

THE WOLVERINE GUARD

**Detroit Lions Partnership Forged
MIARNG's Finest, 2009
Patriotic Tattoos and Traditions**





Latvia's Ambassador to the United States, Andrejs Pildegovics (far left) and Defense Atache to the United States and Canada, Col. Juris Bezzubovs (middle) receive a Michigan geography lesson from General Cutler. The Latvians were in Michigan for a few days in early October to tour Camp Gralving and meet with the Governor Jennifer M. Granholm. Michigan National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. Helen Miller



General Cutler stands with Soldiers from the 1431st Engineer Co. (SAPPER) in Afghanistan after presenting them with Purple Heart medals. (From left to right) Pfc. Albert Hopkins, Sgt. Daniel Deroche and Spc. Kyle Loar all sustained injuries during their deployment. Photo courtesy of Capt. Stephen Warren



General Cutler presents former state Command Sgt. Maj. Kenneth Slee with the Legion of Merit medal at Slee's retirement dinner. Slee served five years as the state's senior enlisted advisor and more than 40 years in the Michigan Army National Guard. Michigan National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. Helen Miller



*From the desk of
The Adjutant General*



TAG
TALK

From time to time each one of us, I suspect, has an experience that seems to “connect the dots” in our lives. On October 30th I had one of those events. During the last week of October I was scheduled to attend a conference at Lackland AFB, in San Antonio, Texas. When the commander of the Air Force Basic Training program heard that a General Officer would be on base, he asked if I would be willing to serve as the reviewing officer for that week’s graduating class of Air Force Basic Trainees. I gladly accepted his offer and was exceptionally glad that I had done so.

What he didn’t know, but I did, was that almost exactly thirty nine years ago, Airman Cutler had participated in a similar graduation ceremony right there at Lackland AFB. As I stood there watching all 614 of those outstanding young men and women march in the parade, I was struck by how fast the past thirty nine years had gone by! At the same time, I could not help but be filled with tremendous pride. I found myself reflecting on how proud I have been to serve our country each and every one of those years. The longer I wear this uniform, the prouder I am to do so. I was also incredibly proud of the marvelous young airmen I saw before me. It was obvious they were proud of what they had accomplished and were more than ready to go about the business of serving our country.

As I administered their oath of enlistment, I was reminded that each one of those young men and women had volunteered to serve in our nation’s armed forces during a time of war. When they repeated that oath to “support and defend our constitution, against all enemies...”, I knew they were doing so with the full understanding that they would undoubtedly be going into harms way some time soon. I was honored to be in the presence of such great young patriots.

This experience was a powerful reminder to me of what a privilege it is to serve and to lead, in our nation’s armed forces. It is such an honor to serve with soldiers and airmen who are so dedicated to preserving the freedoms we all enjoy. Each one of us, regardless of our rank or years of service, is on the same team, dedicated to the same mission, and fighting the same fight. I am honored to be a part of it!

As I close I want to wish each of you and your families a wonderful Holiday Season. My wife and I are thankful that we do, indeed, live in a country where we are free to celebrate the birth of our Savior. As we do so, we wish you all the very best as you celebrate this Holiday Season consistent with your particular faith and family traditions. May God bless you as you do so!

Thomas G. Cutler
Maj. Gen. Thomas G. Cutler



Thanksgiving Recognition to our Veterans

The Department of Military and Veterans Affairs marked National POW/MIA Recognition Day September 18, 2009 with our annual remembrance ceremony in the State Capitol Rotunda. Each POW/MIA Recognition Day the nation pauses to honor the service and sacrifice of American Veterans whose enduring faith in country, family and comrades in arms gave them a rare courage that continues to inspire our nation. The country seeks to "Honor Their Service and Fulfill Their Trust". On this day the Nation renews its pledge for the fullest possible accounting of military personnel. Missing Michigan service members include: 361 from the Korean War, 53 from the Vietnam War, four from the Cold War, and one Soldier from Operation Iraqi Freedom.

In 2009, when Margaret Mocerri, President/CEO of the M.E. Davenport Foundation, and granddaughter of its namesake, M.E. Davenport, began a search for a foundation with a vision of assisting Veterans, she partnered with the Friends of Michigan Veterans Homes Inc. Ms. Mocerri has close ties with the military, her father, Robert W. Sneden, and uncle, Martin Wynalda are WWII veterans. Her sister, Kathleen Sneden is a Captain in the U.S. Navy. The Davenport Foundation awarded the Friends organization, a grant in the amount of \$50,000 to assist in maintaining the quality of life for those who call the Michigan Veterans Homes, their home. The D.J. Jacobetti Home for Veterans received \$15,000 towards their Eden Approach initiative and the Grand Rapids Home for Veterans received \$35,000 towards the installation of 77 specially adapted television sets for members' rooms.

With the celebration of Veterans Day and Wreaths Across America let us be Thankful for our Veterans and the Men and Women Serving Today. Without their love of our country, the United States of America would cease to exist. It is such an honor to serve with You.

God Bless You, God Bless Family, God Bless Our Veterans, God Bless America!

Happy Holidays!

Carolyn Mocerri





Sgt. Bruce Borowski and Staff Sgt. Penn Stafford from the 182nd Field Artillery, Forward Support Company, based in Detroit, Mich., pose with Roary, the mascot for the Detroit Lions football team before the Nov. 1 game. The 182nd and 119th Field Artillery units were honored in a pre-game ceremony for their service and upcoming deployments to Iraq. Michigan National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. Helen Miller.

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Capt. Corissa Barton

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CSM
From the desk of
The State Senior Enlisted Advisor


Well it's been a very fast and interesting two months. It's a steep learning curve but manageable (one step at a time).

In my short time in office I have had the privilege to welcome home Soldiers from Afghanistan with the 1431st in Calumet, my first Freedom Salute for OMLT II in Lansing at JFHQ, a couple promotion/hiring boards, several TAG and other staff meetings, two In-Progress Reviews (IPRs) for deploying units, a trip to Rock Island, Ill., to visit Wounded Warriors, and I recently attended the first ever Joint Senior Leader Conference (JSLC).

During my tour at NGB I attended my first NCO Induction Ceremony, "Outstanding." Once a month the Chief Surgeon and I would visit the Wounded Warriors (WII) at Walter Reed Army Medical Center, greeted and offloaded WII at Andrews Air Force Base.

Now I want to reflect on the Year of the NCO. This year will always be special to me. During this year I was selected to serve as the Senior Enlisted Medical Advisor for the Chief Surgeon at the National Guard Bureau (NGB), selected and promoted to CSM for the 146th Multifunctional Medical Battalion (MMB) and selected as Michigan's ninth State Command Sergeant Major and Senior Enlisted Advisor.

I say that to say how proud and thankful I am to be an NCO, and how thankful I am to have been given the opportunity to hold these positions at this highest level.

Even though the dedicated Year of the NCO is coming to an end, remember every year is the Year of the NCO. Remember set your goals high, live the Army Values, believe and understand the NCO, Airmen and Soldiers Creed and you too can "Achieve."

A word to the wise "always stay prepared" (MOSQ, APFT and NCOES).

"No one is more professional than I. I am a Noncommissioned Officer, a leader of Soldiers."

Last but not least I want to again thank Maj. Gen. Cutler, Command Sgt. Maj. Slee all of my commanders, CSM's, 1SG's and all of my fellow Soldiers, Grey Foxes, friends and family that helped me along the way.



Command Sgt. Maj. Delbert P. Husband



Command Sgt. Maj. Kenneth Slee and Command Sgt. Maj. Delbert Husband shake hands as Husband accepts the position of the ninth Command Sgt. Maj. and Senior Enlisted Advisor for the Michigan Army National Guard. Michigan National Guard photo by Sgt. 1st Class Jim Downen

Wolverine Guard Reader Survey

You may also take this survey on-line! Go to <https://www.mi.ngb.army.mil/WGsurvey>.

Who are you?

- MIARNG Officer Retired DMVA employee Guard family member
- MIANG Enlisted Civilian Federal civilian employee

Do you read "The Wolverine Guard?"

- Yes Occasionally Rarely No

The articles are...

- too long of an appropriate length too short

The writing style is...

- too basic too technical/hard to understand just right

How often do you read...

- | | | | |
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I like to read about (check all that apply):

- deployed units members/units receiving awards Guard benefits articles about retirees
- Guard history new military equipment, vehicles training

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- hard copy mailed to my home digital copy emailed digital copy posted on the Web

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What do you like best about "The Wolverine Guard?" _____

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What information or articles should be added to "The Wolverine Guard?" _____

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Get Ready, Get Set, GO

Story by Sgt. Lee E. Fisher

Michigan Army National Guard Soldiers from several units processed through the Soldier Readiness Program (SRP) held at the Fort Custer Armory in early November.

Prior to deploying, all Soldiers complete the SRP process to verify they are deployable by regular Army standards for health, personal equipment and personnel records. Personnel from Joint Forces Headquarters based in Lansing, Mich., oversee the SRP operation.

Soldiers from the 1225th Command Service Support Battalion and the 46th Military Police Command filled the hallways, drill floor, and classrooms of the armory. Each made their way through the different stations set up to complete the SRP process. The drill floor was covered with individual Soldiers' equipment as they displayed each item called out by a controller to verify that the item was present in the Soldiers' duffel bag.

Many civilian health specialists assist in the process by providing services in the medical arena. Dental x-rays, hearing tests, eye exams, and blood draws are required for all deploying Soldiers. "I feel it is an honor to help the Soldiers

in preparing for their duty," said Mary Balke a dental hygienist with the Complete Mobile Dentistry. This is the fifth SRP that Balke has assisted with.

Both units will be deploying to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom in mid 2010.

The SRP process ensures the Soldiers of the Michigan Army National Guard are ready and able to defend America's freedom, their volunteering to serve shows their willingness.

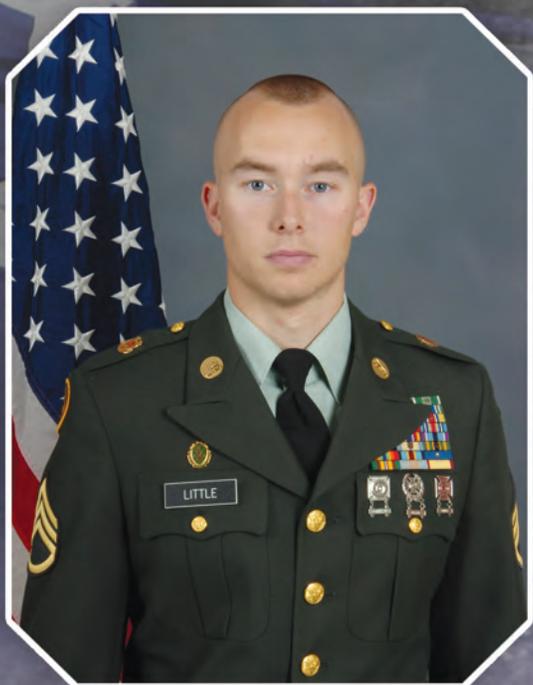


Above- Lt. Col. Kenneth Reed, a dentist with the Soldier Readiness Program, examines Sgt. 1st Class Thomas Binkley from the 1225th Combat Support Service Battalion, during the SRP at Fort Custer Training Center in Augusta, Mich. Lt. Col. Reed returned in February from a deployment in Tikrit, Iraq and is looking forward to his fourth deployment, this time to Afghanistan in mid-2010. Michigan National Guard photo by Spc. Lisa Bates



Left- Pfc. Teilah Sprowl, a military police officer with the 46th Military Police Command, has her blood drawn by nurse, Sharon Kotrba, during the medical portion of the 46th Military Police Command's Soldier Readiness Program Nov. 7, at Fort Custer Training Center in Augusta, Mich. The 46th MP Command will deploy to Afghanistan mid 2010. Sprowl is a native of Flint, Mich. Michigan National Guard photo by Spc. Lisa Bates

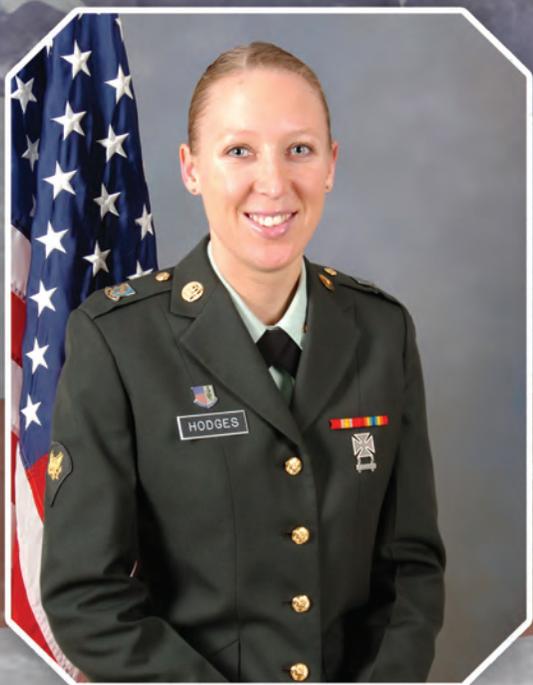
Michigan Army National Guard



NCO of the Year
Staff Sgt. Adam C. Little
1st Battalion, 177th Regiment



MG Earl R. Stewart Medal
Staff Sgt. Adam C. Little
1st Battalion, 177th Regiment



Soldier of the Year
Spc. Catherine M. Hodges
HHC 3rd Battalion, 238th Aviation



Honor Guard Soldier of the Year
Sgt. Scott Kinney
Battery C, 1st Battalion, 119th Field Artillery

ard's Finest Soldiers of 2009

NOTE: Michigan Air National Guard's Finest of 2009 will be printed in the Spring 2010 issue of the Wolverine Guard



Gen. Douglas MacArthur Leadership Award
Capt. Tiffaney Laurin
HHC 1225th CSSB



Warrant Officer of the Year
CW3 Todd D. Maclaren
HHD JFHQ



Recruiting NCOIC of the Year
Master Sgt. Thomas Kaiser
Recruiting and Retention Command



Recruiter of the Year
Sgt. 1st Class David Stafford
Recruiting and Retention Command

1434th Engineers

Bridging the Cultural Divide

Story by Spc. Brian Johnson

With just over half of the project complete at the al-Muthana Airfield in the Karkh district of Baghdad, the Soldiers of the 6th Iraqi Engineer Regiment and the U.S. Army are building many things. Not only are both groups working in partnership to build a new operations center but are also tearing down the divides that separate them.

The old airfield, which is now being converted into a new Iraqi Army base, is a prime example of many successful joint American-Iraqi engineering missions.

As part of the project, the Soldiers of the Grayling, Michigan based 1434th Engineer Company, 101st Eng. Bn., 225th Eng. Bde. are helping to ensure that the Sixth Iraqi Army Soldiers have the necessary skills to be proficient and embark on future construction without U.S. military support.

Sgt. Mark Gosbeth of Monroe, Mich., is the Construction Operations Sergeant for the Karkh operations site. According to Gosbeth, the project has been a learning experience for all involved.

“For the U.S. Soldiers on the jobsite, we have had to overcome the language barriers between us (U.S. and Iraqi forces),” stated Gosbeth.

“For many of the Iraqi’s, this is on-the-job training for them to increase their carpentry skills.”

Gosbeth, who has been with the project since it began, said that the Iraqi’s are very hard workers and eager to learn. Many of them have even taken ownership in aspect of the project to include site security.

“Once the initial language barrier was overcome, we haven’t had any problems,” stated Gosbeth.

Spc. Chad Nuyen of Kalamazoo, Mich., explained that the carpentry skills of the Iraqi’s that they have been working with vary.

“For many of the Iraqi’s (that we are working with), they have a very basic idea of how to do carpentry work. There are a handful of the Iraqi Soldiers that have advanced carpentry knowledge. This project has helped everyone become more proficient in their skills.”

Since the project began in late August, many of the 1434th Soldiers have developed personal friendships with the Sixth Iraqi Engineer Regiment Soldiers. One of those is Pvt. Aaron Piggott of Jackson, Mich.

“We went to dinner with them the other day,” Piggott recounted.

“They made this egg and vegetable dish, and you eat it with a tortilla. They are very generous and very enthusiastic about us being there. After we all went back to the job site, and threw them a good ol’ fashioned BBQ”.

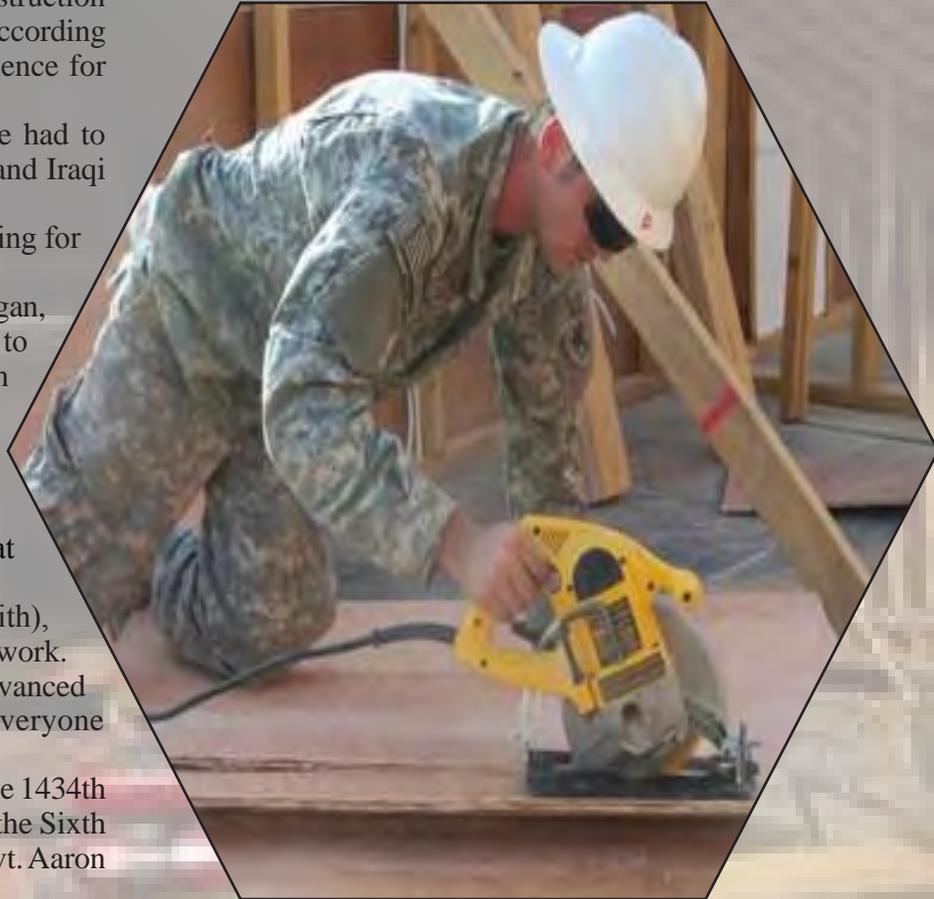
Overall, it was a wonderful evening and a lot of good

came out of breaking bread with their new friends. He believes that what they are doing is establishing good working relationships with the IA, and it seems that all the hard work is starting to pay off.

“Our cultures are so different and we have somehow managed to communicate regardless of the language barriers.”

For Piggott, the experience of working with the Iraqi Army has been very educating. Throughout the project, Piggott has noticed an Iraqi sense of pride come out.

“In the end they will have a great place to train, and lead their troops as they become a stronger Iraq”, claimed Piggott.



Spc. Travis Porter of Benzonia, Mich., uses a saw to finish cutting a board for a wall. Porter is with the Michigan Army National Guard’s 1434th Eng. Co. The 1434th is working on a joint construction project with the 6th Iraqi Engineer Regiment building a Joint Tactical Operations Center at the al-Muthana Airfield in the Karkh district of Baghdad. Michigan National Guard photo by Spc. Brian Johnson



Pictured left- Spc. Jeff Rochefort of Munising, Mich., works with Spc. Chad Nuyen of Kalamazoo, Mich., to lay metal sheeting for the new Joint Tactical Operations Center in Baghdad. Michigan National Guard photo by Spc. Brian Johnson

Pictured right- Pvt. Aaron Piggott (left) of Jackson, Mich., and Private First Class Humberto Fraire (right) of Fennville, Mich., take a moment to study where to lay the next section of metal roof sheeting. Michigan National Guard photo by Spc. Brian Johnson



Michigan Soldiers

Making a Difference in “AO Wolverine”

Story by Capt. Brian Genz

The Michigan Soldiers serving with Company F, 425th Infantry are making significant contributions to the overall improvements in security and quality of life in the Ninawa Province in Iraq.

Shortly after completing the Transfer of Authority on August 4th, 2009, Company F received a change of mission that included serving as the “battle space owner” of a 1,628 square kilometer area north of the Sinjar Mountains. The sector was named “AO Wolverine”, and Company F Soldiers have been hard at work conducting full spectrum operations to make a difference there ever since. The company’s main activities focus on three areas: border interdictions, time-sensitive targeting, and civil-military operations.

Border interdiction remains a critical task in “AO Wolverine”, despite the reduced number of foreign fighters entering Iraq over the past two years. As coalition forces work to set conditions for a successful election in January 2010, the impact of each spectacular attack in Iraq is greatly amplified. The long range surveillance platoons in the sector are tightly integrated with intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance (ISR) systems employed along the Syrian border. The platoons have conducted tactical screens, reconnaissance, and surveillance operations in order to disrupt the flow of foreign fighters into Iraq. This “persistent stare” along the border, along with Company F’s partnered efforts with the Iraqi Border Police, has enabled the LRS platoons to interdict and detain more than 60 individuals so far.

In September, Company F was tasked with an additional mission called Time Sensitive Targeting or TST. This joint mission involves a partnership with the 3rd Iraqi Army Division Commando platoon and provides coalition forces with the ability to project ground forces



A UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter flies past members of Company F, 2nd Platoon, 425th Infantry, while they execute a time-sensitive targeting (TST) mission in AO Wolverine. Michigan National guard photo courtesy of Capt. Brian Genz

anywhere in the Brigade Area of Operations by rotary wing insertion. LRS Platoons rotate between interdiction missions, TST missions, and their refit cycles. The TST platoon conducts both planned and unplanned missions focused on interdicting foreign terrorist and fighter (FTF) infiltration routes. The goal is to deny the flow of lethal aid and reduce drivers of instability in the AO. As Company F transitions to a new higher headquarters, the TST capability will continue to be a lethal asset in the commander’s toolkit.

Civil-military operations (CMO) are outside the traditional scope of long range surveillance Company operations. Yet the CMO efforts are a key component of coalition forces’ efforts to create enduring effects in Iraq as the United States executes its responsible drawdown of forces. The Soldiers in Company F have risen to the occasion and morphed into effective facilitators of CMO operations in “AO Wolverine.” The Michigan

Army National Guard provided funding to send four key leaders to the Counterinsurgency (COIN) Academy in Ft. Leavenworth, Kan., prior to the deployment. This exposure to the COIN perspective proved valuable as the company leadership determined the best means of addressing the problem set in the AO. In addition to key leader engagements and humanitarian aid food distribution facilitated by the LRS platoons, the company's headquarters element has partnered with advisors from the Department of State Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT) to assist with CMO. The headquarters element provides transportation and security for the medical, agricultural, legal, and economic advisers from the PRT. In addition to the PRT's efforts in "AO Wolverine", Company F is responsible for initiating and completing reconstruction and development projects. Currently, the PRT is working on six well projects to provide clean drinking water in local villages. Company F is initiating four projects, including the renovation of a girls' school, the installation of street lights in a local market, the repair of a gate at the outskirts of the main city in the AO, and the renovation of a clinic. Company F is working closely with the PRT team as they facilitate medical training for Kurdish women. This training leverages the expertise of the PRT physician and coalition forces medical personnel to improve mother-infant care and midwife skills, in an area that has an infant mortality rate which is approximately nine times that of the United States.

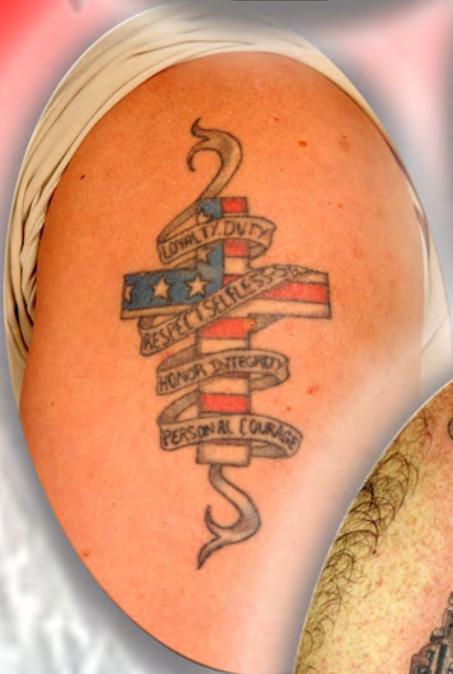
Company F will continue to engage in full spectrum operations in "AO Wolverine", working hard to do its part in the effort to improve security and quality of life in the Ninawa Province as the United States attempts to set conditions for a successful election in Iraq in January 2010. The Michigan Soldiers watching over "AO Wolverine" are proud to be an important part of this historic period in Iraq.



Sgt. 1st Class Jeremy Plaxton talks with local villagers through an interpreter during a Key Leader Engagement. KLE's are an integral part in the success of Company F and their mission. Michigan National Guard photo courtesy of Capt. Brian Genz



Spc. Linden Henry is surrounded by children in Sununi. The company's main activities focus on three areas: border interdictions, time-sensitive targeting, and civil-military operations. Winning the hearts and minds of the local children is a great example of civil-military operations. Michigan National Guard photo courtesy of Capt. Brian Genz



The Military Tattoo

The military tattoo has a long history within the various branches of service in the United States. Soldiers have come to view the tattoo as a sign of commitment to their fellow soldiers and as an identifying mark. Divisions and brigades take pride in their own symbols and characters and soldiers look forward to the day when they can wear that symbol and hold their head high. The United States Navy has the longest and richest military tattoo tradition. The anchor symbol has become one of the most easily recognizable tattoos in the world. The sailors introduced the practice of tattooing to the other military branches in the early 1900's when they would return from voyages that had literally taken them around the world. As the sailors traveled to distant places and saw that the art of tattooing was alive and well, they began to create tattoos that represented who they were as a group. The Army soon noticed the practices of the Navy. Many Army tattoos currently utilize some variation of the American Flag. Whether the flag is integrated into an eagle's wing or into the shape of a heart, the red white and blue usually plays a prominent role. Another theme commonly found in a military tattoo, particularly in the Army, is that of the POW-MIA theme. These tattoos pay homage to the prisoners of war who are missing in action. Those who serve in the Air Force typically sport tattoos with wings incorporated in them. Pilots may include numbers or details of a certain fighter. The history of Air Force tattoos is still being written, but as the practice of tattooing becomes more popular, it is growing within the ranks. Amongst people who have fought side by side, tattoos are much more than just ink and pictures. A military tattoo is a constant reminder of the hardships and struggles that were endured as a team, and of those who may have been left behind. Even once some people have left the military, they choose to get a new tattoo in order to remember a fallen comrade or other momentous event.



Servicemembers Coming Home Isn't Always Easy Tell it **Like it is**

Story by Marcia Valenstein, Associate Professor, Dept. of Psychiatry, University of Michigan, and Adrian Blow, Assistant Professor, Department of Family & Child Ecology, Michigan State University

Having some difficulties with reintegration? Concerned that you may be the only one in your unit with issues? Michigan National Guard members returning from deployments in Iraq and Afghanistan between 2007 and 2009 provided candid responses about their reintegration experiences – responses that may surprise you.

Michigan National Guard leaders and faculty members from Michigan State University and University of Michigan have been researching the needs of returning service members so that services for Michigan's citizen Soldiers and Airmen can be improved. They have asked returning veterans to help by sharing their reintegration experiences.

Guardsmen participating in reunion workshops sponsored by the Michigan National Guard Road to Reintegration Program were asked to complete surveys about their reintegration experiences. The survey was long and asked questions about deployment, employment, symptoms of PTSD or depression and treatment experiences. Service members were also asked how willing they would be to talk to specific individuals about their issues and symptoms.

Between 40-65 percent of the Guard members attending the reintegration workshops participated in the survey. (This response rate is high enough to indicate typical experiences of all returning Guard members.)

Soldiers reported high rates of symptoms characteristic of PTSD and depression. Approximately 11 percent had PTSD symptoms; 22 percent had depressive symptoms; and eight percent had suicidal thoughts within the past year. Approximately 29 percent reported hazardous alcohol use which may increase risk of accidents or increase the likelihood of problems in jobs or relationships. In combination, fully 45 percent of Soldiers reported some difficulty with depression, PTSD, suicidal thoughts or alcohol. Strains in marital or other close relationships

were also common with 43 percent of service members reporting some distress in their relationship with a spouse or significant other. These numbers indicate service members are not alone in having symptoms of depression, PTSD or suicidal thoughts.

About half of the Soldiers reporting PTSD symptoms, depressive symptoms or problematic alcohol use reported they had sought help for these issues.

When it comes to talking about reintegration issues, about 47 percent reported they were "highly likely" to talk to their spouse; 30 percent would talk with another military

peer; 25 percent would speak with a military chaplain; and 17 percent said they would talk with a military officer or a civilian doctor. Just 15 percent would talk with a military doctor, 13 percent to a civilian social worker and 12 percent to a military social worker. These results confirm that spouses and in-unit military peers may be key in helping Soldiers get care.

There are many resources should a Soldier decide that he or a buddy could use some help. These include emergency resources such as Maj. Robert

LaGrou, Michigan Army National Guard state surgeon's office at 248-703-1869 and Chaplain Herbert Heavner at 517-285-6846. Soldiers can also contact Dr. Elizabeth Perkins, Michigan Army National Guard director of Psychological Health at 616-401-8754 or military family life consultants Chris Sullins (269-832-8202) or Maritza Arseneau (517-599-2719).

Since many Soldiers prefer talking to peers, a program in which Soldiers help Soldiers is also available. The Buddy to Buddy Program trains Soldiers within each Guard unit to "check in" with each other. In addition, any Soldier (in the Guard or returning veterans from other services) can call a "Buddy 2" at 1-888-82BUDDY (822-8339). The Buddy Twos are volunteer veterans, not in the Michigan Guard, who offer free and confidential consultation.



Spc. Daniel Foster from Detachment 2, Company B, 351st Aviation Support Battalion, is reunited with his son after a 12-month tour of duty in Iraq. Michigan National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. Helen Miller

Buddy TO Buddy

Michigan Vets-Shoulder to Shoulder

Story by Sgt. 1st Class Jim Downen

While we can all use “a little help from a friend,” American war veterans before the Vietnam War had very little peer assistance with claiming earned benefits and referrals to counseling. It wasn’t until after the Vietnam War that veterans started helping other veterans by establishing assistance centers that evolved into Veterans Administration Vet Centers. Tom Devine, a former Michigan Army National Guard Soldier with the Saginaw-based Company B, 125th Infantry, and Don Behm have expanded the peer outreach approach by starting what became the Buddy to Buddy program for the Michigan Army National Guard to assist Guard combat veterans returning from Iraq and Afghanistan. The two Vietnam veterans came up with the concept while Company B, 125th Infantry was deployed to Iraq in 2005 and 2006.

The Buddy to Buddy program is based on the premise that combat veterans serve as understanding peers who can help other combat veterans secure benefits and seek out counseling for mental health or family issues. The shared experiences these buddies have give their observations and recommendations credence in the eyes of the comrade they are helping.

The program started with Devine and Behm mentoring Michigan Army National Guard Soldiers of the Saginaw and Alpena, Mich., based Company B, 125th Infantry after they returned from Iraq on June 19, 2006. Buddy to Buddy has expanded, with the University of Michigan and Michigan State University social work departments providing counseling training for the designated buddy representatives. Buddy to Buddy has received private donations from people like Fred Wilpon, owner of the New York Mets.

Buddy to Buddy has expanded and has been incorporated into the Michigan National Guard “Road to Reintegration” program which assists returning veterans to reconnect with their families and communities. The Michigan Army National Guard is working to have five to fifteen trained buddies assigned to each company-sized unit throughout the state. The number of buddies per company is dependent on the number of Soldiers assigned to the unit.

Ideally, each buddy will be a category-one drilling member assigned to the unit, however, veterans of any war can volunteer and serve as a category-two, non-unit member buddy and assist a unit with peer and benefits counseling.

Michigan Army National Guard Soldiers needing Buddy to Buddy information can call (888) 82-BUDDY (888) 822-8339.



roadto reintegration

for Soldiers and their Supporters

A Michigan National Guard Program

**Talk confidentially with
a vet who’s been there.
For more information call
1-888-822-8339**



Detroit Lions

Honor **Field Artillery Units**

Story by Laurie Stone

The Michigan Army National Guard and the Detroit Lions organization formed a partnership that would prove to be a great asset for creating public awareness of Guard Soldiers.

While communities provide unwavering support for their local Soldiers, often times in sprawling metro areas like Detroit, which is home to many Citizen-Soldiers, the mission of the National Guard is at times unclear to the general public.

Much like the warrior spirit of a Citizen-Soldier, Lions fans continue to support their team in the most difficult of times. Their fan base, made up of 60 percent males and 40 percent females, capture a cross section of the state's population¹.

This partnership has generated the opportunity to showcase the Guard and build awareness of our mission before a loyal and resilient fan base. Pregame deployment ceremonies featuring the 119th and 182nd Field Artillery units were met with a roaring applause as they took the field at the November 1st home game. The units were

accompanied by our polished, expert honor guard from the 246th Transportation Battalion, and completed with broadcast messages from deployed Michigan Guard Soldiers, currently serving all over the world!

Guard Soldiers bring a positive, uplifting element to the activity surrounding the home games. The partnership is mutually beneficially, "The Detroit Lions are pleased to have a partnership with The Michigan Army National Guard. We are honored to be able to help promote such an honorable and respected organization as well as the outstanding people who represent it," says Bob Raymond, Vice President of Business Operations for the Detroit Lions.

¹Scarborough Data Research, Detroit, MI 2009 Release 1 (August 2008-January 2009)



C-21 First Executive Flight

Story by Tech. Sgt. Jonathan Stein

110th Fighter Wing pilots Col. Keir Knapp and Capt. Ryan Schipper took the C-21 on its first executive flight with Maj. Gen. Thomas Cutler, Brig. Gen. Robert Johnston, and Brig. Gen. James Wilson along for the ride. The flight left Battle Creek at 1:50 p.m., October 3, 2009 and headed north for Traverse City then down to Saginaw at a cruising altitude of 24,000 feet.

“It was a demonstration and an opportunity to show the community we are flying again,” said Col. Knapp.

Saturday’s flight was fairly typical of what to expect when the mission begins. The only difference is that the C-21 will not likely be flying anyone out of Battle Creek.

“We’ll pick them up at the designated location, fly them to where they need to go and then return here,” said Col. Knapp, who also pointed out that not just general officers will be flying as passengers.

“We could fly anyone who puts in a request at JOSAC,” said Capt. Schipper.

JOSAC is the Joint Operational Support Airlift Center, a part of the U.S. Transportation Command at Scott Air Force Base, Ill.

“They’ll prioritize the requests and then we get the call,” said Col. Knapp. Unlike previous flights with the A-10 the C-21 pilots now have to do a safety briefing to the passengers which include a checklist similar to what you would find in the commercial airline industry.

“We spent a lot of time planning for this demonstration, and this was the first time we flew with passengers on the C-21,” said Col. Knapp. Passengers flying on the C-21 can expect to

have a 50 pound weight limit on their personal luggage, as space is limited.



Brig. Gen. Robert Johnston, left, Brig. Gen. James Wilson, center and Maj. Gen. Thomas Cutler, get a view of Fort Custer as they depart Battle Creek on the first flight of the C-21 from the 110th Fighter Wing Air National Guard Base in early October 2009. Michigan National Guard photo by Master Sgt. Dale Atkins

“Officially it seats eight people but we would really only take six people because eight would crowd the aircraft,” said Col. Knapp. The C-21 has no space compartments; luggage goes in the back of the aircraft behind the seat.

The C-21 could begin flying passengers through JOSAC as early as spring of 2010.



Michigan National Guard photo by Master Sgt. Dale Atkins

Currently Deployed

1431st Engineer Co.
425th In Co.
Brigade ETT 4
Det 2/351st ASB
OMLT 2
464th QM Co.
1434th Engineer Co.
CO C, 3/238th GSAB
777th MP Det
1437th Engineer Co.
1073rd Maint. Co.

Location

Afghanistan
Iraq
Afghanistan
Iraq
Afghanistan
Afghanistan
Iraq
Iraq
Iraq
Iraq
Iraq



Soldiers of the 46th Military Police Company visited the pyramids, sphinx and museums in Cairo, Egypt, during Operation Bright Star, a joint training exercise that included countries from all over the world.

Operation Bright Star

46th MP Co. Participates in Nationwide Exercise

Story by Staff Sgt. William Gribble Above photos courtesy of the 46th MP Co.

More than 100 members of the 46th Military Police, Michigan Army National Guard, Cheboyogan, Mich., provided force protection throughout the duration of Operation Bright Star, their mission for their annual training period in October and November. These Military Police Officers worked with Egyptian Defense Military Intelligence Officers, forming a good bond and working relationship in order to provide force protection that covered nine hotels for all U.S. military members that took part in the training exercise. The participating Soldiers of the 46th Military Police Company had the opportunity to visit the pyramids, sphinx, and museums on sanctioned MWR trips.

Operation Bright Star is a series of biennial combined and joint training exercises by American and Egyptian forces in Egypt. These exercises began in 1981. They are designed to strengthen ties between the Egyptian and American militaries and demonstrate and enhance the ability of the Americans to reinforce their allies in the Middle East in the event of war. These deployments usually are centered at the large Cairo West Air Base. During the period following the

liberation of Kuwait (Operation Desert Storm), these exercises have grown larger and have included as many as 11 countries and 70,000 personnel.

Bright Star is a joint exercise including air, ground, and naval elements. It is a central method for United States Central Command to build cooperation and readiness of allied nations within and around the Middle East.

Specifically, the exercise consists of coalition interoperability training, called Affiliation Training, to teach nations how to operate with one another in a wartime environment, a Command Post Exercise designed to help standardize command and control procedures, and a large-scale Field Training Exercise to practice everything together.

In 2009 the mission was highlighted through multiple airborne jumps, an amphibious landing, a combined arms live fire exercise and a computer aided command post exercise.

The countries participating in this year's Bright Star were the U.S., Egypt, Turkey, Jordan, Kuwait, Greece, Italy, Germany, Great Britain, France, and Pakistan.

Michigan Army and Air National Guard Promotions

August 16, 2009 through November 1, 2009

Col.

Chapman, Dennis

Lt. Col.

Hallenbeck, Edward
Reed, Kenneth
Resst, Timothy

Maj.

Kraycs, Shawn
Lynema, Dale
Radlinski, Aaron
Willis, Philip

Capt.

Brooks, Richard
Elder, Robinson
Militello, Kevin
Vanderbie, Brian

2nd Lt.

Beyrle, Christopher
Burnett, Matthew
Cech, Brian
Davidson, Keith
Hughes, Thomas
Kraus, Mark
Lemke, James
Owsley, Rhonda
Proulx, Michael
Reitzel, Alexander
Tripp, Andrew

Warrant Officer 4

Robinson, Allen
Triplett, Sheila

Warrant Officer 3

Galatian, Andrea

Warrant Officer 2

Hansen, Kurt
North, Joey
Pena, Juan
Squier, Phillip

Warrant Officer 1

Bansemmer, Ryan
Bates, Todd
Mcdaniel, Douglas
Zylstra, Jason

Sgt. Maj.

Geer, Terry
Kelley, Brian
Knarian, William
Merkel, Bryan
Post, Eric
Ramsey, Sheila
Sawyer, Jon

Master Sgt.

Bennett, Martin
Christiansen, Kevin
Levandoski, Joseph
Norton, James
Yankowski, John

Sgt. 1st Class

Coxworth, Bruce

Dankenbring,

Gerald
Fall, Adam

French, Ronald

Frost, David

Gabrys, Robert

Henry, Maxine

Hill, Thomas

Howard, Cassandra

Johnstone, Jeremy

Kenny, Roger

Parker, Tony

Pauley, Jonathan

Pitsch, Carole

Radle, Anthony

Rozema, Thomas

Soulliere, Micheal

Stafford, Dana

Thinel, Roger

Vaughan, Rick

Wallager, Carl

Staff Sgt.

Allen, Mekesha

Armstrong, Isaac

Babcock, Jennett

Baron, Jared

Benyard, Valerie

Bogue, Scott

Bustamante, Miguel

Cyrus, Ronnie

Denman, Jason

Dionisio, Randolph

Egilsson, Roswell

Farrell, Steven

Fell, Deanne

Francisco, Chad

Guthrie, James

Hebert, Jerry

Jurecic, John

Kanniainen, Jessica

Kimball, Ryan

Krozal, Kenneth

Lavigne, Frederick

Lewis, Joel

Little, Shawn

Loftis, Ryan

Loudon, Randy

Michael, Mike

Nichols, Ross

Pagedrummer,

Santita

Roberts, Joshua

Rupley, Robert

Russell, Keith

Schneider, Steven

Sever, John

Shumaker, Anthony

Vandersloot, Mi-

chael

Williams, Ricky

Witt, Matthew

Zachow, Craig

Sgt.

Amick, Anna

Beavervogel, Eric

Biehn, Lance

Breisacher, Robert

Burgess, Jordyn

Chandler, Charles

Codden, Janeen

Delong, Tamara

Diller, Martin

Eichhorn, Mark

Escobar, Carlos

Fekken, Angela

Grady, Robert

Grondsma, Philip

Gulley, Robert

Harper, Justin

Herbert, Donald

Humphrey, Ventson

Huyck, Jason

Johnson, Kayla

Kanady, Steven

Kennedy, Tyrell

Knapp, Rachael

Kohtala, Andrew

Lanway, Lonny

Lee, Michael

Locricchio, Mark

Machiela, Jeremy

Mcfarland, Eric

Mclarahmore,

Abraham

Oganyan, Stanislav

Olds, Gene

Owen, Christopher

Parsons, Aaron

Pasowicz, Ashley

Perk, Joshua

Peterson, Steven

Phelps, John

Polifroni, Zachary

Pollard, Jenna

Quigley, Daniel

Ragucky, Richard

Reynolds, Travis

Richardson, Darryl

Ridley, Darin

Robertson, Larry

Rollo, Jimmy

Roof, Christopher

Rose, Matthew

Sasse, Steven

Sheahan, Kevin

Sinclair, Clint

Skidmore, Ian

Smith, Tyler

Stone, Dustin

Stricklin, Gordon

Stults, Jeremy

Teen, Michael

Thibault, Alan

Vasquez, Jeffrey

Welch, Jared

Whitehead, Nathan

Williams, Shawn

Wolfe, Anna

Spc.

Adams, Jeffrey

Allison, Stephanie

Asakevich, Joshua

Aumann, Brandon

Barker, Michael

Barney, Cornelious

Beebe, Abraham

Bergsma, Jeffrey

Berry, Brandon

Beste, Sarah

Boyd, Joshua

Brantley, Joseph

Brockington, Ben-

jamin

Bromley, Bernard

Brooks, Brian

Brun, Mary

Burgess, Erin

Butler, Gretchen

Butler, James

Cardwell, Chad

Chesney, Tiffany

Corr, Daniel

Crafts, Joshua

Cruzramos, Jose

Cudney, Joshua

Darling, Marcellus

Delisle, Michael

Demerly, Allen

Deroso, Shane

Devries, Jeremy

Devries, Nicholas

Dobis, Natalie

Doebler, Jeffrey

Downing, John

Driscoll, Benjamin

Dull, Nicholas

Easterling, Michael

Erbetta, Joseph

Fannon, Cory

Fernandezmiranda,

Manuel

Fernly, Margaret

Fisher, Nicolas

Fitzpatrick, Scot

Flores, Pablo

Flory, Calib

Fortner, Andrew

Fowler, Lloyd

Fraire, Humberto

Frankovich, Kyle

Gail, Kimberly

Gant, Nicholas

Garret, Gregory

Geliske, Randy

Gibson, Steven

Greiner, David

Groves, Victoria

Harbin, Jim

Hargrave, Joseph

Hendrickson, Sarah

Houghtaling, Sue

Johnson, Dustin

Keller, Sarah

Kemp, Eric

Kerr, Caleb

King, Zachary

Klemkosky, Dono-

van

Krueger, Jeremy

Lack, Bruce

Lawrence, Scott

Lentz, Daniel

Lesoski, Justin

Lindh, Jon

Lorrison, John

Luark, Joseph

Lynn, Travis

Macauley, Alvin

Masa, Keith

May, Gina

Meis, Ashlee

Miller, Michael

Mooney, Christo-

pher

Morales, Miguel

Morgan, David

Muldoon, Christo-

pher

Mullenix, Mary

Nichol, Wendy

Nosakowski,

Stanley

Parker, Jonathan

Pennington, Timo-

thy

Pepin, Aaron

Person, Jeremy

Peterson, Maraya

Phillips, Sean

Phillips, Steven

Piche, Daniel

Plichta, Amanda

Pollack, Karl

Potter, Damon

Recker, Elizabeth

Rizzotti, Kimberly

Rock, Jessica

Roerink, Jason

Rollins, Kevin

Ronan, Sean

Sandoval, Noel

Sherron, Joel

Shoemaker, Orrin

Sielawa, Carol

Sloan, Warren

Spalding, Thaddeus

Sparks, Timothy

Speier, Jonathon

Stenzel, Michael

Stepanski, Kayla

Stevens, Matthew

Sullivan, Blaine

Thelen, Mark

Thompson, Justin

Trumpie, Samuel

Vance, Brandon

Vanenkevort, Dana

Voakes, Christopher

Warren, Braden

Werer, Jessica

White, Jason

Wiegel, Joshua

Willis, Joshua

Wilson, Gary

Winegar, Matthew

Woodruff, Joseph

Woody, Brad

Wright, Pete

Zimmerman, Kyle

Pfc.

Adams, Matthew

Bailey, Jason

Bantle, Matthew

Barlow, Theron

Barnes, Davonta

Bassett, James

Birchett, Scott

Blount, London

Bokmiller, Brandon

Bolles, Morgan

Bond, Grady

Boyd, Brenda

Brooks, Jacob

Brown, Daniel

Buchanan, Timothy

Buckner, Kristina

Casey, Heather

Chatterson, Michael

Clark, Brian

Clark, Taylor

Conklyn, Stephanie

Constantineau,

Edward

Cook, Zachary

Cressey, Calvin

Cummings, De-

maurio

Draper, Michael

Engelman, Alex

Erkard, Gerald

Esterline, Matthew

Evans, Aaron

Feldpausch, Donald

Michigan Army and Air National Guard Promotions

August 16, 2009 through November 1, 2009

Amanda Riesenberger, Darrell Robishaw, Blaise Rozman, Jazmine Rumsey, Christopher Saddler, James Samson, Brad Saugie, Brandon Seabolt, Danielle Sharpe, Joshua Sims, Justin Snooks, Charles Spangenberg, Justin Spangler, Anthony Spencer, Christopher Strandberg, Jerry Stroh, Casey Sullivan, Ryan Sundquist, Gary

Tabares, Oscar Tefend, Mark Thelen, Scott Tomczak, Miranda Truong, Sang Underwood, Kelvin Vance, Devin Vaneekhoutte, Remi Vasquez, Jeffrey Vaughn, Nathan Vlaz, Cory Ward, Alexander Weaver, Robert Webb, Jamie Wilkerson, Thomas Wittenmyer, Gary Wittenmyer, Richard Wolf, Timothy Yunker, Justin Pvt. Allison, Cecilia Anderson, Mi-

chael Bader, William Bass, Yvette Beaty, Dariet Card, Johnathan Cardenas, Jasmine Choyce, Oliver Clark, Matthew Coon, Kyle Day, Lee Farmer, Paul Fesler, Jonney Fital, Sean Froman, Michael Godard, Michael Gonzalez, Priscilla Hart, Cody Hartwell, Justin Helton, Scott Herrington, Michael Jones, John Kapuscinski, Thaddeus Kerby, Zacha-

riah Lang, Adam Linder, Kristi Lopez, Hiram Lovett, Eric Maher, Benjamin Matthews, Tija Mchaney, Shimiko Mead, Jeffrey Micou, Chemar Miller, John Moen, David Moleski, Joshua Ostrander, David Paris, Tyrone Pember, Christopher Potter, Christina Queen, Samuel Rader, Daniel Ratell, Scott Robinson, Paul Rogers, Tyreque Scott, Myrissa Shouse, Myles Smith, Edward

Snider, William Spohn, Mitchell Taylor, Rhianon Toepel, Joshua Valenzuela, Candy Vancil, Haley Wasalaski, Kevin Waters, Corey Whitaker, Brian Wiggle, Andrew Williamson, Gerald Zawojkyj, Elizabeth Zyngier, Ryan **Senior Airman** Cambell, Cole Laraway, Terry Matthews, NAKISHA **Staff Sgt.** Archangeli, Alison Blakley, Joseph Bolick, Joseph Brownfield, Jeremy

Bucholtz, Jason Dickson, Stanford Holloman, Rachel Ingersoll, Stuart Kuyda, David Maddox, Nancy McCall, Henry McGilpin, Brian McKinney, Jeremy Palmeri, Kenneth Perkins, Jonathan Smith, Justin Tutt, Louis Winstrand, Jason Fiolek, Michael Furnas, John Turner, Keith **Tech. Sgt.** Barnkowski, Virginia Bowers, David Brott, Thomas Carney, Brian Denryter, Nathan

Ginzel, Michael Kessler, Kevin Macdonald, Bradley McClain, Shane Peplinski, Michael Starks, Gordon Thompson, Toni Vermeesch, Rachel Westphal, Carl Master Sgt. Carroll, Richard Clark, Jamie Cottle, Michael Cregeur, Kevin Gabler, Scott Hicks, Harold Kerr, Michael Klemanski, Gary Langston, David McGonnell, Terry Meade, Eugene Miles, Bradley Gordon, Richard Parrish, John Torres, Pedro **Senior Master Sgt.** Williams, Lori

MIARNNG

Warfighter Panel



Michigan Army National Guard veterans of the Iraq and Afghanistan Wars share their military perspective with members of the National Security Organization Women in Defense and leaders and contractors of the military vehicle industry. The “War Fighter” discussion panel focused on the Soldier’s experiences with military vehicles while deployed and how the vehicles could be improved. The audience had many questions about the performance of today’s military vehicles in the deserts of Iraq and the “goat trails” of Afghanistan. The panel had many insightful comments about vehicle size, power, speed, seatbelts and storage room. The panel also touched on how men and women serve together in today’s military and what leads them to serve. The panel was led by moderator John McElroy (standing, left), newscaster for WWJ Newsradio 950 AM and host of the television program “Autoline Detroit.” Panel participants include, from left to right: 1st Lt. Amanda Murrell, Sgt. 1st Class George O’Kon, Spc. Kristy Plaska, Spc. Cody Martin, Spc. Jessica Martin and Sgt. 1st Class Keli Bender.



Timothy Brown Sr. touches his sons name, Spc. Timothy Brown, on the Fallen Soldier memorial dedicated to the Michigan National Guard Soldiers who have given their lives in Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom. The monument was dedicated during Annual Training 2006. The inscription on the monument reads, "This monument is dedicated to the members of the Michigan National Guard who gave the ultimate sacrifice while serving in support of the Global War on Terrorism. This tribute stands before us as a permanent reminder of their service to our state and nation." Michigan National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. Helen Miller



TAPS

Sgt. 1st Class James Mitchell, (ret), 83, Aug. 2, 2009
 Staff Sgt. Robert Bourgue, 60, Aug. 6, 2009
 Master Sgt. Bud R. Smith, (ret), 88, Aug. 14, 2009
 Spc. Steven Bellant, 30, Aug. 28, 2009
 Lt. Col. Robert Lech, (ret), 66, Aug. 30, 2009
 1st Sgt. John Marzic, (ret), 89, Aug. 31, 2009
 Maj. Judd Ring, (ret), 64, Aug. 31, 2009

Lt. Col. Jack Schulz, (ret), 80, Sept. 4, 2009
 Staff Sgt. Joseph Wilkins, (ret), 75, Sept. 10, 2009
 Sgt. John Abee, 53, Sept. 21, 2009
 Sgt. 1st Class Gilbert Oberley, (ret), 72, Sept. 24, 2009
 Sgt. 1st Class Rocky Dexter, 49, Oct. 11, 2009
 Staff Sgt. Fredrick Squires, (ret), 67, Oct. 27, 2009

GEAR UP! FOR WINTER EXCURSIONS



PRACTICE COLD WEATHER DRIVING

- During daylight, rehearse maneuvers slowly on the ice or snow in an empty lot
- Steer into a skid
- Know what your brakes will do: stomp on antilock brakes, pump non-antilock brakes
- Stopping distances are longer on water-covered ice and ice
- Don't idle for a long time with the windows up or in an enclosed space



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