

THE WOLVERINE GUARD

**Reduce,
Reuse,
Recycle**



**MING
GOES GREEN**



**ALUMINUM
CANS ONLY**

ERIC



The Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. Gregory J. Vadnais speaks with Battle Creek area leaders in February about potential changes to the Air National Guard base and surrounding community partnerships should DoD proposed budget restrictions pass. Michigan National Guard photo by Angela Simpson



The Adjutant General, Gregory J. Vadnais presents his coin to Clifton Walker, his driver during his recent visit to the troops in Liberia. The Michigan Army National Guard has a unit of Soldiers in Liberia currently serving as mentors for the Armed Forces of Liberia. Michigan National Guard photo courtesy of Command Sgt. Maj. Delbert Husband



U.S. Representative Candace Miller receives the Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States, G.V. "Sonny" Montgomery Eagle Award with the Adjutant General Maj. Gen. Gregory J. Vadnais and Chief Master Sgt. Robert Dobson, command chief of the 127th Wing, Selfridge ANGB, Mich., Feb 21, 2012. Michigan National Guard photo by Senior Airman Rachel Barton

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

As we cross into a new year I am anxious to share with you all the changes that could possibly be occurring throughout the coming months. And I am once again reminded of the spirit of the Soldiers and Airmen of the Michigan National Guard. It makes me more and more proud to be part of this great organization!

As you may or may not be aware, in the last few months it has been announced that the Air Force may be making large cuts to their force. Resulting in personnel and equipment losses. The changes include:

-Replace Battle Creek Air National Guard's planned C-27J cargo aircraft mission with a Remote Split Operations unit flying Air Force MQ-1 and MQ-9 unmanned aerial vehicles. Pilots at a ground station at Battle Creek would pilot these aircraft as they flew combat reconnaissance and strike missions. RSOs in the United States are now responsible for flying such missions in combat theaters such as Afghanistan.

-Remove A-10 fighters from the 127th Wing at Selfridge Air National Guard Base. The 127th Wing would gain four additional KC-135 aerial refueling aircraft, which would strengthen Selfridge's role in aerial refueling, a vital mission for supporting combat and cargo operations around the globe.

Obviously the message is clear that we will continue flying operations at both Battle Creek and Selfridge; but these changes aren't a one for one trade. We are still awaiting AF determination of non-flying mission adjustments and the next affects of the projected cuts. This is a process, and we are in the early stages. More details will follow in the coming weeks with greater fidelity on the future missions or manning for our state. We expect to get more information on the full impact of these proposals in March – hopefully at that point we will be able to share specific future mission information and manpower numbers.

There is no change to the Michigan Army Guard contemplated in the FY 13 reduction but if we are being honest, changes of this magnitude tend to have a trickledown effect, making every service member in Michigan, where unemployment numbers are already high, very nervous. I want to assure my Soldiers and Airmen that I will do everything I possibly can to ensure that the uniquely talented men and women of the Michigan Army and Air National Guard maintain their missions in service to their state and country.

While these changes are not final, I plan on continuing to get the word out there; to lawmakers and our congressional delegates and encouraging them to get in and ask the obvious questions and do what's right for taxpayers and for the country. This process can be lengthy but I look forward to providing our service members the answers they deserve!

We have been at war for 10 years and the Michigan National Guard has without a doubt stepped up and answered the nations call. Let there be no doubt in the capabilities, abilities, and willingness to what the Army and Air National Guard has contributed to the fight. Again, I am honored to serve with each and every one of you, and will never stop fighting for what is right for Michigan!

Maj. Gen. Gregory J. Vadnais

Bullets

Scholarships for Spouses and Caregivers

Hope for Warriors Scholarships were created to provide spouses and caregivers the opportunity to pursue postsecondary education. The scholarships are open to legal spouses or caregivers of U.S. military service members who were wounded or killed in the line of duty between Sept. 11, 2001 and the present. An application is available by contacting scholarship@hopeforthewarriors.org deadline for application is April 2, 2012.



Rock Star Warriors

Michigan Veterans Law and Rock Star Warriors have teamed together to help veterans transition the skills they acquired through military service into skills companies are looking for. Visit www.rockstarwarriors.com for more information.



Free Fishing Events

The Brain Injury Association of Michigan (BIAMI) Veterans Program hosts more than 500 veterans and military personnel at four fishing events each spring. The events are located throughout Michigan.

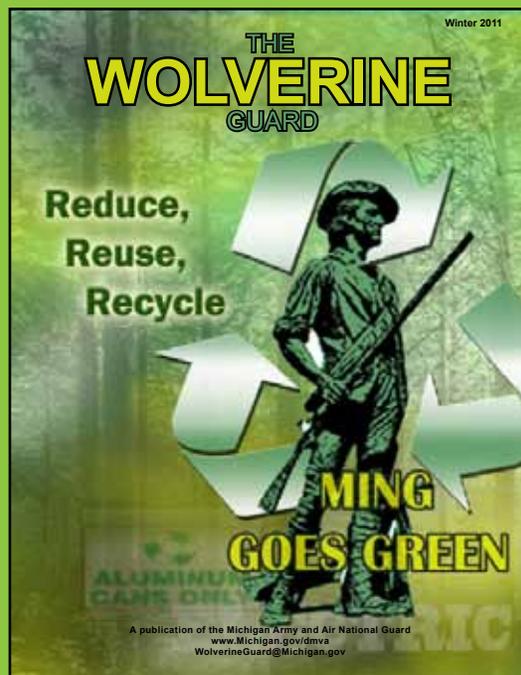
Tight Lines for Troops, May 18-19 in Manistee

Hookin' Up Heroes, June 9, Newaygo State Park

Tips-Up for the Troops, June 9, Kensington Metropark

Walleyes for Warriors, June 16, Bay City

For more information on these events, please visit www.tightlinesfortroops.com.



This edition of the Wolverine Guard showcases the efforts being made in the Michigan National Guard to ensure environmental security while also providing the best training and resources for our Soldiers and Airmen. Cover illustration by Staff Sgt. Helen Miller

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DMVA
From the desk of
The Senior Deputy Director of
Veterans Affairs
TALK

First, I want to thank you for your service. Our State and Nation are grateful for what you have done. The National Guard has played an important role in the defense of this great nation. The rich history of our forces starting from before the Civil War to the present is something to be proud of. The sacrifice and burden bared has made our nation great.

Second, as you plan for your career in the Guard, I ask that you consider the following benefits; the GI Bill, VA Healthcare, Job Training and Disabilities Rating. The GI Bill is probably one of the most underused benefits in Michigan. Soldiers, Airmen and dependants can qualify for up to \$30,000 a year. In general, guardsmen qualify for a percentage of the benefit based on service time. The bill

pays a living allowance, supplies and in state tuition.

Veteran's Administration healthcare is based on class of ratings. With the Community Based Out-Patient Clinics throughout our state, veterans are relatively close to healthcare services. Ratings are judged on length of service and income. Discharging Guardsman may qualify for up to five years free VA healthcare.

Michigan Works and Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve are both great resources for employment. It is a tough job market and these tools may help with employment. Michigan Work offices are located throughout Michigan. Veteran specialists are available to help find employment. The Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve has a great website www.H2H.jobs. The site covers job skills translation and career explorations.

Disabilities are an unfortunate part of service in the military. Documentation is important while still in the military. Service officers are available through the American Legion, Veteran of Foreign Wars, Disabled American Veterans, Purple Heart and Marine Corps League and they can be found at Michigan.gov/veterans. These men and women are skilled in helping with disabilities related to your service and preparing document for the Veterans Administration.

Michigan veterans are not using the benefits they earned. Please take the time to learn more about these great benefits offered to you. You deserve them!

Jason E. Allen



In his book *My American Journey*, General Colin Powell wrote of his draw to the Pershing Rifles during ROTC in New York as "...the discipline, the structure, the camaraderie, the sense of belonging..." He went on to make the U.S. Army a career and eventually ascended to highest officer position in our armed forces; Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. While I will obviously never be the chairman of the joint chiefs, I do share the general's affinity for those things that attracted him to the Pershing Rifles and that likewise make the profession of arms a unique and honorable vocation.

Having the privilege of recently succeeding Chief Master Sgt. Mike Dalton as Command Chief Master Sergeant of the Michigan Air National Guard, I am grateful for the opportunity to offer a few observations about leadership that I believe relate to those merits of service quoted above, and that perhaps have particular relevance considering the unprecedented challenges we are now faced with.

The state command chief's responsibilities include advising the Adjutant General/Assistant Adjutant General, Commander of the Michigan Air National Guard, staff and other key leaders on mission effectiveness, professional development, readiness, training, utilization, and quality of life issues and concerns of the state's enlisted Airmen. keystones within that framework for all levels of leadership are to ensure that the enlisted men and women of our force understand where it is they fit into the organization, how they contribute to the mission, and then to help them reach their full potential by ensuring they have the opportunities and resources needed to be successful.

Leadership, therefore, is the process of influencing behavior to achieve organizational goals, while developing individuals and the organization for future service. And despite the difficult challenges and uncertain future we now face in our Guard, we owe it to those coming behind us to prepare them for leadership into the future, no matter what missions may be placed before us. As National Guard Senior Enlisted Leader Chief Master Sgt. Denise Jelinski-Hall related during her recent visit, "Our mission does not define who we are...our identity and motivation comes from within."

Let me close with this. While visiting Selfridge recently with Maj. Gen. Vadnais and Maj. Gen. Johnston, I couldn't help but notice an organizational shield projected onto the screen in the meeting room. The shield read "We Stand Ready." So simple, yet so profound. I personally believe that leaders are called to stand ready for whatever comes along; to run in when everyone else is running out; to be courageous, yet humble; to invest the time and energy necessary to equip the leaders of the future with the knowledge and skills they will need to lead. Above all, to instill the discipline, structure, camaraderie, and sense of belonging that captured General Powell's attention and that our very foundation is built upon. Are you ready? I am. I consider it my privilege to represent the enlisted corps of the Michigan Air National Guard, and I am truly humbled and honored to serve with you in this profession of arms.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Eddy".

Chief Master Sgt. David Eddy

Study Concludes Master Resilience Training Effective

Story by David Vergun



Soldiers from the 1st Battalion, 125th Infantry Regiment train for their deployment to Afghanistan at Camp Grayling, Mich., in September 2011. The U.S. Army's Comprehensive Soldier Fitness program helps prepare Soldiers like these for the physical and emotional rigors of combat. Check back in the next issue of the Wolverine Guard for more on the mission of the 125th Infantry. Photo by Jeff Sainlar, courtesy of www.annarbor.com.

FORT MEADE, Md. (Army News Service, Jan. 24, 2012) -- The Master Resilience Training aspect of Comprehensive Soldier Fitness is working well. That's the conclusion of an Army report, released last month, covering a 15-month period of statistical evaluation. Comprehensive Soldier Fitness, or CSF, was launched in 2009 to teach Soldiers how to be psychologically strong in the face of adversity, such as combat. The program, also available to family members and DA civilians, was designed at the University of Pennsylvania by behavioral specialists using proven research-based methodologies. Within CSF, all Soldiers, active and reserve component, are required annually to take the Global Assessment Tool, an online questionnaire which measures a Soldier's psychological health. The GAT scores give Soldiers an indicator of where they are strong and where they can improve. Those needing improvement could take Comprehensive Resilience Modules, which are online help tutorials, or seek professional counseling. GAT scores are confidential but the results are aggregated for statistical purposes, such as for use in the recently released Longitudinal Analysis of the Impact of Master Resilience Training, or MRT, on Self-Reported Resilience and Psychological Health Data. MRT is the second aspect of CSF. Master resilience trainers are Soldiers and Department of the Army Civilians who are graduates of the 10 day MRT-C course taught

at University of Pennsylvania, Victory University, or by the Mobile Training Team. They teach leaders to instill resilience in subordinates -- meaning they help fellow Soldiers learn to bounce back from adversity. The study evaluated GAT scores of eight randomly selected brigade combat teams, known as BCTs. Four received MRT and four did not. Over the 15-month period, scores of the four BCTs receiving the training were significantly higher than the others, irrespective of other variables, such as unit leadership and cohesion. "This report represents a significant milestone with respect to the Comprehensive Soldier Fitness program and the Army's broader efforts to develop a more resilient and capable force," wrote Army Vice Chief of Staff Gen. Peter W. Chiarelli, in the report's forward. "It is my hope that this report will spark fruitful discussions; leading to new and improved ways, we may help our Soldiers, Army civilians and family members to improve their overall psychological health." The study has demonstrated that the program is successful, concluded Brig. Gen. Jim Pasquarette, the CSF program director. "I believe this is something we're going to have forever, similar to physical training," Pasquarett said. "I think in the future, even under this budget, we're going to fund it. We believe this will save us money through prevention (because) it helps our Soldiers, family members and Department of the Army civilians deal with adversity in their life and more importantly -- thrive in their lives."

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

Story by Sgt. 1st Class James Downen

The Camp Grayling Recycling Facility collects plastics, cardboard, metals, concrete, wood and tree debris to keep the facility clean and conserves space on the installation by selling recyclable materials to Michigan based companies such as Padnos of Wyoming, Mich., and A and L Iron of Gaylord, Mich.

The recycling facility is part of the Camp Grayling environmental management office and is supervised by Maj. James Robson and Chief Warrant Officer 2 Jennifer Summers. The facility is managed and run by Michigan state employee James Cox. Cox said, "I was recruited for this job after Maj. Robson met me during a Grayling Township board of appeals meeting. I have 25 years of experience in recycling, so I had the necessary experience for the job and Maj. Robson guided me through the state employment application process."

When individuals or units have materials that are recyclable, they deliver them to building 46, the Camp Grayling recycling center. Cox logs the material, sorts it and processes it as necessary. "I'm only allowed five percent contamination in sorting when I place recyclables in their respective containers. Any more than this, the company picking up the material can refuse payment." The recyclables that Cox processes in a fiscal year ranges in weight from 30 pounds of Styrofoam peanuts to 913 pallets of cardboard weighing in at more than 1,000 pounds per bundle.

The funds received from recycling companies pay for the operational expenses of the recycling center, environmental pollution prevention and protection, and any funds that are left go into the Camp Grayling Morale Welfare and Recreation fund. Cox said, "We don't just generate recyclable materials revenue, we save Camp Grayling trash container pick up fees. Each time Waste Management has to empty a container, that's a \$530 fee that Camp Grayling has to pay.

I track the weight of the materials we've sold for recycling and estimate that the Recycling Center has saved Camp Grayling roughly \$2100 a quarter in container pick up fees."

The recycling center has a compost pile, chipped concrete and metals pick up area outside of building 46. Cox said, "We recover tree stumps and whole trees that have been blown down, cut or have died and when we have enough of them, we put them through a wood chipper. If we need to, we can use the wood chips as material for Camp Grayling environmental projects, or sell them to buyers from the local community. The concrete is chipped for two reasons, one is to save space and the other is so it can be reprocessed by concrete plants that purchase it to make concrete. The metal is stacked by type and if necessary, is picked up by trucks equipped with cranes"

The environmental stewardship and fiscal contributions of the recycling center has had national notice. Camp Grayling took second place in the Sustainability of Non-Industrial Installations category for the National Guard Bureau Environmental Securities Awards Program. Due to this high ranking, the Camp Grayling Recycling Center will represent the Army National Guard in the upcoming Department of the Army's Environmental Awards program competition.

Cox said, "We're proud of the work we do here at the Camp Grayling recycling center. From an environmental stewardship focus, it's good to know that the Camp Grayling recycling center cuts down on trash sent to landfills. We save the taxpayer money by limiting the need for waste disposal tipping fees and we generate revenue for Camp Grayling operations by selling 60 percent of the materials delivered to the recycling center to commercial buyers. This revenue is money the state doesn't have to provide, which is a win-win for Michigan taxpayers."



Selfridge Energy Initiatives

Conserves Environment, Saves Money, Increases National Security

Story by Staff Sgt. Anna-Marie Wyant

The 127th Wing plans to increase energy efficiency through various initiatives at Selfridge Air National Guard Base over the next few years to help save the environment --not to mention taxpayer dollars.

Using energy-efficient heating and cooling systems, smart meters, and retro-commissioning older electronic devices are a few ways the wing is currently going "greener." To be considered effective, the new initiatives must have a 10-year return, meaning the cost of the new systems and equipment must be fiscally met in energy savings over a 10-year period or sooner, said Steve Krajnik, energy manager for the 127th Wing.

Being smart about energy

In order to improve energy efficiency, there has to be a quantifiable starting point. That's where smart meters come in handy. Smart meters monitor electricity, water and gas consumption; these meters are being installed in 36 buildings on base, Krajnik said. He said the meters will not only over time map the reduction in energy consumption, but also if a meter shows an abnormal amount of energy consumption, it will alert civil engineering personnel to a possible problem with equipment or facilities. By 2015, Krajnik said the goal is to have a meter installed on every qualified building on base.

Retro-commissioning involves replacing old, inefficient heating ventilating and air conditioning (HVAC) equipment with new, energy-saving, environmentally-friendly equipment, tweaking systems and ensuring older buildings are up to standards. Four wing buildings have been retro-commissioned to date; Krajnik said the initiative, which is being worked in concert with mechanical shop personnel and the wing's mechanical engineer, will begin on 17 additional buildings in 2012.

Another initiative driven by the wing's structural shop includes changing older T-12 fluorescent lights, which contain a small amount of mercury and are very



Workers prepare to splice a "T" pipe while installing a geothermal system at Selfridge Air National Guard Base, Mich. A mixture of water and Propylene glycol, an antifreeze, will run through a series of horizontal loops approximately 15 feet below ground and will be used for heating and cooling. Michigan National Guard photo by John Swanson

inefficient, for new T-5, T-8 or even LED lights. LED lights cost more initially, but are low-maintenance, have a much longer life, and consume far less energy, Krajnik said. The wing is working on initiatives to improve exterior lighting systems and would ideally eventually have LED lighting base wide, including street and airfield lighting.

Keeping energy usage on track

Altogether base facilities use a great deal of energy, but Krajnik said various buildings on base are being upgraded to do more with less. The upgraded systems feature direct digital control (DDC), which means the energy use in certain buildings can be monitored and maintained from one central location.

"We can find out if there's something wrong usually by looking on a screen rather than waiting for a complaint, sending someone over to check it out, then getting a specialist to fix the problem," said Richard Boyland, a 127th Wing DDC mechanic

who currently monitors buildings through DDC from his office. In figuring out a problem at the start, time, money, and energy can all be saved.

"Also, we can program a schedule based on a building's regular hours of operation to ensure energy isn't being wasted when people aren't there," he said.

Boyland said another part of effective heating and cooling systems is having situational awareness.

"People need to watch what they're doing and make sure they're not covering up vents or making the system work harder than it needs to," said Boyland. "DDC helps us get a handle on things, but good office practices are essential."

He said soon 33 wing buildings will be monitored through DDC.

Geothermal heating and cooling

Projects are underway to install three new geothermal systems on base as well. Shannon Hulswit, who works on energy management and land use

planning at Selfridge, said the wing is currently installing horizontal closed-loop geothermal systems to support the new munitions complex facilities on base. The new geothermal systems will use 40-70 percent less energy than existing HVAC systems, Hulswit said. Current top of the line natural gas furnaces run approximately 95 percent efficient, while geothermal heat pumps are approximately 400 percent efficient; the heat pumps achieve greater efficiency by moving up to four units of heat for every one unit of electricity required to power the system.

“In addition to being one of the most efficient renewable energy sources for this region, these geothermal systems will provide Selfridge with a short return on investment,” Hulswit said.

The new geothermal systems will take advantage of the earth’s constant temperature, which is approximately 51 degrees Fahrenheit below the frost line at Selfridge. Each system will run a mixture of water and Propylene glycol, an antifreeze, through a series of horizontal loops which will lie approximately 15 feet below ground. The loops will connect to a geothermal heat pump, which will circulate the glycol through the system, providing 51-degree air to either heat or cool the air depending on the season.

“In the summer, the system takes the hot air from the building and runs it through the horizontal loops creating fifty-one-degree air we temper,” Hulswit said. “In winter, it works in reverse. The heat pump only has to raise the building temperature from fifty-one degrees in the winter, not the freezing temperatures outside, making it more efficient.”

Hulswit said the heating and cooling cost would be reduced by approximately 50 percent or more once the geothermal system is fully functional.

Future energy initiatives

The wing will continue to expand its energy-saving initiatives in the future. Hulswit said this involves investing in

more renewable energy sources, including solar thermal and photovoltaic systems. While both systems utilize energy created by the sun, the two systems have some distinct differences.

“Photovoltaic systems harness the sun’s light waves to generate electricity, which we can use to power our buildings, while solar thermal systems take advantage of the sun’s heat, which we can use to meet our domestic hot water needs,” Hulswit said.

With all these energy-saving initiatives comes additional money-saving incentives; energy costs will directly lower due to natural energy production. Also, local energy suppliers and the government offer tax rebates for these energy conservation efforts, saving the wing money that could be invested in more “green” initiatives.

It’s not easy going green

While the energy program started out slowly, it is now moving along steadily due to hard work and dedication from various shops on base.

“The program isn’t crawling anymore—it’s up and walking,” Krajnik said.

In addition to saving money and conserving the environment, Krajnik said

producing more natural energy here also increases national security.

“Being more energy efficient lowers our dependence on foreign oil,” he said. “We need to get to a point in the future where we are completely secure and independent of fossil fuels.”

He said the Air Force vision is a net-zero energy use, meaning the base will not consume more energy than it produces. A big part of ensuring a successful energy efficiency plan is everyday participation from base personnel.

“We’ve had great command and tenant support, but a cultural change needs to happen,” Krajnik said. “We need to better educate on energy awareness and get everyone in the wing/base motivated; it’s critically important.”

He said each person is responsible for doing their part of energy conservation—things as simple as turning off lights when leaving an empty room and keeping windows closed while heating or cooling systems are on.

“Many people do things here that they wouldn’t do at home,” he said. “If you can be conscious about saving energy at home, you can do it at work too.”



The 127th Wing plans to install three new geothermal systems for heating and cooling, which will reduce energy consumption and save money. Michigan National Guard photo by John Swanson



Saving a Special Songbird

Story by Angela Simpson

Michigan Army National Guard installations, and all Department of Defense installations across the country, are required to comply with the Endangered Species Act of 1973 by monitoring service lands for species that are currently listed, or likely to be listed, as endangered. If one is found and legitimately identified, the installation is required to take all reasonable



Team Cerulean Warbler members (from left to right): John Brennehan, Rich Keith, Brenda Keith and Jennifer Baldy pause for a photo in the woodlands of Fort Custer Training Center. Photo courtesy of the Kalamazoo Nature Center

actions to prevent the species from moving into threatened or endangered status. A change in status would potentially increase operating and training restrictions on the land thus having a negative impact on our readiness profile. Equally important to MIARNG installations is the protection of natural resources (water, forest, prairie) and responsible stewardship of our lands for future generations.

The colorful cerulean warbler is one such threatened species. It was recently listed as the fastest declining migrant songbird in the United States. Their breeding habitats are limited to mature deciduous forests in eastern North America and they migrate annually more than 1,000 miles south to spend the winter in the dwindling forested

mountain areas of South America. The 3-4" adult is extremely difficult to see because it nests and forages higher in the forest canopy than other warblers but its distinctive *zhr zhr zhr zezeze zzeeee* melody of varied slow and fast notes enthusiastically announces visitors entering their territory.

In the spring of 2011 staff from the Kalamazoo Nature Center began an ongoing survival study of the warblers at the Fort Custer Training Center in Augusta, Mich. Their study included the first ever capture and tagging of a female just days before she began nest building. Tracking her movements on the FCTC property allowed the researchers to make new observations about the species and to better understand how this small warbler uses the natural resources found at Fort Custer with much less human disruption than typical parks and public-use woodlands.

Fort Custer environmental agent, Michele Richards hosted major financial supporters and board members from the KNC to the property in late May. Tours like hers bring regional and national attention to the bird conservation project and raise hopes for growing the program further and with it growth in the population of ceruleans. The KNC, led by vice president of conservation stewardship, Sarah Reding, publicized the cerulean warbler project work in their fall newsletter complete with links to YouTube posted videos of the female feeding her newborns and other short videos.

In a phone interview, Jennifer Baldy, a technician for KNC, emphasized the importance of studying the cerulean in all parts of the range. Her personal gratitude and that of the CW team was obvious. She said, "It would be a great feeling to be able to say that our team, the FCTC Environmental Division, the KNC and other involved avian enthusiasts were a significant part of learning more about the habitat requirements of the cerulean warbler thereby helping to ensure it can thrive here." She recommended visiting www.naturecenter.org to read more about the

tiny birds in an article called *Following the Ceruleans* that begins on page 7 of the Fall 2011 Conservation Stewardship Newsletter. From the Kalamazoo Nature Center home page, visitors can also watch the CW video links and learn the unique name Baldy and her team gave to Michigan's very first radio-tagged female cerulean. Without a doubt her name will become well known throughout the birding community and the information gathered from her season at Fort Custer will be a foundation for many future studies.

¹According to the Cornell lab of ornithology; cerulean warbler atlas project, <http://birds.cornell.edu/cewap/>

²I was later informed that the nest referenced here failed.

³Baldy stated that they hope to answer this question by pulling feather samples which will be able to link summer and winter grounds.



This map shows the Trans-Gulf migration pattern of the Cerulean Warbler and the only known locations of the birds. Photo from the American Bird Conservancy

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g an unlucky caterpillar on her nest
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pping to the end of the branch in a
sunny leaves to preen her feathers.
male cerulean has not been observed
t but there are two males nearby. One
e north spends most of his time in a
k trees, the largest of which is 12'5"
ference. A second male to the south
le she was originally captured with
o color-banded. His territory contains
as well but none are as impressive as
tree claimed by his neighbor to the
e southern male's oak tree inventory
parse comparatively, but he enjoys a
iversity of tree species. While most
ve been observed this season feeding
es, the females have been seen more
feeding in other tree species. Both
been singing sporadically, however
male left the nest once for an extended
me, the male to the south (her banding

partner but not necessarily her mate), began singing at a frequency of approximately one call every five seconds, for a period of about 20 minutes. Mated males who are tending a nest or bringing food will sing at the rate of about one call every 10-12 seconds. Thus, it sounded like the southern male was rather agitated by her extended absence.

I waited until raindrops actually began to fall to see if the female would come back to her newly constructed nest to weather the storm as she will have to do once she begins incubating, or if she found some other dry area to weather it. I did not see her return which could help keep the nest undiscovered by predators if she spends less time there when she is not actually working on it. I noticed that she constructed her nest in a tree with three distinct vertical trunks covered with Virginia creeper and grape vines, the area between the three trunks provides many hiding places that were sheltered and dry. Vines seem to be her strategy for hiding and protection. Many of the trees in the nest area are vine covered and she flies quickly from one to another virtually disappearing into the foliage. She was observed once scaling head-first down a vine covered bole, seeming perfectly at ease in the dense foliage.

A very different cerulean warbler nest has also been discovered this season and will be checked-in on periodically to see how it fares. A high nest, with much less tree canopy above it will certainly be more exposed to the weather and it looks to be of different construction materials than the female's, with catkins lining the outside of the nest. Perhaps this bird also used materials in close proximity to the nest, that factor coupled with the extended height of this nest makes it quite different from the others. Despite the lack of overhead shelter, this cerulean chose a sturdy vertical branch to nest on rather than the typical horizontal fork. The vertical branch forks into three making the nest very well supported from all sides.

One possible explanation for the variance in nest locations is the difference in the birds' wing-pointedness. Wing-pointedness is a measure we are taking on all captured ceruleans this season. We begin by measuring the primary projection; the length of the primary feathers minus the length of the secondary feathers. Birds with a larger difference have pointier wings and those with a small difference have broad wings. Pointed wings make long flights easier. Broad wings



The male Cerulean Warbler is small in size but large in stature; with a distinctive, enthusiastic call. Photo from the Audubon Society

make take off from the ground easier. A study conducted by André Desrochers found that the average primary projection of temperate mature forest species, a grouping which included the cerulean warbler, had decreased over the past 100 years, linking this adaptation to the pressures of habitat fragmentation. Other researchers have postulated that, based on migration patterns of the ceruleans, there may in fact be two populations with different migration strategies. Pointed wings would make a direct non-stop flight to breeding grounds easier, while broadened wings would be more suited to fly over the isthmus making a series of land stopovers along the way. If this is true, our low nesting bird, which has the broadest wing measured among our population, may be a hop migration variant while birds with pointier wings might be a non-stop migration type cerulean.

It is important to point out that our nest discoveries may be colored by looking in locations where we imagine they "should" be based on others' research in slightly different habitats and regions. Radio tracking projects like the one we are conducting at Fort Custer enable us to find nests and refuge spots that we might not have found otherwise. We are also able follow the tagged birds' search for nest materials and food unlike ever before. Our previous nest-watches have been able to gather only limited information because from the ground it is impossible to see the nest contents in order to document parasitism and predation – all of this may be possible with an above mounted camera. The potential learning opportunities we are being presented with are truly unique.

Energy Conservation in 3, 2,

Story by Capt. Corissa Barton

The Michigan National Guard is currently making extensive efforts to create a Guard state that runs on clean energy and sets the example for other organizations and states.

Among the states goals is the desire for our military installations to become Net Zero. A Net Zero military installation produces as much energy on-site (from renewable energy generation, or through the on-site use of renewable fuels) as it consumes in its buildings, facilities and fleet vehicles.

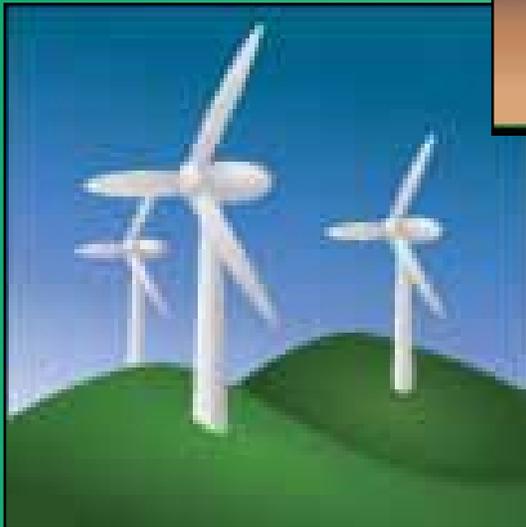
Efforts are currently being made to upgrade armories making them more energy efficient. At both Camp Grayling and Fort Custer the goal is to become a Net Zero Water installation. This would mean the consumption of fresh water resources would be limited and returned back to the same water shed so as not to deplete the groundwater and surface water resources of that region over the course of a year.

Both installations have also made efforts to become Zero Waste. Reduce, reuse, and recovery of waste streams, converting them to resource vales with zero landfill over the course of a year. Camp Grayling has received many accolades for their recycling program. (see page 7)

While this is a new effort for the Michigan National Guard, many

Wind Turbines

Wind turbines are used to generate electricity from the kinetic power of the wind. Historical they were more frequently used as a mechanical device to turn machinery. There are two main kinds of wind generators, those with a vertical axis, and those with a horizontal axis. Wind turbines can be used to generate large amounts of electricity in wind farms both onshore and offshore.



states are also jumping on the “go green” bandwagon to use renewable energy sources. Some of these sources include wind, solar, geo-thermal, biomass, hydropower and ocean. The Michigan National Guard is focusing on wind, geo-thermal, fuel cell technology, solar and biomass gasification.

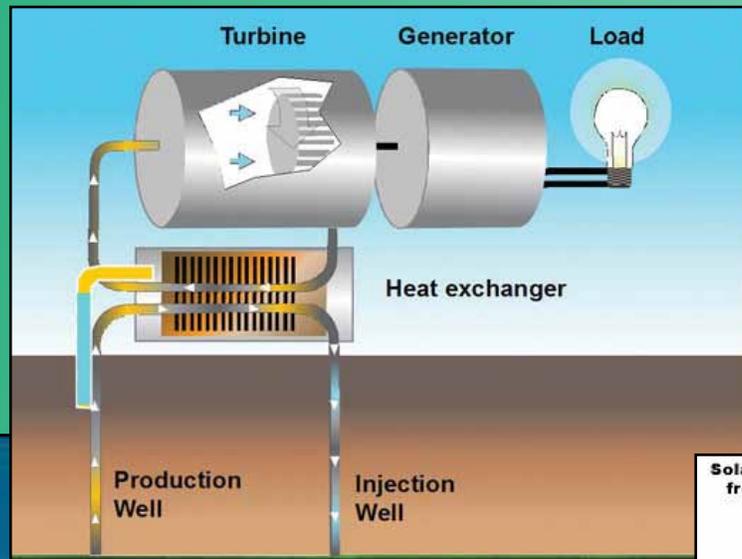
Through partnering with our government and DoD agencies, private industries, universities and utility providers, the hope is to develop a very successful program. Volunteering Camp Grayling to become a Net Zero pilot program installation would qualify the Michigan National Guard to take advantage of a Secretary of the Army, 7 billion dollar guaranteed loan program to attract private sector industry to develop large scale renewable and alternative energy projects on Army installations.

Clean energy doesn't just benefit Michigan's environment, it also falls into line with the Army Energy and Water Management program and the goals that our governor has set for our state.

As a member of the Michigan National Guard, civilian or service member, there are steps you can take to help conserve energy at the unit level or office level.

Recycle:

Recycling is one of the easiest ways to go green. Place a

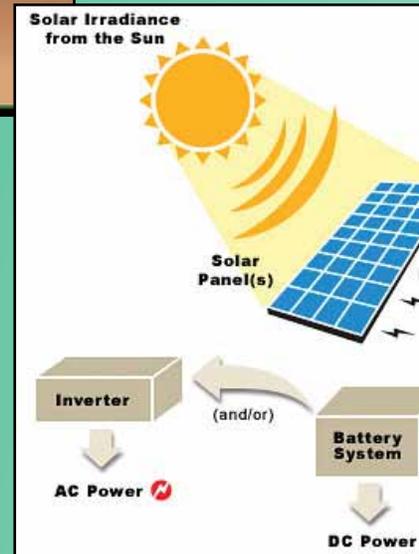


Geothermal Energy

Geothermal energy is created by harnessing geothermal energy from the earth. Contrary to popular belief geothermal energy is not technically a renewable energy source. There is widespread debate as to its effectiveness for electricity generation or heating.

Solar Power

Solar power is produced by harnessing sunlight and converting it into electricity. This is done by using solar panels, which are large flat panels made of many individual solar cells. It is most common in remote locations, although it is becoming more popular in urban areas.





bin beside your desk and use it for all old mail and memos. It takes less than a second and can make a big difference.

Think Before You Print:

Before you print, ask yourself if it can be filed electronically instead. If printing is necessary, change the margins to .75” so you can fit more content on less paper. Also, extend the lifespan of old printed documents by using them as notepaper later on.

Unplug:

Even in a small office, turning off all computers at the end of the day saves significant energy—and money on the organization’s energy bill. The same goes for lights in conference rooms and other unoccupied spaces. During office hours, turning off the screensaver or switching your computer to sleep mode when you are not at your desk is another way to cut down on energy usage.

All of these suggestions and more can be found at www.futurefriendly.com.

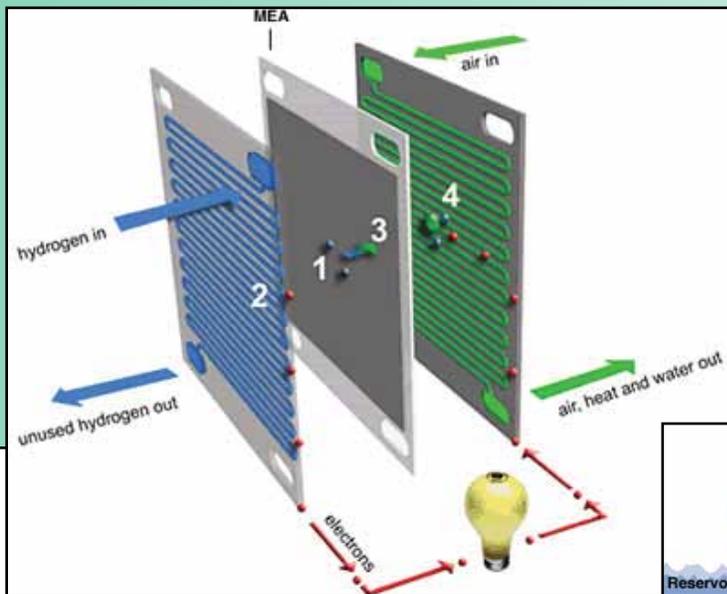
In recent construction at Alpena Combat Readiness Training Center, buildings have been following the new Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design standards. The LEED Green Building Rating System is a voluntary, consensus-based, national standard for developing high-

performance, sustainable buildings. LEED was created to: define “green building” by establishing a common standard of measurement; promote integrated, whole building design practices; recognize environmental leadership in the building industry; stimulate green competition; raise consumer awareness of green building benefits; and transform the building market. The direct results of LEED building can be read about on page 17.

The Natural Resources Conservation team at Fort Custer Training Center has been recognized by the National Guard Bureau, Department of the Army and Department of Defense for the last 10 years for their efforts made to preserve the environment while also maximizing training space for the service members that train there.

The Fort Custer team won the NGB 2011 Natural Resources Conservation- Team/Individual, Environmental Security Award. They will automatically be placed in the Department of the Army competition because of their first place win. The win is the perfect of example of coming together as a team to accomplish environmental protection goals. This years recognition is for community outreach and the partnerships made with other organizations across the state.

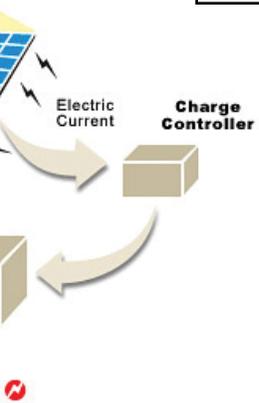
by collecting into electricity. r panels, which le up of many most often used h it is becoming s as well.



Illustrations and information from www.alternative-energy-news.info/

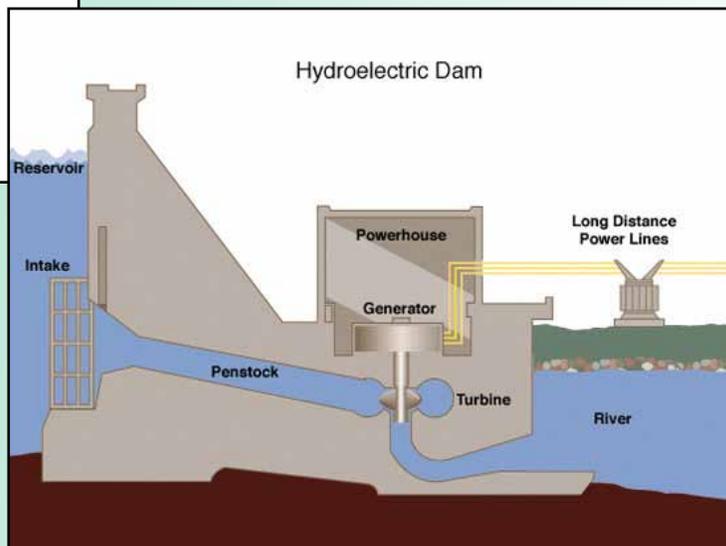
Hydro Power

Hydro power is generated by using electricity generators to extract energy from moving water. Historically people used the power of rivers for agriculture and wheat grinding. Today, rivers and streams are re-directed through hydro generators to produce energy, although there are pros and cons as far as local ecosystems are concerned.



Fuel Cells

A fuel cell is an electrochemical devise that converts a fuel source into electricity. Fuel cells require a fuel source, but will perform for infinite periods of time if inflows are maintained. Because of this they are different from batteries, which are closed energy storage systems.



Lansing's Newest GEM Makes It's

Story and photo by Sgt. 1st Class James Downen

The Chrysler Corporation has donated two AN/TSC-138 Global Electric Motorcars to the Michigan Army National Guard. These vehicles are being used by Joint Forces Headquarters for mail and other delivery tasks around the Joint Forces Readiness Center. As the name GEM states, they are an electric vehicle and use no petroleum fuels, nor do they emit any pollutants.

The GEM vehicles have a range of 30 miles after a six to eight hour charge, a cargo payload of 1,045 pounds, speed of 25 miles per hour and a range of 30 miles. The GEM is powered by six, 12-volt flooded electrolyte batteries and since it is electric, runs quietly when being driven.

The GEM is in the classification of vehicles known as "low speed vehicles" and is mandated by law to have a speed limit of 25 miles per hour. The vehicle is restricted to roads with speed limits below 35 miles per hour and is meant to be

used for small payload deliveries and short ranged errands.

Staff Sgt. Larry D. Collier, a management analyst assistant who uses the egg shaped vehicle said, "When I first saw the GEM, I thought of it as the egg cart of mail distribution, yet its power and performance show that this is one egg that is unbreakable. I just love it, it's quiet, small, and runs clean, yet haul an impressive load of packages."

Michigan Army and Air Guard service members and civilian employees who work at the Joint Forces Readiness Center in Lansing now see these vehicles silently performing their payload delivery tasks, in an environmentally friendly manner without emitting pollutants.

Master Sgt. Frank Macher said, "Going Green, as an initiative, can be accomplished, can be mission focused, can be a savings at any level. Overall, we hope we are the start of a trend where we can show savings by using electric vehicles

Extreme Makeover Wetland Editio

Story and photos by Sgt. 1st Class James Downen

A glance at the Fort Custer topography map shows that the installation has several wetlands within its borders. Wetlands are vital to an ecosystem; they provide breeding grounds for fish, water runoff for waterways and habitat for water birds. The Fort Custer Training Center Environmental Office is tasked to monitor and maintain the natural environment of the installation, including its wetlands. About a year and a half ago, FCTC Environmental employees Jim Langerveld and Jonathan Edgerly conducted a survey at the wetlands along Territorial Road on Fort Custer and discovered a problem with the drainage culvert circumventing the road.

"We discovered that the old flash board riser in front of the culvert wasn't slowing the water flow," said Langerveld. "The wetlands were in danger of being flooded because the flash board riser wasn't high enough to restrict the water flow to a level the wetlands could absorb." After the survey data was processed, the environmental group, Ducks Unlimited, was approached to

sponsor repairs. Ducks Unlimited focuses on wetlands protection through their North American Wetlands Conservation Act program and will provide funds for their preservation when given a survey documenting a threat to the environment.

"Our goal is to maintain the existing wetland by moderating the water flow," said Langerveld. "Dragline Works out of Stockbridge, Mich., has been awarded the contract and will start work in the spring. They will build a stronger sheet pile wall around the culvert which will limit the water flow to an amount the wetlands can absorb without flooding, preserving the wetlands habitat at Fort Custer. This also benefits the surrounding community because wetlands are breeding grounds for fish and birds as well."

Langerveld said, "We monitor the ecosystems of Fort Custer training areas to preserve the natural environment of both Fort Custer and our fellow Michigan neighbors. We are conscious that whatever occurs on

Fort Custer can affect the surrounding community and our work helps the Michigan Army National Guard to be good neighbors to the community we serve."



Debut

like the GEM to accomplish a mission in a challenging environment.”

The GEM vehicles are a small, but significant example of the Michigan Guard’s commitment to “go green” and protect the environment.

The General Electric Motorcars vehicles sits in the parking lot of the Combined Surface Maintenance Shop in between mail runs. The vehicle is another example of the Michigan National Guard’s efforts to “Go Green.”



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Camp Grayling, Mich., the largest Army National Guard Maneuver Training Center in the United States, has several rivers on the installation grounds. The Camp Grayling Environmental Office protects these rivers by monitoring the timber bridges at crossing points, water levels and keeping sand traps in the river beds dredged to remove sediment.

Camp Grayling environmental specialist, Larry Jacobs said, “The timber bridges were built in the 1992-1996 timeframe to handle 60-ton armored vehicles. We are in a maintenance posture with the bridges; we inspect them for serviceability periodically. They eliminated the need for vehicles to cross rivers and this prevents a lot of maneuver damage to the river banks. The bridges have been a complete success in protecting our river ways.”

Jacobs said, “Our biggest ongoing project concerning the rivers is dredging the sand traps for sediment. Most of the sediment dates from the late 19th and early 20th century logging operations that occurred in the Grayling area. The sand traps are gravel lined holes are a vital trout habitat;

the trout do their spawning in them. The Michigan citizens in the Grayling area are directly affected by our management of the trout habitat, many are anglers and many have fishing related businesses, so our environmental stewardship has a tangible effect on the local economy.”



Modern Equipment for Modern Warfare

Story by Staff Sgt. Helen Miller and Sgt. Jason Boyd

The Call of Duty Modern Warfare games have become very popular among Soldiers in recent years and now members of the Michigan Army National Guard have what can be considered one of the best combat training simulators in the world. It is like Modern Warfare for the real war fighters.

The Camp Grayling Simulation Center hosts a variety of new simulators to improve training. This facility houses the EST 2000, engagement skills trainer, an automated computerized simulator that provides realistic weapons qualification and familiarization to a Soldier or operator.

“The EST also allows Soldiers to become proficient with individual weapons without expending ammunition, containing hazardous metals like lead, into Camp Grayling impact areas. The Soldiers can conduct night fire using the EST, even when conditions are dry, and not start fires because the tracers are simulated,” said Randy Richardson, the instructor operator maintenance contractor for the Sim Center.

The facility also houses the VBS2, which is a fully interactive, three – dimensional training system providing synthetic environment suitable for a wide range of military training. It also houses a Call for Fire Trainer, HEAT (Humvee Egress Assistance) trainer and a VCOT (Virtual Convoy operations) trainer.

“Our facility allows Soldiers to conduct both convoy training and vehicle rollover drills without creating air pollutants from vehicle exhaust or spillage of petroleum, oil and lubricant products into the environment,” said Richardson.

The Soldiers benefit by doing pre-marksanship training before qualifying on the real range, thus their skills can improve before even getting on the range, which in turn leads to better qualification scores on the range.

Participants operate as virtual entities that may use personal weapons, drive vehicles, fly aircraft, and even board and pilot ships. This simulator is extremely useful for a Soldier who needs to learn convoy operation and squad operations, as everything is done in the first person perspective.

These systems are great for the Soldiers. It makes it a lot easier for Soldiers to see what they did wrong in a scenario and make improvements. Not to mention it’s a lot of fun.

“The virtual convoy operations trainer uses computer

graphics simulations of Afghan routes Soldiers will be operating during deployment. The VCOT allows the Soldiers to get a three dimensional sand table experience resulting



Soldiers take a break at the Camp Grayling Simulation Center. They were training on the EST 2000, engagement skills trainer, an automated computerized simulator that provides realistic weapons qualification and familiarization to a Soldier or operator. Michigan National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. Helen Miller

in route memorization while conducting convoy operations training at the same time,” said Sgt. 1st Class James Downen. “The excellent video graphics make the training fun, keeping the Soldier’s attention focused on the training event.”

Saving money on ammunition and range repairs is another benefit of this system. Outdoor range qualification takes about 18 rounds to zero your weapon, not including a practice fire, and a qualification fire. The EST 2000 allows the Soldiers to perform familiarization and practice inside this facility and then go to the range to zero and qualify. The facility saves approximately 75 rounds per Soldier. If roughly 13,000 Soldiers cycle through the facility this saves about 975,000 rounds per year, and will also prevent wear and tear on weapon and the range.

Cost savings to the state are applied here too when you take in the account of not spending money on fuel to use real vehicles for this training, and it also helps the environment by not causing erosion in the ground where these vehicles would be driving.

“Changes in budget and cutbacks in military spending are really going to make the sim center a valuable asset to the Guard. It will get used more to keep training costs down but still give the Soldiers the viable training and in turn help with the environmental concerns facing Camp Grayling,” said Richardson.

Securing Future Energy at Alpena

Story by Maj. Ryan Kristof

Energy - We all need it! To get to work, heat our homes, cool our classrooms at school and to surf the internet on our computers. The Air Force mission is no different. Whether it is lighting a maintenance hangar, powering a network, cooling our offices and especially flying our planes, meeting Air Force objectives is a very energy intensive business. Maintaining global mobility and air superiority requires considerable amounts of energy. The Air Force is committed to transforming the way we use energy by reducing demand, assuring supplies and building an energy-conscious force. The Air National Guard and Alpena CRTC is no exception.

Requirements from executive orders and congressional legislation such as the Energy Independence and Security Act mandate federal installations reduce energy intensity by 30 percent by 2015 relative to a 2003 baseline. Since 2003, the Alpena CRTC has achieved a 22 percent reduction in energy intensity, on target for the 2015 goal, by implementing many energy conservation opportunities.

The Alpena CRTC is taking to heart the term "making energy a consideration is all that we do" by implementing measures from each of the three aspects of the Air Force Energy vision.

Reduce Demand:

On April 20, 2012, Capt. Corey Enderby, Deputy Base Civil Engineer will cut the ribbon on a new Troop Quarters facility. The building was designed to meet Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Silver standards and is on track for Gold certification. This innovative facility uses energy savings technology such as occupancy sensors for lights, Energy Star appliances, water efficient fixtures, a dedicated outdoor air HVAC system with heat recovery and variable speed drives on fans and pumps. Estimated energy savings are at 33 percent versus a non LEED compliant building. That translates to 1,392 MBTU's of energy savings, roughly the equivalent to the energy use of 14 single family homes in Northern Michigan (Source: www.eia.gov). These energy savings do not include the multiple inefficient buildings this project replaced.

Alpena is boosting its smart meter capability. While the actual energy savings do not come from the meters themselves, they open up a window of opportunity to see details of energy usage on base. As an economical way

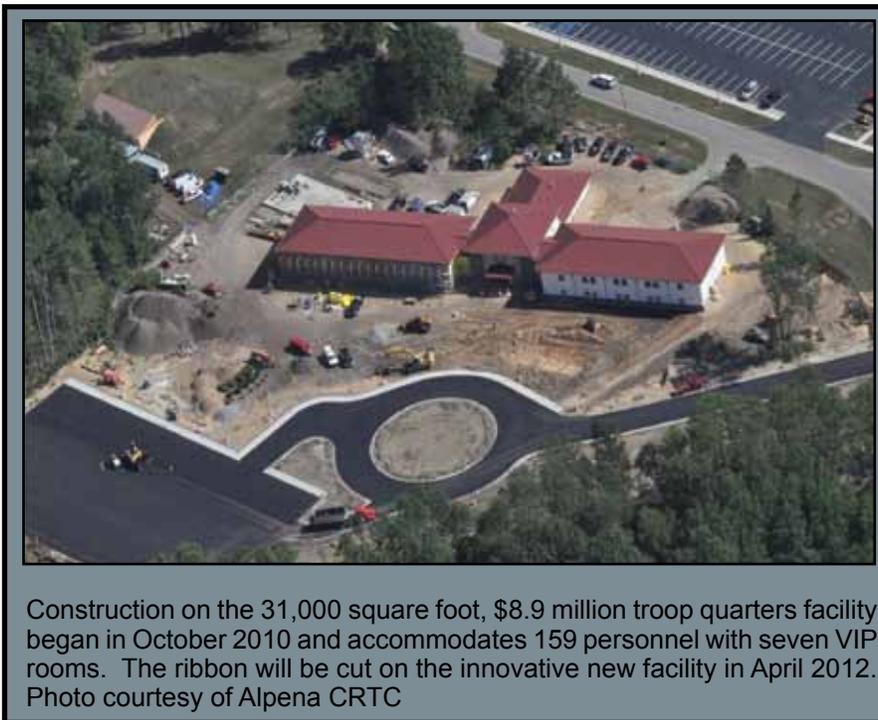
of capturing energy data such as kilowatts, power factor, time, voltage, gallons, etc., smart meters allow the energy manager insight to support energy management strategies such as load shifting, peak shaving, demand response and to identify problematic buildings with unusually high energy use for further investigation. Five electrical smart meters are installed with an additional 13 electric, gas and water smart meters programmed for 2012.

Assuring Energy Supply:

In addition to reducing our energy consumption we are finding the 'free' energy that we have right under our feet. A project is underway to retrofit the existing heating, ventilation and air conditioning system at the fire station. This

capitalizes the earth's mass as a heat source known as geothermal energy. Energy savings calculations estimate 3,796 MBTU annually, another 35 Northern Michigan homes powered for a year.

Building an Energy Conscious Force: The most sophisticated, technological advanced building will not realize its maximum potential without the proper training for its users, maintenance personnel and visitors. Over time the building becomes less and less efficient from dirty filters, out of tune valves, worn seals,



weather stripping and so on. It is up to the people to identify and correct these issues for the building to run at peak performance. To facilitate this, Alpena has implemented training for building managers to perform mini-energy audits on their facility to spot problems early. A leadership driven, cross-functional team meets quarterly to discuss the energy goals and strategic plan for the base, promoting an energy saving culture from the top down.

Energy is a precious resource that we must use efficiently with the utmost respect for our environment. With today's fiscal constraints, energy conservation is more important than ever. For the Air Force overall, the energy reduction in FY10 yielded an avoided cost for the Air Force of \$517 million. By ensuring the most efficient designs, staying on top of system maintenance and creating a culture where every Airman is in the mindset of conserving energy, the Alpena CRTC is doing its part toward energy security in the future.

Battle Creek Goes for the Gold

Story by Lt. Col. James Shay

Military environmental performance is no different from any other facet of military support; results matter. Outstanding environmental performance sustains and expands mission capabilities and helps ensure that Michigan's military installations remain a welcome presence in the communities in which they operate. Environmental performance worthy of external recognition is only possible through a combination of teamwork, attention to detail, partnership, resource optimization, quality control, extraordinary individual efforts, leadership focus, and the daily cooperation of all involved.

In March, Maj. Gen. Robert H. Johnston, Commander of the Michigan Air National Guard, is scheduled to present Col. Rodger F. Seidel, 110th Airlift Wing Commander, the 2011 Adjutant General's Quality Cup Award, recognizing two years of outstanding environmental performance and accomplishments. The 110th Airlift Wing was also recognized in 2011 by William Albro, Director of Installations, Mission Support and the Civil Engineer for the Air National Guard, with the Air National Guard Team Award for Installation Environmental Excellence.

Significant environmental highlights noted by both awards include; the successful reversal of an Air Quality Notice of Violation in favor of the Air National Guard, successful "no-findings" environmental inspections by the Environmental Protection Agency and Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, successful programming for and installation of \$120,000 worth of secondary containment structures to secure 23 tons of hazardous materials, recycling 6.5 tons of hazardous materials for re-use in the Air National Guard, environmental cost avoidances of \$43,000, construction of a significant storm water runoff control/wetland protection by project by the 110th Civil Engineering Group (using 100 percent recycled materials), a new on-line Virtual Environmental Management system, a new recycling center, and a new ISO 14001 compliant Environmental Safety and Occupational Health Management Information System.

110th Airlift Wing Mission Support Group Commander, Col. Billie J. Faust, summed up the efforts of all involved. "In an era of ever increasing requirements and limited resources, this team of military and civilian personnel provided an outstanding example of what is possible when a cross-functional, Wing-wide effort is made to improve any program. Environmental excellence is one more difference-maker when competing for new missions across the Air National Guard and in this and every related area; we are in it to win it."

In 2011, the 110th Airlift Wing also partnered with the Retired Engineer Technical Assistance Program (RETAP), to bring a retired engineer, Richard Edwards, to the 110th to work on pollution prevention and recycling projects. The

results of this partnership include; the justification, funding, and successful delivery of a flexible \$44,000 aircraft ramp de-icing collection trailer; an up-to-date Air National Guard compliant Qualified Recycling Plan; and a regional market analysis for recycled material. In addition, Edwards recently completed a recycling pilot project that demonstrated the ability to double the proceeds of the metals recycling operation. All of these results were achieved through 180 hours of Edward's time, at no cost to the Wing. The combination of Edwards efforts and a copper wire recycling project spearheaded by the 110th Communication Flight, resulted in the generation of \$18,000 in total recycling income for the wing, the second highest amount in the last eight years, and a 335% improvement compared to 2010.

"Environmental excellence is one more difference-maker when competing for new missions across the Air National Guard and in this and every related area; we are in it to win it."

Col. Billie J. Faust, 110th Airlift Wing Mission Support Group Commander

The 110th Airlift Wing concluded 2011 with a successful Air National Guard external environmental inspection in December. Col. Rodger F. Seidel provided a fitting perspective to the Wing's environmental accomplishments and the context in which they occurred. "An Operation Readiness inspection, a major environmental inspection, and a major medical inspection in 2011, resulted in one the most demanding years that I have witnessed in my 20 years at the 110th. In light of all of the potential distractions out there, each and every member of the 110th can feel proud of their respective roles in the environmental successes we achieved together," said Seidel. "Those team leaders, project officers, NCOs and Civilians that lead the way in this area are to be commended for their efforts."

While acknowledging these successes, Seidel was pointing the Wing toward the future. "Although we've come a long way, we will never rest in our quest to improve environmental performance, reduce our environmental footprint, and deliver the absolute maximum value to the tax payers who support and rely on us."

Retirees

Aid and Attendance Benefit

The Veterans Administration has a pension benefit for veterans of wartime service requiring daily living assistance for activities such as dressing, bathing, cooking and eating. This benefit is the Aid and Attendance Improved Pension and a surviving spouse of a qualified veteran is eligible for the pension as well.

Staff Sgt. Susan Parker, a Joint Forces Headquarters Human Resource Specialist, discovered the Aid and Attendance Improved Pension when researching veterans' benefits and care options for her grandfather, Edward James, a Korean War era veteran. James said, "My arthritis has spread across my shoulders and down my spine. I also have limited mobility in my left arm, so I require assisted living care. Thanks to the pension, I can afford to reside at Independence Village in East Lansing and they have an assisted living program that meets my needs."

Parker said, "I didn't know about this benefit until my grandfather needed help. I'd like to spread the word about the pension because there are many veterans who have care needs and the Aid and Attendance benefit can cover such expenses. I hope that other Michigan Guard service members will spread the word about Aid and Attendance to their family, friends, communities and veterans' organizations because long term assisted living can be a financial burden if a family has to pay for it out of pocket."

Eligible war veterans requiring less assistance are eligible for housebound or basic levels of the Aid and Attendance pensions, depending on their levels of need. Service record requirements and Veterans Administration forms for the Aid and Attendance pensions can be found at: <http://www.veteranaid.org/apply.php>

Volunteer Now!!

The Michigan National Guard is seeking volunteers to serve as part-time retirement services officers for Michigan National Guardsmen. You can serve your state and fellow service members for as few as 4 hours per month by assisting retiring Soldiers with: Retirement and Survivor Benefits Counseling, Retired Pay Applications, TRICARE Options and Coverage, Post 9/11 G.I. Bill Transfer and Use, Veterans Affairs Programs and Benefits. Volunteers will receive free training and support from full-time Michigan National Guard personnel. To volunteer, contact Sgt. David Saunders at david.saunders@ng.army.mil or 517-481-8333.

HRC Address Change

Human Resources Command has moved from St Louis, MO to Fort Knox, KY. The updated address and phone number for Human Resources Command is:

1-888-276-9472

ATTN: AHRC-PDR-RC

1600 Spearhead Division Ave, DEPT 420

Fort Knox, KY 40122-5402

Retiree Appreciation Day

There will be a Retiree Appreciation Day (RAD) at Selfridge in September. Look for the application in a future edition of the Wolverine and in the annual Honors publication in August. Seats are limited to the first 500 people registered.

Army Echoes Magazine-Electronic

The Army Echoes magazine is a great resource for retirees but due to funding issues, the Echoes magazine is now only going to be available electronically for those retiring from this point forward. If you are a retiree that still receives the Echoes magazine hard copy but has the capability of receiving it electronically please consider signing up for e-Echoes. www.armyg1.army.mil/rso/echoes_reg.asp

Important Phone Numbers

HQ Air Reserve Personnel Center: 1-800-525-0102

VA Regional Office: 1-800-827-1000

Fort McCoy Retirement Service Office: 1-800-538-9552

DFAS: 1-800-321-1080

DEERS: 1-800-538-9552

TRICARE North Region: 1-877-874-2273

TRICARE for Life: 1-866-773-0404

TRICARE Retiree Dental: 1-888-838-8737

State of Michigan Military Retirement

Administrator Retires

As of 02 March, Mr Ken Baldwin will be retiring and Kathy Enderle will be taking over as the State of Michigan Military Retirement Administrator. She will NOT be assisting with any Federal Retirement applications or issues. She can be reached at (517) 481-7647 or kathy.enderle@us.army.mil or enderlek@michigan.gov for State of Michigan Military Retirement issues (\$50/month at age 55).

A Two Front War on Drugs

Counterdrug helps kids “Stay on Track”

Story by Sgt. 1st Class James Downen



The Michigan Army National Guard is waging a two front war against drugs using aviation, intelligence and ground assets of the Counterdrug Task Force to locate marijuana grow sites for eradication by law enforcement elements of the Michigan Counterdrug Task Force. The second front is waged by Michigan Guard service members, working as mentors in the Drug Demand Reduction Program, to warn Michigan youth about the hazards of illegal drug and alcohol abuse.

The Michigan Army National Guard Counterdrug Task Force provides support to the Domestic Cannabis Eradication and Suppression Program with a combined aviation, ground operations, and intelligence element. The DCESP program is funded by the U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency, which provides funds to state law enforcement agencies. In Michigan, DCESP funds are given to the Michigan State Police and some DCESP funds are distributed by the MSP to the Michigan Army National Guard Counterdrug

Task Force for equipment and personnel participating in state DCESP operations. Master Sgt. Nick Pappas, operations chief, Michigan Counter Drug Task Force, said, “Any state law enforcement agency can request our assistance, provided it falls within the Counterdrug mission scope. This assistance is rendered, free of charge to the requesting law enforcement agency.”

Michigan Army National Guard Counterdrug aviation provides aerial reconnaissance and identification of illicit marijuana crops in agricultural fields and near residences. Pilots are in radio communication with law enforcement officers on the ground and guide them to the locations of marijuana grow sites they discover during aerial reconnaissance.

The Michigan Army National Guard Counterdrug Ground Operations section has accompanied law enforcement ground crews on marijuana crop eradication missions with some Soldiers serving as Field Intelligence Officers. FIOs are instrumental in assisting law enforcement in collecting important data from marijuana

plots such as providing Global Positioning Satellite location data, analysis of plant sizes, types, and signature cultivation methods to assist police intelligence personnel with making intelligence reports for operations.

The Michigan Army National Guard Counterdrug analyst at the State Police Michigan Intelligence Operations Center is responsible for evaluating data collected in the field to produce intelligence products used by the DCESP program. Data is mapped and analyzed and the information is used to plan future operations against illegal marijuana crops in Michigan.

The major success of Fiscal Year 2011 for the Michigan Army National Guard Counterdrug Task Force, Michigan State Police and the Federal Government Drug Enforcement Agency was a reconnaissance that located a large marijuana growing operation by a Mexican drug trafficking organization on state forest land. Pappas said, “The reconnaissance resulted in the seizure of more than 3,000 marijuana plants and the arrest of several illegal immigrants.

Our aerial, ground and intelligence elements participated in this operation.”

The Michigan Army National Guard Counterdrug Aviation section has logged more than 500 flight hours resulting in three large drug busts with a net confiscation of one grow of 8,000 plants, one of 3,400 plants and a takedown of a drug trafficking organization that had 3,000 plants growing. The aviation section has also trained several state law enforcement agencies how to utilize aviation assets and has participated in law enforcement exercises with Special Response Teams and other tactical units throughout Michigan.

The Michigan Army National Guard Counterdrug Ground Operations section performed five ground reconnaissance missions and 14 Domestic Cannabis Eradication Support missions during FY 2011 resulting in \$43,270,500 in drug seizures and 21 weapons confiscated. The Ground Operations section also trained 133 Law Enforcement officers in intelligence processing techniques.

Pappas said, “We are glad to assist our state and federal partners, but we work hard to stay within the legal boundaries of our counter drug support role. Our Soldiers understand that we could be called as witnesses in court and are vigilant about what is legally permissible for mission conduct. We stay within the mission legal framework, and this allows us to be an asset without equal to the Michigan Counterdrug Taskforce team.”

The Michigan Army and Air National

Guard service members assigned to the Drug Demand Reduction program work to prevent drug and alcohol addiction from becoming a problem with Michigan youth. The DDR service members mentor Michigan youth in nine middle and high schools, teaching them about the dangers of drug and alcohol abuse.

DDR cadres are trained to teach youth about the dangers of substance abuse through the Michigan Public Schools “Stay on Track” program. The program is growing from school based instruction to being presented to the community as a whole, giving specific training to each location based on the drug problem confronting the community.

On Jan. 18, 2012, DDR cadre 1st Lt. Mindy Hughes, Senior Airman Sharmaine Hicks and Pfc. Rebekah Bronson visited the Ann Arbor Trail School in Redford, Mich. The cadre members taught Lesson 8, assertive communications skills for drug and alcohol refusal, from the “Driver’s Manual” text to 6th grade pupils using a combination of short lectures, readings from the text by students, skits and question and answer sessions to teach the children.

Lesson 8 stressed assertiveness when communicating refusal to use alcohol and drugs. Trail school student, Isaiah Cooks, read from the text, “If you mean no, say no. If you use the appropriate voice tone, the message is clear.” Hicks and Bronson then performed a skit where a peer attempted to pressure another into smoking. They showed the children that it was possible to

be assertive and refuse cigarettes without causing conflict. Hicks said, “If being assertive doesn’t work and you feel you’re being bullied, you can always walk away and get an adult to handle the situation.”

The DDR cadre taught two classes that day at the Ann Arbor Trail School. Bronson said, “We try to impart the lesson that kids can say no without alienating their peers. This is important because kids like having friends and being accepted, however, damaging your body and mind with drugs shouldn’t be the way a child fits into a peer group.”

DDR service members have expanded the scope of the program beyond the original nine schools by participating in programs hosted at National Guard Youth Camps, local community events, the Saginaw Chippewa Tribal Academy and Catholic Human Services. The focus of the DDR program is shifting from a school based program to a Civil Operation to educate the community at large about substance abuse.

Hughes said, “My purpose for attending the class today was to evaluate how Hicks and Bronson presented the material. Our program is expanding and we want our message quality to improve as well. This effort is to educate Michigan children, our state’s future, on how to lead a drug free and productive life. We’re always looking to improve on what we teach because it can make a positive impact on Michigan kids’ lives, provided we put maximum effort into the program.”



Go Big and Come Home

Part II of II

Story by Tech. Sgt. Dan Heaton, Photos by Tech. Sgt. Heaton and John Swanson

More than 300 Michigan Airmen and about a dozen aircraft are now on duty in Afghanistan. The deployment is the largest ever for the Michigan Air National Guard to Afghanistan.

“Some of the finest men and women in Michigan will call Afghanistan home for the next several months and will play an integral role in bringing peace and stability to the Afghan people,” said Col. Michael Thomas, commander of the 127th Wing at Selfridge Air National Guard Base, the home station for the Airmen who deployed.

Deployed to Kandahar Airfield, a NATO base in southern Afghanistan, are personnel from the 107th Fighter Squadron, the 127th Operations Group and the 127th Maintenance Group. Included in the group are pilots, aircrew life support specialists and a wide range of aircraft maintenance personnel, with specialties running from engines and avionics to fuels and weapons systems. For several of the senior members of the deployment, this is their fourth major overseas deployment since Sept. 11, 2001. The deployment is expected to last about four months, with a number of Airmen serving an additional 1-2 months in Afghanistan.

Moving the group to Afghanistan represented a Herculean task that touched not only all parts of the 127th Wing, but showcased the teamwork of the Total Force focus that exists across the Air Force, according to Master Sgt. Jerry Morgan, deployments noncommissioned officer in charge for the 127th Wing.

Time Compression

Typically, Air National Guard units get about a nine months notice that a deployment will be taking place, said Morgan. In the case of the Selfridge deployment to Afghanistan, the official notification came down with only about 90 days of lead time.

“Every time line we have for deploying people had to get compressed,” Morgan said. “When you are talking about sending people into Afghanistan, not getting it done is not an option.”

Chief among the challenges was ensuring that the unit’s aircraft were prepared to go into a potentially hostile environment. Initially, the wing’s fighter component was scheduled for their rotation to Afghanistan some time in late spring or early summer of 2012. When the Air Force decided to move up that timeline, based on other worldwide requirements of the force, aircraft maintainers at Selfridge moved into high gear.

The 127th Wing was nearing the end of an approximately two year-long transition process into the A-10 Thunderbolt II aircraft, more affectionately known by most as the Warthog. The wing stopped flying F-16 Fighting Falcons in 2009 and began flying the ‘Hog. The wing was targeting declaring its aircraft at initial operational capability by the end of 2011, in keeping with the typical timeline. Instead, the wing’s A-10s were declared IOC on

June 30, about six months earlier than originally planned.

Preparing Airmen for the deployment was equally critical. Pilots and maintainers had already participated in a Red Flag training exercise, which is the Air Force’s premier air combat training program, earlier in the year. In addition, air crews had to go through survival training and various members of the deployment group needed regular upgrade training in their professions.

“There was a lot more pressure on a lot more people, but we got the mission done and everyone left on time,” Morgan said.

People Power

Among the tasks to forward deploy is ensuring that those who deploy are medically and physically ready. That means physical fitness tests need to be scheduled, run and recorded and medical records need to be updated, said Master Sgt. Cory McClusky, who works on readiness issues for the 127th Medical Group.

“It does a commander no good - and it does the individual no good - to deploy into a forward area and then have that person not available because there is a medical issue that could have been prevented,” McClusky said.

McClusky and other medical specialists review the records of those scheduled to deploy and ensure that they are up to date for any regularly scheduled medical screenings, immunizations or other issues. Complicating the process is the fact that if an Airman is due for a medical procedure during his or her deployment, it needed to be accomplished before the departure.

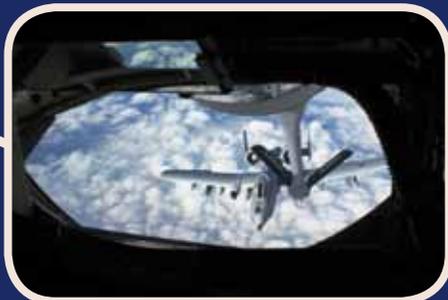
“So, an Airman might think that he’s good to go, but if his birthday falls during the deployment, then we need to do his annual physical before he goes, so he can stay current while he’s gone,” McClusky said.

Always an area of concern is dental health.

“If we allow a person to go over there who has a dental issue that requires treatment, now that Airman has to be flown out of Afghanistan and probably to Germany for treatment, meaning that there is a shortage in his or her work shop and also that person is taking a place on an aircraft that could be used to transport someone or something else,” McClusky said.

Areas of the 127th Mission Support Group (MSG) had to balloon class offerings over the end of the summer for just-in-time readiness training needed for deployment. In July, August and part of September the 127th Security Forces Squadron combat arms training qualified hundreds of airmen on the M-9, the M-16, and the M-4.

“Knowing that we had all these folks to train, we dedicated one week a month offering two classes a day specifically for these deployers,” said Mr. Alan Pionk, the Selfridge Small Arms Range manager and instructor. The Selfridge range also supports local police departments and other base units’ training needs which had to be deconflicted with the need to train deploying Airmen. With



space to train up to 40 Airmen a day the security forces squadron brought out their own traditional status guardsmen to keep the combat arms training classes full of instructors, backfilling other areas of security forces missions as needed.

“We kept a very rapid pace going through our training, as quickly and as safely as reasonably possible,” Pionk explained. He estimated they expended close to 4,000 rounds of ammunition for the M-16 and M-4, and about 1,000 rounds for the M-9 in support of getting this large group deployed to Afghanistan.

Survival skills training, a hands-on reinforcement of computer based training teaching the skills needed in post attack reconnaissance, contamination avoidance, and proper wear of the chemical protective overgarment and mask is also required within six months of deployment. The 127th Civil Engineer Emergency Management Flight trained almost 400 people in 24 classes over the 90-day preparation period.

“We are in constant contact with MSgt Morgan’s office so that we can be aware of the numbers of Airmen needing training and so we can properly schedule them for our two hour classes,” said MSgt. Steven Jakle, 127th Emergency Manager. “We set up a lot of classes, worked closely with the unit training managers and kept a close eye on the numbers to ensure these Airmen were trained and ready for this deployment.”

The efforts from across the wing to prepare for the deployment represents the best of a long tradition of the Guard always being ready to serve when the nation calls, said Col. Mac Crawford, 127th MSG commander.

“The Airmen of the 127th Mission Support Group never fail to impress me,” Crawford said. “We are one group supporting the continuous deployment requirements of our KC-135s, our Weather Flight folks and now this large deployment of our A-10 contingent to Afghanistan. MSG was there to support and helped make this happen in a very short amount of time, always proving that this wing does indeed ‘stand ready’ for any mission.”

Cargo Load

It takes a lot of equipment to keep aircraft flying. Spare parts need to be readily at hand. Tools of all types need to be within easy reach.

The Airmen need to bring extra uniforms. They need gym clothes to work out in. They want to bring pictures of their family to remind them of home and perhaps a creature comfort item or two. All that times about 300 people.

It all added up to some 100 short tons of cargo and equipment - roughly 200,000 pounds. All that cargo made up 41 “increments of stock.” Some were pallets of goods. Others were items that don’t fit on a regular pallet, such as an extra jet engine.

To carry the load three C-17 Globemaster IIIs from the 62nd Airlift Wing Joint Base at Joint Base Lewis-McChord in Washington and one from the 60th Air Mobility Wing at Travis Air Force Base in California arrived at Selfridge to take on cargo. All 41 increments were processed in less than 18 working hours, said Morgan. The C-17s made a stop at Ramstein Air Base in

Germany on their way to their final destination in Afghanistan.

The Big Push

Over a four day period, the bulk of the deploying personnel, cargo and aircraft departed for Afghanistan. Several smaller groups of people left a day or two early, to prepare to receive their fellow Airmen, their cargo and aircraft. In each case, family members were on hand to say goodbye to their loved ones. Wing chaplains, the state adjutant general, family support group members and others were on hand for their departures as well.

The cargo load lasted late into the evening on a Saturday and the majority of the personnel left on Sunday, traveling in an Air Force-contracted 767.

Moving such a large group meant assistance from other Air Force commands. In addition to the C-17s that helped move the cargo, two Air National Guard refueling wings - the 155th from Nebraska and the 157th from New Hampshire - as well as a KC-135 from Selfridge’s 127th Air Refueling Group provided in-flight refueling to the A-10s while en route. Due to the relatively slow cruising speed of the A-10s, they made three overnight stops on the way to Afghanistan, picking up additional European-based tanker aircraft along the way for more in-flight fuelings.

Air Force Reserve units in Missouri - the 442nd Fighter Wing from Whiteman Air Force Base -- and Louisiana - the 917th Fighter Group at Barksdale Air Force Base -- provided some A-10s to the mission, allowing the Michigan Air National Guard to continue to operate some A-10s at Selfridge so that those pilots and maintenance personnel who did not deploy with this group can maintain their qualification levels.

‘Biggest’ - Far from ‘Only’

While the deployment of the A-10s represents the largest single deployment by the Michigan Air National Guard at Selfridge since a similar-sized group deployed with F-16s to Iraq in 2007, it is far from the only deployment that was taking place this summer and fall.

Morgan said while preparing the A-10 unit to deploy, numerous other much smaller groups, sometimes just a single Airman, were routinely deploying or returning from deployment.

“It’s a lot to manage, but we have some people around here who are dedicated to getting the job done right,” he said.

Recently, about two dozen of the 127th Wing’s civil engineers returned from a six-month deployment to Afghanistan and the wing’s KC-135 Airmen have deployed in recent months to locations in Europe and southwest Asia.

Composed of approximately 1,700 Citizen-Airmen, the 127th Wing of the Michigan Air National Guard is the host organization at Selfridge, flying the KC-135 Stratotanker, an aerial refueler, and the A-10 Thunderbolt II, also known as the Warthog, which is an air-to-ground attack fighter. In addition to the Wing, Selfridge is home to numerous other military and federal agencies, which fly a variety of helicopters and small, light fixed-wing aircraft.



Michigan Army and Air National Guard Promotions

December 2, 2011 through February 1, 2012

Col.

Doolittle, Scottie
Gaylord, Lynn
Houchlei, Timothy

Lt. Col.

Collins, John
Howell, David
Koledo, Edward
Peters, Bernard

Maj.

Hoffman, Terry
Mccostlin, Scottie
Middaugh, Kenneth
Reed, Joseph
Stiles, Harry

Capt.

Brigman, James
Carlson, Quinten
Civille, Brian
Sullivan, Mandy
Vandusen, John

2nd Lt.

Moreno, Timothy
Rogers, Jason
Turner, Andrew

Warrant Officer 3

Krupp, Steven
Lee, Patrick
Schnebelt, Phillip

Warrant Officer 2

Bates, Todd
Mcdaniel, Douglas
Smith, Jason
Vazquez, Vicente

Warrant Officer 1

Estep, James
Kosal, Troy

Command Sgt. Maj.

Russell, William

Sgt. Maj.

Farrell, Catherine
Rusaw, Robert

Master Sgt.

Aho, Douglass
Beliew, Billy
Cox, Bradley
Golab, Jeromie
Grupp, Christopher
Hauger, Jeffrey
Jansen, Johnathen
Knight, Christina

Ledford, Michael
Martin, Richard
Remyszewski, David
Stephens, Terry
Wallace, Keenon
Wolthuis, Misty

Sgt. 1st Class

Acker, Lauranna
Bjorkman, Lindsay
Brisson, Eric
Bunce, Keith
Burkhart, Joel
Butler, William
Cassidy, Jeffrey
Collins, Bradley
Cox, Anthony
Duong, Maloth
Halm, Scott
Hansen, Andrew
Husband, Tanika
Johnson, Jerred
Kennedy, Gregory
Larsson, Christopher
Lewis, David
Livingston, Jonathon
Lore, Tara
Marshall, James
Martinez, Richard
Mcdaniel, Steven
Mcginnis, Misty
Napier, Myzell
Perry, Tammie
Phillips, Vernetta
Piechocki, Deidre
Pueblo, Ashley
Reed, Daniel
Ruzzin, Raymond
Sanders, Kenneth
Schroeder, Tomasz
Seward, Misty
Sinklair, Melinda
Solberg, Ross
Underhill, Richard
Vanloon, Sarah
Vonhinken, Carl
Wills, William
Wolf, Steven
Zanke, Eric

Staff Sgt.

Adrian, Jonathon
Aho, Brian
Alvarado, Willie

Baker, Victor
Barry, Steven
Burtts, Lauren
Butler, David
Candela, Angela
Clark, Garrick
Cookson, Sara
Daman, Ronald
Dejong, Timothy
Ellis, Justin
Fisher, Lee
Fleming, Benjamin
Fredricks, Joseph
Futter, Frederick
Ganaway, Yvonne
Geldersma, Jerry
Gill, Joseph
Gotcher, Jason
Green, James
Grigsby, Roland
Hall, Mark
Hansen, Randall
Harper, Justin
Hein, Zachary
Horvath, Christopher
Howard, Paul
Howell, Nathan
Johnson, Terranika
Justice, Jerry
Kalich, Darryl
Kalkman, Gina
Kenney, Scott
Kohtala, Andrew
Lafernier, Melvin
Latham, David
Lindquist, Daniel
Luthy, Steven
Lyman, Jemerie
Malz, Megan
Mcdaniels, Michael
Mcdermott, Michael
Mcquiston, Tracee
Miller, David
Montague, Harold
Moore, Timothy
Norkett, Eric
Parzych, Casey
Ruel, Ricardo
Runyan, Kirt
Ruppel, David
Smith, Joshua
Spencer, Eric
Taylor, Gary

Thibault, Alan
Vanbrocklin, Joseph
Vandermoere, Curtis
Varela, Brian
Viau, Jason
Wakeham, Thomas
Windgaston, Thomas
Worden, Dale
Wrubel, Peter

Sgt.

Albert, Suzanne
Alonso, Angelita
Altherr, James
Alvarenga, Michiko
Barnhart, William
Boesler, Joseph
Bonnnett, Andrew
Bosman, Mark
Bridges, Colette
Cadotte, Joshua
Cady, Tyler
Collins, Steven
Conley, Tara
Cowles, Nicholas
Cummings, Dewayne
Cushman, Nathan
Cutting, Richard
Damico, Kristin
Dennis, Richard
Dickinson, Leslie
Dillard, Matthew
Dukes, Raymond
Dykstra, Joshua
Edgell, Jeffrey
English, Joseph
Evans, Aaron
Finner, Wayne
Fisher, Jason
Flores, Pablo
Forner, Caleb
Garcia, Camillo
Geliske, Randy
Gendron, Brent
Gieras, Jordan
Gilginas, Jessica
Gow, Anthony
Grant, Nathan
Greer, Michael
Gregory, Eric
Groff, Justin
Hale, Jason
Harmon, Brian
Harney, Matthew

Hautamaki, Michael
Henderson, Michael
Hendley, Adam
Hendricks, Patrick
Hilton, Stephanie
Hubers, Rebekah
Jackson, Randy
Jayska, Ryan
Kenwabikise, Simon
King, Zachary
Kitchenhoff, Rollie
Knox, Michael
Kremhelmer, Joshua
Lameira, Brenton
Leonard, Shaun
Lewis, Elizabeth
Lund, Guy

Madsen, Christopher
Maier, Michael
Marnell, Tagan
Mason, Adam
Masura, Michael
Michanowicz, Steven
Miel, Wyatt
Miller, David
Mitchell, Marla
Moore, Joshua
Murphy, Laquanda
Musser, Mark
Nau, Timothy
Nelson, Troy
Niemi, Joshua
Oates, Brandelynn
Olson, Wayne
Osborne, Travis
Palmore, Raphael
Patterson, Christian
Peck, James
Pennington, Timothy
Pierce, Robyn
Pietila, Brittany
Polen, Olivia
Roberts, Christopher
Rose, Joshua
Ruiz, Sandra
Rushton, Evan
Saechao, Jonathan
Sayles, Joshua
Seager, Brandon
Shay, Daniel
Shreeve, Stephan
Shrum, Jacob
Shubert, Robert

Simonetti, Rachel
Snider, William
Squires, Lisa
Starkweather, Shane
Thompson, Nathyn
Tonning, Ryan
True, Brian
Vance, Brandon
Vaneekhoutte, Remi
Voorhees, Andrew
Wallace, Michael
Wehner, Justin
Wetzel, Christopher
Wheeler, Jonathan
Wilcox, Henry
Woline, Justin

Spc.

Alicea, Clara
Brownlee, Brian
Burgess, Jordyn
Colon, Richard
Franckowiak, Spring
Groat, Jeremiah
Hoxie, Cody
Knight, Sarah
Langolf, Brittany
Leiter, William
Lewis, Jenna
Mousseau, Eric
Patterson, Steven
Persons, Justin
Reedy, Sawyer
Samson, Brad
Simons, Adam
Slater, Emily
Sneathen, Jon
Stanton, Lucus
Stewart, Nicholas
Stilwell, Crystal
Tapani, Bradley
Thayer, Melica
Thoryk, Blaine
Vanbeest, John
Wallace, Iii
Willoughby, Derek

Pfc.

Elliott, Willie
Hough, Joshua
Jobe, Elizabeth
King, Tyler
Lipke, Paul
Madden, Antonio

Michigan Army and Air National Guard Promotions

December 2, 2011 through February 1, 2012

Ostrander, David
Shann, Thomas

Pvt.

Baca, Samuel

Col.

Brooks, David A.
Knapp, Keir D.
Sheridan, Philip R.

Lt. Col.

Latorre, Ronald C.
Young, Matthew T.

Maj.

Kristof, Ryan A.

Osmar, Scott J.

2nd Lt.

Obey, Jaresha M.
Sabo, Ryan J.

Chief Master Sgt.

Demaree, Lynn K.
Escoe, Walter M. Iii
Miller, James D.

Senior Master Sgt.

Bates, Eric B.
Brown, Steven K.
Coleman, Paul J.
Cotton, Tara E.

Delano, Stephen H.
Sutton, Robert J. Jr.
Tucker, Tommy N.
Warren, Gary G. Jr.

Master Sgt.

Cummings, Michael W.
Franklin, Amy L.
Murphy, Roy C.
Nitz, Jody J.
Reiss, Gregory S.

Technical Sgt.

Azzopardi, Adam J.
Biwer, Phillip J.

Busick, Joshua A.
Dalton, Nicole M.
Kalee, Daniel J.
Plumley, Rachael E.
Reed, Sean M.
Scholz, Christopher J.
Smith, Nathan L.
Spiech, Bradley A.
Stockett, Janice R.
Treat, Linda M.
Wortley, Jeffrey A.

Staff Sgt.

Basford, Kristin L.

Crocker, David A.
Fisher, Garrett M.
Hyde, Burke M. Iv
Kuchmuk, Benjamin D.
Magro, Kristian M.
Powers, Douglas F.
Scalici, Michael P.
Thomas, Bryan S.
Williams, Kenneth O. III

Senior Airman

Bishop, Michael W.
Cannon, Shane M.
Cunningham, Ryan S.

Herrara, William D.
Heimstra, Michael D.
Lizenby, William T.
William, Jason D.
Wollberg, Trenton N.

Airman 1st Class

Meredith, Keandres S.

Airman

Akers, Robert W.
Harwood, Jena C.
Morden, Jonathan J.
Murphy, Sean M.
Taylor, Kenya V.

From the Battlefield to the Plow Field

Story by Angela Simpson

With more than 700,000 Veterans in Michigan and nearly 30 percent out of work, USDA efforts to help returning service members find employment in agriculture couldn't come at a better time. On Feb. 28, 2012 Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack and The American Legion National Commander Fang Wong signed a memorandum of understanding to help Veterans and transitioning military service members find paid positions that promote agriculture, animal and plant health, food safety, nutrition, conservation and self-sustainability.

Chris Ritthaler, the Veteran Outreach Coordinator for the Farmer-Veteran Coalition seemed hopeful in an interview with the Farm Press, that the MOU will bring positive results as consumer interest in organically grown produce increases. A few large organic vegetable companies have significantly reduced imports on main staples like lettuce and spinach but the trend is growing very slowly.

Grants from the USDA and American Legion-led semi-

nars on crop management, natural insect control, business plan design, and working with industry partners (packers and distributors, marketers) could certainly help. Michigan seasons are perfect for growing an assortment of natural products and American Legion posts are located in every county of the state.

For a list of American Legion posts in Michigan visit, www.michiganlegion.org, the services provided will vary.

For information about USDA opportunities for Veterans and returning military service members visit, www.start-2farm.gov.

Additionally, the USDA itself committed to increasing its hiring of Veterans in the permanent workforce from 17.5 percent in 2009 to 23.9 percent in 2012 and reports that as of Feb. 19, 2012 the rate of hire in the permanent workforce was at 25.6 percent, perhaps due to unseasonably mild conditions across the U.S. lengthening growth and harvesting seasons.



Ambassador for the Guard

Story by Sgt. 1st Class James Downen

On Jan. 19, 2012 Michigan Army National Guard, Lt. Col. Shawn Harris, spoke to social workers and counselors at the Kent County Department of Human Services building in Grand Rapids, Mich., about issues concerning returning Iraq and Afghanistan war veterans.

Harris said, "The problem is communicating to the veteran that there are resources that can help with unemployment, marriage difficulties and legal issues. Michigan has no active duty installations; therefore the burden on assisting Michigan veterans lies with the Veterans Administration, Michigan National Guard and State Human Services agencies. By working together, we can give our Michigan veterans the help they need to reintegrate back into peacetime society."

Harris ended the presentation with a question and answer session with the social workers and counselors. Kent County Department of Human Services supervisor Eaton Maben said, "We are dealing with more Iraq and Afghanistan veteran clients. Lt. Col. Harris' presentation has cleared up many issues we've encountered, such as Post Traumatic Stress Disorder and veterans re-employment rights. We're going to take the knowledge from this presentation and use it to better serve our returning Michigan veterans."



The Buddy-to-Buddy Volunteer Veteran Program

"No one knows more about the issues facing a Veteran while deployed or on the home front than another Veteran"



The Michigan Army National Guard and the University of Michigan have partnered to create the Buddy-to-Buddy Volunteer Veteran Program to provide peer support and links to needed resources for all OEF/OIF soldiers.

Seeking Veterans for Unique Volunteer Opportunity

Think about joining our team if you have:

- A strong desire to help other veterans
- Good communication and listening skills
- A good understanding of the issues facing returning service members
- Basic internet and email skills
- 1-2 hours per week
- 1 Saturday per month



Call 1-517-481-9878 or Visit www.buddytobuddy.org to learn more

Currently Deployed

Army

125 Infantry Bn.	Afghanistan
126 Cavalry Sqdrn.	Afghanistan
Co. B, BSTB, 37th BCT	Afghanistan
1462nd Transportation Co.	Kuwait
Operation Onward Liberty	Liberia
210th Military Police Bn.	Camp Shelby/Kuwait
3-238th Aviation, Co. B	Afghanistan

Air

127th Wing Group
27 Airmen deployed worldwide

110th Air Wing
39 Airmen deployed worldwide



TAPS

Lt. Col. Brian L. Reichow, (ret), 67, July 18, 2011
Chief Warrant Officer 3 Willis A. Garceau, (ret), 77, Sept. 24, 2011
Maj. James E. Sinclair Jr., (ret), 82, Oct. 2, 2011
Staff Sgt. Kenneth L. Eggert, (ret), 84, Nov. 15, 2011
Staff Sgt. Millard J. Edwards, (ret), 76, Dec. 7, 2011
Chief Master Sgt. William J. Kruso Jr., (ret), 62, Dec. 17, 2011
Sgt. 1st Class Daniel J. Murphy, 51, Dec. 20, 2011
Staff Sgt. Terrance G. Twiss, 69, Dec. 26, 2011
Chief Warrant Officer 4 Joseph P. Stevens, (ret), 80, Dec. 30, 2011
Chief Warrant Officer 2 James R. Andrews, (ret), 77, Jan. 4, 2012
Chief Warrant Officer 4 John R. Bates, (ret), 89, Jan. 4, 2012
Sgt. 1st Class Rudy Orozco, (ret), 64, Jan. 5, 2012
Sgt. Frederick L. Shippy, 41, Jan. 6, 2012
Master Sgt. Larry S. Brockwell, 64, Jan. 10, 2012

Spec. 6 Louis A. Missitti, (ret), 83, Jan. 13, 2012
Lt. Col. Melvin J. Wierenga, (ret) 79, Jan. 13, 2012
Tech. Sgt. Paul W. Smith Jr., 64, Jan. 14, 2012
Lt. Col. Lynn F. Yoas, (ret), 75, Jan. 15, 2012
Master Sgt. Gerald A. Neubecker, (ret), 79, Jan. 16, 2012
Col. Harold J. Tucker, (ret), 88, Jan. 17, 2012
Master Sgt. Rene R. Delaere, (ret), 68, Jan. 22, 2012
Sgt. 1st Class Jim L. McClain, (ret), 80, Feb. 6, 2012
Lt. Col. John C. Stabler, (ret), 92, Feb. 11, 2012
Chief Warrant Officer 2 Timothy J. Gordon, (ret), 61, Feb. 12, 2012
Sgt. Terry L. Palmer, (ret), 50, Feb. 12, 2012
Command Sgt. Maj. Fred E. Alkire, (ret), 81, Feb. 14, 2012
Lt. Col. Milton L. Riggs Jr., (ret), 84, Feb. 16, 2012
Staff Sgt. Richard J. Dubay Sr., (ret), 69, Feb. 23, 2012

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 #975

GOT *ming* ?

There is one thing that all politicians can agree with, the best group page on Facebook is the Michigan National Guard page.

Did you know that 60% of Soldiers and Airmen don't know about the page?

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