

THE WOLVERINE

GUARD



“The Luckiest Dog in the World”
New Suicide Prevention, Awareness Training
Iraqi Boy Receives Warm Welcome
CSMS Wins National Environmental Award

A publication of the Michigan Army and Air National Guard
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From the Desk of the Governor
JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM

Dear Michigan Army National Guard Soldiers and Airmen:

There have been many changes in recent years with elections, a harsh economy, and a shift in our current overseas contingency operations, but the one thing that has not changed is the respect and appreciation for the men and women of our military. Serving in the military is, beyond a shadow of a doubt, one of the most extraordinary undertakings to which an American can commit.

While it is fitting that America is proud of each branch of service, I am especially proud of you -- our Michigan National Guard soldiers and airmen who serve both our state and the nation. In recent years you have assisted with Hurricane Katrina, provided honors and assistance at President Gerald R. Ford's funeral, guarded America's southern border in Operation Jump Start, trained with Latvian allies in Operation Summer Shield and served as combat forces in Iraq and Afghanistan alongside your active-duty brethren. As commander in chief of the Michigan National Guard, please accept my most heartfelt thank you. You are our informal ambassadors abroad, demonstrating our strength and resolve to the enemies of peace, forging stronger ties with our allies, and promoting democracy and freedom.

Our country can never truly fulfill its debt of gratitude for the dedication, commitment and great courage of the servicemen and women, both past and present, who sacrifice every day to protect the freedoms we, as Americans, hold so dear. We are blessed to live in a country that is home to so many brave men and women and so many loving and supportive families. You are truly part of a special family, where parents and siblings often serve together and where childhood friends patrol together the streets of Baghdad and Afghanistan.

There are no words expressive enough to convey our gratitude to the National Guardsmen and their families who suffer the loss of friends and loved ones or deal with life-altering injuries. To these, we give our deepest respect and our prayers.

To all members of the Michigan National Guard who dedicate themselves to the preservation of this great democracy, Michigan and America thanks you. You remind us that success is not measured by the amount of things we have, but in the relationships we build, the sacrifices we make, the lives we save, and the hope we give. Thank you for your fine example.

Sincerely,

Jennifer M. Granholm
Governor of Michigan





*From the desk of
The Adjutant General*



TAG TALK

I recently had the opportunity to speak to a very special group of young people...my oldest grandson's third grade class! As your TAG, I routinely speak to audiences large and small, and do so fairly confidently. I had to admit to his teacher that speaking to her class was the most threatening thing I had done in a long time. Who knows what will interest a third grader, let alone what they might ask!

As it turned out, it gave me another opportunity to tell your story and what it means to serve our country. Those third graders were fascinated by the kinds of things that Soldiers and Airmen do. Some of them had family members or relatives in the military, so they had a pretty good understanding of the sacrifices made by those who serve and those who support our military members. That sparked a wonderful discussion of what it means to serve your country and what kind of person you need to be, to do so. Even as third graders, they understood that Soldiers and Airmen are special people...they would use the term, "real heroes." I had to agree with them!

During my time with them, I showed them lots of pictures to help them relate to what we all do in the military. Towards the end of my "slide" show, just for the fun of it, I showed them a picture of my grandson at the Grayling Range last summer. He was standing proudly next to two Latvian Soldiers who had just completed a very realistic close air support exercise. Somehow, as I was explaining our partnership with Latvia and their part in fighting terrorists, I also shared with them that one of the Soldiers standing with him had been killed by the terrorists. That of course led to lots more questions about why those Soldiers would be willing to literally put their lives on the line. The thing they seemed to best understand was that our military members make this kind of sacrifice so children, just like them, in countries like Iraq and Afghanistan can have the simple freedom to go to school. They got the concept that Freedom Is Not Free, and they told me to please tell you thanks for what you're doing! So on their behalf, thank you for serving them this way.

What I didn't tell those third graders, but I do want to share with you, is that I did have the distinct honor of representing the Michigan National Guard at the funerals of both of the Latvian Soldiers who were killed in Afghanistan on May 1, 2009. SGT Voldemars Ansevics and PFC Andrejs Merkusevs were members of the Latvian and Michigan Operational Mentoring and Liaison Team that we deployed last June. They were also dedicated to serving the cause of freedom for their country and for ours, to include those third graders I talked to. While I didn't understand the language at their funeral services, I did understand the grief and the pride that each of their families displayed. They too will be remembered as true heroes! We are thankful for their service and their sacrifice.

Whether it's talking to third graders, or distinguished community groups, it is always my honor to tell your story. You continue to make our world a safer place and those third graders and I appreciate it! I am honored to serve with each of you.

Thomas G. Rutler





ATAG TALK

From the desk of
★ The Assistant Adjutant General-Army ★

Michigan Army National Guard Soldiers will soon be in route to Camp Grayling for Annual Training 2009. During the same time, we will welcome home the OMLT I, 1460th TC, 1463rd TC, 272nd RSG LMAT and send off the Co F 425th and 1434th Engineer Co. I continue to marvel at and be so proud of our Soldiers and their families. Family resilience, the ability to face challenges and bounce back, is seen in our proud and committed military family.

AT-09 planning is coming together. It is shaping up to be a very dynamic, realistic and exciting training period. We are fortunate to have the opportunity to provide selected units with an exportable training exercise (XCTC). The exercise is funded primarily by the National Guard Bureau.

REINTEGRATION continues to be a priority for our Soldiers returning from deployment and their families. The Michigan National Guard is taking the lead, and we are receiving positive feedback from the reintegration weekends. We are continuously making improvements based on formal and informal feedback from Soldiers and families. I want to personally thank you for taking time to complete program evaluations and surveys. Your input is critical to assessing the needs, which then allows us to provide relevant programs.

For example, we will host the first single Soldier retreat weekend soon. Beginning in July, the pre-deployment workshop will be expanded based on the request of spouses and Soldiers wanting the reintegration weekend on the front end of deployment. We have also added the Buddy-to-Buddy (B2B) Program which is designed to keep communication flowing between Soldiers after their return home. We have learned that once Soldiers leave the homecoming events and head back to their communities, there is still a need to stay connected with one another. B2B is intended to provide our Soldiers with direction, guidance and assistance, long after the parades and Welcome Home greetings have subsided.

As a part of our Road to Reintegration campaign, I have gone out to over a dozen communities around Michigan to present "Guard 101." Guard 101 is my way of explaining to our communities who the Guard is today and why their awareness to the Guard is an important piece of reintegration. It is apparent to me how unaware communities are to the service and sacrifices Citizen Soldiers and their families endure. I also need to tell you that every community is wholeheartedly supporting you and they all want to help in any way they can.

Finally, unlike no other time in recent history has there been a "cap or ceiling" placed on our end strength. We are now in the process of meeting the National Guard Bureau requirement of 9200 (from the approximately 9400 Soldiers currently in our formations) by the end of September 2009. The end strength ceiling cap will be reached through: Qualitative Retention Board, Selective Retention Board, those not MOSQd within 24 months and those Soldiers who are not attending drills and are being carried in a NO-VAL pay status. Reducing Soldiers is a hard pill to swallow during the tough economic times we are experiencing.

Today the MIARNG is a fully integrated operational force. We are depended upon to mobilize and deploy like no other time in recent history. I am proud to say we are meeting and exceeding the challenge we are faced with. I am very proud of each and every Soldier and their family. Thank you for your service whether it is past or present.

Janet R. Anderson

Who's Your Family?

Story by Chaplain (COL) Herbert Heavner

How do you define family? Would it be your parents, plus your siblings? Is it your spouse plus your children? Is it your spouse, and her parents, and your children, and your parents, and your grandkids, and...?? The truth is that family is defined however you define it. My family is made up of my wife, Verna, who has travelled this journey called life with me for over thirty six years. The oldest member of our family (besides me!), is our oldest son, Bruce. He is married to Dana. They and their four kids (Keegan, Jackie, Maverick and Louisa) live in Crete, Illinois. Our youngest son, Matthew, is single and lives in Phoenix, Arizona. My mother, Stella, lives in an apartment in our home with us. My older brother, Alan, lives next door. Verna's sister, Vangie, lives in Kansas City with her daughters, Amelia and Lydia. I would even throw into this formula our cat, Muffy. I am proud and love the family that God has given to me.

Some people define family as that group to which you belong, such as the Michigan National Guard. Indeed, the Michigan Guard is family. Whenever I offer a prayer such as an invocation or benediction at a special event I express my gratitude for being a part of the Guard family. I have been a part of this family for the last five years. I am proud and love this family that God has given to me.

Family members are supposed to take care of family and that is what we try to do in the Michigan National Guard. Through programs sponsored by the Family Program Director and others we do our best to pay attention to the many and varied needs of our family members. One of the programs that I am most directly involved is the Strong Bonds program. This is a very special program that offers weekend retreats to our Soldiers and Airmen, along with their spouses. We also sponsor retreats for single Soldiers as well because they are a valuable asset to the Guard family. The Army determines the content of these retreats, which for the couples is a program designed to improve communication in marriage. I have modified this content to include a lot of humorous material to illustrate the point and avoid the concept of "death by power point." All the expenses of a retreat weekend

are paid and we try to use a location that is interesting and fun as well. Places like Mackinac Island, Crystal Mountain Resort and the Royal Park Hotel in Rochester. Anyone who is interested in finding out more about any of these retreats can contact me in my office in Lansing. (Phone: 517-481-8325)

I believe that the military family members are the real heroes of the fight against terrorism that is going on around the world. Deployments are tough on the family. Family members are called upon to take care of issues that they never had to take care of before but they are doing it, and doing it well! Whenever I travel, whether it is in or outside the state, I often hear people say to me: "Thanks for your service." I believe it is the family members who ought to be addressed by that expression. Thanks for your service! Thanks for what you do every day to support the members of the Michigan National Guard. Thanks for taking care of all those mundane little issues--and the bigger ones as well, while we take up the fight at home and around the world! I am proud of what you do and I thank God for you every day! May God bless every one of you in a very, very special way. I believe that even God Himself is saying to you: Thanks for your service!"





. Bryan Parmer of the 125th Infantry Regiment, Michigan Army National Guard, kneels with Molly. Molly was found under an outhouse while the unit was on patrol in Iraq and brought back to the United States after their deployment. Michigan National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. Helen Miller.

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Bullets

Michigan Army National Guard members win awards

Two Michigan Army National Guard members won DoD Visual Information Awards recently. The contest was hosted by the Defense Information School March 10-12.

Illustrative Photography: 2nd Place -Staff Sgt. Helen M. Miller, Joint Force Headquarters, Michigan Army National Guard.

Layout & Design: 2nd Place -Staff Sgt. Deidre A. Piechocki, Recruiting and Retention Command, Michigan Army National Guard.

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225th Infantry Regiment memorial dedication

A ceremony dedicating a monument memorializing the former 1st Battalion, 225th Infantry Regiment (Detroit Light Guard) is scheduled to be held at 1:00 p.m. on July 31, 2009 at Camp Grayling's Chapel Memorial Park.

"The monument will be dedicated to the officers and enlisted men and women of the Detroit Light Guard who loyally served their state and nation with honor and distinction for over 162 years," said retired Army Brig. Gen. Stanley Wilk, a former commander of the Detroit Light Guard and the director of the Detroit Armory Corporation, the group which planned and raised funds for the project.

"It will forever memorialize the sacrifices and loyal service of this great organization and etch its history in stone for the benefit of future generations," said Wilk.

The Light Guard's lineage traces back to 1830 with the organization of the Michigan Militia's Detroit City Guards, making it the oldest living lineage in the Michigan National Guard today.

Notably, the Detroit Tigers baseball team asked permission to use the 1-225th's tiger mascot, as their official team name and mascot upon their entry into the American league

in 1901.

The traditional name designation, "Detroit Light Guard", was officially bestowed upon the 1-225th on May 13, 1982 by Secretary of the Army, John Marsh Jr., for, "many years of loyal, faithful, and distinguished service."

The 1-225th was deactivated, converted and redesignated in 1992. Their illustrious lineage and honors are carried on today by the 1225th Combat Service Support Battalion.

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Disney World Ticket Discounts for Military Personnel

Active and Retired U.S. Military, also includes members of the U.S. Coast Guard and activated members of the National Guard or Reservists. They may obtain one complimentary 5-Day Disney's Armed Forces Salute Ticket (Base Ticket with the Park Hopper option and Water Park Fun & More Option) the no expiration option is not available with this tickets. In addition the military member may also purchase 5-Day Disney's Armed Forces Salute Companion Tickets for up to five family members and/or friends for \$99 plus tax (Park Hopper Option and Water Park Fun & More Options may be purchased for an additional \$25 + tax for each option - the no expiration option is not available with these tickets). Tickets must be purchased at the theme park ticket windows. They are not available online or by phone. These tickets are valid through December 23, 2009. Active or Retired Military must show a valid United States Military ID card. Activated members of the National Guard or Reservists must present their orders in addition to a Military ID card. Military personnel must have been active for any length of time between Jan. 1, 2008 and the end of Dec. 23, 2009. For more information visit: <http://www.wdwinfo.com/discounts/discounts-military.htm#current-discount>

Holding the ACEs-New Suicide Prevention Training Creates Awareness

Story and photo by Staff Sgt. Jim Downen

One Soldier who commits suicide is one too many. Department of the Army sources show that suicides and attempted suicides have been on the increase in part due to the strain of deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan (1).

The U.S. Army has instituted a suicide prevention program with joint training for mental health counselors, program managers, and chaplains to deal with the increase in suicides. The counselors, managers, and chaplains all work together to assist Soldiers in need. The prevention program has interactive videos and handouts for use by leaders and Soldiers training them how to deal with a possibly suicidal Soldier. The Suicide Prevention Program stresses that Soldiers shouldn't feel shame to ask for help when they feel overwhelmed by their situation.

Capt. Gabriel Beelan is the Suicide Prevention Program Manager for the Michigan National Guard. Beelan said this training is for all Soldiers and teaches how to recognize suicidal behavior and how to prevent it.

"National Guard officers and non-commissioned officers," Beelan explained, "have the challenge of limited time and contact due to the nature of National Guard service. It is important for leadership to communicate with Soldiers during the month and know how they are doing."

Beelan displayed a suicide intervention "ACE" card and described what a Soldier should do if they feel a fellow Soldier is suicidal.

"The first action is to calmly "Ask" the Soldier if they feel suicidal. If so, then "Care" for your buddy. Remove any means of self-injury. The last step is to "Escort" the Soldier to the chain of command, a chaplain, or mental health professional." Beelan stressed, "Never leave the Soldier alone, once they have stated they are suicidal."

"The Soldier can contact Military One Source, the unit chaplain, and Veterans Administration, or use web sites, such as the Suicide Prevention Resource Center," said Beelan. Two of the resources have

websites, they are: militaryonesource.com and sprc.com.

Michigan Army National Guard Chaplain (Col.) Herbert Heavner explained his role in the Army Suicide Prevention Program. "We chaplains train alongside the suicide prevention managers and medical personnel as a team. This team training allows us to work in our respective roles to assist the Soldier to get help if they need it."

Heavner said, "Chaplains are trained as counselors, but do not serve as primary counselors for suicidal Soldiers. We serve as gatekeepers and assist the Soldier with opening the gate to seek help. Chaplains are there to say to the Soldier, 'Come on, let's go get some professional help,' after the Soldier opens up and states they have a problem."

Rebecca Berndt-Downen, a Veterans Administration Global War on Terror Outreach specialist at the Grand Rapids, Mich., Vet Center, described the assistance a veteran can receive from the Vet Center.

"We are a branch of the Veterans Administration dedicated to providing mental health services, counseling, and veterans benefits briefings to combat zone veterans and survivors of sexual trauma incurred during military service."

Berndt-Downen went on to explain that Vet center clients have complete confidentiality. We maintain confidentiality because our clients want their privacy protected to avoid being stigmatized or discriminated against. Records are maintained at the Vet Center and cannot be released to a third party such as the clients' military unit, unless the client gives permission in writing to do so. A client's chain of command or employer has no way of knowing about counseling or other activities undertaken at the Vet Center,



unless the client tells them about it.

Berndt-Downen said, "We understand that veterans needing counseling and services have travel and time constraints. Each Vet Center has one flex-day a week with services available until 7 p.m. The flex-day varies from center to center. Vet Centers also have contracted private counselors who are closer to the veterans' residence to treat the veteran. There is no time limit on sessions and an eligible veteran can be seen until the issue is resolved. We also provide marital and family counseling for readjustment issues." Berndt-Downen stressed, "Vet centers are one of many resources available to veterans who have issues, including suicidal feelings. We will always be there for veterans that need us."

Suicide is known as "the final exit" because it ends in death and cannot be undone. Any Soldier who has suicidal thoughts should know that there are resources available, and more importantly, Army suicide prevention counselors, chaplains, VA counselors, and fellow Soldiers who will gladly take the time to help them make the choice to live.

NOTES: 1. Statistics taken from the Fort Jackson Leader. Last year, 143 Soldiers took their own lives. That is the highest number since the Army began keeping records in 1980. It was the fourth year in a row that the number of suicides increased.

DEPLOYMENT



Master Sgt. Michael Barros, 386th Civil Engineer Squadron entomologist, checks on the puppies that were recovered from a fox hole on a flight line at an air base in Southwest Asia, March 3. The dogs were removed because leaving them on the flight line can cause an issue with aircraft safety out on the runways. Sergeant Barros is deployed from 110th Fighter Wing, Michigan Air National Guard, Battle Creek, Mich., and is originally from Haslett, Mich.

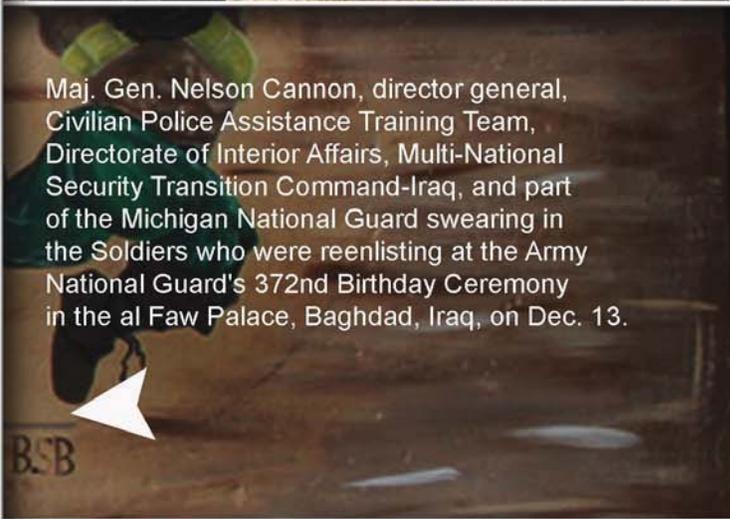


Spc. Andrew Edmonds, 1463rd Transportation Company, Michigan Army National Guard, poses with his painted T-wall, after 54 hours of labor, that recognizes the units of the Defender Theater Internment Facility at Camp Bucca, Iraq, Jan. 16. The Defender TIF is led by Col. Gary S. Carlson and Sgt. Maj. Byron L. Reed, 320th Military Police Battalion, U.S. Army Reserve, headquartered in Ashley, Pa.

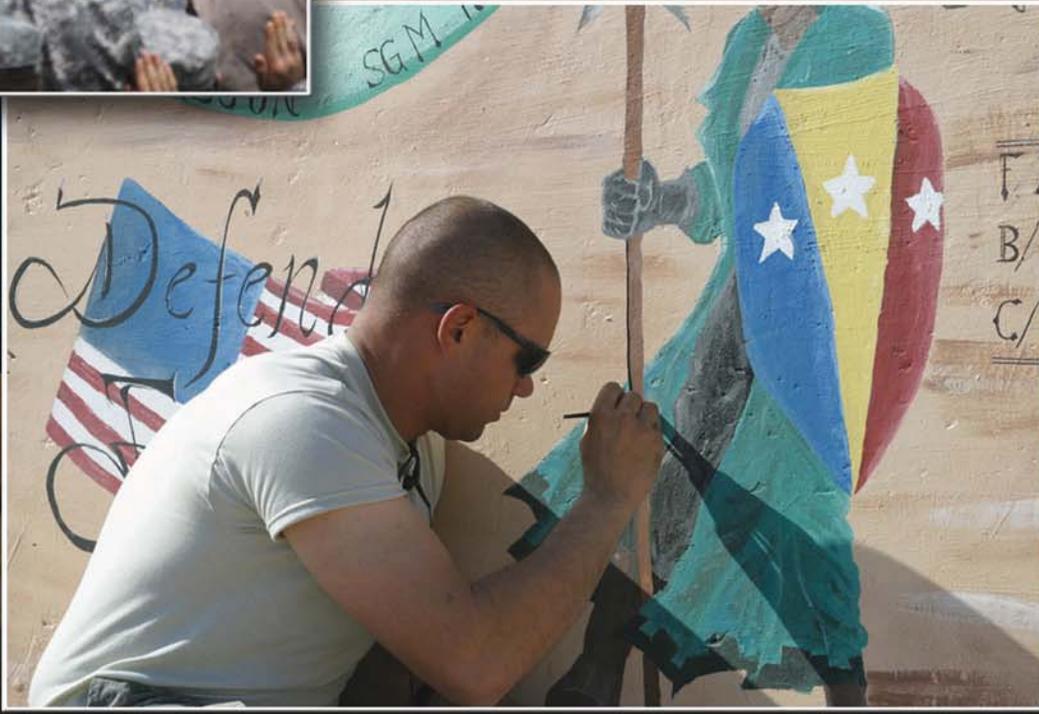
Sergeant First Class Jason Killoran of Marquette, Mich. had the unique opportunity of promoting his cousin, Zachariah Kitzman to the rank of Specialist while serving a tour of duty in Iraq. The promotion ceremony was held on May 3, 2009 at the Basrah Air Station.



Maj. Gen. Nelson Cannon, director general, Civilian Police Assistance Training Team, Directorate of Interior Affairs, Multi-National Security Transition Command-Iraq, and part of the Michigan National Guard swearing in the Soldiers who were reenlisting at the Army National Guard's 372nd Birthday Ceremony in the al Faw Palace, Baghdad, Iraq, on Dec. 13.



Spc. Andrew Edmonds, 1463rd Transportation Company, Michigan Army National Guard, makes the finishing touches on his T-wall, after 54 hours of painting over six days that recognizes the units of the Defender Theater Internment Facility at Camp Bucca, Iraq, Jan 16. The Defender TIF is led by Col. Gary S. Carlson and Sgt. Maj. Byron L. Reed, 320th Military Police Battalion, U.S. Army Reserve, headquartered in Ashley, Pa.



EVENTS

Several Michigan National Guard Units participate in the Lansing 150 "Parade of the Decades", on Armed Forces Day. These units included the 126 Army Band, the Reserve Force Sustainment Battalion, and Army National Guard recruiting. (Michigan National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. Helen Miller.)



Soldiers from the 1775th Military Police Company, provided a color guard for the Memorial Day Celebration held at the Veterans Memorial Garden in Taylor, Mich., May 16, 2009. The event was held to honor past and present veterans including the first female casualty of Operation Iraqi Freedom, Army Spc. Holly McGeogh of Taylor.

Lt. Col. Greg Durkac, former 125th Infantry Regiment commander, gives Central Michigan Football Coach Butch Jones a certificate of appreciation for the support received from the football team during the unit's recent deployment to Iraq. The football team wore stickers on their helmets bearing the unit logo and sponsored a military appreciation game for the families of deployed Soldiers.



Michigan Army National Guard officer candidates graduate Officer Candidate School (OCS) and are commissioned during a ceremony held April 19, 2009 at Fort Custer Training Center, Augusta, Mich. The candidates attended an accelerated eight-week OCS program at Fort McClellan, Ala. (Michigan National Guard photo by Spc. James V. St. Onge)

CSMS Wins National Pollution Prevention Award

Story by Nathan Amstutz

The Michigan Army National Guard's (MIARNG) Combined Support Maintenance Shop (CSMS) and Environmental Division have won the 2008 Secretary of the Army Environmental Award for pollution prevention in recognition of their efforts to bring sustainability and environmentally conscious practices into the shop's day-to-day operations.

The CSMS is a critical part of the MIARNG organization. The focus on greening its operations sets a standard for National Guard units throughout the region. As the only re-painting facility in the state for the MIARNG, the CSMS paints 12 to 15 military vehicles or pieces of equipment each month. The environmental impacts of managing this volume of equipment led the CSMS and the Environmental Division to look for ways to cut waste associated with the painting and paint-stripping processes at the shop.

"We had an opportunity to use some of the new products and technology that's out there and work it into the shop," said Thomas Pavlik, environmental quality specialist with the MIARNG Environmental Division. "We're not only looking at stuff that's 'green,' but we're also looking for something more cost effective. Typically what's green and what's cost effective go hand-in-hand when viewed over the entire life-cycle."

Striking that balance between cost efficiency and environmental responsibility initiated a complete overhaul of the CSMS painting processes. Among the first changes were the introduction of non-toxic paints and paint-stripping process and implementation of specialized training regimes for the shop.

Military vehicles require a special type of paint known as Chemical Agent Resistant Coating paint, or CARC paint. In planning for the CSMS, the decision was made to switch from a solvent-based CARC paint to a water-based alternative that contains less hazardous material and produces virtually no air pollution or dangers to worker health and safety.

In addition to the water-based paint, Allied Trades Supervisor, Chief Warrant Officer 4 Richard Wilder and his team were able to switch to a new paint stripping method as well. In the past, a combination of chemical stripping, sanding and sand blasting were used to remove old paint from equipment. The process was costly, in terms of time, health considerations, and waste disposal costs of potentially hazardous sand and paint chips.

"If it were today, the previous paint booth would not pass certification," said Wilder. "A few years ago, the Minnesota Army National Guard used 72 tons of sand in one year in their paint stripping facility."

Once again, water-based technology has made all the difference. The CSMS has implemented a new paint-stripping technology, the Closed Loop Advanced Water-jet System (CLAWS). High-pressure water jets remove the old paint. The

waste water containing the paint remnants is then recycled through a wastewater system where it's filtered and separated. This cuts the waste generated to only two to three pounds per vehicle.

"Old paint is more easily removed off of vehicles and equipment using the CLAWS," said Pavlik. "With this process, we not only help the environment, we save time, money and materials too."

The costs of running the shop have been impacted dramatically by this new process. Where disposal once could run into the tens of thousands of dollars, the CSMS now spends less than \$1000 annually. And in comparison with the more conventional sand blasting method which can generate tons of waste per year, the shop now produces and disposes of 200 to 400 pounds of paint residue annually. Disposal fees for the sand blasting method would have averaged nearly \$5000 annually, while the CSMS hazardous waste disposal costs are about \$500 annually.

Even though the new painting systems have proven successful, revamping the shop's operations has held the challenges of any new technology shift.

"We had some issues with the CLAWS system at first," said Wilder. "We kept trying, but it was frustrating at times. But now we've gone three or four months without error. We have a system down and it seems to be working right."

To ensure that the CSMS got the most out of its green innovations, MIARNG sent the CSMS painters to specialized training at the University of Northern Iowa's Spray Technique Analysis and Research for Defense (STAR4D) program. Painters learned efficiency and conservation techniques to minimize lost material and lost time on the job. Entrance and exit tests determined that each painter improved in paint conservation and application by at least 10 percent.

"People are always coming up with things to paint," Wilder said. "Although we try to accommodate everyone's request, sometimes it becomes a challenge to balance a customer's request with inventory and waste control. We try to keep our inventory low and manageable."

Pavlik and Wilder like to remind people that it is easier to control what enters 'the pipeline' than it is trying to manage the waste that exits the 'pipeline'.

"In general, they're always looking for ways to improve their inventory management," said Pavlik. "The bottom line is we want to make our mission operations more sustainable. When we do, we help sustain soldier training and readiness, and ensure continued protection and use of our training lands well into the future. Preventing pollution through improved material management practices and improving our technology is a big part of that."

“Luckiest Dog in the World”

Story by Capt. Corissa Barton

“When we found her, it was like finding a piece of home,” said Pfc. Jacob Zamora.

Ask any of the members of the Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 125th Infantry Regiment and they will tell you the same. Finding the puppy was a highlight of their deployment to Iraq.

It all started when the unit left for an early morning patrol. They were almost out of the gate when the guys decided to take a bathroom break. ... Bryan Parmer stepped out of his HMMV and into the porta potty standing in the intense Iraqi heat.

One of the guys waiting in line swore he saw something move under the outhouse.

“I knew I saw something move underneath it so we got down and looked and pulled her out,” said ... Sean Patterson.

Her, turned out to be a fluffy white puppy with distinct black marks around her eyes. They took her out of the 115 degree heat, put her in the HMMV and took her on patrol with them.

Although they can’t agree on who named her, or how the name was picked, she eventually ended up being called Molly.

According to Parmer, at the time the base didn’t allow Soldiers to keep pets. After some thought, they took Molly to the American veterinarian on base.

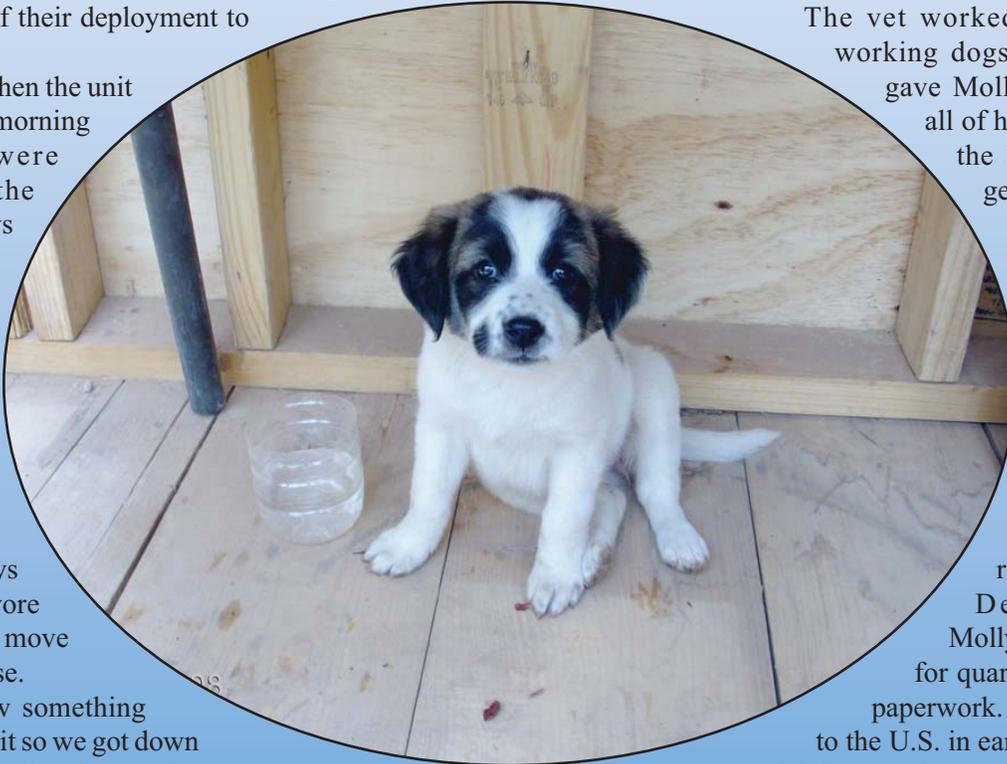
The vet worked with all of the working dogs in the area. She gave Molly a check up and all of her shots so she and the Soldiers wouldn’t get sick.

From here on out she was known as Molly-the 125th Force Protection Dog. They took her on all of their patrols and she became one of the guys.

When the unit returned home in December 2008, Molly had to stay behind for quarantine and piles of paperwork. Finally, she arrived to the U.S. in early April 2009.

Molly now lives with Parmer and his family, where she has plenty of room to run. She still remains the best memory of a long deployment.

“She really is the luckiest dog in the world,” said Staff Sgt. Ron Hewelt.



Michigan Air Guard Brings Vision to Latvia

Story and photos by Master Sgt. Denice Rankin

In May, twenty-six Michigan Air Guard health professionals and specialized technicians from the Battle Creek 110th Medical Group, the Selfridge 127th Medical Group, Alpena Combat Readiness Training Center, and the Joint Force Headquarters worked in Latvia with health professionals and interpreters from the Latvian Army and National Guard, and Latvian medical students; all in a medical partnership mission to serve citizens of Latvia. The event was conducted as part of the State Partnership Program between Michigan and Latvia.

The team hosted two health fair events to provide medical, optometric, and dental screening, fluoride treatments and prescription eyewear dispensing for the local populations of Aluksne and Liepaja, Latvia. The team completed 762 medical exams, 813 optometry exams, 578 dental exams, 643 fluoride treatments and provided 1,212 pairs of glasses.

In addition to the events in Aluksne and Liepaja, a four-man contingent of Michigan Guardsmen including; Lt. Col. Mark Manor, Lt. Col. Mike Kitto, of the 127th Wing and Lt. Col. Clark Hinga and Maj. Jim Shay from the 110th, conducted a three-day assessment of the Latvian medical disaster response system.

In Aluksne, people arrived early at the city center where tents were set up and stood in line to receive free health screenings. Two women toward the front of the line were quick to make it known that they were the seventh in line; one counting in German, the other counting in English. At the end of the three-day event in Aluksne, the joint medical team served 650 people.

A small team of dental health providers traveled to a school to do dental exams and fluoride treatments, while another team went to a senior citizen home to provide health screenings. An especially big hit for the Latvians were the free glasses they could receive after their health assessment. Prior to the

mission, optometrist Dr. (Maj.) Nelson Edwards from the 127th Medical Group picked up thousands of prescription glasses donated by the Lion's Club. The group brought 10 A-bags full of glasses and glass cases.

Senior Master Sgt. Deborah McFadden from the 110th Medical Squadron led the eyeglass distribution and saw firsthand the enthusiasm and excitement the Latvians had about getting a pair of glasses. Sometimes an exact prescription was not available, but it was rare that the optometry technicians could not find a close match. Some of the people had visited the health fair the previous year when the Michigan Guardsmen were in Aluksne.

"It was wonderful seeing old friends--heartwarming to have 'patients' from last year's trip rush up and hug you. One

incident still brings tears to my eyes; The elderly man that had suffered a stroke and was partially paralyzed that I fitted for glasses. He said 'prima, prima' and 'so many thanks' and then he burst into tears and that caused me to do the same thing. That one incident made the trip an outstanding success and will be one of my best memories in my 32-year career."

Dr. Edwards, Capt. Scott Chin, an optometrist with the 110th Fighter Wing, and two Latvian medical students saw the majority of the patients because



TSgt. Mary Chappel, a medical technician with the 127th Medical Group shares in a young mans joy as he tries on a pair of glasses that are the correct perscription for him during the medical partnership mission held in Liepaja, Latvia on May 12, 2009.

most came for glasses.

Many elderly Latvians did not want to see the dentist. The Latvian interpreters surmised that could be due to the years under Soviet occupation and the methods used by the Soviet regime to perform dental work.

In contrast to the reluctance of the older generation, a group of 15 schoolchildren and their teacher stood in a row outside the dental exam tent to each receive a fluoride treatment, toothbrush and toothpaste.

In addition to the health fair events held in the city, Michigan dentists, Lt. Col. Susan Cleereman from the 110th Medical Group and Lt. Col. Stephen Pittel from the 127th Medical Group visited two schools each, two orphanages, and two senior homes. Dr. Cleereman noted that the children's teeth at the orphanage were in much better condition than the children at the school, some with "severely decayed" teeth.

One of the small disappointments the medical professionals dealt with was the inability to treat the patients because of current legal restrictions. They did provide written referrals though, so the patients could give a copy to their health care provider and seek the treatment if they chose to.

"A ten-year-old girl had a sharp edged broken tooth that damaged her tongue," said Dr. Pittel. "I would have liked to help her by at least removing the sharp edges, but we are not allowed to do any kind of surgery. Sometimes these restrictions are hard, you want to help but you can't do more than to give advice. We hope that the parents will use the provided advice and visit a local dentist soon."

After three days in Aluksne, the team packed everything and moved to Liepaja on the other side of the small country, where they screened more than 700 people.

Dr. Kitto noted, "I thought that this was a spectacular deployment. We were able to double the amount of people screened compared to last year. They were some of the most pleasant, genuine, and grateful people that I have ever met. I

saw 70 and 80-year-old people waiting in line for seven hours in an effort to be seen."

He continued, "The most significant health problem I encountered was hypertension. The prevalence was higher than any population I have encountered so far in my medical career. I am not sure of the reason but suspect that it may be related to genetics, alcohol abuse, and high salt intake."

The statistics compiled at the end of the mission confirmed that 324 of the 762 patients screened were referred to see a doctor because of hypertension.

At the end of the 10-day event, the American-Latvian medical team reached more than 1,400 people and further established the camaraderie needed for true success, especially when working 12-hour days with multitudes of people. The long work days led to great interactions with the Latvian soldiers who worked along side the Michigan Guardsmen.

Overall, Staff Sgt. Tina Chaves, an administrative technician from the 110th Medical Group summed things up with her remarks, "I was asked today by a Latvian soldier why I was smiling so big. I looked around the dining hall and saw members of my unit, members of other Michigan bases, and members of the Latvian Army that I now consider all friends. Then I thought of the past days here in Latvia and all the people who we were fortunate enough to meet and help, how could I not smile?"



Senior Airman Ruel Taylor of the 110th Medical Group from Battle Creek Air National Guard Base, screens a man's eye for glaucoma at the Pantionats Aluksne senior citizen home in Aluksne, Latvia on May 6, 2009. Karlis Kalejs, a member of the Latvian National Guard stands by to interpret any questions that Ruel or the Latvian patient may have. The two service men are part of a joint medical partnership mission held in Latvia from May 5 - 15, 2009.

Maj. Nelson Edwards, a 127th Medical Group optometrist, gives an optometry examination to Zaiga Amantoya, a resident of Aluksne, Latvia, during a joint partnership health fair in Aluksne. A team of Michigan Air National Guard, Latvian Army and National Guard health care professionals, and Latvian medical students teamed up to screen 1,450 patients during the 10-day event which included visits to senior citizen homes, schools, and orphanages.



Saving Mohammed

Story by Sgt. Gabriel Morse



Maj. David Howell and Mohammed meet for the first time in Ramadi, Iraq, Nov. 2008. Photo courtesy of Maj. David Howell

The crowd leaned expectantly forward beneath “Welcome” banners, journalists jostled for elbow room, and children waited impatiently in their seats for the guest of honor to arrive on the morning of March 9, 2009. When he did step through the double doors, more than 300 Soldiers, their children, and members of the local Muslim community warmly welcomed an extensively burned and disfigured 12-year-old impoverished Iraqi boy, named Mohammed, to America.

Escorting Mohammed was Maj. David Howell, a physician’s assistant with the Michigan National Guard’s 1st Battalion, 125th Infantry Regiment, Dr. Edward Lanigan M.D. and Lt. Col. (ret.) Charles Thomas from Michigan State University’s Department of Surgery.

Howell thanked the crowd for Mohammed’s warm welcome and then told Mohammed’s moving story. He emphasized how the life changing opportunity to meet with Dr. Lanigan and physician’s assistant, Charles Thomas was going to make such a huge impact on the young boy.

“I first saw Mohammed,” said Howell, “while on a (combat) mission Nov. 6, 2008 with Charlie Company, 1st Battalion, 125th Infantry Regiment to prevent a reported suicide bomber from attacking hundreds of women and children collecting death benefits for families of deceased Iraqi Police at the Al Anbar Provincial Government Center in Ramadi, Iraq.”

According to Howell, the sight of the badly burned boy staring intently at him from among the crowd left an indelible mark. Although security measures prevented speaking to each other, hours spent examining a photograph taken by another Soldier helped the battalion physician’s assistant make the hard decision to help. Enlisting the assistance of an Iraqi police officer, interpreters and construction workers, Howell managed to track Mohammed and his family down.

During their meetings, Howell discovered not only the burns covering more than 30 percent of Mohammed’s body, but that his father, a U.S. Marine interpreter, and an uncle

had been murdered by insurgents. Mohammed's family was also threatened by the insurgents and forced into extreme poverty.

According to Howell, Mohammed's extensive injuries from a house fire as an infant had provided his father with a cover story enabling them to be seen near Coalition Forces. After learning all of this, Howell decided to seek humanitarian aid and plastic and reconstructive surgical assistance from his former colleague, Charles Thomas who then reached out to Dr. Lanigan from MSU's Dept. of Surgery.

Responding to questions at the press conference, Howell said Mohammed was brought to the U.S. because the level of medical care he needed was not available in Iraq. The majority of doctors and health care workers have still not returned to Iraq.

Howell added, "It would be great to see more (humanitarian) projects like this, but the obstacles are tremendous. The real solution is to get the Iraqi health care system fully functioning again. To do that, Iraqi medical professionals who've fled need to return."

Dr. Lanigan, who will perform all five surgeries free of charge, added the reason for his involvement. "I'm just really impressed with not only his father's bravery, but his (Mohammed's) bravery and everything he did to help his father. I hope this (surgery) will have a real positive impact on his life, and that this will help Iraqi and American relations."

Howell agreed, noting how pleased he was already with the interaction he was seeing between the Michigan National Guard, the local Islamic community, and the media, which he says have had different perspectives on issues related to the war.

"To the Iraqis I would say that this is how we (Americans) try to treat our friends who have made sacrifices for us," said Howell. "I also believe this will result in good will from his tribe towards the American forces in Ramadi."

Both Howell and Lanigan agree that Mohammed has many challenges to face in the future, but believe the upcoming surgeries, support from those around him, and communication with his family will help him lead a better life in the future.

"People have helped without batting an eye," said Howell. "I think everyone is sympathetic toward Mohammed's plight, and see



Maj. David Howell and Mohammed were honored by the Detroit Pistons as Michigan Heroes of the Year, April 26, 2009. It was Mohammed's first professional sporting event. Michigan National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. Helen Miller

this as an opportunity to make a difference. And my focus is to be as supportive of him as I can."

Howell added, "I've already communicated to his family how well he's doing. Soon, I'll be sharing his medical prognosis and what lies ahead."

Part of what lies ahead are surgeries, rehabilitation, adjustment to a new culture, and separation from family. Currently Mohammed is taking things one step at a time with his new foster family and school while preparing for surgery, and Howell believes his young friend is adapting well.

"He is doing well in 5th Grade at the Greater Lansing Islamic School and is learning to read and write in English," said Howell. "He has made many friends and has become a popular boy at the school. All in all, he's doing very well with the love and assistance of everybody involved in this case."

So far Mohammed has had his first trip to a zoo, first attendance at a professional sporting event, and first pair of brand new shoes. His host family has made sure to include them in every aspect of their lives as well. On any given day Mohammed can be seen playing soccer in the back yard with his new brothers. Mohammed will also have his first surgery soon and his first dental appointment.

The host family was even able to set up a phone line to Mohammed's family back in Iraq. He speaks to them at least once a week.

Although the road ahead is not going to always be easy for Mohammed, Howell believes it will be worth it. "It's made me more thankful for the things I have as an American, and I see why we are emulated by every country around the globe. I know Mohammed would say how thankful he is to all those helping him."

The message Howell wants to leave with Soldiers is, "Believe in a cause greater than yourself, and if you have a chance to help someone, then do it. One person can make a difference."



Mohammed visits the Potter Park Zoo in Lansing, Mich., for the first time. Photo courtesy of Maj. David Howell

Going Back to School- Post 9/11

The Post 9/11 GI Bill adds a new educational benefit for Guard personnel who have served on active federal duty since September 11, 2001. The benefit begins August 1, 2009 and can help meet the cost of earning a bachelors or associates degree at a university, college or community college.

Guard and Reserve component personnel have earned eligibility if they were on active federal duty under one of these sections of Title 10: 688; 12301(a); 12301(d); 12301(g); 12302 or 12304. Guard and Reserve component personnel cannot use Title 32 AGR service as a qualifier for the Montgomery GI Bill.

For individuals eligible for Montgomery GI Bill-Select Reserve (MGIB-SR) and Reserve Educational Assistance Program (REAP) will normally be eligible for a maximum of a combined total of 48 months of benefits. For example, if you have used 20 months of benefits under MGIB-SR or REAP you may be eligible for 28 months of benefits under the Post 9/11 GI Bill. The combined total months cannot exceed 48 months.

The available benefit payable to an individual will be calculated on the accumulated dates of active federal duty since September 11, 2001. So a second or third activation adds to your benefit. This table shows the percent of benefit:

Time on AD	Benefit Paid
36+ months	100%
Medical discharge	100%
30 to 36 months	90%
24 to 30 months	80%
18 to 24 months*	70%
12 to 18 months*	60%
6 to 12 months*	50%
90 days to 6 months*	40%

*excludes time in Basic Military Training and/or Skill Training

The maximum (100%) benefit provides a full time student the total cost of tuition and mandatory fees at any public university, college

or community college in Michigan. The US Department of Veterans Affairs defines a full time student as one taking 12 credit hours a semester or term.

The maximum benefit provides a living allowance equal to the amount of the Basic Housing Allowance (E-5 married), regardless of your military grade, payable for the location of the school. The allowance in Michigan ranges from Ann Arbor's \$1,329 a month to Sault Ste. Marie's \$749 a month.

The Post 9/11 GI Bill includes a book allowance. VA will pay a maximum benefit of \$1,000 an academic year. VA pays the student directly.

Here is the payment summary. VA pays the school tuition and fees directly. No upfront money is required from you. VA pays you living and book allowances after the fact. You must be prepared to meet expenses like first month rent, security and book store costs on your own.

Veterans who have accumulated at least 36 months of active federal duty may also be eligible to receive Post 9/11 GI Bill benefits to attend private schools and out of state public schools. These schools may participate but few if any have signed agreements with VA at this time. You can visit the VA's website at www.gibill.va.gov and look for information about the "Yellow Ribbon Program." for up to date information.

Pay attention! Any benefit has fine print. To use the 9/11 GI Bill you must make an irrevocable choice. Once you make a decision to use the Post 9/11 GI Bill you cannot go back to one of the other GI Bill programs. Take the time to compare this new program with the Montgomery GI Bill (Active Duty and Select Reserve), Reserve Educational Assistance Program and Veterans Educational Assistance Program.

Before you make a choice, visit the US Department of Veterans Affairs website at www.gibill.va.gov. Compare the programs. Find the one that provides the best financial support for your educational goal. Speak to the VA's education counselors at 1.888.442.4551.

Currently Deployed

425th IN Co.

OMLT 1

1463rd Transportation Co.

1460th Transportation Co.

272nd RSG LMAT

238th Aviation Bn.

1431st Engineer Co.

Brigade ETT 4

Det 2/351st ASB

OSA Det 15

OMLT 2

464th QM Co.

Location

Ft. Lewis (OIF)

Afghanistan

Iraq

Iraq

Iraq

Iraq

Afghanistan

Afghanistan

Iraq

Kuwait

Germany

Afghanistan



Michigan National Guard photo by Sgt. Brian Guenther

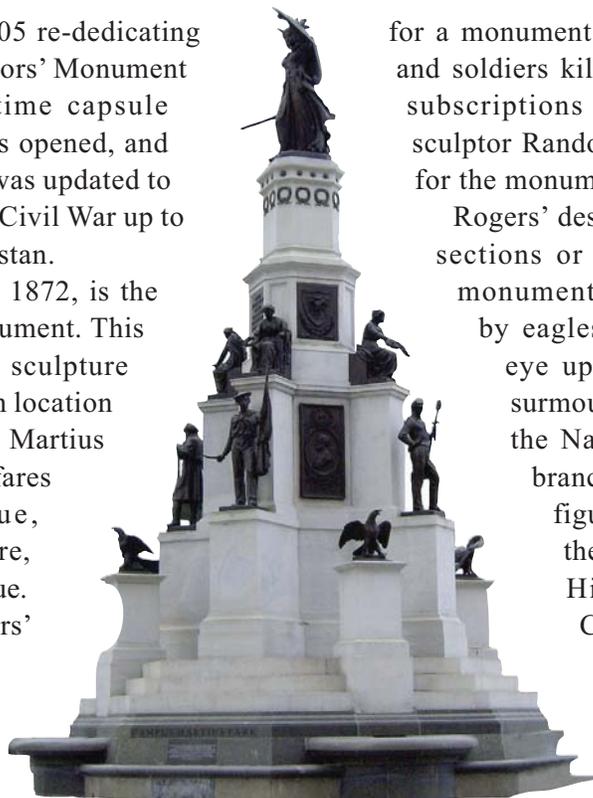
MICHIGAN NATIONAL GUARD IN HISTORY

Did you know...?

A ceremony was held in 2005 re-dedicating the Michigan Soldiers' and Sailors' Monument in downtown Detroit. The time capsule contained in the monument was opened, and the list of Michigan War Dead was updated to reflect all those killed from the Civil War up to April 2005 in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The monument, unveiled in 1872, is the state's foremost Civil War monument. This outstanding example of civic sculpture stands in a prominent downtown location on the southeast tip of Campus Martius where five principle thoroughfares intersect--Michigan Avenue, Monroe Street, Cadillac Square, Fort Street, and Woodward Avenue.

In 1865, the Michigan Soldiers' and Sailors' Monument Association was established by Governor Austin Blair in order to collect funds



for a monument commemorating Michigan's sailors and soldiers killed during the Civil War. Voluntary subscriptions from citizens were collected and sculptor Randolph Rogers was chosen as the artist for the monument.

Rogers' design consists of a series of octagonal sections that rise up from the base of the monument. The lowest sections are topped by eagles with raised wings that guide the eye upward to the next section which is surmounted by four male figures depicting the Navy, Infantry, Cavalry, and Artillery branches of the U.S. Army. Four female figures, resting on pedestals, are above the male statues and represent Victory, History, Emancipation, and Union. Capping the monument, the heroic Indian warrior figure "Michigan" brandishes a sword in her right hand and in her other she raises a shield, prepared for attack.

Michigan Air and Army National Guard Promotions

February 15, 2009 through May 15, 2009

Army Guard

Colonel

Cason, Henry
Royer, Curtis

Lt. Col.

Turner, Kelly

Maj.

Burrell, Brian
Gillahan, David
Wilson, Steven

Capt.

Chan, Stephen
Dykes, Robert
Livingston, Carl
Mieras, Margaret

1st Lt.

Brey, Herman
Corner, Jason
Matthews, Robert
Perkins, Micah
Shuster, Stephen
Zeld, Aaron

2nd Lt.

Blades, Charles
Cornielle, Franklin
Corsi, Anthony
Dailey, Jeremy
Dick, Joseph
Durand, Jaime
Hanson, Walter
Kelly, Sean
Kemp, Darnisha
Kempainen, Amie
May, Michael
Rhodes, Rasheed
Riley, Patrick
Sands, Richard
Stover, Lane
Vargas, Bernice
Ziffer, Margaret

Warrant Officer 4

Bruinsma, Joseph

Warrant Officer 3

Leblanc, Edmund

Warrant Officer 2

Bosley, Kerri
Chelilim, Kibeet

Warrant Officer 1

Isham, Douglas

Marth, Joseph
Simburger, Emily
Summers, Jennifer
Ziehmer, Ronald
Sgt. Maj.
Taylor, James
Master Sgt.
Albert, Jason
Campbell, Cynthia
Derryberry, Donald
Harrison, John
Inbody, Matthew
Lucas, Michael
Page, Kevin
Patchett, Robert
Salinas, Anthony
Sgt. 1st Class
Adams, Angela
Baker, Paul
Barrett, Joseph
Beauchamp, Orville
Chapman, John
Dutcher, Thomas
Dzierzyc, Jacob
Elsberry, Tony
Hauger, Jeffrey
Hopkins, Matthew
MCGovern, James
Mcnees, Michael
Moore, Robert
Palmer, William
Ressler, David
Robinson, Lester
Samsel, Roy
Staff Sgt.
Beauchamp, Duane
Bechtel, Cheryl
Bodis, Jeremy
Brevoort, Jonathan
Burgess, Craig
Campbell, Scott
Caudill, Chad
Chauvin, Steven
Deboe, Jonathan
Dillon, Paul
Dotson, Jeffrey

Feltman, Jay
Forcia, Lyle
Gardner, Scott
Gehring, Steven
Goke, John
Gullett, Justin
Hammond, Joel
Harrod, Nathan
Herr, Kevin
Houston, Anthony
Humphrey, Christopher
Jones, Matthew
Ketcham, Samuel
Kimble, Michael
Morin, Guy
Nash, Bryon
Pierce, Thomas
Ross, Crystal
Russell, Zachary
Rynca, Robert
Sybesma, Scott
Szymanski, Lacey
Thomas, Daniel
Tinkham, Brandon
Tompkins, Raymond
Vandam, Carl
Vonhinken, Carl
Wazny, Kyle
Weaver, Todd
Westrick, James
Sgt.
Agostini, Domenico
Barco, Isaac
Bozarth, Bret
Cook, Neal
Crawford, Alice
Dickinson, Terence
Easlick, Anthony
Eddington, Ericka
Fahey, Kristi
Ferguson, Diana
Ferrell, David
Fiorentino, Dawn
Fought, Christopher
Gillies, Aaron
Glomski, James
Graser, Scott
Gustafson, Robert
Hein, Zachary

Higgins, Shane
Jacob, Steven
Johnson, Matthew
Joseph, Jamie
Ketchum, Michael
Lakatos, Jeffrey
Lancaster, James
Lecureux, Jonathan
Leiffers, Leonard
Lewis, Timothy
Lundquist, Bradly
Malz, Megan
McCloskey, Kyle
McConnell, Joshua
McCurdy, David
Mcnally, Kenneth
Miller, Gerald
Moore, Leilynn
Morales, Ronald
Murdock, Jordan
Nevenhoven, Steven
Nick, Michael
Peterson, David
Prevost, Sarah
Priest, Frederick
Prince, Charmion
Rabb, Ronald
Raymond, Levi
Robak, Frank
Rodgers, Nicholas
Rogers, John
Runyon, Edward
Schmidt, Michael
Stubli, Nathan
Vandermoere, Curtis
Viau, Jason
Watson, Ronald
Weaver, Renita
Welsheimer, Douglas
Wright, Jennifer
Cpl.
Rinckey, Lacey
...
Adams, James

Ameer, Amani
Andrews, Amber
Annear, Kyle
Apololarrea, Jose
Arganbright, Danielle
Auge, Randy
Avramenko, Aleksandr
Baker, Joshua
Barber, Robert
Bartok, Ryan
Baruti, Akil
Bean, Joshua
Bedford, Ronald
Bejger, Jason
Bewley, Brian
Bhola, Thomas
Bice, Pete
Bickford, Michael
Bigham, Christopher
Block, Shon
Boerner, Corey
Boogren, Sarah
Bouchard, Justin
Brooks, Eric
Brown, Reed
Butler, David
Calisti, Steven
Carrier, Jamie
Champagne, Bradley
Chukreff, Hiufung
Clark, Jacob
Clark, Sean
Coburn, Brandon
Coe, Christol
Cook, Douglas
Cramer, Joshua
Crawford, Paula
Creisher, Amanda
Crocker, Jesse
Crossman, Dana
Darling, Marcellus

Deloach, Shalikia
Demam, Zeina
Depue, Bradley
Dietz, David
Doezema, Charles
Doran, Michael
Dubay, Ivy
Dudley, Christa
Dunn, Brandon
Felton, Eric
Flynn, Anthony
Foster, Daniel
France, James
Fry, Randy
Fudge, Lloyd
Garcia, Juan
Genta, Justin
Gill, Randall
Gipson, Nicholas
Givens, Tenera
Glinn, Michael
Good, Joseph
Greer, Joshua
Grove, Matthew
Haines, Brandon
Hall, Leana
Heller, Richard
Hopkins, Daniel
Howes, Raymond
Idstein, Ryan
Inman, James
Innes, Drew
Jando, Adam
Janulis, James
Johnson, Kyle
Jones, Justin
Khan, Muzimal
Kimes, Christopher
King, Alexander
Kivela, Steven
Klotz, George
Kohls, Michael
Kovach, Johnna
Lafean, Evan
Lamotte, Raoul
Langoni, Tyler
Larner, Joseph
Latreille, Kevin
Layle, Nathan

Leal, Antonio
Leazier, Clifford
Leiter, William
Leys, Chad
Librojo, Anthony
Lindell, Daniel
Lindle, Jonethan
Loar, Kyle
Lovell, Michael
Lucas, Ernestine
Macdonald, Aaron
Madden, Antonio
Mancini, Logan
Martin, Christopher
Maxwell, Cory
Mckechnie, Daisy
Metheny, Gary
Miller, Benjamin
Miller, Joshua
Morrow, Eric
Murphy, Laquanda
Newman, Chelsea
Nichelson, Joseph
Niemi, Elwood
Nuyen, Chad
Olney, Thomas
Orozco, Wellington
Palmer, Kyle
Piche, James
Platias, Nicholas
Ponce, Johnathon
Pratt, Gage
Puckett, Joshua
Punches, Ricky
Pupa, Mitchell
Ramirez, Tiffany
Recca, John
Reinbolt, Frank
Rennells, Christa
Rhodes, Joshua
Rickard, Kyle
Rock, Jaqueline
Rogers, Cecil
Rose, Scott

Michigan Air and Army National Guard Promotions

February 15, 2009 through May 15, 2009

Russell, Theron	Winkler, Jaykob	Crooks, Jasper	Howe, Nicholas	Merchant, Thomas	Taylor, Vincent	Felver, Anthony
Rutan, Christopher	Winter, Justin	Csernai, Jarred	Huckabay, Jane	Miller, Jonathon	Thomas, Larae	Gay, Nicholas
Sallee, Joshua	Woycik, Matthew	Damron, Trevor	Huss, Wesley	Moore, Joshua	Todd, Matthew	Gilmore, Eric
Sammons, Carl	Wykes, Chad	Davis, Sara	Hutchens, Ian	Mosley, Dorohn	Travis, Daniel	Gray, Jonathan
Schaaf, John	Xayarath, Jimmy	Debano, Daniel	Johnson, Scott	Mousseau, Eric	Trumpie, Samuel	Green, Jeffery
Schermerhorn, Cletus	Zay, Eric	Deitz, Leah	Jones, Gearld	Nelson, Troy	Urmanski, Thomas	Griswold, Frederick
Schipani, Michael	Zihlman, Eric	Dellar, Denise	Kellogg, Brandon	Niemi, David	Waldo, Alyssa	Hamilton, Harry
Schmits, Jeffrey	Zischke, Bradley	Demske, Joshua	Kinder, Benjamin	Palo, Casey	Wallace, Scott	Helton, Misty
Schopieray, Rita	Pfc.	Diaz, Alfredo	Kish, Joseph	Pasanski, Shawn	Weir, Leon	Henning, Anthony
Shaw, Devin	Alcorn, Terry	Diaz, Eric	Dorr, Julie	Pawczuk, Joseph	Welch, Christopher	Hilleary, Brett
Shorb, Brayden	Allor, Jessica	Dreysse, Cody	Dreyse, Cody	Pero, Caleb	White, Jason	Hobson, Alisha
Short, Scott	Anaya, Jorge	Driscoll, Benjamin	Driscoll, Benjamin	Phillips, Sean	Williams, Kenneth	Hoisington, Joshua
Smith, Cole	Anderson, Alvin	Egan, Thadeus	Dubas, Brandy	Prado, Javier	Willis, Joshua	Hooks, Matthew
Smith, Evan	Anderson, Joshua	Eldridge, Mark	Egan, Thadeus	Price, Lisa	Wood, Chaz	Horton, Martell
Solinski, Kendall	Asakevich, Joshua	Elliott, Jonathon	Eldridge, Mark	Putman, Jason	Woolner, Joshua	Johnston, Corey
Sperry, Amber	Assenmacher, Mitchell	Fannon, Cory	Fannon, Cory	Raupp, Jeremy	Wright, Nicholas	Jones, Robert
Spigelmyre, Joshua	Baca, Samuel	Farnsworth, Timothy	Farnsworth, Timothy	Reed, Nicholas	Young, Nicholas	Kaup, Ian
Spivey, Bobby	Baird, Justin	Felber, Justin	Felber, Justin	Reyescarlson, Manuel	Private 2	Kelly, James
Starr, Krista	Baisden, Brittani	Ferguson, Eric	Ferguson, Eric	Reynolds, Craig	Austin, Daniel	Keplinger, Matthew
Stearns, Michael	Ballard, Scott	Fester, Danielle	Fester, Danielle	Riggs, Patrick	Bailey, Jason	Kerberskey, Amber
Stevens, William	Barron, Ashley	Fidler, Trey	Fidler, Trey	Rivard, Nicholas	Bal, Allan	Kipen, Jason
Stoinski, Scott	Barth, Chad	Fields, Adam	Fields, Adam	Robb, Eric	Barkley, Nikolas	Klocko, Tyler
Templin, Mathew	Beach, Jared	Fisher, Jason	Fisher, Jason	Rocheft, Jeffrey	Beck, Justin	Krick, Joshua
Terdoest, Nicholas	Beeks, Alan	Foos, Lance	Foos, Lance	Rock, Jessica	Benson, Justin	Labonte, Christopher
Thoryk, Ryan	Billings, Ryan	Frankovich, Kyle	Frankovich, Kyle	Rockefeller, John	Birchett, Scott	Lambert, William
Tomczak, Miranda	Blakely, Joshua	Frantz, Tasonja	Frantz, Tasonja	Ross, Craig	Bloomquist, Richard	Lapoint, Lacey
Trumble, Peter	Blight, Nathan	Freiwald, Christopher	Freiwald, Christopher	Rotunda, Ruth	Bonner, Raymond	Lorio, Joshua
Tuggle, Scott	Bluhm, Kerry	Gearhart, Matthew	Gearhart, Matthew	Rowden, Tyler	Bowen, Jonathan	Malek, Spencer
Vanburen, Drew	Bolf, Jamie	Giuchin, Argelis	Giuchin, Argelis	Ruge, Kenneth	Brownlee, Alexander	Merren, Joshua
Walker, Daniel	Bos, Matthew	Gonzalez, Carlos	Gonzalez, Carlos	Schaedig, Patrick	Bucholtz, Kevin	Milner, Corey
Walton, Adontae	Brant, Cody	Gonzalez, Erik	Gonzalez, Erik	Schafer, Nicholas	Cady, Robert	Miranda, Jose
Warren, Wendall	Buitenhuis, Peter	Graham, Major	Graham, Major	Schwab, Calvin	Clark, Brian	Molnar, Mitchell
Watkins, Tony	Burch, Christopher	Grant, Nathan	Grant, Nathan	Sharp, Ryan	Cobb, Andiago	Morgan, Michael
Weemhoff, Christopher	Burgett, Jeffrey	Grimes, Troy	Grimes, Troy	Shier, Stephen	Coleman, William	Newman, Aaron
West, Devan	Cardwell, Chad	Harmon, Brian	Harmon, Brian	Sielawa, Carol	Conklin, Stephanie	Olger, Cameryn
Whiteside, James	Carrothers, Nicholas	Hendley, Adam	Hendley, Adam	Smith, Brian	Corey, Ashley	Orr, Joshua
Wiggers, Brett	Chirikas, Bernard	Herzog, Jacob	Herzog, Jacob	Smith, Lindsay	Deace, Brandon	Palmer, Christine
Williams, Nathan	Cook, Eric	Hewitt, Bryant	Hewitt, Bryant	Soeder, Steven	Ellison, Aaron	Parker, Eric
Williams, Robert	Corr, Daniel	Hickman, Timothy	Hickman, Timothy	Sparks, Timothy	Emersen, Shane	Plumb, Jacob
Wilsonrouse, Cody	Cote, Grace	Holcomb, Jennifer	Holcomb, Jennifer	Stenzel, Michael	Esser, Ashley	Queen, Christopher
Winkel, Brett		Houghtaling, Sue	Houghtaling, Sue	Stephen, Jeffrey	Farmerprice, Derrick	Rabb, Andrew
				Stjohn, Nicholas		Randall,
				Stremick,		
				Cassandra		
				Stultz,		
				Christopher		
				Swistara, Sean		
				Taylor, Caitlin		

Air National Guard Promotions continued

Amanda	Tapani, Bradley	Seely, David	Slater, Trever	Berger, Sven	Chase, Matthew	Strom, Aaron
Randall, Roderick	Tefend, Mark	Maj.	Vogel, Hillary	Crocker, Joseph	Deno, David	Townsley, Destiny
Reinert, Dustin	Tillmon, Joshua	Castro, Arturo	Master Sgt.	Cuttle, Scott	Edwards, Teresa	Turner, Jason
Reis, Travis	Trivett, Alfred	Ring, Kurtis	Cressell, Charles	Fedon, Deborah	Ganzie, Kenneth	Williams, John
Richardson, Amanda	Vaughn, Nathan	Laske, James	Knepp, Hope	Forche, Kenneth	Garrison, Cana	Wortley, Jeffrey
Rushton, Evan	Villareal, Alejandro	Miller, Michelle	Krzewski, John	Hendricks, Steven	Gootee, Joseph	Senior Airman
Salazar, Christopher	Warnock, Christopher	Capt.	Manor, Heather	Huff, Matthew	Gruss, Jon	Baker, Benjamin
Schott, Terry	Wilkerson, Thomas	Platz, Christopher	McKendry, Royce	Lee, Kinya	Hanna, Dennis	Bastow, Alexander
Schroen, Allison	Wirth, Dustin	1st Lt.	Morphew, Hope	Lewis, Dana	Helsel, Amber	Bayones, William
Seabolt, Danielle	Wittenmyer, Richard	2nd Lt.	Nicholls, Mark	McCroskery, Matthew	Holtz, Jonathan	Burdett, Brian
Seratti, Michael		Rexer, William	Peri, Kirk	Reichel, John	Hyde, Victor	Frohlich, Robert
Sharpe, Joshua	Air Guard	Toth, Joseph	Porter, Dawn	Reiss, Gregory	Kindt, Justin	Groll, Phillip
Snyder, Michael	Col.	Chief Master Sgt.	Schneider, Danniell	Rhea, George	Maher, Jacob	Kirchoff, Kenneth
Squires, Lisa	Sanclemente, David	Eddy, David	Trombetta, Jennifer	Schaeffer, Kimberley	Manuel, Teresa	Layton, Andrew
Stone, Angelica	Lt. Col.	Neill, David	Wesley, Jeffrey	Staff Sgt.	Miller, Sarah	Lepek, Derek
Stringer, Marzel	Campbell, Sean	Senior Master Sgt.	Tech. Sgt.	Abdallah, Mariam	Miller, Thomes	Manning, Cecil
Stuer, Joshua	Holtz, Shawn	Barros, Michael	Alexander, Matthew	Bigler, Shaun	Milligan, John	Preston, Michael
Sullivan, Ian	Leon, Constantine	Senior Master Sgt.	Anderson, Christopher	Brillon, Michael	Polk, Daniel	Postma, Heath
Sundquist, Gary		Donohue, Hillary Johnson,	Baker, Israel	Bruinsma, Andrew	Postma, Heath	Runey, Curtis
Tackett, Bryant		Brentnell	Bastien, Richard	Burgess, Eric	Runey, Curtis	Sheets, Kenneth
Tackett, Patrick		Klein, Stephen			Shinn, Brad	Shneiderman, Arren
					Sniderman, Arren	Turner, Brandon
						Wade, Kevin
						Airman
						Ingle, Sara



Dale Earnhardt Jr., driver of the number 88 National Guard Chevrolet, receives a coin from Brigadier General Michael Nevin, commander of the 177th Military Police Brigade at a rally for Michigan International Speedway. The event was held at the Motor City Casino in Detroit where UAW workers and Michigan National Guard Soldiers had the opportunity to listen to Jr. speak and sign autographs. Michigan National Guard photos by Staff Sgt. Helen Miller

Michigan National Guard Fallen Heroes



Sgt. Ansevica Voldemos of Latvia, died May 1, 2009 near Jalalabad, Afghanistan when a rocket propelled grenade and mortar attack hit his outpost. Voldemos was assigned to the Operational Mentor and Liason Team as a partner of the Michigan National Guard.



Pfc. Adrejs Merkusevs of Latvia, died May 1, 2009 near Jalalabad, Afghanistan when a rocket propelled grenade and mortar attack hit his outpost. Merkusevs was assigned to the Operational Mentor and Liason Team as a partner of the Michigan National Guard.



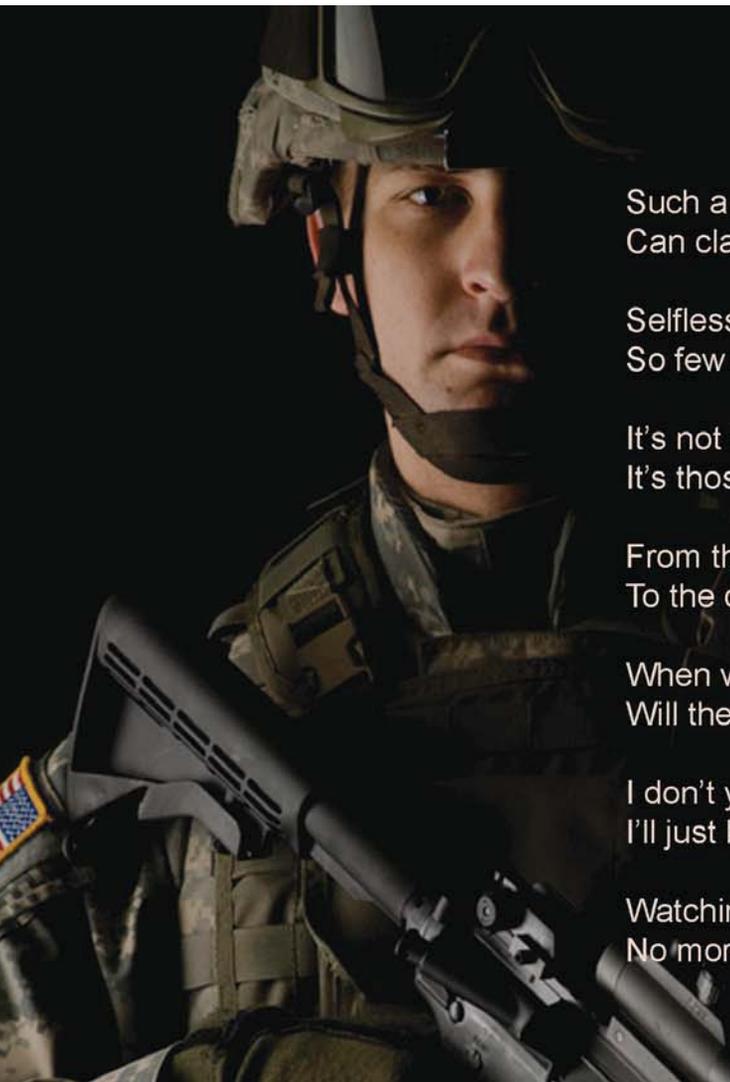
TAPS

Maj. Robert Trinklein, (ret), 94, Jan. 5, 2009
Sgt. Maj. Donald Pickett, (ret), 82, Jan. 17, 2009
Master Sgt. Bruce Jacobs, (ret), 83, Feb. 9, 2009
Lt. Col. Donald Robbers, (ret), 91, Feb. 18, 2009
Sgt. Maj. Derl Beals, (ret), 79, Feb. 27, 2009
Sgt. Charles Erickson, 67, Mar. 18, 2009
Sgt. Rene Aguirre, (ret), 57, Mar. 20, 2009
Sgt. James Erickson, (ret), 62, Apr. 5, 2009
Senior Master Sgt. Milton Crassweller, (ret) 79, Apr. 8, 2009

Col. Dean Crowder, (ret), 80, Apr. 13, 2009
Capt. Silas Polk III, (ret), 65, Apr. 23, 2009
Sgt. 1st Class Francis Bates, (ret), 63, Apr. 25, 2009
Staff Sgt. Henry Coyer, 63, May 5, 2009
Staff Sgt. Lester Pepler, (ret), 58, May 8, 2009
Lt. Col. Donald Small, (ret), 83, May 20, 2009

Department of Military and Veterans Affairs
Michigan Army and Air National Guard
3411 N. Martin Luther King Blvd.
Lansing, Michigan 48906

PRESORTED STANDARD
US POSTAGE
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LANSING MI
PERMIT #1096



WARRIORS

Such a small slice, of the American society today;
Can claim this way of life, can say this is their way.

Selfless service and devotion, to their Nation and their State;
So few among the huddled masses, could even begin to relate.

It's not the physical hardships, which cause most of the strife.
It's those we knew and lost, those grand souls who shared our life.

From the boy we knew a minute, to a friend of all time;
To the one you knew in passing, or the one who'd lay it on the line.

When will the bagpipes stop? When will Taps be done?
Will the services ever cease? Can there be a last one?

I don't yet know the answer; I'm not sure any do;
I'll just keep my solemn vow, and pray the Soldiers do too.

Watching as the days pass, praying we are nearing the end;
No more brothers or sisters lost; no more troops to send.

SFC Jeremy Plaxton