as a gesture of love reaches the depths of our physical being. As a love language it is a powerful form of communication from the smallest brush on the shoulder to the most passionate kiss.

Learning to communicate better requires one to evaluate self and conclude which of the love languages you prefer. Once that is determined, discover the love language of those you care about and begin to express your love toward them in a language they understand. It may even lead to a much more fulfilling love life.

FLMA revisions to better benefit military families

Story courtesy of Grand Rapids Press

Days after 23-year-old Justin Pelham underwent surgery on his hand and lower leg from injuries suffered from a roadside bomb in Iraq where he was serving with the Michigan Army National Guard, he was joined by his mother Tami Pelham at Walter Reed Medical Center in Washington, D.C. There she spent the start of two months helping her son recuperate by cutting his food, talking to his doctors and lifting his spirits.

“You are the advocate for your Soldier,” Pelham said. “They don’t always speak up for themselves.”

Back in Lake Odessa, Mich., her employer, Lakewood Christian School, granted her leave and hired a long-term substitute to give Pelham, a teacher, more time with her son.

In Hopkins, Katie Burch gets up before dawn to get her two daughters ready for school and daycare and then get to her job as a nurse’s assistant.

She has to handle the household on her own after her husband, Shawn, was deployed a second time to Iraq in January with the 125th Infantry Battalion.

“When you’ve got sick kids when your husband is gone, it’s like being a single parent,” she said. “You can burn through your vacation days.”

Because of their relatives’ military service, both Pelham and Burch were absent from their jobs for a significant amount of time.

Congress and the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) recently took two important actions affecting the Family

and Medical Leave Act (FMLA): Congress created special leave rights for military families; and the DOL issued proposed changes to the FMLA regulations aimed at improving some troublesome areas of FMLA administration.

Changes to the 1993 FMLA -- the first since its passage -- would guarantee military families the time off without losing their jobs.

Businesses with at least 50 employees are covered by the act.

The changes, signed into law Jan. 28, 2008 by President Bush, increase from 12 weeks to 26 the amount of unpaid leave an employee can receive to care for a military family member who is ill or has been wounded.

It also allows 12 weeks of leave for a spouse, son, daughter or parent of a service member who has an urgent situation related to active duty.

On Feb. 11, the DOL opened the new law to 60 days of public comment, including opinions on which military-related situations will be covered.

The department suggested that the 12 weeks be allowed to cover nonmedical situations a family member might encounter because of active duty such as finding child care, making financial and legal arrangements, and attending farewell or arrival events.

Although the 12 weeks nonmedical leave won’t officially be in effect until after comments are received and final rules written, the department is encouraging employers to begin offering it now.

Iraqi correctional officers graduate Coalition taught supervisor course



Photo by Spc. Michael May
An Iraqi correctional officer (ICO) is promoted to sergeant at an ICO Supervisor Course graduation ceremony Feb. 21, 2008, at Camp Cropper, a Coalition forces theater internment facility in western Baghdad. Over the span of the two-week supervisor course taught by Coalition forces, the graduates attended classes that covered leadership techniques and troop leading, advanced escalation of force procedures and the Geneva Conventions.

It is now law!

National Guard Bureau press release

On Jan. 28, 2008, President Bush signed into law the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008, an event called “historic” by the association that represents the National Guard officers corps.

The act significantly elevates the National Guard Bureau (NGB) within the Pentagon, repeals Insurrection Act language that reduced state authority over the Guard, and reduces the age that some Guardsmen are eligible for retirement pay.

“This law is historic,” said Maj. Gen. R. Martin Umbarger, NGAUS chairman of the board. “It sets into motion urgently needed reforms that will bolster the Guard’s ability to accomplish its mission, both here at home and abroad. Our more than 455,000 Soldiers and Airmen—and those who will follow them—will benefit from this for years to come.”

Among the provisions, the law increases the NGB chief to four-star general while formally making the position a principle advisor to the defense secretary. It also requires that a Guard officer be assigned as the deputy commanding general of U.S. Northern Command.

In addition, it raises NGB from a joint bureau within the departments of the Army and Air Force to a joint activity in the Defense Department.

It also obligates the defense secretary, in conjunction with the Department of Homeland Security, to identify and fund what the Guard needs to respond to a wide range of domestic emergencies, from natural disasters to terrorism.

“Our force has long needed a permanent voice in final Pentagon decision-making,” the NGAUS chairman said. “Congress recognized this. And with the presidents’ signature, that voice is now codified in law.”

Eyes of the commander

Story and photos Sgt. 1st Class James Downen

A CH-47 helicopter approaches Miller drop zone, Camp Grayling, Mich. on April 6, 2008 heavily laden with paratroopers from the Michigan Army National Guard F Company, 425th Infantry Long Range Surveillance (LRS) and the German Army Long Range Reconnaissance 200th Fernspählehrkompanie (FSLK).

Jump commands are given as the CH-47 nears the drop zone. The jumpmaster, issues the commands to the first pass of paratroopers “Stand up, hook up, check equipment, sound off for equipment check.” The paratroopers pass the “O.K.” reply to the lead paratrooper, who passes it to the jumpmaster, “All O.K. jumpmaster!”

The jumpmaster gives the 30 second warning, a “GO!” command and the first pass of paratroopers exit the tail of the CH-47. Each paratrooper will fall for five to six seconds while his parachute deploys and opens. The parachute jump is only one of the many demanding skills the 425th LRS Soldiers and their German counterparts must maintain to perform their respective reconnaissance missions.



Staff Sgt. Steven Sparks performs jumpmaster duties on April 6, 2008 during the F Company, 425th Infantry Long Range Surveillance parachute jump from a CH-47 helicopter over Camp Grayling, Mich., and gives the paratroopers the command to hook up their static lines.

Spc. Jeff Moak describes the role of LRS Soldiers: “LRS teams are comprised of six Soldiers and are the eyes and ears of the commander on the battlefield. LRS teams gather intelligence after inserting on to the battlefield by land, sea, or air. We infiltrate to our named area of interest (NAI), then select and camouflage a team hide site that allows us to observe the enemy at the NAI without being detected. The intelligence we gather is sent by radio using burst communications, giving the commander real time intelligence on the enemy’s activities.”

Capt. Floyd Peplinski, 425th LRS commander, elaborated on the training his unit is conducting and how it relates to their upcoming second deployment to Iraq. “We are training using LRS doctrine and input from our Soldiers who have served in Iraq and Afghanistan. We did convoy operations on our first Iraqi tour, which isn’t part of standard LRS doctrine, and we will incorporate this into our training as well.”

“This annual training, we have the good fortune to work with the German Army 200th FSLK, a unit that has the same reconnaissance mission in their army as we do,” said Peplinski. “We look forward to exchanging techniques with them and sharing experiences we gained from our first Iraq deployment.”

Staff Sgt. Stephan of the 200th FSLK said, “We are eager to learn American hide site and urban warfare techniques.”

Continued on page 11

127th CES, Israel partnership progresses to friendship

Photos and story by Master Sgt. Denice Rankin

The 127th Civil Engineer Squadron (CES), under the command of Maj. Stephen Ward, returned March 22, 2008 from Israel where they deployed for training (DFT). The 47-member team flew from Selfridge on March 5, 2008 to Sigonella, Italy and from there to Nevatim Air Base, near Arad, Israel. When the CES arrived in Israel on Friday, they hurriedly off-loaded the aircraft and cleared the runway before noon to respect the Jewish Sabbath, which begins at sundown.

During the DFT, there was a good balance of work and cultural awareness. On Friday evening, the Israeli air force hosted their traditional Friday Shabbat (Sabbath) evening meal and invited the Americans. Before dinner, approximately 200 Israeli and American Airmen rose to their feet, the men covered their heads as a young Israeli airman said the Shabbat prayer in Hebrew. After the meal, the highest-ranking officer rose and spoke in Hebrew to the airmen, discussing the workweek and evaluating their service. The officer prepared to present a decadent three layer chocolate cake covered in coconut to one of the airmen, but the airmen graciously offered the cake to the American Air Force guests. At the time, the CES were not aware the cake would prove to be an unconventional balance for the salads they were to be served at breakfast.

On Sunday, the first duty day, the 7:30 a.m. arrival at the dining facility may have led some of the CES to conclude there was a hidden Israeli agenda to get them to eat their vegetables. Already having worked two hours, the engineers were greeted by a young Israeli airman who had prepared cucumbers and tomatoes for breakfast, a variety of salads and sugarless yogurt. By day three, eggs were on the menu, and one day, perhaps out of sympathy for the Americans who longed for bacon, the Israeli hosts served deep-fried kosher hotdogs for the morning meat entrée.

The work the CES accomplished was phenomenal. There were two worksites: the Munitions Maintenance Facility (MMF) and the dormitories where American Armed Forces reside during deployments.

The crew at the MMF, under the supervision of Chief Master Sgt. Greg Robinson, constructed a 25-foot concrete masonry wall, two partial walls, and installed a septic tank with all the required piping. Robinson was part



The 127th Civil Engineers lay the piping and septic tank for a munitions maintenance facility. The Selfridge based Michigan Air National Guard civil engineers were selected by National Guard Bureau to deploy for training to Nevatim Air Force Base, Israel and kick off the building project. Other ANG units are scheduled to continue the project until it is completed.

of an advanced party team to include Technical Sgt. Mike Pattee, Senior Master Sgt. Matt Magiera, Senior Master Sgt. Phillip Scott and Master Sgt. Mark Fisher. By the time the remainder of the party arrived, the advanced party had already dismantled the walls that the CES were there to reconstruct.

Under the supervision of 2nd Lt. Minesh Patel, the engineers working on the dorms installed duct work and wiring for a heating, ventilation and air conditioning system



Michigan Air National Guard 127th Civil Engineers set a cross beam in place by 6:30 a.m. on a cool spring morning, March 14, 2008, at Nevatim Air Force Base, Israel. The team undertook major construction projects while deployed for training to Israel this Spring.

in two “Igloo” style dorms. Their job also required a great balancing act to accomplish the construction with the materials on hand.

Some improvising was necessary to match up the wrong size vents with offset drywall opening cut by another team. It was determined that it was easier to change the wall opening then to try to obtain the correct size vents. So the engineers did what they do best, they engineered another successful plan to finish the job.

The acting first sergeant, Master Sgt. Mark Fisher, coordinated a weekend team building event to offer the engineers some cultural awareness and allow them to get outside the “wire” of Nevatim, located in the middle

of the desert. Fisher worked in coordination with the U.S. Embassy in Tel Aviv before the Engineers arrived in Israel to arrange a tour bus with a guide. The tour was within the “safe zone” of Israel, and the Airmen saw some of the most age-old, historical sites on earth.

During the final breakfast meal of the deployment, Israeli Col. Amir Harpaz praised the CES for their workmanship on both completed projects.

Although the purpose of the CES deployment for training may have been to hone their Air Force Specialty Codes while completing the assigned tasks, it is certain much more was accomplished.

Harpaz said, “What began as a partnership has developed into a friendship.”

425th LRS continued



Michigan Army National Guard Soldiers of F Company, 425th Infantry Long Range Surveillance (LRS) and the German Army Long Range Reconnaissance 200th Fernspählehrkompanie (FSLK) conduct a joint weapons familiarization range at Camp Grayling, Mich., on April 12, 2008.

Stephan went on to say since there is so much cooperation and joint training between NATO nations reconnaissance units that doctrine and techniques are similar throughout the alliance.

The 425th LRS and the 200th FSLK Soldiers conducted a live fire range on April 10 and April 11, 2008. They conducted break contact drills, which consist of the team making contact with the enemy, engaging the enemy, and moving out of the area to a pre-designated rally point.

Spc. David Wilenius, a new member of 425th LRS explained why he joined the unit while loading magazines before his team’s turn on the range. “I served on the 8th Army Honor Guard in Korea while on active duty and didn’t get to do much infantry field training. A year after I got out of the Army, I heard of F Company 425th LRS and the high speed missions they perform. This AT is the first major training event I’ve participated in and it is exciting. I will attend airborne school soon and am excited to go,” he said.

The American and German Soldiers were strictly evaluated during the live fire portion of their training. Commands had to be echoed, rates of fire maintained and safety standards were strictly adhered to. When the team completed the iteration, after action reviews were

conducted and all team members were grilled on their respective roles in the break contact drills.

Once the German and American Soldiers completed the break contact live fire range, classes were given on the German G-36 Rifle and American M-4 Carbines. After the classes, the Soldiers conducted a familiarization range using the rifle of their respective ally.

425th LRS and 200th FSLK Soldiers participated in training that was exciting and vital to conduct their reconnaissance mission.

Sgt. Matthew Stevens, a Desert Storm and Operation Iraqi Freedom veteran summed up the necessity of the training with his combat experiences, “Take training seriously, no matter what your rank and position is on the team. Know the jobs of the people on your team, and the job of the team leader. You never know when you’ll have to step up to the plate and lead in combat. When under fire, you will have to react at the speed bullets fly, yet remain calm and collected enough to do your job in a proficient manner.”



Michigan Army National Guard Soldiers of F Company, 425th Infantry Long Range Surveillance (LRS) conduct break contact blank fire drills at Camp Grayling, Mich., on April 11, 2008. The LRS Soldiers are conducting training in reconnaissance techniques during annual training.

The enemies 425th LRS veterans will face again in the Global War on Terrorism are going find out how well trained these LRS Soldiers are, to their detriment.

Service to Soldiers Program

By Maj. John Wojick

Service to Soldiers is a legal assistance referral program organized by the Thomas M. Cooley Law School to provide assistance to service members who are undergoing a legal issue that stems from a deployment outside the state of Michigan.

The program offers free, one-on-one consultations between military personnel and Cooley professors to discuss non-military legal issues such as child custody, child support, re-employment issues, and problems with landlords and mortgage companies. Should legal services be needed, the Cooley professor matches the individual with a local attorney – mostly from a network of Cooley graduates who are volunteering their time to help these Soldiers. The private practice attorneys provide counsel concerning all aspects of a legal issue, including representing the service members in court proceedings, all free of charge.

Since the program's inception in May 2007 more than 130 servicemen and women have sought legal counsel through the program and 100 have taken legal action. Action has concluded on 80 cases, and several more cases are still pending in the court system. The no-cost program is available throughout the state of Michigan. Service members can request assistance by contacting the Thomas M. Cooley Law School at 517-371-5140 extension 4112 or by contacting the State Judge Advocate General's office at 517-481-8100.

VA calling all recent combat vets

On May 1, 2008, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) began contacting nearly 570,000 recent combat veterans to ensure they know about VA's medical services and other benefits.

"We will reach out and touch every veteran of Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom to let them know we are here for them," said Dr. James B. Peake, Secretary of Veterans Affairs. "VA is committed to getting these veterans the help they need and deserve."

A contractor-operated "Combat Veteran Call Center" will telephone two distinct populations of veterans from Iraq and Afghanistan.

In the first phase, calls will go to an estimated 17,000 veterans who were sick or injured while serving in Iraq or Afghanistan. VA will offer to appoint a care manager to work with them. Care managers ensure veterans receive appropriate care and know about their VA benefits.

For five years after their discharge from the military, these combat veterans have special access to VA health care. The department screens combat veterans for signs of post-traumatic stress disorder and traumatic brain injury. VA personnel have been deployed to the military's major medical centers to assist wounded service members and

Attorney's Advice, No Charge

The information below is free advice that could be of good use to someone today or in the future.

1. Do not sign the back of your credit cards. Instead, put "PHOTO ID REQUIRED."

2. When you are writing checks to pay on your credit card accounts, DO NOT put the complete account number on the "For" line. Instead, just put the last four numbers. The credit card company knows the rest of the number, and anyone who might be handling your check as it passes through all the check processing channels will not have access to it.

3. Put your work phone number on your checks instead of your home phone. If you have a PO Box use that instead of your home address. If you do not have a PO Box, use your work address. Never have your social security number printed on your checks. You can add it if it is necessary. But if you have it printed, anyone can get it.

4. Place the contents of your wallet on a photocopy machine. Do both sides of each license, credit card, etc. You will know what you had in your wallet and all of the account numbers and phone numbers to call and cancel. Keep the photocopy in a safe place. Also carry a photocopy of your passport when you travel either here or abroad. We have all heard horror stories about fraud that is committed on us in stealing a name, address, social security number and credit cards.

5. We have been told we should cancel our credit cards immediately. But the key is having the toll free numbers and your card numbers handy so you know whom to call. Keep those where you can find them.

6. File a police report immediately in the jurisdiction where your credit cards, etc., were stolen. This proves to credit providers you were diligent, and this is a first step toward an investigation (if there ever is one).

7. Call the three national credit reporting organizations immediately to place a fraud alert on your name and also call the social security fraud line number.

Here are the numbers you always need to contact if your wallet, etc., has been stolen:

- 1.) Equifax: 800-525-6285
- 2.) Experian (formerly TRW): 888-397-3742
- 3.) Trans Union: 800-6807289
- 4.) Social Security fraud line: 800-269-0271

their families during the transition to civilian lives.

For the new call center, the second phase will target 550,000 OIF-OEF veterans who have been discharged from active duty but have not contacted VA for services.

Once contacted, veterans will be informed about VA's benefits and services. The initial calls will be made by a private contractor, EDS, which specializes in technology.

127th Wing completes first conversion, takes new wings

By 1st Lt. Penny Carroll

Almost three years after the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) determined that the combat-experienced flying units of the 127th Wing, Michigan Air National Guard, would change aircraft, the 127th Airlift Group officially became the 127th Air Refueling Group - a tanker unit with eight KC-135s, as the first aircraft conversion is completed.



Photo by Master Sgt. Clancey Pence

A 127th Wing KC-135 performs an aerial refueling of a 127th Wing F-16 on April 12, 2008. The 127th Wing completed its transition from C-130s to KC-135s and officially picked up the refueling mission in April 2008.

At a military ceremony held at Selfridge Air National Guard Base during the April 2008 drill, Lt. Col. David

Brooks was named the first 171st Air Refueling Squadron commander.

Brooks told the crowd of about 400 Airmen and 100 community members, "As the new squadron commander, I am excited about the challenges that lie ahead for our unit. We are a nation at war with a diligent enemy and the Airmen of the 171st are committed to learning this new mission and are looking forward to making significant contributions to our community, state, and nation."

For the citizens of southeast Michigan, the change will not be too noticeable, because the Air Force Reserves' 927th Air Refueling Wing has been flying these planes in local skies for years. Now, however, the global reach arm of the Air Force is part of the Michigan National Guard assets, providing tanker gas that gets U.S. military planes around the world.

When asked about the mission change, Brooks described the differences between the former C-130 airlift mission and the unit's new challenge.

"This mission change to air refueling represents a monumental mind-set shift for the citizen Airmen serving at Selfridge. We are moving from what was largely a theater re-supply role to an assignment in which three Selfridge aircrew members could execute missions that directly impact key elements of the national military strategy," he said.

In the coming months, the 127th Wing will also undergo a fighter conversion as the 107th Fighter Squadron transitions from flying F-16s to A-10 aircraft, which will complete the aircraft changes at Selfridge as directed by the 2005 BRAC commission.

Making Michigan Guard history matter more

By Master Sgt. Miner Roth

Army Regulation 870-5 gives the responsibilities, policies, and procedures for collection of military history. One of these procedures is the capturing of oral history; service member's oral account of what went on during a certain time period. This could be for a deployment, a significant event in their career or their entire career.

At annual training this year the Michigan National Guard Historian will be conducting interviews to capture service members' accounts of their deployment or life in the military. The priority is to capture oral history from 9/11 forward. The mission is to collect and preserve historical documentation on U.S Army operations. This information is then kept at the Joint Forces Headquarters, sent on to National Guard Bureau and ultimately the Center of Military History. Planning is still underway, but at this time the interviews are scheduled to be conducted at the South Forward Operating Base around the MWR area. All service members with a historical story to tell are welcome.

Currently Deployed

107th Engineer Battalion
Iraq

1st Battalion 125 Infantry Regiment
Iraq

1st Battalion 126th Armor
Kuwait

126th Press Camp Headquarters
Iraq

Joint Force Headquarters Element
Operation Jump Start

127th Wing
Iraq, Kuwait, Operation Jump Start

63rd Field Artillery Brigade ETT
Afghanistan

Returning to the field

By Spc. Lakeshia Tryon

As if fighting for freedom and avoiding exploding improvised explosive devices (IEDs) in Iraq was not enough for 25-year-old, Michigan Army National Guard Cpl. Wesley Fisk, he is now dodging opponents in the field. The football field that is.

Following a 12-month deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2006-2007, and with the encouragement from former E Company, 1st Battalion, 125th Infantry commander, Maj. Ravindra Wagh, Fisk returned safely to Michigan and did what came naturally to him; he tried out for the football team.

The Montrose native was a star player at Montrose Hill McCloy High School where he played four years. There he was named two years in a row All-State Linebacker and All-League Running Back. After high school graduation in 2001, Fisk went on to play college football at Northwood University where he led in tackles for two years in the Great Lakes Conference as an outside linebacker.

In January 2005, Fisk joined the Michigan Guard as a signal support systems specialist. Shortly after in 2006, he deployed with E Company becoming the handpicked .50 caliber gunner for Wagh.

"I first noticed [Fisk] at Fort Dix," said Wagh. "I had seen this big guy just fly across the track!"

According to Wagh, while in Iraq, the 6-foot-1-inch, 235 pound athlete broke the bench press record, pressing 505 pounds, and won the dead lift squat bench press competition.

As the commander's gunner, Fisk had lots of interaction time with Wagh.

"During the time I was in [Iraq], Maj. Wagh convinced me that when I get back I should play football again, and that I shouldn't waste my talent," said Fisk.



Photo courtesy of Cpl. Wesley Fisk
Michigan Army National Guard Cpl. Wesley Fisk wears the number 45 for the Flint Phantoms Professional Indoor Football League.

Wagh made Fisk a deal, "He could make a choice to play pro football or wrestling, and I'd be his agent."

"While I was in Iraq I had some near-death experiences," said Fisk. "I thank God for getting me through all of it healthy and in one piece."

Fisk received a Combat Action Badge for his service in Iraq. His HUMVEE was hit on two separate occasions by IEDs and also hit by an explosively formed projectile.

It seemed almost symbolic that the team Fisk tried out for were the newest members to professional arena football in the Continental Indoor Football League (CIFL). He walked on to the Flint Phantoms team and earned a starting position as a linebacker wearing the number 45. Together, the team and Fisk are on the path of new beginnings and new adventures.

"It feels great to be playing football again and to be serving the nation that I love," Fisk said.

As a new team getting off to a late start in the season, the Flint Phantoms hold a record of one win and eight losses with three games left to play in the season. If the team shares even the slightest bit of Fisk's ability to take a hit and continue the mission, than the CIFL is in for a big surprise next season.



Photo courtesy of Maj. Ravindra Wagh
While serving in Iraq, Cpl. Wesley Fisk served as a .50 caliber gunner for E Company, 1st Battalion, 125th Infantry commander, Maj. Ravindra Wagh. Wagh helped influence Fisk's return to the football field.

Chrysler contributes \$50,000 to MING Family Fund



Photo courtesy Master Sgt. (Ret.) Mal Forsys

Robert Nardelli (left), Chrysler LLC chairman and chief executive officer, Maj. Gen. Thomas Cutler, and W. Frank Fountain (far right), senior vice president for Chrysler External Affairs and Public Policy, hold the \$50,000 donation from the Chrysler Corporation to the Michigan National Guard Family Fund on May 5, 2008.

By Angela Simpson

Some pictures say a thousand words; this one says fifty-thousand. On May 5, 2008 at Chrysler's Auburn Hills Technology Center, Robert Nardelli, Chrysler LLC chairman and chief executive officer, presented Maj. Gen. Thomas Cutler with \$50,000 for the Michigan National Guard Family Fund.

Nardelli with W. Frank Fountain, senior vice president for Chrysler External Affairs and Public Policy presented the check to Cutler saying, "The Chrysler Foundation is proud to continue our support for the Michigan National Guard and Operation Gratitude."

The Family Fund could be described as one of the most important programs the Guard offers because of its focus directly on spouses, children and direct relatives of Michigan Soldiers serving their country.

"Whether it's help paying a winter heat bill, plumbing repair on a broken pipe or even extended income assistance to offset a Soldier's usual income while he or she is serving, this fund is critical to relieving at least one of the worries families have regarding unexpected expenses while their Soldier is deployed," said Cutler. "The challenge now is identifying those most in need. We have a humble group of Michigan families who rarely ask for help but I believe that as news of the program's benefits gets out, more families will come forward to participate, he said"

The old adage, 'one good deed leads to another,' and

the generous donation from Chrysler allows for many good deeds to be done, according to Cutler.

Operation Gratitude, a non-profit organization that sends care packages and other morale boosting gifts to the troops also received a \$50,000 donation from Chrysler LLC. In return for their outstanding patriotism and Soldier support, Chrysler was awarded the 2008 Pro Patria Award by the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve, a Department of Defense organization. The Pro Patria Award is given to one employer in each state that demonstrates excellent and exceptional support for national defense by adopting specific personnel policies that allow employees to play an active part in the National Guard and Reserves. The Honorable Thomas Hall, Assistant Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs traveled from Washington, D.C. to present the award to Nardelli with pleasure.

In addition to the \$50,000 donations and the Pro Patria Award, the day became even more exceptional with the Chrysler Corporation unveiling a Blue Star Service Flag for each employee currently serving on active duty. One single Gold Star Service Flag was also unveiled in honor of Chrysler employee, Master Sgt. William Blakinski, Jr. from Richmond, Mich. who was killed in an automobile accident at Fort Benning, Ga., in March 2005.

Hall summarized the overall feeling of the event perfectly when he said, "This is singularly one of the most impressive events I have ever attended."

GVA gets a makeover, inherits historical displays

By Lt. Col. (Ret) David Britten

Under the leadership of Sgt. 1st Class Joseph Levandoski, and with support from Maj. Mark Tellier and Lt. Col. (Ret) Bill Sobotka, the 126th Regimental Association has a new location for displaying its historical artifacts.

Located in the main lobby of the Grand Valley Armory in Wyoming, Mich., the display provides several hundred square feet of space for exhibiting the

many rare and historical artifacts under the able care of the regimental historian, Chief Warrant Officer 4 (Ret) Darle VanderSchoor. The estimated \$20,000 project is also being financed by the regimental association.

Some of the archives held in the collection are a World War I German machine gun and Gen. George Armstrong Custer's Kepi hat from 1872, which was given to the Custer Guard, a Grand Rapids based militia unit at the turn of the century. Also included are World War II Japanese Samuri swords, unit photos from 1870s and 1880s, 32nd

Division drum from World War II signed by United Service Organizations (USO) touring stars to include Gary Cooper and hundreds of their artifacts since 1885.

The 126th lost access to the historical archive room when the need arose for more space for the units stationed at the armory. These units, many of which are now deployed, will soon have an armory that will not look much like the one past and current Soldiers served in many years ago.

The armory is undergoing a major renovation that includes a number of modifications. Five displays will be built that will display artifacts from the Civil War, Korean War, Vietnam era, the first Gulf War and current military operations across the world. The kitchen has been moved to the old armory maintenance area on the west side of the building. The arms vaults have been changed for added security so that the doors open into the company areas instead of the main hallways. The center locker rooms are being displaced with classrooms and other work areas. And, to top it off, the armory has also inherited a mini historical library baring several historical military reading materials.

The Country Inn & Suites at I-196 and the East Beltline in Grand Rapids, Mich., continues to display historical artifacts for the regimental association during the construction. Anyone wishing to donate to the project can send a check or money order to 126th Regimental Preservation Fund, 44th St. SW, Wyoming, Mich., 49509.

For more information or to donate an item, artifact, or photo, contact Sgt. 1st Class Joseph Levandoski at 616-893-6802 or email joseph.levandoski@us.army.mil.



Photo by Maj. Mark Tellier

The Grand Valley Armory in Wyoming, Mich., is undergoing numerous remodeling. In the midst of the redesign, the 126th Regimental Association inherited a historical display which is now located the main entrance corridor of the armory.

Grand Valley Armory upgrades to the 21st Century

Story and photo by Maj. Mark Tellier

Grand Valley Armory (GVA), in Wyoming, Mich., was built in 1965, and has seen many updates over the years, but all pale in comparison to the 2008 construction project. This project was mandated by the Department of the Army to better serve Soldiers, with an updated mess facility, force protection of arms vaults, and greater unit space designed to accommodate today's technology and new equipment issued to each unit.

The construction design originated from the GVA counsel, made up of representatives from each of the seven tenant units and five other organizational elements; brigade and battalion headquarters, recruiting station, maintenance,

and family readiness. The state headquarters then took over with architectural and construction management. The end result is a state of the art mess facility with walk-in refrigeration and storage, company areas with larger office and platoon space areas, and a much needed space saving locker room that supports close to 500 of the more than 800 Soldiers assigned to units within GVA.

With the support from Joint Forces Headquarters, Office of Facility Management, GVA now has the infrastructure to support unit activities, pre-mobilization requirements, and Soldier training centers, expanded from single use rooms into multifunctional automation ready Soldier training centers.



As a part of the Grand Valley Armory (GVA) in Wyoming, Mich., remodeling project, the kitchen was enlarged and received state of the art equipment to better serve the 800 plus Soldiers that drill at the armory each month. The kitchen is one of many upgrades taking place at GVA this year.

The mess hall is equivalent to a modern high efficiency restaurant, capable of serving the 800 plus Soldiers full course meals for extended periods. The new locker room provides a new source for Soldiers to put in safekeeping their individual equipment. The new unit orderly rooms, platoon rooms and arms vault redesign, expands the units' ability to segregate logistical and training activities. This will assist the Soldier in retaining perishable skills because these areas offer access to equipment and automation used to perform their duty. A functional work-out facility, climate controlled offices, upgraded electrical services and automation docking sites brings GVA into the 21st century.

Construction provided upgrades that parallel the same evolution experienced by the Soldiers. The armory was designed during the Cold War era and provided the ability to call on rotary dial telephones, plug in typewriters and reading lamps. Due to the renovation, the armory is able to share information around the state or world with a click of a button, video teleconference commander's guidance, train Soldiers with virtual simulation, and establish or extend the military communication network. The Soldier is equipped with future technologies, armed with the world's most sophisticated weaponry and provided the best training to survive and win on an asymmetric battlefield in regions extending around the globe.

There are more than 350 Soldiers from GVA who are currently serving in Operation Iraqi Freedom or Operation Enduring Freedom. These Soldiers are part of more than 900 men and women of the 63rd Brigade deployed as part of Michigan's largest simultaneous mobilization since World War II. In World War II, Grand Rapids Armory deployed the 126th Infantry Regiment and Soldiers from all around the state, serving the Michigan National Guard, who found their first taste of combat in New Guinea. This is where one of the units (1st Battalion) crossed over the Owen Stanley mountain range and became known as the "Ghost Mountain Boys."

A series of special tributes have been created by the local 126th Infantry Association. Volunteers from this group have commissioned a local dealer to produce display

cases for the front entrance and multiple other locations throughout the armory. These cases will commemorate the proud history of Soldiers

who served in the Grand Rapids Armory and GVA. Those who witness these military artifacts will have an open window to view back into the past on Michigan's military service throughout two centuries. When all the display cases are complete, GVA will have encapsulated the story of Michigan's Minuteman beginning with the American Civil War; through each of the World Wars; service in Korea and Vietnam; the victories in Gulf War I; and the nations current Global War on Terror.

GVA is a humble structure made of brick and mortar, which now houses the world's best trained, equipped and professional Soldiers. The Michigan Army National Guard is responsible for making this a reality.

For more information on the GVA remodeling project or to set up a tour of the building once the construction is complete, contact Maj. Mark Tellier, GVA armory manager, at 616-249-2788 or email mark.tellier@us.army.mil.

TAPS

Maj. (Ret), Leon E. Mudge, 86, Feb. 7, 2008
 Staff Sgt. (Ret), Ceotis Barrow, 75, Feb. 9, 2008
 Sgt. (Ret), Jack A. Russo, 71, Feb. 18, 2008
 Tech. Sgt. (Ret), Robert R. Schneider, 61, Feb. 25, 2008
 Sgt. 1st Class (Ret), James G. Towne, 87, March 2, 2008
 Spc. Christopher L. McNally, 23, March 9, 2008
 Spc. Byron L. Hurt Jr., 20, March 10, 2008
 Warrant Officer 4 (Ret), Albert C. Holman, 86, March 13, 2008
 Lt. Col. (Ret), Richard F. Colburn, 86, March 17, 2008
 Spc. Kirsten N. Hertzog, 19, March 26, 2008
 Sgt. (Ret), Howard J. Vantil, 78, April 12, 2008
 Master Sgt. Eugene E. Howell, 53, April 16, 2008
 Sgt. Brandon C. Soule, 24, April 16, 2008
 Sgt. 1st Class (Ret), Stephen R. Swindell, 62, April 17, 2008
 1st Sgt. (Ret), Carl R. Wheeler, 79, April 18, 2008
 Command Sgt. Maj. (Ret), Keith G. Kerton, 83, April 27, 2008
 Warrant Officer 4 (Ret), David A. Roberts, 79, May 1, 2008
 Master Sgt. (Ret), Roger A. Kadwell, 47, May 8, 2008
 Master Sgt. (Ret), John A. Turner, 79, May 10, 2008
 Staff Sgt. (Ret), John E. Hawkins Jr., 81, May 13, 2008

Michigan Army and Air National Guard Promotions

From Feb. 16, 2008 through May 9, 2008 (Air Guard promotions date back to Nov. 1, 2007 due to misprint last issue)

Army Guard

	Williams, Edward	Molyneux, Joshua	Faccio, James	Mendoza, Cipriano	Vega, Thomas	Curtis, Brian
	Williams, Randolph	Nicholls, Brian	Falconer, Cortnee	Merrill, Seth	Villar, Philip	Cushman, Nathan
Col.	Sgt. 1st Class	Olejnik, Brian	Farr, Alex	Monroy, Robert	Waite, Michelle	Davidson, Taylor
Caron, Klement	Arnold, Jeffery	Osgood, Daniel	Feasel, Robert	Moore, Ronnie	Walker, Michael	Davidson, Eric
Linnan, Robert	Buckley, David	Parks, Dean	Fisher, Thomas	Nabkey, Ryan	Warfield, Jeffrey	Deshields, Terra
Lt. Col.	Deforest, Joseph	Parzych, Casey	Fitzgerald, Kyle	Nastaj, Dustin	Webb, Jonathan	Deutsch, Erica
Albrecht, Paul	Mcbride, Shawn	Schreiber, Mark	Floyd, Joshua	Nevenhoven, Steven	Welch, Christopher	Devries, Nicholas
Cain, Robert	Merriweather, Richard	Sheldon, Scott	Fradette, Colette	Nick, Michael	Welch, Nicole	Dheel, Beecher
Hiipakka, Scott	Reed, Renee	Sherlund, Benjamin	Freeman, Jeffrey	Nikkel, Derrick	Wheeler, Brittany	Dietrich, Joshua
Michalak, Kenneth	Stephens, Edward	Spence, Jeremy	Gary, Gene	Nylen, Stephen	Wheeler, Joshua	Dudonis, Aaron
Pless, Eric	Tappenden, Jestin	Stegall, Kevin	Gauthier, Jamie	Odonnell, Daniel	Whitney, Jeremy	Dyer, Donald
Wirtz, Roy	Yaniskivis, Joshua	Sutherland, Douglas	Gazzeny, Darryl	Oosterbaan, Alan	Williams, Jordan	Dykstra, Travis
Ziegenmeyer, Edward	Staff Sgt.	Vasquez, Gabriel	Gendron, Jeffrey	Opulskas, Michael	Williams, Terrence	Elliott, Kyle
Maj.	Adrian, Jonathon	West, Charles	Gerheiser, Tony	Packer, Brett	Wilson, Joel	Feldpausch, Daniel
Belen, Curtis	Baker, Chris	Wiltfang, Eric	Gilray, Gordon	Pak, Joseph	Wodarek, Andrew	Feliciano, Andrew
Cardenas, Paul	Baxter, Tammy	Wright, Joshua	Glaza, Annyalyssa	Palowoda, Christine	Wolverton, Jacob	Ferguson, Joshua
Dakin, Wade	Bednar, Miranda	Zarella, Andrew	Glumac, Anthony	Pierce, Kyle	Worden, Dale	Fisher, Richard
Gawrych, Thomas	Betts, Christopher	Spc.	Goldenbogen, Eric	Piper, Jordan	Wright, Jennifer	Flipse, Charles
Humes, William	Betts, Michael	Adams, Ryan	Gough, John	Poehner, Matthew	Wyrembelski, Rockford	Flynn, Anthony
Worrell, Glendon	Borgeling, Henry	Alaniz, Alejandro	Grace, Brandon	Popour, Jerry	Young, Rosemarie	Ford, Dane
Capt.	Braund, Jeremiah	Alexander, Charles	Greer, Michael	Postma, Lucas	Pfc.	Foster, Daniel
Ambrose, George	Brooks, Brian	Amick, Anna	Haddox, Christopher	Powell, Joseph	Agema, Timothy	Fowler, Elias
Genz, Brian	Corwin, Wayne	Andries, Adam	Hagle, Douglas	Purdue, Michael	Almstadt, Raymond	France, Michael
Graham, Christopher	Davis, Anthony	Avery, Lenny	Hallett, Brittany	Purdue, Tracie	Athan, Robert	Fry, Randy
Heidelberg, Charles	Diehl, David	Ayala, Miguel	Harger, Karl	Qualls, Brian	Aulgur, Dwayne	Gage, Nathaniel
Huber, David	Foley, Terrance	Barnes, Jermaine	Harney, Matthew	Rankin, Anthony	Austin, Jeremy	Gail, Kimberly
Kenward, Jeffrey	Green, Mark	Barrett, Lance	Hayes, Charles	Raymond, Joshua	Baker, Christopher	Gapske, Joshua
Krieger, William	Hale, Douglas	Bauer, Steven	Hendy, Tonya	Rea, Thomas	Barnett, William	Gartley, John
Morton, Andrew	Harlow, Shelby	Beach, Jeffrey	Hilton, Stephanie	Reed, Michael	Barrera, Gabrielle	Gilpin, Adam
Schuring, Ryan	Henry, Maxine	Bellon, Tara	Hockenberry, Randy	Remenak, Michael	Baumgartner, Shawn	Glaspie, Joshua
Smith, Jenise	Lehman, Nathan	Berkuchel, Shoba	Hooyer, Joshua	Ritter, Robert	Bennett, Kevin	Graham, Matthew
1st Lt.	Lischalk, Stephen	Berndt, Teresa	Hosford, Andrew	Roberts, Buffy	Bergsma, Jeffrey	Grattan, David
Hearne, Kaloa	Longtin, Robert	Bitely, Jessica	Hosteter, David	Rose, Joshua	Berner, Benjamin	Griffen, Jacob
Mitchell, Ian	Nylen, Eric	Boomgaard, Justin	Howey, Chade	Ruebelmann, Steven	Bhola, Thomas	Grzybowski, Tiffany
Mohney, Glenn	Orr, Joseph	Bravata, Jason	Hughes, Gertrude	Ruiz, Sandra	Blunt, Nicholas	Gustafson, Anthony
2nd Lt.	Scaia, Robert	Brooks, Jordan	Hunter, Ty	Salters, Christopher	Bodette, Danielle	Guyor, Mark
Brooks, Derrick	Slater, Donald	Brown, Joshua	Hussain, Joshua	Sanford, Steven	Boogren, Sarah	Hagenbuch, Michael
Carpenter, Jacob	Walker, David	Bruggink, Brent	Jaworski, Wayne	Schafer, Matthew	Boyd, James	Haines, Howard
Chadwick, Benjamin	Sgt.	Burgdorf, Russell	Johnson, Bobby	Schetter, Donald	Brockway, Kyle	Halbrook, Joshua
Chrisopoulos, Anthony	Allen, James	Button, Brandon	Johnson, Matthew	Scissons, Joshua	Brown, Armanda	Hall, Lisa
Ostrander, Douglas	Bish, Daniel	Camargo, Jason	Jones, Aaron	Sherer, Timothy	Brown, Ronald	Harris, Shannon
Chief Warrant Officer 4	Bostic, Michael	Carter, Gionathan	Jones, Andrew	Sietsema, Casey	Brunger, Michael	Harrison, Bailey
Trudgeon, Philip	Cole, Patricia	Castaneda, Luis	Jones, Daniel	Simmons, Danielle	Bullock, Ryan	Harwood, Matthew
Woodgate, Hal	Cooper, Thomas	Chandler, Darralyn	Kalkman, Gina	Smith, Anthony	Burrell, Lamar	Heeren, Daniel
Chief Warrant Officer 2	Crawford, Lyle	Chapman, Richard	Kane, Joseph	Smuts, Leslie	Butcher, Jonathan	Heilig, Anthony
Lawrence, Patrick	Dew, Justin	Cheney, Michael	Keener, Thomas	Soules, Amanda	Button, Phillip	Helman, Gary
Sexton, Robert	Edmondson, Wayne	Churchill, Jimmy	Kerns, Ryan	Sovey, Stephen	Cadeau, Jean	Heltunen, James
Warrant Officer	Field, Bradley	Clark, Michael	Kies, Joshua	Stack, Tracey	Canyock, Travis	Hepler, Stephen
Brown, Andrew	Fleming, Benjamin	Collins, Alan	Kill, Lucas	Standen, Joshua	Carrier, Jamie	Hering, Joshua
Brumbaugh, Christopher	Gates, Mark	Colombo, Lauren	Kulczynski, Kenneth	Stanislowski, Nathaniel	Cassell, Mark	Heyworth, James
Cage, Jamil	Gobeil, Michael	Conley, Michael	Lambert, Kurt	Starkweather, Shane	Cathey, Ashley	Hill, Derek
Eurich, Paul	Haack, Dustin	Cookson, Sara	Lameira, Brenton	Steinman, Joshua	Calvazos, Carlos	Hilleary, Elizabeth
Gordon, Daniel	Hayward, Aaron	Cotis, Phillip	Lewis, James	Stewart, James	Chachulski, Patrick	Hoffman, Steven
Sheaffer, Jonathan	Herkel, Andrea	Dalgord, Jace	Logan, James	Stokes, Jamie	Choice, Andre	Holmes, Raymond
Tolan, Brian	Jibson, Shannon	Dambrosio, David	Loomis, Robert	Streichert, Adam	Clark, Joshua	Hook, Nicholas
Sgt. Maj.	Johnson, Jennifer	Davis, Larry	Loudin, Richard	Stubbins, Skye	Coburn, Brandon	Hopkins, Albert
Berdan, Terry	Kiefer, Walter	Dean, John	Lund, Jason	Thacker, Aaron	Coe, Robert	Hopkins, Ryan
Master Sgt.	Lafermier, Melvin	Deemer, Evan	Lyons, Stephen	Thompson, Anthony	Comtois, Krystal	Howell, Rebecca
Babcock, Gregory	Lane, Timothy	Demattia, Joseph	Makati, Devan	Tiffany, Kyle	Cooley, Jason	Howes, Raymond
Barrett, Kris	Larkin, Andre	Demerly, Keith	Mancinelli, Ryan	Tohlman, Michael	Coston, Clifford	Hubers, Rebekah
Dunckel, David	Linker, Clyde	Derushia, Gary	Martin, Derek	Toms, Frank	Couillard, Mara	Hudak, Christopher
Hilton, Mary	Martinez, Alfredo	Driesenga, Randy	Mason, Amy	Twiest, Joshua	Covey, Sean	Hurless, Austin
Patterson, Phil	Mcdaniel, Jermareo	Ebaugh, Jacob	Maue, Joshua	Valentine, Aaron	Crawford, Paula	Huver, Ann
Ryba, James	Merice, David	Edmonds, Andrew	Meggs, William	Vanbrocklin, Timmothy	Crumrine, Tyler	Hylton, Christopher
Schnoebelen, Steven	Mockerman, Wayne	Erdman, Joshua	Mendez, Charles	Vaneerden, Christopher	Cuba, Bryce	Inlay, David

Inman, James	Porter, George	Wilsonrouse, Cody	Malone, Michael	Whiting, Sue H.	Kurasz, Mark E.	Siryani, Sandi S.
Irey, Lucas	Prpich, Steven	Wilt, Jay	Martin, Christopher	2nd Lt.	Lafleur, Genevieve C.	Stockwell, Paul R.
Jackson, Crystal	Pupa, Mitchell	Winter, Justin	Mcguire, Joseph	Harrigan, Duane M.	Leonard, Brian A.	Thompson, Tyrone B.
Jackson, Larry	Ralston, Patrick	Worden, Alex	Meyer, Taylor	Holm, Jason R.	Labbezo, Joseph R.	Villacis, Anthony K.
Janulis, James	Reed, Walter	Wright, Anthony	Miller, Michael	Klinger, Mitchell J.	Madden, Craig L.	West, Ryan A.
Jennings, Kimberly	Reinke, Daniel	Ybarra, Nicolas	Nolan, Jessica	Patel, Mineshkumar N.	Michael, Brian S.	Whitney, Kelli J.
Johnson, Bryan	Rhodes, Joshua	Zimmerman, Marty	Olney, Thomas	Shepherd, James J.	Morgan, Travis J.	Willman, Jared M.
Johnson, Dustin	Richards, Jonathan	Zuniga, Joseph	Parish, Bradley	Sobran, Michael E.	Olmstead, Jesse S.	Yell, Trisha L.
Johnson, Patrick	Richards, Robert	Pvt. 2	Pemberton, Billy	Chief Master Sgt.	Petty, Gerald R.	Young, Redena R.
Johnson, Ryan	Rinehart, Steven	Adams, Brian	Pollock, Matthew	Baran, Thomas G.	Pongratz, Ronald T.	Senior Airman
Johnson, Timothy	Robinson, Matthew	Albarkat, Sharif	Porter, Bobbie	Collins, Bruce S.	Ricks, Johnny L.	Balcom, Chad M.
Jones, Justin	Rodgers, Joseph	Ashittey, Peter	Poston, Manosone	Myers, David W.	Salaniuk, Michael G.	Barber, Eric S.
Kelly, Brandon	Rohr, Ashley	Auge, Randy	Pratt, Gage	Senior Master Sgt.	Sims, Emory F.	Black, Matthew H.
Kenney, Scott	Rosedale, Damien	Badgerow, Timothy	Ramirez, Mario	Armocida, Eric W.	Stein, Jonathan R.	Bursott, Danielle A.
King, Alexander	Routheaux, David	Baillie, Christopher	Rossow, Laura	Balabuch, Jenny R.	Stewart, Brian W.	Butterworth, Michael J.
Kivela, Steven	Rusticus, Cory	Baumgartner, Daniel	Rundell, Jason	Garza, Rolando	Thomas, Antonina G.	Cathey, Wytina L.
Kohtala, Seth	Saladino, Nicholas	Beaudoin, Matthew	Sadiq, Najma	Keely, Barry A.	Wagster, Robert E.	Cole, Matthew A.
Korte, Alexander	Schineman, Daniel	Bedford, Ronald	Sancheztrapp, Joseph	Mchenry, Shawn T.	Weinberg, Chad A.	Corey, Anthony W.
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Mcnutt, James	Tanner, Nicholas	Fester, Danielle	Col.	Wenrich, Rickie L.	Holcomb, Adrian R.	Perrow, Michelle L.
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Miller, Benjamin	Theriauxt, Chelsie	France, Thomas	Martin, Sidney N.	Tech. Sgt.	Huhtasaari, Timothy M.	Preston, Matthew R.
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Moore, Joshua	Tripp, Matthew	Govert, Amanda	Decoster, Robert S.	Brunsmann, Kurt P.	Kinsel, Robbi L.	Tew, James V.
Mundy, Steven	Tucker, Krystal	Greiner, David	Soave, John S.	Burton, Russell H.	Kinstle, Thomas M.	Voories, Farrah A.
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Nakken, Suttipong	Turzak, Joshua	Healy, Jacob	Bates, Rocco R.	Cassada, Donald J.	Kuhlmann, Darren J.	Watson, Dennis
Nemeth, Robert	Ulrich, Alex	Hebert, Peter	Corl, Steve M.	Coleman, Richard A.	Kunik, Nathan M.	Wesley, Jeremy D.
Neuwirth, Jarrett	Usher, William	Hopkins, Daniel	Radmacher, Jason C.	Czerniak, Brian E.	Lopez, Gabriel O.	Wieland, Ezekiel J.
Nickson, Sean	Ususan, Crystal	Hoxie, Cody	Anderson, Scott A.	Deming, Cassandra D.	Martin, John Q.	Wierzbowski, Matthew J.
Niemi, Joshua	Valkema, Ronald	Ignash, Michael	Fawcett, Daniel J.	Deming, John	May, Erik J.	Williams, Kenneth O.
Nobles, Tamala	Vanhout, Laura	Jones, Gearld	Long, Damon R.	Diephouse, Timothy P.	Mikowski, Veronica L.	Wilson, Michael A.
Nuyen, Chad	Vennekotter, Robert	Kase, Diamond	Capt.	Durham, William T.	Miller, Thomas J.	Airman
Parker, Jonathan	Walker, Andrew	Kovach, Johnna	Anderson, Scott A.	Edwards, Lawrence A.	Nichelson, Broc L.	Hartley, Carl M.
Partington, Regina	Walker, Daniel	Kurtenbach, Joseph	Fawcett, Daniel J.	Fetty, Glenn C.	Undersma, Mark E.	Janicki, Jessica L.
Peek, David	Walton, Adontae	Lasley, Jorden	Long, Damon R.	Fieryrepic, Roberta S.	Penn, Christopher D.	
Peffer, Charles	Wamser, Matthew	Leal, Antonio	1st Lt.	Grandchamp, Hector D.	Potgeter, Greg M.	
Person, Jeremy	Welch, Andre	Leazier, Clifford	Amara, Bryan R.	Halgren, David P.	Price, James G.	
Person, Joshua	Wheeler, Sheila	Lee, Charles	Conway, Shawn D.	Hauck, Gregory R.	Reaser, Brandon P.	
Peterson, James	White, Justin	Leiter, William	Falster, Christopher A.	Heinz, Corey J.	Rosendahl, Evan P.	
Plesko, Steven	Williams, Justin	Lloyd, Joshua	Ferrell, Leonard T.	Hildreth, Antonina G.	Rurka, Eric S.	
Pollack, Karl	Wilson, Brandon	Luebke, Michael	Forbes, Jason M.	Iwen, Brian K.	Schoettel, Daniel J.	
Poore, Corey	Wilson, James	Makela, Elizabeth	Mestelle, Ryan S.	Klovski, Dean W.	Shepherd, Michael T.	
			Tennapel, Daniel L.			

O'dark Thirty

goes without saying

O'dark thirty, on a cool clear night.

The men are stationed, prepared for the fight.

The rotors awash, with an eerie static glow.

Dust blowing up, from the desert below.

Thoughts are drifting, from mission to home.

Concerns for their loved ones, in bed all alone.

Radio's spring to life, the word has been sent.

Engines wind up, it's time to pay the rent.

The birds lift off, to take to flight.

Skimming the ground, on this lightless night.

Soldiers now focused, their minds are clear.

Still deep inside, they wrestle with fear.

No one quite knows, how this trip might end.

All back alive, or a letter to send.

Volunteers all, each man now a brother.

Regardless of politics, they'll fight for each other.

It gets real simple, no complication.

All one uniform, all one Nation.

by Rangerpoet
(SFC Jeremy Plaxton)

Department of Military and Veterans Affairs
Michigan Army and Air National Guard
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