

# THE WOLVERINE GUARD

## Puzzled By Benefits?

Special Edition for Veterans and Retirees

Publication of the Michigan Army and Air National Guard  
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THE MICHIGAN ARMY AND AIR NATIONAL GUARD  
G I BILL  
ACTIVE DUTY  
THE DURING PERIOD  
WHICH YOU WERE EMPLOYED  
AS A MEMBER OF THE ARMY OR AIR FORCE



*From the desk of  
The Adjutant General*



**TAG  
TALK**

Soldiers and Airmen, as I conclude my eight years as your Adjutant General and Commander, I find myself incredibly proud of all that you've accomplished.

When I interviewed for this command, I distinctly remember Governor Granholm asking me about the readiness of the Michigan National Guard. She and the other newly elected Governors had all met with President Bush, and he had made it clear to them that we were potentially headed to war with Iraq. She asked me if the Michigan National Guard was ready. As the Commander of the Michigan Air National Guard and a recent Wing Commander, I confidently assured her that the Michigan Air National Guard was ready. While I was a bit less familiar with the readiness of the Michigan Army National Guard at that point, based on my observations of our Soldiers and their leaders, I told her I was also confident the Michigan Army National Guard was ready to go!

As it turned out, we did indeed go to war; and you were indeed ready!

You, our warriors, both Army and Air, stepped up and have consistently performed at the highest levels. We were there on day one, and we've had our Soldiers and Airmen in harm's way ever since.

To date, we've deployed more than 17,000 Michigan National Guard members and remarkably, we continue to meet our Nation's call. Today we have more than 1,600 Michigan National Guard members deployed with another 1,600 preparing to deploy in the next year. That is something we can all be very proud of!

As the years have gone by, many in our nation have wondered if the National Guard can sustain this. It's a good question. The fact of the matter is that in 2003 the Michigan Army National Guard was at 94% of its authorized strength. Today it is at 105% of its strength, and could go higher if we had the funding to support it. During this same period of time, the Air Guard has maintained close to 100% except for a recent dip due to the BRAC transition.

The bottom line is, those of you who have joined our formations since 2003 know exactly why you joined. You are here to serve. You are great young Americans, being led by outstanding, experienced, combat tested NCOs and officers; a source of great pride for all of us. You have sustained this war on terror, and I know you will continue to do so!

Over the past eight years, I've had the privilege of visiting you; literally all over the world. I can tell you that no matter the location, the unit, Army or Air, you have consistently performed to the highest standards. In all cases, you got the job done, and you still found time to leave your facilities and your local communities better than you found them. Whether it was passing out candy and toys to children, adopting an orphanage or a school, or bringing back a severely burned Iraqi boy for plastic surgery here in Lansing ... you, our Soldiers and Airmen, have served in the spirit of true citizen-Soldiers!

As citizen-Soldiers, you have also served your fellow citizens here in the United States. Your service to those affected by hurricane Katrina was incredible. It will always be remembered as a proud moment in the legacy of the Michigan National Guard.

Needless to say, all of this has involved incredible sacrifice on the part of every Soldier, airman and family member. I want to thank each one of you for your willingness to serve... and your willingness to make these sacrifices on behalf of your nation!

As I reflect on the sacrifices made, I am quickly reminded of our 20 fallen comrades and the significant number of our Soldiers and Airmen who have been seriously wounded, physically and emotionally, over the past eight years. Each one of them makes us proud. They and their families can be sure that we will never forget their sacrifice!

As I close, I want to thank you again for your continued service. As I complete my forty years of service to our nation, I want you to know it has been a high honor to serve as your Adjutant General over the past eight years. May God bless you for your service to our Country!

Maj. Gen. Thomas G. Cutler



For the past eight years, it has been my honor and privilege to serve as the Assistant Adjutant General for Veterans Affairs in the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs representing our veterans -Soldiers, Sailors, Marines, Airmen, the Coast Guard and their families.

President Abraham Lincoln defined the Nation's mission to its veterans in 1865, in his second inaugural address, when he promised our nation of veterans that America would "...care for him who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow and his orphan." It is long established and well recognized that the country owes a debt of gratitude to those who have served and a greater debt to those who have been injured by that service. Taking care of our American heroes; past, present and future has been our mission.

In my role, I had the great opportunity to engage with our veterans at the D.J. Jacobetti Veterans Home and the Grand Rapids Home, employees, veteran's service organizations, Michigan county veteran's counselors and volunteers. For me that meant helping and educating veterans and their families about their benefits. These benefits included health care, disability benefits, employment, housing, education and burial benefits.

I enjoyed working in policy matters, but truly enjoyed meeting and helping solve individual veteran problems.

Thank you for all the memories, for it has been such an amazing journey to serve with such great men and women in Michigan who are motivated by "Duty to Buddy." Our nation's strength is its people who have worked hard and suffered so our country could grow.

After 34 years of service, I have been touched by thousands of individuals. I hope that I have helped at least a fraction. My heart still swells when I hear: "Oh say, does that Star-Spangled Banner yet wave, o'er the land of the free, and the home of the brave!"

I wish you and your family the best of health and prosperity in 2011. God Bless You, God Bless Your Families, God Bless Our Veterans and God Bless the United States of America.

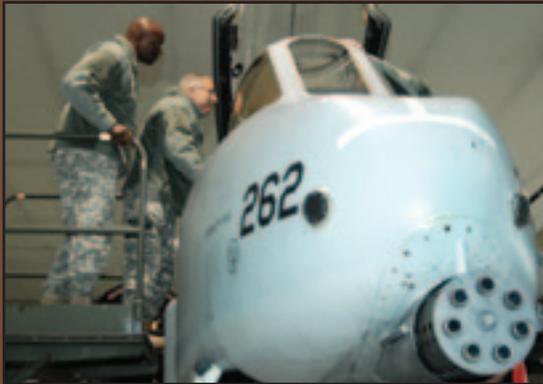
Brig. Gen. Carol Ann Fausone





Command Sgt. Maj. Delbert Husband kneels beside his father, a veteran of World War II after being promoted to the State Senior Enlisted Advisor of the Michigan National Guard. Michigan National Guard photo by Sgt. 1st Class James Downen.

**Our Michigan National Guard Soldiers and their families have demonstrated unwavering resilience and commitment in serving our country.**  
**CSM Delbert Husband**



Command Sgt. Maj. Delbert Husband and Major Gen. Gregory J. Vadnais examine the cockpit of an A-10 Thunderbolt II in the maintenance hangar of the 127th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron at Selfridge Air National Guard Base, Mich. Vadnais is the newly-appointed adjutant general of Michigan. He visited Selfridge on Jan. 25, 2011, for mission briefings and a tour of the base. Vadnais assumed the position of adjutant general of Michigan at the beginning of January. Michigan National Guard photo by Rachel Barton



Over the past year, I have had the unique opportunity to meet and talk with numerous individuals - domestic and foreign - who are all committed to the National Guard purpose of Peace & Justice. This has included our Michigan Soldiers and their families, and extended to our partners in Latvia and Liberia. To say the least, I have been humbled and inspired. The Year 2011 is symbolized by Endurance. Our Michigan National Guard Soldiers and their families have demonstrated unwavering resilience and commitment in serving our country. **During this year of Endurance, I am confident these qualities will** serve as the bedrock for our continued success in all our efforts.

I have discovered the tremendous value of listening. We often speak of the need to honor our military Veterans and Retirees. While my interactions with those who have served our country have been frequent, one of the most memorable conversations took place between me and my father. He is a disabled veteran of World War II. During this particular interaction, we were talking about differences between the military of the past and present. After a lengthy exchange, he made certain I understood that one thing had remained the same. It is the need to continue developing leadership and character among Soldiers throughout our ranks. Needless to say, I have come to appreciate the wisdom, knowledge and credibility of our Veterans and Retirees. I am indebted to my father for this insight.

As I look to the future, I am pleased with the increasing diversity and talent of those within the senior ranks of the Michigan National Guard. Those who will contribute to one of our greatest strengths in a global society by allowing us to incorporate multiple ideas, perspectives and opinions to ensure excellent training and quality of life for all Soldiers and their families. We will continue to rely heavily upon the principles of moving from “Good to Great”, which stress the importance of bringing together a collective of diverse individuals who represent the character, ethic and dedication of our military values.

I want to extend my sincere appreciation to Major General Cutler for his leadership of the Michigan National Guard. I am mindful of the quote, *“The final test of a leader is that he leaves behind him in other men, the conviction and the will to carry on.”* I look forward with great anticipation to supporting the leadership of The Adjutant General, Major General Vadnais, as we work together on our continued journey of moving from “Good to Great.”

Command Sgt. Maj. Delbert P. Husband

# Bullets

## Attention all Iraq and Afghanistan Military Veterans and Family members

Grand Valley State University in partnership with Mary Free Bed Rehabilitation Hospital has an exciting treatment opportunity for Wounded Warriors with a diagnosis of Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI). This unique partnership will offer specialized treatment from highly trained professionals for the wounded warriors. It will also assist family members and loved ones with support opportunities available for the family to heal as well as the soldier. If you are a Veteran or loved one of a Veteran of OIF or OEF with a history of TBI within the last 3 years, please call 888-736-0208 or visit [www.maryfreebed.com/woundedwarriors](http://www.maryfreebed.com/woundedwarriors) online for more information. Testing and treatment is confidential and at no cost to the soldier.



## Military Finance: Are you receiving what you are entitled to?

Your Dependency Status and Address determine how much you'll receive for Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH) and if you're entitled to Family Separation Allowance (FSA) and Cost of Living Allowance (COLA)

If you get married, divorced, have a dependent child or change address do the following:

Provide your unit with your New Address.

Provide your unit with a copy of the legal and dependency documents: Marriage License, Divorce Decree, Court Ordered Child Support and Birth Certificates to be entered into iPERM.

Complete a DA Form 5960 (Authorization for Basic Allowance for Housing) and if necessary a DD 1561 (Family Separation Allowance). Your pay will not be corrected until these forms and legal/dependency documents are processed in iPERM.

Make an appointment with the nearest I.D. Facility to get ID Cards and update DEERS.

Carry a copy of the legal and dependency documents to all SRP's, SRC's and to the MOB Site. This will insure that you receive the correct BAH and FSA, if authorized.

Check your Leave and Earnings Statements to insure that you're receiving the correct amount of BAH and FSA and COLA, if authorized.

\*Notify your unit immediately if you believe your entitlements are incorrect.

**IMPORTANT REMINDERS:**

If you are married to another servicemem-

ber make sure to inform your unit and the SRP/SRC Finance Representative.

If you change from a Without Dependent status (not married and no dependent children) to a With Dependent status (married and/or dependent child), it will mean a difference of HUNDREDS OF DOLLARS additional pay during deployments and long tours of duty. If you change from a With Dependent status to Without Dependent status and you do NOT provide the documents to your unit and you do NOT verify that your pay has changed, it will result in a COLLECTION OF PAY for the time-frame you received the incorrect pay.



## Care Package Notes

Guard Family Programs representative Justin Dyess would like to remind family and friends that glass bottles, jars, aerosol cans, sprays, lighters, matches, lighter fluid, hotel samples, vhs tapes and hard-cover books CANNOT be shipped to deployed Soldiers. As with regular USPS mail, anything perishable or fragile, or anything that would be effected by x-rays, such as magnetic film in instant cameras, should not be sent to your Soldier.

The most frequently requested items are beef jerky, coffee, hot cocoa packets, teas, instant drink mixes, tuna or chicken in foil pouches (no cans), pumpkin or sunflower seeds, protein powders and bars, granola bars, trail mix, dry soups, microwaveable foods, girl scout cookies (minus meltable chocolate), individual boxes of cereal, gum, and other chewy candy like gummy bears.

The most popular toiletries needed are baby wipes, body wash, liquid soap, shampoo and conditioner, combs, brushes, bobby pins, eye drops, nasal spray, deodorant, razors and shaving creams in tubes (no cans), cotton swabs and Q-tips, baby powder, washcloths, sun block, toothbrushes and tooth paste, lozenges, cough drops, nail files, feminine hygiene products and aspirin, Tylenol, Motrin or Advil.

The items troops most look forward to are cards and letters from home! Contact Mr. Dyess with shipping questions at 517-481-8364.



This edition of the Wolverine Guard is a special issue for Veterans, Retirees and all members of the Michigan National Guard. Cover photo by Sgt. 1st Class James Downen. Cover design by Senior Airman Matthew Mohundro.

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## Strong Bond's Build Resiliency

Story by Chaplain (Lt. Col.) James Chapin

Michigan National Guard warriors and their families are always ready, always there, and their families sacrifice and serve every day. The men and women of the Michigan National Guard have experienced their share of an unprecedented number of deployments and prolonged separations and yet they live and breathe throughout their local communities. The family is the strength of the Soldier whether they are deployed or at home and back on training status. The number of Strong Bond events across the state has grown substantially since its first inception to our guard families. Research is showing that those who attend a Strong Bonds retreat will experience greater relationship success in their marriages.

With resiliency being high on the list of expectations the Chaplain facilitated Strong Bond's weekend becomes an enormous asset to the Michigan National Guard family. Not only is the weekend retreat a renewing time, Warriors and families are given tools to assess the well-being of their relationships. The retreat addresses unique needs of each couple as they actively participate during the in the activities offered.

Most people desire a satisfying marriage that lasts a lifetime. The Prevention and Relationship Enhancement Program or PREP approach is based on research in the field of marital health and success. It is the premiere training program used during the off-site weekend retreat. PREP's focus is to help couples reduce or limit risk factors and raise protective factors. In this area the Strong Bond's retreat weekend focuses on what matters and is changeable in regards to those Dynamic Risk Factors that you can learn to change. The overarching focus of the retreat weekend is to help couples develop and maintain safety in terms of emotional connection and support, and safety in terms of long-term security and commitment. According to the authors of PREP, safety is one of the most powerful ways

to summarize what makes for healthy, happy, and stable marriages. As a result Strong Bond's builds resiliency, the Warrior Ethos and unites the family team by emphasizing the importance of our relationship attachments in such areas as Knowing, Trusting, Rely-ability, Commitment and Touch.

Good communication is always an important segment of the Strong Bonds weekend retreat because it is foundational for contributing to a sense of safety—or a lack thereof—in our marriage relationships. It is during this portion of the weekend retreat the "Speaker/Listener Technique" is introduced and couples are given the opportunity to learn more sensitive and effective ways of understanding each other's personal needs and desires. Light hearted, fun and sometimes hilarious as couples participate in the various activities designed and built into the weekend for a relaxing and enjoyable retreat.

Each couple attending the event receives a Participants Manual that will be used during the seminar and is an important part of the program. It serves as a helpful reminder of all the great things that were learned during the couples own free time designed to allow couples to plan relaxing times together for the future. Throughout the manual there are areas to take notes and write down things that have had the most significant impact on your relationship. Emphasizing the importance of "Keeping Bonds Strong" you have to "*Decide, don't slide, Make it safe to connect, and Do your part.*" Plan for a great, fun and relaxing time away!

To register for an upcoming Strong Bonds event go to [www.strongbonds.org](http://www.strongbonds.org) and click on EVENT this will populate all the events nationwide 90 days out. The Strong Bonds web is the only place to register. Any Army or Air Guard person can register. Events are limited to the first 30 couples so don't put it off; register as soon as you see the event you would like to attend.

### Upcoming Strong Bonds Events

**April 15-17 Landmark Inn, Marquette**

**May 13-15 Mission Point Resort, Mackinac Island**

**May 20-22 Mission Point Resort, Mackinac Island**

**June 3-5 Amway Grand Hotel, Grand Rapids**

**August 19-21 Doubletree, Bay City**

**August 26-28 Crystal Mountain Resort, Traverse City**

**September 9-11 Crystal Mountain Resort, Traverse City**



**Strong Bonds**  
*Building Ready Families*

# Puzzled by Benefits?

## Veterans Affairs Can Help

Story by Hugh Hess

Many of you reading this have deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, Iraqi Freedom and New Dawn. More of you will do so. When you have completed a deployment and received a DD Form 214 documenting that service you have earned eligibility for federal and state veteran's benefits.

There are lots of details to learn, so let me start with the most important. Contact us at the Veterans Affairs Directorate by phone at 517-335-6523 or on the web at [www.michigan.gov/veterans](http://www.michigan.gov/veterans). We will get you started down the right path.

Here are some of the most frequently asked questions and a bit of information about each.

## DD 214

**I need a copy of my DD Form 214** (Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty). Call us at 517-373-3130. If you returned to Michigan from federal active duty in the past thirty years we very likely have a copy of your DD 214. If we don't we will refer you to the National Archives at [www.archives.gov](http://www.archives.gov). We can get a copy of your 214 in the mail to you in a couple of days; the Archives take a couple of weeks.

**VA Healthcare.** The US Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) provides healthcare to more than 126,000 Michigan veterans at five medical centers and 21 community based outpatient clinics. If you have returned from Iraq or Afghanistan in the past five years you can join their numbers. Enroll at <https://www.1010ez.med.va.gov/sec/vha/1010ez/>.

Find locations at <http://www2.va.gov/directory/guide/home.asp?isflash=1>. If you live along Michigan's southern border, South Bend or Toledo may be better choices.

## Healthcare

## Claims

**Claims for disability.** Sit down with a state veteran's service officer or county veteran's counselor to review your service and military medical records. You can find the contact information for service officers at [www.michigan.gov/veterans](http://www.michigan.gov/veterans) in the federal benefits section; find county counselors contact information at [www.macvc.net](http://www.macvc.net).

**Employment and career information.** The state's Department of Energy, Labor and Economic Growth provides help and information on the web at [www.michigan.gov/veteranjobs](http://www.michigan.gov/veteranjobs) or you may call them at 1-800-455-5228. Call 517-373-3062 for information about the state's Civil Service Commission procedures for veteran preference.

## Jobs

## Trust Fund

**Michigan Veterans Trust Fund.** War-era Veterans with 180 or more days of federal active duty can apply for a discretionary grant to meet a temporary, unforeseen financial emergency. You apply to a committee of volunteers in the county where you live. Call 517-373-3130 for the contact information for your county.

# Personal Intervention is key to Suicide Prevention

Story by Spc. Amanda Maehling

According to a recent Army Times article, more than 1,100 U.S. service members committed suicide between 2005 and 2009. In June 2010 alone, a record-setting 32 deaths were documented including, 21 active-duty Army troops and 11 National Guard or Reserve forces. It goes without saying that this issue requires serious, immediate, and intense attention.

In one response to these statistics, the Army has thrown an array of suicide prevention programs at Soldiers in an attempt to bring the numbers down. Millions of dollars are being allocated to study causal factors and program results. The Army is exploring every possible avenue for the right combination of factors that will reduce the numbers and get Soldiers help before they give up. But study after study suggests that for all the program interventions that bombard Soldiers, the most important and critical saving grace is a personal, one-on-one intervention. Given that information, what are you personally doing to prevent Soldier suicide?

We've all been there, sitting in the back of a room full of people watching yet another PowerPoint presentation.

A monotone speaker at the front of the room is reading off role playing scenarios which pose no interest to the audience. To me, it was always just another "check the box" training session that I could mark as completed. It wasn't until I sat down to research this topic and write this article that I really saw the statistics and grasped what a huge problem suicide in the military is right now.

Everyone is familiar with the Army ACE card, outlining intervention methods for Soldiers who think their buddy may be at risk. Ask, Care, and Escort your buddy; a simple phrase with profound importance. My research and interactions clearly find that personal communication is critical to suicide

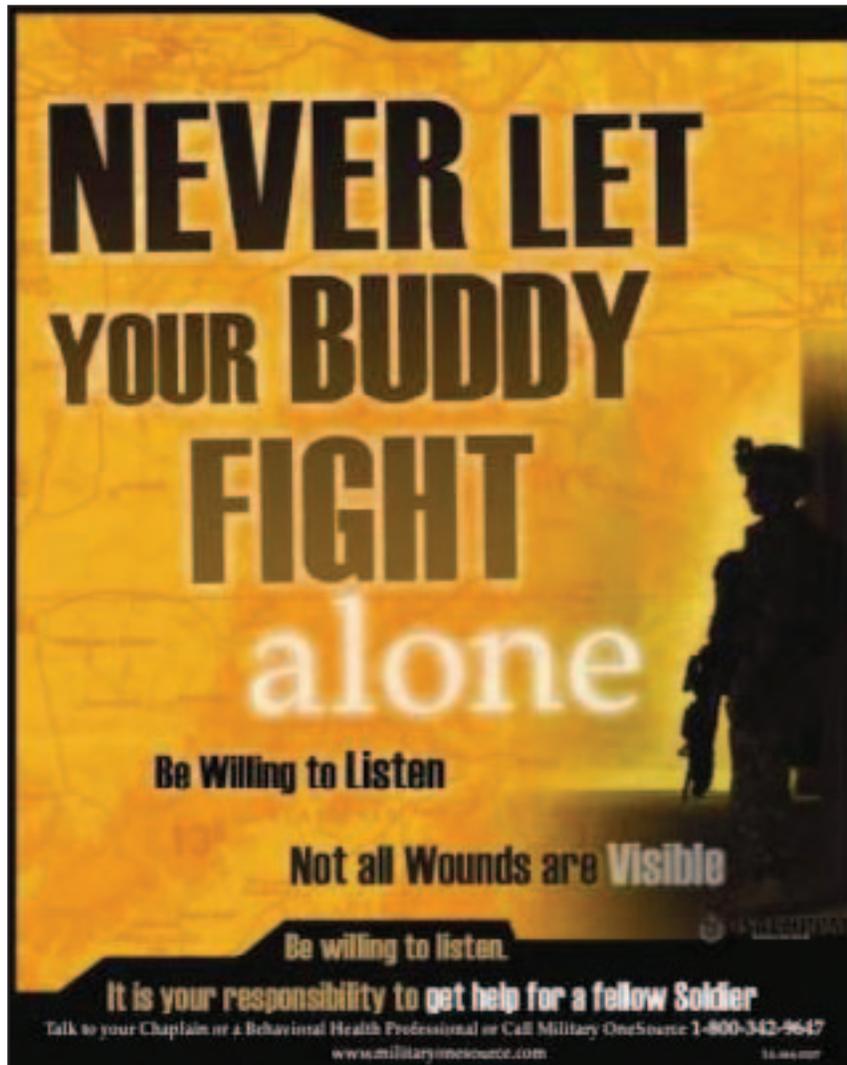
prevention. Sgt. Clark of Company B, Brigade Special Troops Battalion said "being emotionally available for peers is the key to connecting." Clark personally aided a fellow Soldier while he was in advanced individual training. Someone came to him and confided that he was having suicidal thoughts; Clark sat with him for awhile and listened to the Soldier

talk through his feelings. Eventually, the Soldier's chain of command was informed, and Clark escorted the Soldier to the Chaplain.

People contemplating suicide typically demonstrate signs and symptoms that can be recognized if we just take the time to look. Things to pay attention to are giving away personal possessions, withdrawing from friends and family, or making comments that sound hopeless or indicate the person is depressed. If you notice someone exhibiting these behaviors do not hesitate to confront them. It is a tough subject to discuss, but doing so with compassion and understanding might just save a life. Ask them directly if they are thinking about ending their life, and take immediate action if your

suspicions are confirmed. Someone having thoughts about suicide should not be left alone, escort them to someone in your chain of command or directly to a Chaplain who is trained to deal with these situations. If you think someone is at risk but aren't sure, informing your chain of command will ensure that your fellow Soldier will get the care they need.

Suicide prevention is not just the Army's problem; it's the responsibility of each and every Soldier to take care of each other on and off the battlefield. When someone is going through difficult times, it's hard to know where to turn. We as Soldiers need to be sure to live the Warrior Ethos and "never leave a fallen comrade."



# 4th Annual Freedom Hunt a Success

Story and photos by Jonathan Edgerly

The fourth annual Freedom Hunt at Fort Custer Training Center in Augusta, Mich., drew nearly 30 disabled hunters, 150 volunteers, and generous community support from sponsorships and donations. Five whitetail deer were harvested totaling around 500 pounds of venison.

Brian Plichta and Randy Sweet, veterans of the Vietnam War currently living at the Grand Rapids Home for Veterans, bagged their first bucks this year and Brian Woodward, a talented quadriplegic, fired a perfect kill-shot using an advanced “sip and puff” apparatus to fire his weapon. Even hunters who didn’t get a deer this year, seemed to enjoy the camaraderie and crisp fall air.

The Freedom Hunt is an early firearm deer hunt (occurring in mid-October) for disabled individuals. In order to participate in the early hunt, applicants must have a disability that satisfies one of the following categories: 100% disabled or deemed individually unemployable as determined by the U.S. Veterans Administration; legally blind; possess a permit to hunt from a standing vehicle from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and Environment.

The Friday before the hunt begins, participants and volunteers meet at the Fort Custer Training Center to set up their bunks, scout out the hunting area they want and sight in their hunting weapons on the FCTC ranges. The hunters, guides, sponsors and distinguished guests dine at a catered banquet set up at the Augusta Armory where prizes are given out and hunt strategies are planned.

From the crack of dawn Saturday morning to noon on Sunday, hunters and their guides cover as much ground as possible looking for a choice deer to come into range. Hot meals, snacks, jokes and hunt plans are exchanged all weekend back at hunt headquarters in one of the mess halls at Fort Custer.

This year, at the Friday night banquet, Larry Jacobs, a long-time supporter of all events at Fort Custer, was presented with a Legion of Merit award from FCTC Post Commander Lt. Col. Peter Hill and Michigan Army National Guard Environmental Division Director, Maj. Andrew Kuhns. Jacobs said he was honored and humbled to be given the special token.

Many community sponsors are responsible for making the event happen. Their generosity is what allows FCTC to provide the deer camp for disabled hunters free of charge. Event planners wished to thank all who donated time, money, and products to the event and look forward to working together in the future. Anyone interested in volunteering or getting more information about opportunities for disabled hunters can contact Jonathan Edgerly at 269-731-6570 or [jonathan.edgerly@us.army.mil](mailto:jonathan.edgerly@us.army.mil).



Above: Brian Woodward bagged a deer using an advanced “Sip and Puff” apparatus to fire his weapon. Below: Larry Jacobs, a long-time supporter of the Fort Custer Freedom Hunt, was presented the Michigan Legion of Merit by the post commander and the Michigan National Guard Environmental Division Director.



# Giving Back

Story by Senior Airman Brittany Simon

The Ronald McDonald House program is a charitable foundation sponsored by the McDonald's corporation to provide the families of seriously ill or injured children with a comfortable place to stay near the hospital while their children are being treated. The typical Ronald McDonald house is staffed and has seven guest bedrooms with private bath, community dining room, kitchen, playroom, teen room, library, playground and garden. There is also a free laundry facility, Wi-Fi service and home cooked meals.

Ronald McDonald Houses depend on outside support through monetary gifts, material donations and volunteer staffing. Recently, three Michigan Air National Guard non-commissioned officers, Senior Master Sgt. Samuel Corbin, Master Sgt. Allen Hight and Master Sgt. Wright Thurmand, from the Air Guard State Headquarters volunteered to help and served a spaghetti dinner to residents at the Mid- Michigan Ronald McDonald House located in Lansing, Mich.

The Michigan Air National Guard NCOs are no strangers to the Ronald McDonald House program. In 2009 they participated in a similar event at the downtown Detroit Ronald McDonald House. "We would love to see this event take place annually," said Corbin.

One reason why people volunteer to serve in any branch of the military is to help the community at large. The officers and NCOs of the Michigan Air National Guard have always been glad to serve our state community. We are rewarded by the expressions in the faces of the parents and children we serve here and that makes the time helping out worthwhile," said Thurmand.

Taking time to do anything during the duty day requires permission and support from the chain of command. "Community service is mandatory in the Air Guard. It is an area we are rated on when being considered for promotion. Our leadership, Col. Walter Wingard and Lt. Col. Angela Fink, supported us when we asked if we could help out at the Ronald McDonald House. This is to be expected, because community assistance is an Air Force core value and our leadership doesn't take this service lightly," said Corbin.

After the spaghetti dinner service was completed, the Air Guard NCOs encouraged other Michigan Guard hometown heroes to help with the Ronald McDonald House program. "Ronald McDonald Houses always need service help and material items," said Ruth Lumber, the Resident Manager for the Mid Michigan Ronald McDonald House. The Mid Michigan Ronald McDonald House can be contacted at 517-485-9303 or [www.lovethehouse.org](http://www.lovethehouse.org).



Senior Master Sgt. Samuel Corbin, Master Sgt. Allen Hight and Master Sgt. Wright Thurmand prepared dinner for a family at the Lansing, Mich., Ronald McDonald House.

# Patriot Guard Riders Show Support

Story by Angela Simpson

The Patriot Guard Riders, with their motto, "Standing for those who stood for us," honored the departing 1775th Military Police Company from the Pontiac Ultimate Soccer Arenas in late January. The 30 riders lining the arena stood with flags gently waving in support of the 140 Soldier unit deploying to Fort Bliss and then to Afghanistan.

Assistant State Captain, Partnr organized the group for the event and said, "We were honored to be invited to attend the departure ceremony for the 1775th Military Police Company and to receive a certificate of appreciation from their battalion head, the 210th." He added, "It's important for all of our military to know that they are appreciated and supported while they carry out their mission and beyond. The old veterans among us vow that never again will one generation of veterans abandon another."

There are seven regional ride captains in Michigan led by State Captain, Sam Cottle. They share a common love of motorcycles and an unwavering respect for those who risk their lives for America's freedom and security. The main mission of the Patriot Guard Riders is to attend the funeral services of fallen American heroes as invited guests of the family. Each mission has two basic objectives: to show respect for the fallen hero, their families, and their communities, and to shield the mourning family from interruptions created by protestors. The secondary mission, and thankfully the mission they are most often engaged in, is departure and homecoming ceremony escorts, special event guests and other support roles.

The Patriot Guard Riders have become a standard part of Michigan National Guard events. Guard members, family, staff and supporters look for Patriot Guard Riders standing with the men and women of the Michigan National Guard – they are part of the team.

For more information about the Patriot Guard Riders visit their Web site at [www.pgrmichigan.org](http://www.pgrmichigan.org).



# Tricare Retired Reserve Available

Courtesy of TRICARE

For the first time, members of the Retired Reserve who are not yet age 60, the so-called “gray area” retirees, can purchase TRICARE health coverage for themselves and their eligible family members with the Sept. 1, 2010 launch of TRICARE Retired Reserve.

“This new program offers a health coverage opportunity for “gray area” Guardsmen and Reservists who served America honorably, setting a proud example for today’s forces,” said Rear Adm. Christine Hunter, deputy director of the TRICARE Management Activity.

“TRICARE Retired Reserve will provide an outstanding health benefit.”

Retired Reservists may qualify to purchase TRR coverage if they are under the age of 60 and are not eligible for, or enrolled in, the Federal Employees Health Benefits (FEHB) program. They must also be members of the Retired Reserve of a Reserve component and qualify for non-regular retirement. For instructions on how to qualify for and purchase TRR go to [www.tricare.mil/trr](http://www.tricare.mil/trr).

For calendar year 2010, the TRR member-only monthly premium is \$388.31

(\$4,659.72 yearly), and the member and family monthly premium is \$976.41 (\$11,716.92 yearly). Premiums will be adjusted annually.

The comprehensive health care coverage provided by the premium based TRR is similar to TRICARE Standard. After purchasing TRR, members will receive the TRICARE Retired Reserve Handbook, which includes details about covered services, how to get care and who to contact for assistance. For more information, visit [www.tricare.mil/trr](http://www.tricare.mil/trr).

## Early Receipt of Retired Pay for Gray Area Retirees

Story by Staff Sgt. Katrina Golab

The Department of Defense has issued new guidelines for early receipt of retired pay for members of the reserve components. Instead of waiting until age 60 to receive Reserve retired pay, eligible members may receive retired pay prior to age 60 but not before age 50. Under interim changes effective Jan. 28, 2008, reserve component members are able to reduce the age at which they are eligible to receive retirement pay by three months for each cumulative period of 90 days served on active duty in any fiscal year.

Under the new law, members eligible to receive retired pay earlier than age 60 must still wait until age 60 to receive health-care benefits.\*

Involuntary mobilization and voluntary active duty in support of a contingency qualify, but there is no requirement to be involuntarily mobilized, to support a contingency or to serve on active duty outside the continental United States to receive credit under the law. Most active-duty time qualifies, including training, operational support duties and school tours. Also included is full-time National Guard duty served under a call to active service by a governor and authorized by the president or the secretary of defense under 32 U.S.C. § 502(f) for purposes of responding to either a national emergency declared by the president or a national emergency supported by federal funds.

The following time served on active duty is not creditable service for purposes of reducing retired pay age: as a member of the active Guard and Reserve (10 U.S.C. § 12310); on annual tour (10 U.S.C. § 12301(b)); while in captive status (10 U.S.C. § 12301(g)); for medical treatment, medical evaluation for disability purposes or medical study (10 U.S.C. §12301(h)); as a member not assigned to, or participating satisfactorily in, units (10 U.S.C. § 12303); under active-duty agreements (10 U.S.C. § 12311); for disciplinary/courts-martial (10 U.S.C. § 12315); or for muster duty (10 U.S.C. §12319).

Qualifying active-duty service performed after Jan. 28, 2008, the date on which the fiscal 2008 National Defense Authorization Act was enacted, is creditable. The law does not provide credit for time served on or before that date.

Here’s an example of how these new guidelines work. A

Reservist performed five days of active-duty service on Military Pay Action orders in February 2008. He then volunteered for active duty beginning June 1 and ending Nov 30 (leave, reconstitution and post-deployment/mobilization respite absence included, as applicable). The Reservist performed a total of 127 days of active-duty service in fiscal year 2008 and 61 days in fiscal 2009.

Under this scenario, all of the active-duty time the Reservist performed could be credited toward reduced retirement age eligibility because it was active-duty time performed under circumstances permitted under the new law (i.e., orders for voluntary service, 10 U.S.C. § 12301(d)). However, because time credited must total 90 days or must be in multiples of 90 days in the aggregate during a fiscal year in order to correspondingly reduce his retirement age by three months, or multiples of three months, the Reservist will be able to reduce his retirement age by three months for fiscal 2008. Had he performed 53 more days of active-duty service after Jan. 28 and before going on active duty June 1, he would have accumulated 180 total days for fiscal 2008 and thus would be able to reduce his retirement age by six months.

Similarly, because the Reservist has so far served on active duty 61 days in fiscal 2009, he must perform an additional 29 days of active-duty service some time during the year in order to reduce his retirement age by an additional three months.

All Soldiers and Airmen are encouraged to ensure their orders specify the statutory provision under which their active-duty service is performed. Airmen and Soldiers are also encouraged to keep track of their active-duty service and orders to ensure they receive proper credit and they meet the cumulative 90-day thresholds to reduce retirement age.

\*TRICARE Retired Reserve is now available at a cost for “gray area” retirees (and dependents) until TRICARE Retired goes into effect at age 60.

For more information and examples visit <https://www.mi.ngb.army.mil>.

# Champion Among Champions

Story by Sgt. 1st Class James Downen

Staff Sgt. Adam Little, 2010 Army National Guard noncommissioned officer of the year, was awarded the Army Commendation medal and honored for excellence in taking the championship position in Army National Guard Best Warrior competitions ranging from state, regional and national levels at the Fort Custer Education Center on Nov. 6, 2010. Little, a Military Police NCO and MP Regiment member also made the Army Military Police Commandant's top 100 list for winning the Best Warrior competitions he contended in.

Little said, "Soldiers should jump on every competition that comes their way because these competitions make them train on warrior and leadership skills they need for career progression. Best Warrior is an excellent opportunity for junior enlisted Soldiers to test abilities and skills they will need as NCOs."

The awards and commendation ceremony was preceded by a video show highlighting the competitions Little participated in. Little's wife, Hollie, was presented with a bouquet of flowers and congratulated for providing academic study help and morale support for Little while he faced the challenges of the competitions.

Little, an Iraq combat veteran, said, "National Guard Soldiers today are serving in a wartime force. Both Soldier and NCO competitions place stresses and mental strains on a Soldier that are close to what you can experience in combat. This is another reason why I recommend that every Soldier should compete; the competitions make the

Soldier become proficient in warrior skills they will use on the battlefield."

After the awards and commendation presentation, Little was congratulated by Brig. Gen. Michael Nevin, Brig. Gen. Michael Stone, officers and NCOs of the 177th Regiment, Regional Training Institute.

Little is assigned to 2nd Battalion, 177th Regt., Regional Training Institute in Augusta, Mich., and is the course manager for the Officer Candidate School program.



Brig. Gen. Michael Nevin and Brig. Gen. Michael Stone present Little with the Military Police Commandant's 100 Certificate.

## Big Accomplishments for Little

- 2010 Army National Guard NCO of the Year
- 2010 45th Recipient of the MP Commandants Top 100 Award
- 2010 Region 4 NCO of the Year
- 2010 Michigan Army National Guard NCO of the Year
- 2010 EANGUS Minuteman of the Year
- 2009 EANGUS Minuteman of the Year
- 2009 Michigan Army National Guard NCO of the Year
- 2009 Steward Medal Winner
- 2009-2010 Honor Graduate of 10 military courses

# Vets Centers

Story and photo by Sgt. 1st Class James Downen

Michigan Guardsmen with wartime service living in the Upper Peninsula have a Veterans Administration Veterans Center in Escanaba that can assist them with counseling services, serve as liaison with other VA facilities, and provide references to community-based social service agencies among other services.

Rebecca Berndt-Downen, an Afghanistan veteran and counselor at the Vet Center said, "The Vet center is involved in outreach, we work closely with Michigan Guard units." The Vet Center often attends activities such as Post Deployment Health Reassessments and Yellow Ribbon events where they are able to provide services to the Guardsmen.

Berndt-Downen said, "We provide informational pamphlets and forms at our benefits table we set up prior to an event starting and we remain 20 minutes after the conclusion. At PDHRAs, we bring clinicians to evaluate Soldiers and the clinicians can make referrals for Soldiers if they have mental health issues."

The Vet center also assists veterans' family members as well. "We often work with spouses of deployed or returned veterans; they can contact us for service references." said Berndt-Downen. "I would advise deploying Guardsmen to insure the spouse and families have Family Readiness Group contact information and to understand how FRGs work." Berndt-Downen said. "The Guard FRGs have been the best organized and most cooperative with the Vet Center out of the all military branches I've had to work with."

The Escanaba Vet Center isn't tied down to its building at 3500 Luddington Street. The Vet Center operates a Mobile Vet Center van, allowing the Vet Center to reach rural veterans throughout Michigan's Upper and Lower Peninsula and parts of Wisconsin as well. The van has internet satellite allowing internet access to VA records, teleconferencing capabilities allowing veterans face-to-face visits between VA Medical Center health providers and fax capabilities. The van also contains confidential counseling areas on each end and a waiting area in the center of the vehicle.

Michael Hamlin, an Iraq veteran and Vet Center Readjustment Counseling Technician said, "The van allows us to cover events such as Homeless Veterans Stand Downs, these are events that allow homeless vets to receive veteran's benefits counseling and other services they are eligible for."

Hamlin said, "The van allows us to literally go anywhere and conduct outreach activities where we provide information



Escanaba Vet Center employees Michael Hamlin and Rebecca Berndt-Downen show the Mobile Vet Center, a van equipped with internet computers, fax machine and other equipment allowing veterans to access their VA records at any event the MVC is sent to.

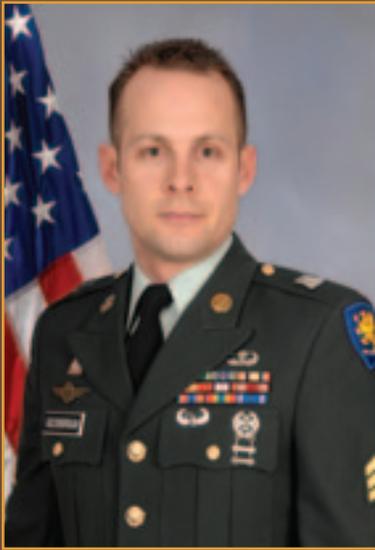
and references to veterans."

Many veterans attending outreach events require administrative assistance to obtain benefits. "My job is to provide information concerning benefits eligibility to veterans and link them up with veteran's service officers, should they need help with VA paperwork to obtain benefits," said Hamlin.

Service members in counseling often worry about their privacy being violated. Berndt-Downen said, "National Guard service members don't need to worry about the military or their civilian employer finding out about receiving counseling or other mental health services. We have confidentiality laws that prohibit us from sharing our clients' records with other government agencies or third parties. Part of our mission statement is to provide an environment where the veteran feels safe to discuss personal matters without repercussions."

The staff of the Escanaba vet center stand ready to assist eligible veterans Monday through Friday 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and they can set up weekend appointments if needed to assist clients, they can be contacted by phone at 906-233-0244 to set up appointments or assist a veteran with any questions concerning benefits or counseling. Vet Center services are free to veterans and their families and always confidential.

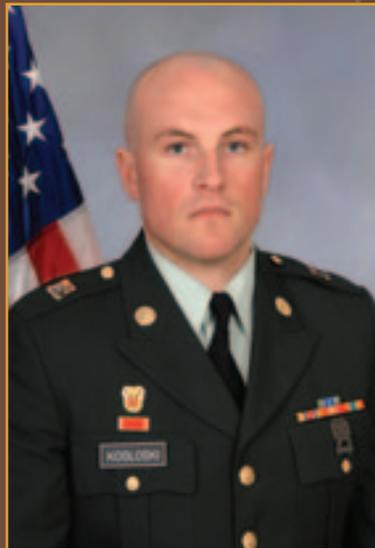
# Michigan Army National Guard



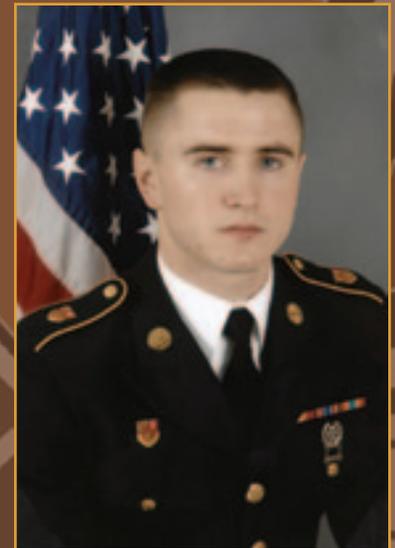
**NCO of the Year**  
Sgt. Jay F. Goldsborough  
1071st Maintenance Co.



**MG Earl R. Stewart Medal**  
Spc. Donovan M. Klemkosky  
Company D, 237th BSTB

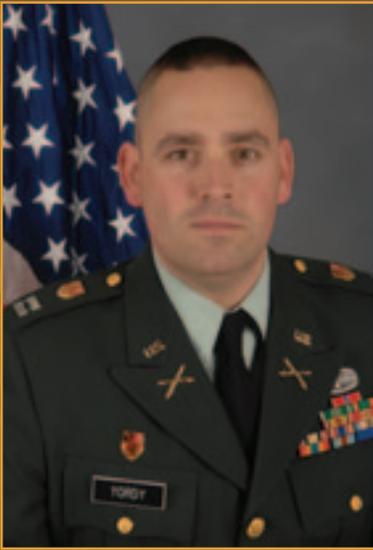


**Soldier of the Year**  
Spc. Matthew S. Kosloski  
126th Network Signal Co.



**Honor Guard Soldier of the Year**  
Spc. Christopher J. Rutan  
Battery C, 119th Field Artillery

# ard's Finest Soldiers of 2010



**Gen. Douglas Macarthur  
Leadership Award**  
Capt. Obie B. Yordy  
Battery C, 119th Field Artillery



**Warrant Officer of the Year**  
CW4 Joseph H. Bruinsma  
HHC 63rd Troop Command



**Recruiting NCOIC of the Year**  
Master Sgt. David Stafford  
Recruiting and Retention Command



**Recruiter of the Year**  
Sgt. 1st Class John Claybaugh  
Recruiting and Retention Command

# Two Homes, One Goal- Se

Story and photos by Sgt. 1st Class James Downen

The D.J. Jacobetti Home for Veterans in Marquette, Mich., provides eligible Michigan veterans who are unable to care for themselves with residential and health services. The eligibility criterion to stay in the home is 90 days of service during a wartime period.

The D.J. Jacobetti Home was established in the 1970s when citizens and veterans organizations lobbied for the first veterans home in the Upper Peninsula. The efforts of citizens and veterans paid off when the legislature passed Public Act 107 of 1977 and funds were approved to secure a facility in the U.P. to house veterans needing care.

The former St. Mary's hospital in Marquette was purchased on May 15, 1979 and work began to convert the facility to house veterans. After two years of work to prepare the building, the facility was named 'Dominic J. Jacobetti Veterans Facility' to honor Dominic J. Jacobetti, the chairman of the House of Appropriations Committee and an advocate for Michigan veterans.

Sue Feldhauser, eligibility, admissions and personnel director, has worked at the facility since May of 1981. Feldhauser said, "Our first resident was a WWI veteran, Ernest Peterson. He was admitted on May 27, 1981 and like many WWI veterans, he suffered from Emphysema due to mustard gas poisoning. He passed away in 1988."

The facility houses approximately 200 resident veterans ranging from WWI to the Gulf War.

Feldhauser said, "We don't just provide a building and medical care, we have a wide variety of activities ranging from bingo, wood shop, crafts, worship services and outings. Our volunteer partners from veteran's organizations, churches, individual volunteers and student nurses from Northern Michigan University assist us with outings, therapy and day to day operations."

Tina Lynch, a registered nurse, said, "We offer many therapy activities, both physical and mental to make the veteran's quality of life better. Those of us who work in health care have a rewarding job due to the nature of taking care of others. However, working

at the Jacobetti takes the reward a step further, we often become friends of veterans who don't get family visits."

Veterans at the Jacobetti also receive benefits and financial planning assistance. "We sit down with the veteran and their family and conduct an initial assessment where we examine pension payments, social security, veteran's benefits and any other income sources the veteran has. We find out if the veteran has debts, if so, we can help the veteran with setting up payments. There are veterans service officers who can help the veteran with Veterans Administration benefits at our facility and if the veteran needs their help, we refer them to the VSO for assistance," said Ron Strong, the benefits coordinator, who regularly evaluates finances with the veterans and their families.

One VSO with the Veterans of Foreign Wars who works at the Jacobetti is service officer Pat Holcomb. Holcomb explains how VSOs assist veterans with securing VA benefits, "We advocate for the veteran by assisting them with the paperwork they need to file to obtain their benefits. We understand the VA paperwork and the VA jargon, which is similar to military jargon; these two elements can confuse the veteran, especially since the residents tend to be elderly. The VFW trains us yearly in changes to VA paperwork and regulations. The veterans here are people who have served the country in dangerous times and we do our best to show our appreciation by giving them the best advocacy we can provide."

The D.J. Jacobetti Home for Veterans has been living up to its mission of providing care for veterans unable to care for themselves for almost 30 years.

"The home and staff," said Strong, "ends up becoming our veteran resident's family because staff and residents alike become friends due to the nature of care that is given under this one roof."

Pictured from left to right- Veterans at the Jacobetti Home and the Grand Rapids Home have access to professional staff to include physical therapists, social workers, and dieticians. They are also able to enjoy some of their free time with activities such as woodworking and crafts, fishing, and music lessons.



# Serving Those Who Served

Story by Angela Simpson Photos by Senior Airman Brittany Simon

Originally constructed in 1885, the Grand Rapids Home for Veterans currently houses nearly 800 veterans and helps many more with benefits assistance, community activities and social events. The primary mission of the home is “to provide veteran care in a way that promotes independence, self-worth, wellness and dignity to men and women who have served their state and country,” says Sara Dunne, acting GRHFV administrator. “The GRHFV is a symbol of Michigan’s promise to veterans, that in return for their sacrifices and call to duty they would be cared for in time of need. My job...is to make sure that promise is kept,” Dunne added. “We have an incredible team that puts their whole heart and mind providing the best care possible.”

The Home, located at 3000 Monroe, N.E. in Grand Rapids, is really three separate buildings including three floors exclusively for nursing care. Each building and each floor offers unique services based on the residents but all offer an extensive professional staff of nurses, social workers, dieticians, and recreational therapy aides who work hard to make sure that veterans who stay at the home have a positive experience. The Home also offers an in-house pharmacy, rehabilitation therapy room, pastoral care center, and specialty clinics for vision and dental care. Recent surveys show that the Home meets or exceeds today’s quality-of-life living standards.

All members of the Armed Forces of the United States who have been honorably discharged and served not less than 90 days during a designated wartime period may apply for admission to the Grand Rapids Home for Veterans. Applicants must also be considered unemployable by the U.S. Social Security Administration and all applicants must be residents of Michigan at the time of admission (with some exceptions). Parents, widows, widowers, former spouses of eligible veterans are also eligible to apply for admission. No veteran or eligible family member is turned away based solely on inability to pay. Neither nursing care nor long-term living expenses at the Home are covered by Medicare/Medicaid or most other health insurances.

Dunne, also Director of Nutrition Services, provided a tour of the Home during our visit. She explained that while her department’s focus is on nutrition and special diets/tools for members with chewing and swallowing problems, the interdisciplinary staff tune in to all of the issues going on involving the Home, not just their own departments. She described the holistic approach to care as one of the Home’s best accomplishments. “Not only do residents have high quality medical and nutritional care but they generate an atmosphere of family. They do things together, like taking guitar lessons with the Guitars for Vets program. They also have a singing group called the Vet Tones that go into the community to perform. We have a wheelchair accessible nature trail, fishing deck, greenhouse, amphitheatre, and a bowling alley onsite. A resident can be as involved as he or she wants to be in activities at the Home.” Dunne said that many residents are also politically active and watch for legislative action that would affect themselves and fellow veterans. Recently a group of 100 residents and supporters lobbied for an exemption from the state’s ban on smoking in public places because many residents, some elderly and disabled by injuries incurred during their military service, will be forced outside to smoke in the harsh Michigan winter weather. Dunne said they are looking into other options for veterans who smoke but that topic is just one of many issues the residents are concerned about. Funding is always a concern she said, with changes in benefits and a generally poor economy, it seems like we are all getting by with less these days. Donations to the Home help with special projects the Home is unable to get via budgetary approval. Eric Alderman, director of operations, explained the Home’s desire to make improvements with its cemetery as one special project, making the memorial park more of a show piece of the GRHFV grounds. General donations are being funneled into this project with the Rolling Thunder, Michigan Chapter #1 from Manistee recently donating \$4,000 toward it. Alderman said, “We have to do everything we possibly can to make this a beautiful and special home for individuals who sacrificed greatly to protect our way of life and our freedoms.”





# Cutler Transforms Guard

Story by Angela Simpson

After leading the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs and serving as the Michigan National Guard Adjutant General for eight years, Lieutenant General Thomas G. Cutler retired at the end of January 2011.

Cutler began his military career by attending basic military training in 1970. He attended officer training school and received a commission in July 1971. Following undergraduate pilot training at Vance Air Force Base, Okla., he received his wings in September 1972. He held a variety of leadership positions at the Battle Creek Air National Guard Base between 1972 and 1987. In August 1987, he took command of the Alpena Combat Readiness Training Center in Alpena, Mich. Eight years later, Cutler moved to southeast Michigan to command Selfridge Air National Guard Base from 1995 to 2002. In 2003 he assumed the helm as adjutant general of the Michigan National Guard where he led until his retirement. Cutler is a command pilot with more than 4,700 flying hours logged. He has flown the T-37, T-38, O-2, A-37, C-26, and C-130 airframes.

“It has been an honor to serve as Michigan’s Adjutant General over the past eight years,” said Cutler. “We have been at war for this entire period and I have been incredibly impressed with the dedication of the young men and women who serve in

our National Guard. They have made huge sacrifices as they've answered our nation's call and I am deeply appreciative of their service. I'm also very thankful for the great support of our fellow citizens here in Michigan. They too have sacrificed to support our Soldiers, Airmen, and their families."

During Cutler's tenure, deployments in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom (Afghanistan) have been extremely demanding. More than 17,000 Soldiers and Airmen from Michigan National Guard units have been deployed since the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001. The Michigan National Guard and the National Guard as a whole has transformed in the past eight years, becoming an operational force for the nation's armed forces rather than a strategic reserve force. As adjutant general, Cutler took every opportunity to visit deployed troops. He thanked each and every one for their service and said he and his wife Chris "will always be tireless supporters of the men and women and families who serve the state and nation in the name of freedom and democracy."

Gen. Cutler and his wife Chris are looking forward to increased family time and opportunities to travel and pursue some neglected hobbies in the months and years ahead.

Michigan's newly elected Governor Rick Snyder offered these words during the change of command ceremony held Jan. 8, 2011 at the Guard Joint Forces Headquarters in Lansing, "For the past eight years, Major General Tom Cutler has served with distinction as the adjutant general for Michigan. He has a phenomenal record of accomplishment in the Air National Guard with 40 years of service, 40 years of progressively greater rank and responsibility. Tom was always selected for the tough jobs, always picked for the positions where we needed our very best, and he was always known for his leadership, his integrity, and his passion for people," said Snyder. "We are also honored to have Chris Cutler with us today. Tom and Chris made a wonderful team at the head of the National Guard. As our Michigan National Guard Soldiers and Airmen answered the call after 9-11 and deployed overseas, Chris took charge of family support here at home. For the past eight years, she spent countless hours of her own time to make sure every military family member was made to feel part of the Guard family and had the support they needed while their loved ones were far away. Tom and Chris, you have had a great career of service to our state and our nation. We are truly grateful and we wish you the very best of luck in your years ahead."





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

It is an honor and privilege to be able to serve as a Soldier once again and lead the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs; this outstanding organization of Soldiers, Airmen, civilian state and federal employees. I am truly humbled to serve as your Adjutant General. I am totally committed, “all in,” and will focus my energy to ensuring our Soldiers and Airmen are equipped, trained and ready to meet any state or federal mission and that our veterans receive the recognition and service from our organization that they so justly deserve.

The cornerstone of my command philosophy is that the center of gravity of this organization is our people. We are in this together. We will face the inevitable challenges, create and exploit opportunities together. This is a We operation; a team, not a Me organization.

Citizen-Soldiers stand by as we have for the past 374 years, ready to answer the call to duty and do our nation’s bidding. They are Americans answering the call to duty to be part of something larger than themselves, because they believe the adage “freedom isn’t free” and that the freedoms we so often take for granted are worth fighting for. We are American Soldiers and Airmen, warriors and members of the team. We serve the citizens of the State of Michigan and the people of the United States. We are the guardians of freedom and the American way of life. Accordingly, our most urgent priority is to continue to provide security and defense of our homeland, here in Michigan and abroad, including our critical Homeland Security support in the war on terrorism and drugs. We are at war and making sure Soldiers and Airmen are ready is our single most important task. For the war fight and equally prepared for doing any domestic operations.

I want to share a story about Governor Snyder, our new commander-in-chief of the Michigan National Guard. Within hours of taking office on January 1<sup>st</sup>, Governor Snyder took the time out of an incredibly busy day to call and talk to the commanders of our Michigan National Guard units deployed in Afghanistan, Iraq, and Kuwait. He thanked them for their service and sacrifice and let them know how proud he and the citizens of the great State of Michigan are of them and their Soldiers and Airmen. That speaks volumes about his leadership and commitment to our people, a very meaningful gesture for our National Guard. We are fortunate to have Governor Snyder as our commander-in-chief.

I also want to thank Major General Cutler for his leadership as Adjutant General over the past eight years and for his forty years of service in the Air Force and Michigan Air National Guard. He took over in the aftermath of 9-11 and faced the daunting challenge of meeting the demands in Iraq and Afghanistan with the largest mobilization of Michigan Guardsmen since World War II. We all wish Tom and Chris Cutler the best in their well-deserved retirement.

In closing, I wish you all the best and look forward to meeting each of you as I visit the armories, air bases, headquarters, and veterans homes of Michigan in the next several months.

Maj. Gen. Gregory J. Vadnais

# Vadnais Takes New Job Personally

Story by Senior Airman Brittany Simon

“This is a ‘we’ operation. We succeed and fail based on collective skills, energy and efforts,” said the newly sworn Adjutant General of the Michigan National Guard and Director of the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, Maj. Gen. Gregory J. Vadnais. Vadnais gave his opening speech at the Change of Command ceremony held Jan. 1, 2011, at the Joint Force Headquarters in Lansing.

The newly appointed governor also spoke at the ceremony. “I picked Maj. Gen. Vadnais for two reasons: number one is that he has unparalleled skills getting troops prepared to provide relief in the event of a disaster. Under his command, the Guard will maintain the level of readiness it has achieved. I also picked Maj. Gen. Vadnais because he understands what it takes to balance a civilian career with service in the military. He will make sure our troops and their families get the support they need.”

Soldiers are often inspired to try military service based on the experiences of family members who have served.

“I was influenced by my father who served as a Tech. Sgt. B-17 crewman in WWII and my uncle, Lt. Gen. Vern Andrews. “As a young man, I was around my uncle who at that time was a 2nd. Lt. in the 11th Airborne Division out of Fort Campbell, Ky., and that is where I first became interested and intrigued by the military,” said Vadnais.

“The Guard is America’s oldest military organization and our nation’s greatest organization. The Guard is a great place for a young man or woman to come in and gain leadership experience and skill sets that pay dividends throughout their professional careers and lives,” said Vadnais.

Soldiers in leadership positions have mentors who shape them into leaders based on what they were taught and the examples set by those officers and non-commissioned officers who mentored them throughout their careers.

“As a junior officer, I had some great captains, majors and colonels that shepherded me along my career path. I also had NCOs and sergeants major who guided me as well. A lot of my success can be attributed to a long list of great Soldiers,” stated Vadnais.

Due to the current state of the economy, there are likely to be deep resource reductions within the Department of Defense. Vadnais response to this was, “In light of budgetary issues, it is very difficult to anticipate what kind of state missions could pop up that will require funding. We need

to be equipped, trained and be ready to respond to any mission given to us, be it a simple snow storm or something as complex as a weapons of mass destruction incident in our state. I will fight to make certain we get our fair share of defense funding so we can perform any mission assigned to us.”

Soldiers must positively represent the communities they serve. When asked what Vadnais expected of his Soldiers and Airmen, he stated, “I expect my Soldiers and Airmen to live the Army and Air Force values; high integrity, honesty and commitment. My focus will be to ensure we are able to provide them the equipment and training they need to be ready for any mission.”

Vadnais will operate primarily from Joint Force Headquarters in Lansing, Mich., but plans to routinely visit armories, installations, Veterans homes and deployment sites.

“I want to make sure that one of my underlying themes is taking care of Soldiers, Airmen and Veterans. My personal commitment, and this isn’t a business as usual perspective, it is very personal, I am committed to each and every one of our Soldiers, Airmen and Veterans. It is mission first, Soldiers and Airmen always,” said Vadnais.



# Air Guard Member on His Way to the CIA

Story by Tech. Sgt. Dan Heaton

Technical Sgt. Milton Rogers was selected as an outstanding Airman in during an inspection team's visit to the Selfridge Dining Facility before and during the February 2011 Unit Training Assembly. As a result of his selection, the Air National Guard is sending Rogers to the Culinary Institute of America in the Napa Valley of California for one week of specialized training.

"Sgt. Rogers has been one of our go-to people for a number of years," said Chief Master Sgt. Matthew DeHate, superintendent of the Dining Facility for the 127th Force Support Squadron. "This selection validates what we already knew about him."

The 127th Services section was being evaluated by a team from the Air National Guard as one of the finalists for the Senior Master Sgt. Kenneth W. Disney Award, which honors the best dining facility team in the Air National Guard.

During the inspection visit, Rogers worked as a shift supervisor and also lent a hand in a variety of capacities, picking up the duties of Services Airmen who were deployed and not in attendance during the inspection visit.

"The inspection visit was one snapshot in time," Rogers said. "We try to provide a quality meal with good service to the Wing every time we open the door. To do that, everyone has to pitch in."

The Culinary Institute, known as the CIA in the food services world, is regarded as one of the premier, if not the premier, training facility for chefs in the United States. Rogers said the exact details on his trip to the CIA are still being finalized, but he expects to be able to earn a CIA certificate in food service training.

DeHate said the training Rogers receives at CIA will not only make him a better chef, "but it will only make him an even stronger leader. We see him as a future leader of the entire organization."

Rogers joined the Michigan Air National Guard about five years ago, after spending eight years on active duty in the Army, all of it in food service units. He served on three Army deployments, including about 18 months in Iraq.

"How we perform in food services has a big impact on the morale of a unit," Rogers said. "To be able to do it well, you need to plan as much as you can, but then be flexible enough to go with the flow."

In addition to his duties helping out with meal preparation and service, Rogers serves as the fitness NCOIC for the unit and works full-time at Selfridge managing the Wing's Honor Guard program.



## Ice Ice Baby

The challenges of flying in the winter months in Michigan keeps the de-icing crew of the 191st Maintenance Squadron busy prepping the KC-135 Stratotankers of the 171st Air Refueling Squadron at Selfridge Air National Guard Base, Mich., Feb. 8, 2011. USAF photo by John S. Swanson

# Utilize your VSOs

Story by Angela Simpson

Mr. Jason Allen, the director of Michigan's Veterans Affairs Directorate, encourages Michigan veterans to contact their county veterans affairs office or veterans service organization; make an appointment, sit and talk about their eligibility for veterans programs and benefits.

"Many Michigan veterans don't realize they may hold eligibility for a variety of financial, medical and service benefits. As Director of Veterans Affairs, I want to ensure eligible veterans learn about, and apply for the benefits created by federal and State law. By contacting a county veterans affairs office or veterans service organization they can receive assistance in applying for these benefits," said Allen. Almost every county in the state has a veterans affairs office. The county counselors and veterans service officers are knowledgeable about the programs available and rules for application.

"When a veteran or surviving spouse walks into a county veterans affairs office and speaks to a county counselor or a veterans service officer they can count on a compassionate understanding of the problems confronting their families. The county counselors and veterans service officers apply specialized knowledge when someone comes to the office for assistance," added Allen.

For more information about county offices please visit the Michigan Veterans Affairs Web site at [www.michigan.gov/veterans](http://www.michigan.gov/veterans) and "County Contacts for Veterans" from the left hand margin of the opening window. You can find contact information about veterans service officers at the same Web site by choosing "Federal Benefits" and selecting "State Service Officers" from the drop-down menu.

To contact the state Veterans Affairs Directorate call 517-335-6523 or send an email to [hessh@michigan.gov](mailto:hessh@michigan.gov).

Retirees: Please see the Michigan National Guard website that includes many important pieces of information pertinent to retirees. Check back often to subscribe for email updates to keep up on the activities of Michigan National Guard Soldiers and Airmen!



# You've Earned It!

Story by Senior Airman Brittany Simon

Michigan Guardsmen are eligible for Veterans Administration education, job assistance and health benefits for military service in addition to Federal Student loan programs that their civilian peers can receive. This article will provide information, links to assistance and references for the benefits that can be claimed by Michigan Guardsmen.

The largest benefit for military service is the Post-9/11 G.I. Bill, which provides financial support for veterans attending accredited colleges, universities and jobs training programs. Eligibility is determined by at least 90 days of aggregate service on or after Sept. 11, 2001 or for individuals discharged with a service-connected disability after 30 days of active duty. The discharge must be honorable to obtain the benefits.

The G.I. Bill provides the following benefits to eligible veterans, based on location and type of degree being pursued:

- A tuition and fees payment, paid directly to the school, not to exceed the tuition and fees at the most expensive state institute of higher learning.
- A monthly housing allowance based on the Basic Allowance for Housing for an E-5 with dependents. This amount is based on the ZIP code of the location of the school attended. Veterans attending foreign schools, the BAH rate is fixed at 1,330.00 as of 2009. No BAH is provided for distance learning.
- An annual book stipend of \$1,000.00 paid proportionately based on enrollment.
- You may also receive a one-time rural benefit payment of \$500.00 if you reside in a county with 6 persons or less per square mile and:
  1. Either physically relocate at least 500 miles to attend an educational institution or
  2. Travel by air to physically attend an educational institution if no other land-based transportation exists.

For additional information or to apply, call toll-free 1-888-GI-Bill-1 (1-888-422-4551) or visit the web site at <http://www.gibill.va.gov>.

Veterans, like their civilian peers, are eligible for the Federal Pell Grant program for undergraduate students working towards a bachelors' degree. The applicant must be a U.S. citizen or an eligible non-citizen and have a high school diploma or a GED or demonstrate the ability to benefit from the program. For more information on the Pell Grant, visit [www.studentaid.ed.gov](http://www.studentaid.ed.gov).

The Free Application for Federal Student Aid, FAFSA, a loan program, is another benefit both veterans and civilians are eligible for. FAFSA information can be obtained at [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov).

Veterans ending their military careers and moving back or establishing themselves into the civilian community have programs orientated towards those life changes.

Veterans and their spouses who are scheduled to separate from the service are eligible for the Transitional Assistance Program. TAP is a program to help veterans plan for separation before discharge, obtain civilian employment and receive benefits the veteran and spouse are eligible for. TAP assistance can be obtained after the veteran and spouse have separated. For more information, call the TAP hotline at 1-800-455-5228 or visit [http://www.dol.gov/vets/programs/tap/tap\\_fs.htm](http://www.dol.gov/vets/programs/tap/tap_fs.htm)

Honorably discharged veterans are eligible for Veterans Administration home loans. VA home loans can be used to purchase houses, condominiums and manufactured homes. For more information, visit <http://www.homeloans.va.gov/eligibility.htm>

Veterans can find themselves in financial emergencies with little or no warning and with no immediate help available. A veteran in these circumstances can call 1-866-271-4404 to obtain an application for financial assistance.

Veterans with injuries, physical or mental health issues have several programs tailored to their needs that can be obtained by working with the Veterans Administration and through VA community based Vet Centers.

Veterans' health care benefits and eligibility information can be obtained by calling 1-877-222-8387 or visiting <http://www1.va.gov/health/index/asp>. The V.A. contacts can give the veterans information about nursing care in V.A., state, or community nursing homes as well.

Another V.A. program that helps veterans with disabilities is the Vocational, Rehabilitation and Employment program. The VRE helps veterans with service related disabilities by offering services and assistance in finding jobs they can do, despite their physical limitations. Veterans with disabilities that make employment unlikely can receive assistance to make independent living possible. VRE information can be obtained at [www.vetsuccess.gov](http://www.vetsuccess.gov)

The Veterans Administration provides assistance with mental health issue through its readjustment counseling services at community based Vet Centers. Information on Vet Centers can be obtained at <http://www.vetcenter.va.gov> Veterans in crisis can call the National Suicide toll-free hotline at 1-800-273-TALK (8255)

Veterans have burial and end of life benefits they are eligible for. The V.A. cemetery has information on headstones and burials at <http://www.cem.va.gov>. V.A. life insurance information can be obtained at <http://www.insurance.va.gov>.

Other veterans' resources and a full list of veterans' benefits can be obtained at <https://www.mi.ngb.army.mil/links/> upon arrival at the web site, click on Michigan Veterans Benefits and Services. Always remember that agencies and assistance for Michigan veterans is only a click or phone call away.

# Michigan Army and Air National Guard Promotions

June 1, 2010 through December 31, 2010

## **Maj. Gen.**

Johnston, Robert H

## **Col.**

Holzhei, Gregory S  
Kitto, Michael J

## **Lt. Col.**

Comrie, Daniel A  
Dewitt, Douglas A  
Krasko, Kevin T  
Leski, Michael

Rossell, Karen L

## **Maj.**

Cheal, William S  
Greene, Marquis R  
Musleh, Yurii K  
Nicholson, David M

## **Capt.**

Ahrens, Sharon M  
Axe, Andrew J  
Charlebois, Jay A  
Freudenburg, Lucas A

Gregory, Wesley A  
Hendrickson, Matthew D

Totsch, Daniel A  
Vaught, Mark D  
Voss, Thomas S

## **1st Lt.**

Beenken, Kandice R  
Gerber, Andrea J  
Lee, Lemuel D Jr  
Lesterson, Anthony J  
Yun, Yomin

## **2nd Lt.**

Hinkley, Eric W  
Ward, Valerie S  
Wilson, Scott J

## **Chief Master Sgt.**

Downing, Mark A  
Magiera, Matthew W.  
Muszynski, Terry A  
Hubbard, Benjamin E.

## **Senior Master Sgt.**

Laprad, Heath E.  
Noble, Benjamin D.  
Talaga, Jeffrey R.  
Ward, Herbert E  
Zbytowski, Robert L.

## **Master Sgt.**

Baker, Jeffrey W.  
Beaver, Timothy A

Brookmyer, Aaron J  
Brunzman, Kurt P.  
Cape, David A  
Gagneur, David R  
Gonzalez, Stephen A.  
Goodhue, Brian P.  
Hartshorneshafer, L. M.

Kilbourn, Kyle J.  
Landis, Ronald E  
Madden, Craig L  
Martinez, Faustino Jr.  
Mccall, Richard K  
Mcgann, Michael J.  
Mercer, Melissa A.  
Munt, Stephen R  
Olson, John C  
Pawloski, Sonia L  
Reynolds, Shane K  
Weiss, Angela R  
Yelencich, Jeffrey J.

## **Technical Sgt.**

Allred, Lana C  
Bell, Kevin D  
Brunzman, Sarah Ann  
Burdick, Alicia Ann  
Curtis, Thomas A.  
Denbleyker, Brian J.  
Donaldson, James A.  
Gootee, Joseph E  
Henry, Douglas J II  
Jordan, Jason L  
Maurer, Andrew James  
Merkerson, Michael P.

Powell, Jesse Lee  
Roberts, Randall E  
Rogers, Milton John Jr  
Shaltry, Patrick Casey  
Watson, Peter Carl  
Wessel, Joshua  
Wilson, Stanley Izell Jr

## **Staff Sgt.**

Beavers, Jeffery Lynn  
Bechtel, Jennifer E  
Bowles, Eric Reagan  
Choi, Wai Yin  
Claerhout, Todd Lee

Coble, Raymond E.  
Cook, Brandon A.  
Dalton, David Arnel  
Elsholz, Joshua Steven

Foster, Brian M  
Fournier, Joseph B.  
Gilbert, Nicky L  
Grinvalsky, Amy T.  
Hines, Andrea Marie

Huff, Franklin L  
Husinga, Daniel G  
Ison, Jennifer L.  
Kearns, Justin S  
Kimball, Stephanie L.

Klein, Christopher J.  
Kohler, Jeffrey D.  
Kowalski, Jared A.  
Lovelace, Elliott D.  
Meese, Matthew E.

Nowicki, Casey R  
Payne, William J  
Peelish, Joseph W.  
Prytula, Dustin W.  
Reusser, Brian Scott

Reynolds, Anthony D.  
Roland, Jessica M  
Sacker, John W.  
Sawgle, Justin L.  
Tibble, Justin J.  
Voories, Farrah A  
Wieland, Ezekiel J  
Zellers, Robert C.

## **Senior Airman**

Arnett, Sara Marie  
Biland, Bradley R  
Davenport, Jason M.  
Doerscher, Thomas C.  
Emelander, Kyle J.  
Gieraltowski, Natasha  
Grigsby, Tami L  
Hanna, Matthew M.  
Hermansen, Douglas J.

Hostetler, Darin Paul  
Koch, Stephanie M  
Lynch, Robert Louis  
Mack, Josef Andre  
Mosley, Jeremy T  
Newton, Peter L

Parrish, Melissa K  
Passavant, Benjamin J.

Perry, Matthew S  
Pesce, Mary B  
Reid, Timothy James

Rogers, Christopher B  
Salas, John Alexander  
Sellers, Matthew T  
Trimas, Kurt C  
Zomerlei, Branden M.

## **Lt. Col.**

Bennett, Lavetta  
Orr, Raymond  
Shoen, Michael

## **Maj.**

Barkerisman, Stacey  
Jackson, Rodger  
Keith, Ryan  
Mccall, Eric  
Pierce, Anthony  
Schramm, Erick  
Vaidya, Robert  
Vineyard, Michael  
Yirsa, Jason

## **Capt.**

Grant, Mark  
Hall, Jennifer  
Hamber, Charice  
Hearne, Kaloa  
Isley, Charles  
Johnson, Jeffrey  
Marshall, Kelly  
Moon, Renn  
Shook, Micheal  
Trumbull, Jonathan

## **1st Lt.**

Banat, Sami  
Bishop, Myron  
Corsi, Anthony  
Dailey, Jeremy  
Dick, Joseph  
Durand, Jaime  
Hanson, Walter  
Harkins, Thomas  
Heady, Charles  
Johnson, Shayla  
Kelly, Sean

Kemp, Darnisha  
Kendrick, Jamiel  
Korpi, Zachary  
Martin, Devanne  
May, Michael  
Rhodes, Rasheed  
Riley, Patrick  
Roland, John  
Sands, Richard  
Tavian, Devyn

Thorsen, Alexander  
Ziffer, Margaret

## **2nd Lt.**

Bragg, Doreia  
Cosman, Nicole  
Dunkley, Richard  
Hodges, Catherine  
Kimball, Ryan  
Malenfant, Anthony  
Paulian, Mathew

## **Warrant Officer 3**

Miller, Timothy  
Sims, Scott  
Thompson, Jeffery  
Tupa, Eric  
Ulrey, Jessica

## **Warrant Officer 2**

Agle, Anthony  
Balcer, Andrew  
Brink, Jason  
Brumbaugh, Christopher

Clough, Keil  
Clough, Trevor  
Huck, James  
Hyde, Frederick  
McClure, Kyle  
Yokie, Michael

## **Warrant Officer 1**

Morehouse, James  
Ochoa, Tammie  
**Command Sgt. Maj.**  
Day, Kevin  
Holmes, Kenneth

## **Sgt. Maj.**

Folsom, David  
Jones, Arthur  
Smith, Christopher  
Swan, Priscilla

## **Master Sgt.**

Baker, Jessica  
Brooks, Tina

Cabral, Christopher  
Clifford, John  
Grosskopf, Richard  
Houghtaling, Teddy  
Lusk, Brian

Moore, Anthony  
Ritenour, Blake  
Smith, Colleen  
Stafford, David

## **Sgt. 1st Class**

Alexander, Darin  
Aumick, Angelina  
Billingsley, Ernest  
Coleman, Kelly  
Crimando, Matthew  
Dolph, Jessica

Evans, Benjamin  
Flores, Frank  
Gessler, Andrew  
Gribble, William  
Gunnerson, Zachary  
Harder, Brian

Johnson, George  
Kierst, Frank  
Krajewski, Ernest  
Larsen, Christopher  
Leist, Scott

Magoon, Timothy  
Masella, George  
Merritt, James  
Metz, Warren  
Morris, Kurt

Ocallaghan, Barry  
Pickett, Erik  
Rogers, Jason  
Sproviero, Mark  
Stankevich, Timothy

Stoops, Mary  
Sutton, James  
Walters, Ellington  
Wilson, William  
Windgaston, Thomas

Wood, James  
Young, James  
Young, Stephen

## **Staff Sgt.**

Arrell, Jason  
Bauman, Arthur  
Burkett, Richard

# Michigan Army and Air National Guard Promotions

June 1, 2010 through December 31, 2010

Call, William	White, Jamar	Morris, Michael	Choyce, Oliver	Laatz, Jeremy	Strandberg, Jerry
Centers, Thomas	Williams, Kendrick	Morsi, Joseph	Cole, Curtis	Littrell, Matthew	Stutson, Jazzanique
Dentler, James	Wood, Michael	Munsell, Nicholas	Collins, Cody	Lloyd, Tad	Sullivan, Jeremiah
Deyoung, Mark	Yount, Torrens	Myers, Stephen	Conklin, Stephanie	Lopez, Hiram	Tate, Lateria
Do, Luu	<b>Sgt.</b>	Nelson, Erick	Constantineau, Edward	Macgregor, Corey	Tefend, Mark
Donahue, Dennis	Aiuppy, Steven	Peterson, Claressa	Cook, Eric	Makarewicz, Teriana	Thelen, Scott
Doughty, Latisha	Anderson, Michael	Priebe, Sean	Cowell, Derek	Marshall, Drew	Threet, Nathan
Douglas, Matthew	Andries, Adam	Ralston, Patrick	Cummings, Isiah	Mccabe, Christopher	Tompkins, Andrew
Engel, Michael	Arganbright, Christopher	Reed, Aron	Curtis, Matthew	Mcleod, Brian	Trouten, Aaron
Garvie, Joseph	Barnes, Jermaine	Reed, Walter	Demick, Michael	Mcmillan, Michael	Troyer, Christopher
Gates, Mark	Bigham, Christopher	Rieves, Ronald	Dobis, Stephen	Merren, Jerrett	Truong, Sang
Gerring, Henry	Boyd, Jason	Rondo, Joshua	Draper, Michael	Merren, Joshua	Vaneckhoutte, Remi
Griffin, Michael	Bradley, David	Rouse, Frederick	Driscoll, Matthew	Miller, Scott	Villegas, Joshua
Harrison, Joshua	Bradley, David	Ruiz, Jose	Dunlap, April	Milner, Corey	Waters, Corey
Herrick, Shane	Breisach, Stephen	Schafer, Matthew	Dye, Matthew	Moleski, Joshua	Weaver, Derek
Holmes, Jerod	Burden, Sean	Shafer, Kristopher	Edgell, Jeffrey	Molnar, Mitchell	Webb, Benjamin
Hoolsema, Eric	Carr, Steven	Snyder, David	Emery, Colton	Morales, Luciano	Williams, Jonathan
Hutchinson, Eric	Champagne, Bradley	Switzer, Simeon	Esser, Ashley	Mossoian, Angela	Wilson, Sara
Jibson, Shannon	Clark, Sean	Syarto, Stephen	Fesler, Jonney	Mudge, Kristen	Wittenmyer, Gary
Joseph, Jamie	Clough, Lex	Teeple, Shelia	Fierke, Nathan	Mulder, Jacob	Wolf, Amanda
Karnath, Jeremy	Cousins, William	Tuggle, Scott	Fleeson, Joshua	Musser, Mark	Wurst, Colin
Mcbride, Brandon	Cox, Robert	Vandyke, Rachel	Fouts, Steven	Naramor, Joshua	Young, Nicholas
Mccarty, Patrick	Cuba, Bryce	Virshek, John	Fredendall, Alan	Nelson, Cody	Zimmerman, Marty
Mcconnell, Joshua	Drumwright, Daniel	Weemhoff, Nathan	Gall, Michael	Nelson, Tyge	<b>Pfc.</b>
Michalik, Patrick	Gaiser, Kathryn	Wilhoite, Keith	Galloup, Michael	Northrop, Julie	Griswold, Frederick
Neetz, Larry	Geer, Terry	Willis, Lashandia	Gearhart, Matthew	Norton, Kyle	Hofmann, Christina
Neville, Benjamin	Gray, Jeffery	Youmans, Margaret	Gieras, Jordan	Norton, William	Howell, Damien
Palmore, Tony	Haddad, Jeff	Zelinski, Simon	Gilmore, Eric	Okerlund, Karl	Kellerman, Paul
Pasowicz, Robert	Harp, Joseph	Zischke, Bradley	Gooding, Joshua	Partington, Regina	Latimer, Jonah
Peterson, John	Harrod, Annie	<b>Spc.</b>	Griffen, Edward	Peabody, Dustin	Monroe, Tyler
Povey, Travis	Hill, Michael	Adams, Lawrence	Hart, Jesse	Pickard, Darrin	Moore, Kyron
Powers, Herbert	Hitesman, Lawrence	Allstetter, Warren	Hartwell, Justin	Pietila, Brittany	Mosley, Jarvis
Robak, Frank	Hubert, Anthony	Badgerow, Timothy	Hatz, Jason	Piggott, Aaron	Pepin, Aaron
Rosier, Michael	Jeffrey, Adam	Barron, Ashley	Hendley, Adam	Queen, Samuel	Pruitt, Alexas
Ruger, Barry	Johns, Timothy	Bassett, James	Herrington, Michael	Rabb, Andrew	Reid, Jason
Saathoff, Kurt	Johnson, Timothy	Batchelder, Cameron	Hessel, Rine	Rader, Daniel	Robbins, Nicholas
Schafer, Mark	King, Michael	Beeks, Alan	Hopkins, Carl	Reese, Anthony	Schwab, Nathan
Schick, Michael	Knochenhauer, Kase	Bennett, Felicia	Hotsinpiller, Jonathan	Reinecke, Frederic	Scott, Myrissa
Sheposh, Jeffrey	Leathers, Timothy	Bittell, David	Huff, Marlen	Riccomini, Kristopher	Shankster, Alexander
Slates, Charles	Lellis, Jason	Bjunes, Alicia	Jahnke, Jared	Riddle, Trevor	Starnes, Joseph
Smith, Mitchell	Levalley, Keith	Blockton, Eric	Jensen, Shawn	Sanderson, William	Trowbridge, Jamie
Spannos, David	Loeks, William	Bond, Grady	Jerz, Joshua	Schaedig, Patrick	Williamson, Gerald
Spears, James	Loveless, Randy	Bramlett, Kyle	Johnson, Jeffrey	Sharon, Heaven	<b>Pvt.</b>
Stjohn, Michael	Lyon, Steven	Brooks, Joseph	Kapuscinski, Thaddeus	Shouse, Myles	Cook, Richard
Sweet, Ty	Mancini, Logan	Brundidgegowdy, Aaron	Kerby, Robert	Snider, William	Henning, Anthony
Taylor, Amy	Maniaci, Nickolas	Brunger, Michael	Kerby, Zachariah	Snyder, Michael	Horton, Martell
Thomas, Daniel	Mccoy, Bryan	Campbell, Melanie	Kirkpatrick, Kenneth	Spangenberg, Justin	Pittman, Keven
Truitt, Latasha	Mcmichael, Michelle	Cardenas, Jasmine	Klocko, Tyler	Squires, Lisa	Spear, Garrett
Twiest, Brian		Cass, Cody	Koetsier, Christopher	Stephenson, Matthew	Teixeira, Dustin
Webster, Mark		Chatterson, Michael	Kosten, Matthew	Stott, Matthew	Ussery, Erica

## Currently Deployed Army

46th Military Police Command	Afghanistan
1999 AQ	Afghanistan/Iraq
1225th CSSB	Afghanistan/Kuwait
777th MP Det	Iraq
1436th Engineer Co.	Kuwait
745th Ordnance Det	Afghanistan
119th Field Artillery Bn.	Kuwait/Iraq
182nd Field Artillery Bn.	Kuwait
1430th Engineer Co.	Afghanistan
1776th Military Police Co.	Afghanistan
147th Aviation	Kuwait/Iraq



### **\*\*For "Gray Area" Retirees- Army National Guard\*\***

**In order to receive your application for retired pay, you MUST ensure Human Resources Command-Knox (HRC-Knox) has your correct address. If you have moved since you left the National Guard, you are over age 58 and have not yet received your application or are eligible to draw your retired pay before age 60, please contact HRC-Knox at the below toll free number or address an application packet. Please note they have recently moved from St Louis, MO and are now located at Ft Knox, KY.**

**U.S. Army Human Resources Command – Ft Knox**

**ATTN: AHRC-PDR-RCR**

**1600 SPEARHEAD DIVISION AVENUE**

**DEPT 420**

**FT KNOX, KY 40122-5402**

**1-800-318-5298**



## TAPS

Lt. Col. Ronald R. Williams, (ret), 58, July 6, 2010  
 Lt. Col. James F. Clark, (ret), 90, Aug. 14, 2010  
 Senior Master Sgt. Robert N. Derado, (ret), 89, Sept. 1, 2010  
 Master Sgt. Gary Bannasch, 60, Sept. 10, 2010  
 Staff Sgt. David L. Mills, (ret), 79, Sept. 14, 2010  
 Sgt. Robert J. Obrien, 70, Sept. 15, 2010  
 Lt. Col. Edward J. Doyle, (ret), 90, Sept. 17, 2010  
 Staff Sgt. Roger J. Nevins, (ret), 62, Oct. 1, 2010  
 Spc. Eric J. Feldpausch, 45, Oct. 5, 2010  
 Chief Master Sgt. Marvin D. Unruh, (ret), 88, Oct. 6, 2010  
 Chief Master Sgt. Elmer P. Terwilliger, (ret), 91, Oct. 7, 2010  
 Sgt. 1st Class David W. Thompson, (ret), 65, Oct. 7, 2010  
 Sgt. 1st Class James W. Dooley, (ret), 82, Oct. 9, 2010  
 Lt. Col. Peter L. Scheid, (ret), 70, Oct. 9, 2010  
 Maj. Douglas M. Kerchner, 54, Oct. 18, 2010  
 1st Sgt. Alfred R. Siegert, (ret), 81, Oct. 19, 2010  
 Col. Warren K. Wells, (ret), 91, Oct. 19, 2010  
 Chief Master Sgt. Richard G. Convery, (ret), 73, Oct. 21, 2010  
 Staff Sgt. Flavio A. Guerrero, (ret), 61, Oct. 21, 2010  
 Senior Master Sgt. Walton T. Gutzke, (ret), 87, Oct. 21, 2010  
 Staff Sgt. Paul J. Bennett, 80, Oct. 23, 2010  
 Spc. Douglas L. Ruble Jr., 40, Oct. 23, 2010

Chief Master Sgt. Edward J. Otten, (ret), 88, Oct. 26, 2010  
 Master Sgt. Buron L. Childers, (ret), 73, Nov. 7, 2010  
 Lt. Col. Charles E. Meyers, (ret), 82, Nov. 16, 2010  
 Sgt. 1st Class Donald P. Kleinow, (ret), 63, Nov. 21, 2010  
 Chief Warrant Officer 3 Kenneth E. Brisbo, (ret), 77, Nov. 26, 2010  
 Capt. Merwin F. Read Jr., (ret), 87, Dec. 2, 2010  
 Master Sgt. Donald J. Klebba, (ret), 69, Dec. 4, 2010  
 Chief Master Sgt. George C. Schollenberg, (ret), 67, Dec. 7, 2010  
 Staff Sgt. Kenneth A. Parks, (ret), 60, Dec. 8, 2010  
 Maj. Douglas W. Cook, (ret), 76, Dec. 12, 2010  
 Warrant Officer 1 Ronald C. Franklin, (ret), 72, Dec. 14, 2010  
 Master Sgt. Robert C. Ruff, (ret), 77, Dec. 14, 2010  
 Master Sgt. Andrew M. Adamick, (ret), 66, Dec. 15, 2010  
 Tech. Sgt. William Rice Jr., (ret), 75, Dec. 16, 2010  
 Staff Sgt. Dale V. Gibelyou, (ret), 73, Dec. 21, 2010  
 Staff Sgt. Scott A. Powelson, 40, Dec. 22, 2010  
 Lt. Col. John P. Dettl, 80, Dec. 30, 2010  
 Pvt. Dennis L. Smith, 55, Jan. 1, 2011  
 Command Sgt. Maj. Guerin E. Kilgore, (ret), 76, Jan. 4, 2011  
 Chief Warrant Officer 3 William D. Sheldon, (ret), 81, Jan. 6, 2011  
 Staff Sgt. Fredrick W. Rogers, 61, Jan. 15, 2011

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  
**PAID**  
LANSING MI  
PERMIT #1096

**LIFE IS PRECIOUS**

**Look before stepping into a life-changing moment**

**FACTS:**

- ▶ 4,378 pedestrians were killed in traffic crashes in 2008
- ▶ Children 14 and-younger accounted for 6 percent of those fatalities
- ▶ Adults 65 and older accounted for 18 percent of all pedestrian fatalities\*

**ARMY SAFE IS ARMY STRONG**

**I RAN W/ BROTHERS & SISTERS**

\*All statistics obtained from National Highway Traffic and Safety Administration.