

THE MICHIGAN ADVANTAGE



FUTURE VALUE AVAILABLE TODAY

FOREWORD



“Future Value Available Today”

At the dawn of the 21st century’s second decade, the Michigan Air National Guard is poised to capitalize on a new era of opportunity that will fully leverage our state’s unique blend of geography, people, and technology-based industry.

The Michigan Air National Guard is fundamentally aligned with the priorities and posture of the National Guard Bureau through the leadership and direction of the Air National Guard. The Michigan ANG is a unique and dynamic organization driven by a constant drive toward creative and innovative solutions to meet current and future challenges.

- **Elite and Ready Airmen:** Our Airmen are our most treasured resource – the Michigan ANG strives to establish a diverse, respectful environment and culture that affords all members the opportunity to achieve their goals.
- **Warfighting Excellence:** With our Airmen continuously integrated into DoD warfighting operations worldwide, the Michigan ANG is always striving to be a provider of exceptional service to state and federal authorities.

• **Complimentary Missions:** The Michigan ANG has a strong existing capability across multiple domains supporting KC-135 A-10, and MQ-9 flying missions, cyber, intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance (ISR), and command and control operations.

• **Overwhelming Community Support at all of our installations:** The Michigan ANG is a community-based organization with vibrant support interwoven into the DNA of its three primary installations; proven by community councils, open houses, air shows and other events that deliver top-of-mind awareness of the symbiotic opportunities delivered by the ANG.

• **Available capacity:** The Michigan ANG is home to state-of-the-art facilities for its existing missions with available – and continuously developing infrastructure capacity to accept and execute new and emerging DoD missions.

• **National All-Domain Warfighting Center – an adaptive, all-domain training environment:** With more than 147,000 acres of ground maneuver area and the largest overland military airspace complex east of Mississippi River, Michigan is the ideal training space for combined, joint fires integration. The NADWC is anchored by the Kelly Johnson Joint All-Domain Innovation Center at Selfridge Research Park, a venue for collaboration in direct support of our National Defense Strategy. The National All-Domain Warfighting Center in Northern Michigan is home to Northern Strike, the DoD’s premier annual joint, reserve component readiness exercise. Northern Strike is poised to replicate all-domain operations by addressing emergent requirements connected to DoD modernization efforts.

With a clear vision for future success, the Michigan National Guard’s assets and core values will turn obstacles into opportunities for collaboration at all levels of our organization to achieve success. This is why every achievement of the Michigan Air National Guard has been defined, and will always be defined by the outstanding people of our organization. Northern Strike is poised to replicate all-domain operations by addressing emergent requirements connected to DoD modernization efforts.

This is the “Michigan Advantage.”

MAJOR GENERAL PAUL D. ROGERS
THE ADJUTANT GENERAL

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The MI ANG is headquartered in Lansing, Michigan, and operates out of three primary locations with the below mission sets. In addition to primary mission sets, each location is supported by Airmen working in a variety of agile combat support disciplines. Significantly, Michigan hosts the largest contiguous overland joint service range/airspace complex east of the Mississippi River, including supersonic airspace, unique littoral topography and a vast overland joint fires range with all-altitude ordnance capability to an over water/over land live-fire range with moving targets and mobile advanced electronic joint-threat emitters. Based on Michigan's strength and proven capability, we are perfectly postured to competitively modernize, expand, and accept new mission sets.



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NATIONAL ALL-DOMAIN WARFIGHTING CENTER

MISSION STATEMENT: *Michigan's National All-Domain Warfighting Center (NADWC) seeks to maximize joint combat readiness by providing an adaptable, cost effective, and integrated all domain training environment supported by an expanding Joint All Domain Command and Control (JADC2) architecture to enable the application of combined arms effects in a near peer, contested threat environment.*

Intent:

- Expand and market Michigan's geography, infrastructure, and resources
- Offer scalable training environments, tailorable from domestic operations (DOMOPS) to real world contested degraded operations (CDO)
- Provide government and industry partners with opportunities and environments for JADC2 innovation research and development
- Host large force exercises (LFE) for All Domain Operations/ JADC2 training and execution
- Air Force-led JADC2 initiative with Army coordination and integration for a highly effective Michigan Joint Force Team
- Primary weight of effort will be an externally developed capability analysis on NADWC's JADC2 roadmap, supported by trusted Air Force partners
- JADC2 industry collaboration will be led by the Kelly Johnson All Domain Innovation Center



The National All-Domain Warfighting Center in Northern Michigan is home to the largest inland range complex east of the Mississippi River. The airspace measures an extraordinary 180x100nm, which at 12,750nm², is comparable to the Nellis Range complex in Nevada. Not only is there capacity, but this airspace is also unsurpassed in capability. The Michigan ANG's airspace and ranges provide ideal joint and large-scale opportunities in a littoral environment directly overlying and integrated with ranges that allow for all-altitude, all ordnance deliveries as well as moving and fixed target capabilities. Michigan's airspace provides a massive three-dimensional arena to accomplish Suppression of Enemy Air Defenses, Air Interdiction, Close Air Support and Air-to-Air training requirements to include large package training. The Alpena airspace and range complex ideally supports the regional Operational Training Infrastructure Flight Plan being developed by the Air Force and has the capacity to easily integrate live virtual construct capabilities. With its proximity to Canada, the Alpena airspace complex offers tremendous joint training capabilities with Canadian CF-18s and F-35s as well as international and other service partners as part of Michigan's annual Northern Strike exercise. The airspace is owned and scheduled by the Michigan Air National Guard, ensuring scheduling optimization and prioritization resulting in efficiency and increased readiness.

In addition to its immense size, the Alpena complex offers:

- Three Mobile Joint Threat Emitters
- Supersonic flight
- Ground Control Intercept capability through "Huntress" control
- Live Virtual Construct (LVC) capability (future capability)
- Airspace conducive to large-force exercise execution flown out of Selfridge ANG and Alpena CRTC

The Alpena airspace complex is comprised of the Steelhead, Pike East, Pike West, and Grayling Military Operations Area (MOAs) as well as the Garland, Molson, Lumberjack, Firebird, and Steelhead Air Traffic Control Assigned Airspace (ATCAAs). This contiguous airspace complex overlies the R4201 and R4207 restricted areas as well as the Alpena Combat Readiness Training Center itself. Combined, the Alpena training complex airspace provides all-altitude training from low altitude up through FL450 – and is scheduled to expand even more in the near future!

The Michigan ANG is currently working on an airspace expansion that would vastly increase the size of the Michigan training airspace, both horizontally and vertically. These changes would increase the volume of training airspace allowing for a greater number of combined air assets and increased Low Altitude Training options. This expansion will also tie the Alpena complex to R4201 in the low to medium altitude regime which is critical for joint training with rotary wing assets.

National All Domain Warfighting Center

Camp Grayling Maneuver Training Center
Ground Capabilities
 ✓ Air-to-Ground / Artillery Range
 ✓ Multi-Purpose Range Complex
 ✓ Grayling Air Field
 ✓ CG/JMTC Garrison
 ✓ Small Arms / IED Complex
 ✓ ALL DOMAIN
 ✓ DIV MSN Command Capable
 ✓ Cyber Capability
 ✓ Air to Ground Range
 ✓ UAS Training / Ranges
 ✓ Simulation Center
 ✓ 43 live fire ranges
 ✓ State of the Art Urban
 ✓ Housing for over 7,200 personnel
 ✓ Army Airfield with two 5,000' runways; C130 Capable
 ✓ Rail line
 ✓ Tank Ranges
Largest ARNG Training Center: 148,000 Acres

Alpena Combat Readiness Training Center Air Capabilities
 ✓ 17,000+ square miles of special use airspace
 ✓ Air Gunnery Ranges
 ✓ 3x Joint Threat Emitters
 ✓ 11 x separate Airspace Operations Areas up to AGL 300' - 50K'
 ✓ 1000 Square Mile Maritime live fire
 ✓ UAS Capability for all DOD UAS
 ✓ 9000' & 5000' Runways
 ✓ Housing for nearly 1,200 personnel
 ✓ Rogers City Quarry – Littoral and Full Mission Profile Area
Largest Special Use Airspace east of the Mississippi River

Fusion of Capability

MISSION
 Maximize DoD combat readiness by providing realistic, unit-tailored, cost-effective, and highly integrated Joint Fires combat training in an adaptable threat and combined arms live fire environment, emphasizing cooperation between Joint and Coalition forces. Provide realistic training and testing opportunities for Other Government Agencies, including interagency operations and planning.

FOCUS

- Joint Fire Support
- Maneuver coordinated with Fires & Effects
- Multi-Echelon Sustainment including Medical
- Sustainment CTC-Like experience
- Close Air Support (CAS)
- Maritime and littoral
- Combined Arms Live Fire Exercise (CALFEX)
- Decisive Action, MCO-CDO scenarios
- Air Mobility
- Cyber Operations – up to 6000 frequencies and 4000 mi of fiber on Merit Range
- Mission Command
- Four Season

Michigan's extensive and contiguous airspace and ranges meet 100% of any next generation fighter aircrew readiness requirements!

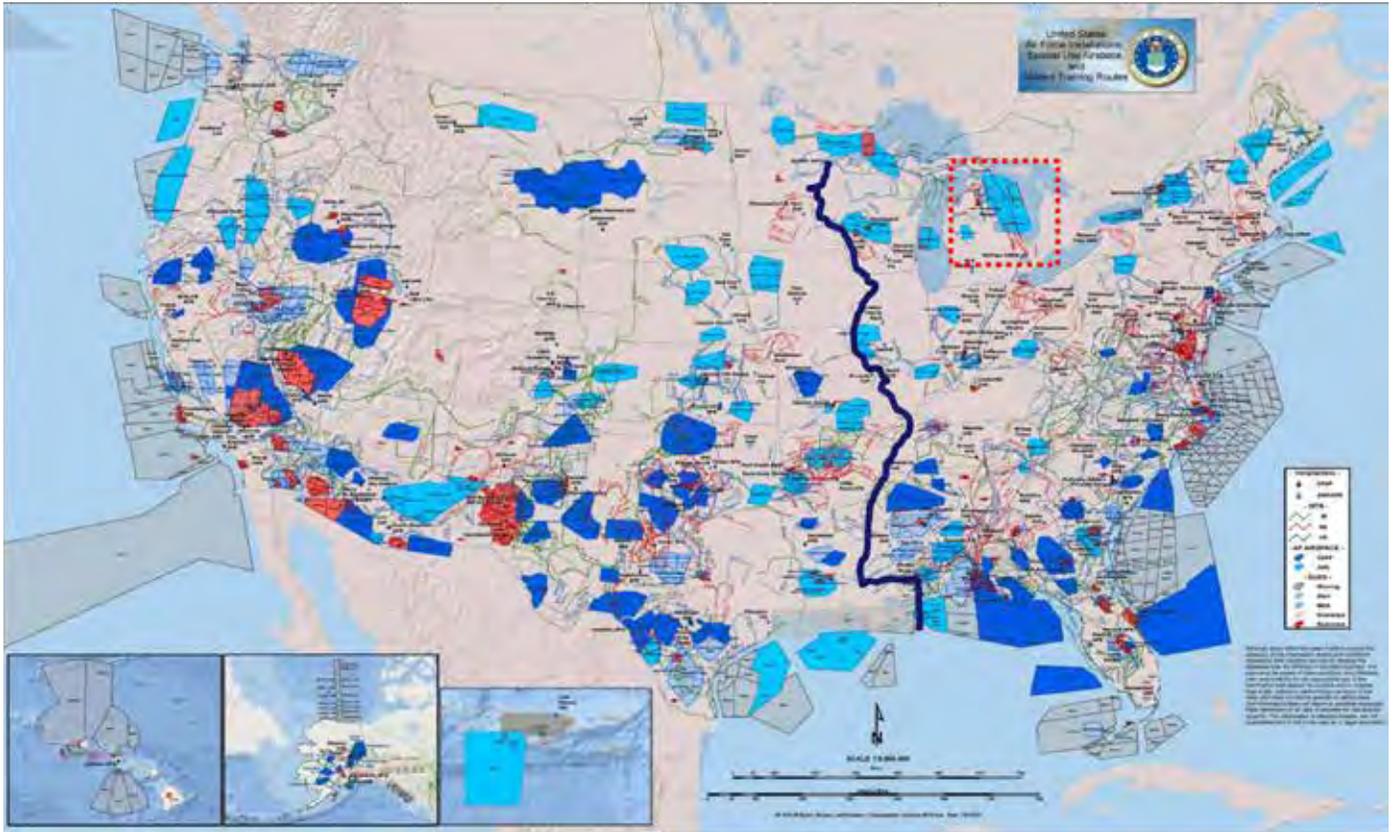
National All Domain Warfighting Center

Live - Integrated All Domain Training Environment

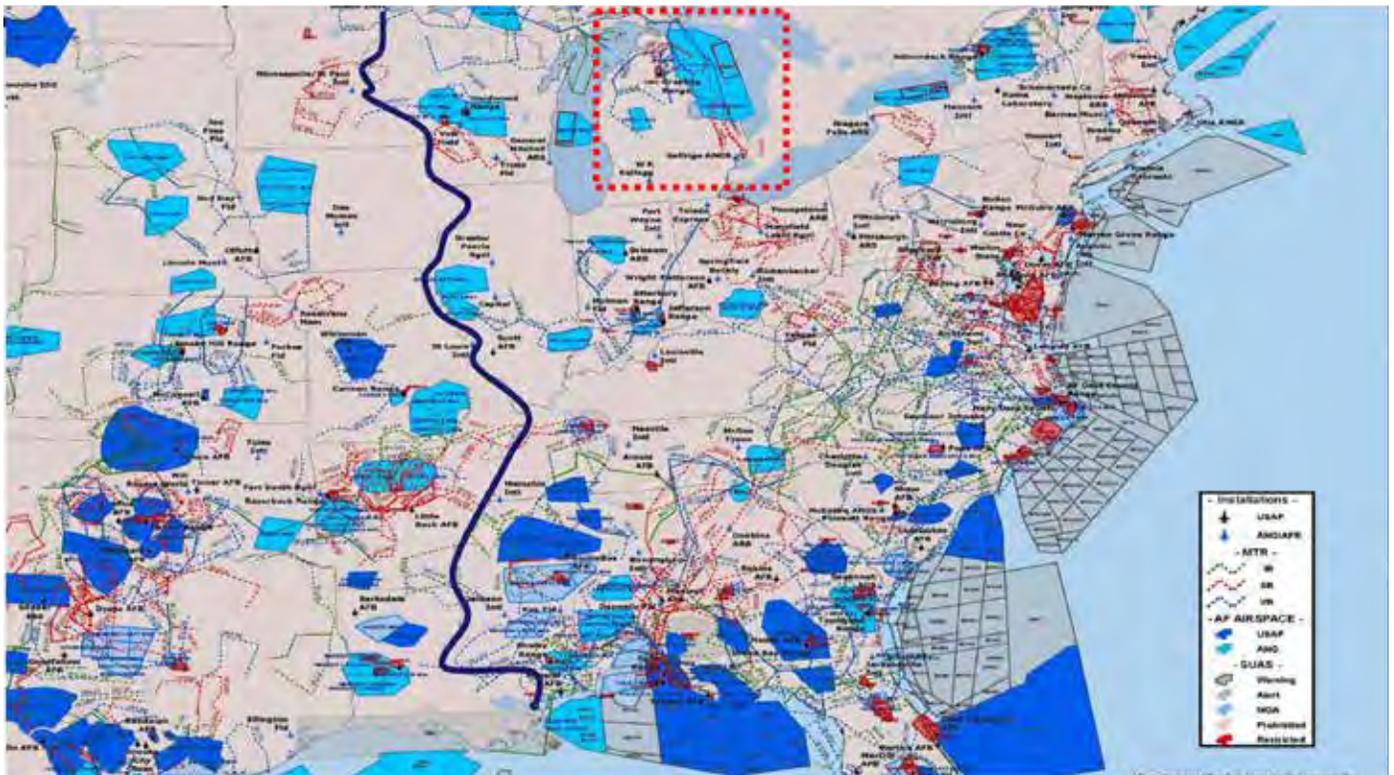
Domain Convergence

Camp Grayling / Alpena CRTC / Air Space

Grayling
Rogers City
Alpena
Land Domain
Maritime Domain
Space Domain
Cyber Domain
Littoral Operations
Divisional Mission Command
179 nm
147 nm
100 nm
100 nm



LARGEST OVERLAND AIRSPACE EAST OF THE MISSISSIPPI



RESTRICTED AREAS

GRAYLING – (R4201 A/B)

As one of the nation's world-class Maneuver Training Centers, Camp Grayling combines unique resources that provide a wide variety of training scenarios to meet unit readiness requirements. Grayling not only includes an expansive aerial gunnery range, but concurrently hosts large artillery, mortar, tank ranges, and maneuver courses making Grayling one of the best joint training environments in the United States.

R4201A extends from the surface up to 23,000'. R4201B extends from the surface to 9,000'. Both of these ranges together provide an exceptional low to medium altitude training environment encompassing approximately 100 square miles. The Garland ATCAA overlies R4201A connecting it to the Alpena Complex providing a tremendous high altitude capability to integrate air-to-air and air-to-ground training.

History
 Founded in 1913 when local lumber baron Rasmus Hanson donated 13,000 acres to the State of Michigan for military training. Camp Grayling has since grown to 148,000 acres.

Infrastructure & Operations

- 148,000 Acres
- 8,000 Transient Bed Spaces
- 429 Buildings (1.8M sqft)
- 83 Miles of Paved Roads
- 482 Miles of Unpaved/Trails
- Contracted Fire Fighting
- Wildland Fire (Internal)
- Sewer: Lagoon System
- Domestic Water Systems
- 7 Classrooms / 2 DLCs

Logistical Movement & Support

- 3 Hours From Detroit via I-75
- 5 Hours From Chicago
- 2 Rail Spurs, 15 Cars/Spur
- 1 Rail Spur, 15 Cars
- Rail Maintenance Facility
- Class I, II, V Warehouse
- 118K sqft Total Storage
- DLA Bulk Fuel Site
- 30,000 gal DF & JP Tanks
- ASP (SA, HIMARS, NATO)

Simulations Capabilities

- Engagement Skills Trainer II
- Call-for-Fire Trainer
- BCT Individual Reality Trainer
- Unstabilized Gunnery Trainer
- Tactical Combat Casualty Care
- HMMWV Egress Trainer
- MRAP Egress Trainer
- Virtual Convoy Operations
- Virtual Battle Simulation 3

Joint Training, Maneuver Live Fires, Artillery Impact Area, Special Use Airspace

- 40 Complex
- 17,000 Acres of Maneuver Space
- 10,000 Acres of Live Fire Area
- 2,800 Acres of Duded Impact Area
- All Small Arms up to MK-19, Door Gunnery
- AT-4, Javelin, and TOW Inert
- All Tube Artillery & Mortars, 104 Firing Points
- Platoon+ Combined Arms Live Fires
- Company Live Fire & Defense (Non-Std)
- Live Drops up to 500Lbs (MK82)
- Restricted Airspace up to 23,000 Feet

Multi-Purpose Range Complex (Heavy)

- 30 Complex MPRC
- 42,000 Acres of Maneuver Space
- 5,300 Acres Fenced
- M2 Qualification Range
- MK19 Qualification Range
- Sniper Range
- Infantry Platoon Battle Course
- Convoy Live Fire
- MLRS/HIMARS Firing Area
- UAS Operations Day/Night
- 3D Modeled for Virtual Events
- Maneuver & Training Equipment Site

Grayling Army Airfield

- GAAF
- 5000' Runway "Rail Spurs"
- Housing for 260 Personnel
- Dining Facility
- Bivouac Area for 300+
- Training, Office, Academic Facilities
- UAS Shadow Simulator
- 400+ Square Miles of Controlled Airspace
- Fire Barn & Municipal Fire

Light Maneuver Area & Small Arms Ranges

- South Camp
- Qual Ranges: M9 – M240B
- Known Distance Range
- Grenade Ranges
- Light Demo Range
- Fire & Movement Range
- Infantry Squad Battle Course
- 60MM Mortar Impact Area

Camp Grayling

Crawford County

14KM

23KM

LAKE HURON OVERWATER RANGE (R4207)

Michigan's expansive 50x20nm overwater range supports all-altitude deliveries of a wide range of training, inert, and live free-fall ordnance, live missiles, as well as self-protection chaff/flares. Weapons delivery capability includes aerial gunnery up through 40mm. R4207 is an exceptional littoral environment for unique maritime training. It is also one of the very few inland ranges east of the Mississippi that allows missiles such as AGM-65 Maverick missiles to be fired offering a great opportunity for joint fires integration with other fixed wing and rotary assets. The Pike East MOA overlies R4207, once again providing tremendous opportunities for large scale exercises integrating air-to-air and air-to-ground training.

The Lake Huron Range ensures a wide range of joint training opportunities not available anywhere else in the nation. The over water and littoral training capability integrated into the expansive Michigan airspace and Grayling Range provide unequalled training aircrew training opportunities.

The bottom line is that Michigan airspace and ranges stand alone. The state offers exceptionally robust and overlapping capabilities of airspace, ranges, threat replication, and operating environment diversity to meet any aircrew training requirement of the present – and future.



A group of military members and Fenix Group contractors run a BANSHEE system during Northern Strike 20, at Grayling, Michigan, July 29, 2020. The system allows for a greater transmission of data and imagery between forces on the ground and a control center.

Northern Strike 20 sets standard, tone for future innovation Michigan National Guard

Since 2012, Northern Strike has expanded the boundaries of joint and multinational training operations. It has also served as a proving ground for new, innovative technology for the Michigan National Guard and the rest of the Department of Defense. This function continued at the newly rebranded National All-Domain Warfighting Center during Northern Strike 20.

For this years' innovation effort, Northern Strike personnel collaborated with a company that specializes in networks and integrated systems known as Fenix Group.

"During Northern Strike [Fenix Group], provided Android Tactical Awareness Kit relay to Joint Terminal Attack Controllers on the ground," said Air Force Master Sgt.

Patricia Boyer, cyber operations specialist. "Using cellular systems, instead of wifi, we were able to relay the images to the Alpena Combat Readiness Training Center."



An Android Tactical Awareness Kit shows location data and an image feed during Northern Strike 20, at Rogers City, Michigan. Joint Terminal Attack Controllers regularly use the ATAKs to see location of forces and coordinate close air support.

According to Boyer, the ATAK technology is widely used in the JTAC community to track forces, communicate effectively, and view video feeds from aircraft above the battlefield. The equipment provided by the Fenix Group, known as BANSHEE, allowed for a much larger transmission of the data, which enabled a central command to be set up in Alpena to monitor the action.

“Northern Strike was an introduction of the capability to see how it would work in Michigan,” said Boyer. “In short, we were able to partner with industry to integrate tactical operations and provide real-time situational awareness to a command level.”

The multinational, joint nature of Northern Strike means the international and interagency partners benefitted from the technology as well.

“In our Joint Operations Cell we were able to see Latvian JTACs move on the ground,” said Boyer. “We were able to communicate with them in real time and see video from an Air Force MQ-9 Reaper overhead all within one system.”



Recently, the DoD and the Michigan National Guard have made it a priority to partner with industry to overcome challenges faced by warfighters. These partnerships help develop new technology, which makes our nation’s troops more efficient and effective on the battlefield.

“We can innovate fast in industry,” said Dave Peterson, Fenix Group CEO. “We are always excited to work with someone who is in the DoD, research houses, and line units who are willing to move the needle and try out something new.”

The large maneuver space and extensive air complex available at the NADWC in northern Michigan means Northern Strike has the ability to push the envelope on innovation far beyond what most training environments provide.

“One of our nation’s critical ventures is trying to practice command and control in a joint environment,” said Air Force Col. Chris McDonald, Michigan director of innovations. “The exercise gave us an opportunity to demonstrate technologies that bridge the joint all-domain realm.”

Northern Strike 20 foreshadows the upcoming unveiling of the Kelly Johnson Joint All-Domain Innovation Center, which takes place Sept. 11, 2020. This new asset, located at Selfridge Research Park, Macomb County, Mich., placed extra emphasis on the innovation effort.

“We are trying to generate excitement for our innovation center,” said Brig. Gen. Bryan Teff, Assistant Adjutant General - Air and commander of the Michigan Air National Guard. “We have a lot of good ideas and with the ribbon cutting coming up we wanted to build momentum going into that, so we can solve other problems as we collaborate with industry, academia, and the military.”

Northern Strike has become a pinnacle of innovation for the National Guard Bureau and with the opening of the new innovation center, its influence is sure to grow.

“In future Northern Strike iterations, one of the ideas behind our innovation center is to come up with technology to overcome challenges,” said Teff. “This will allow us to make rapid improvements and provide a realistic training scenario during the exercise.”

Multicomponent Joint Terminal Attack Controllers, Joint Fires Observers, and Tactical Air Control Party members conduct training at Camp Grayling, part of the National All-Domain Warfighting Center in Northern Michigan during Northern Strike 20.

“KELLY” JOHNSON JOINT ALL-DOMAIN INNOVATION CENTER



Michigan National Guard Unveils Kelly Johnson Joint All-Domain Innovation Center

Lt. Governor Garlin Gilchrist II joined ranking members of the Michigan National Guard for a ribbon cutting ceremony to mark the grand opening of the Kelly Johnson Joint All-Domain Innovation Center at Selfridge Research Park, Sept. 11, 2020.

“Michigan continues to bring together the greatest academic, commercial and military minds to develop new ways of protecting our service members and securing our nation,” said Lt. Governor Gilchrist. “The Kelly Johnson Joint All-Domain Innovation Center will allow the Michigan National Guard and our partners in the private sector to build upon their strong reputations of innovation to further push the boundaries of what is possible in pursuit of our national defense.”

The ceremony marks an important milestone as Michigan continues to draw attention from Department of Defense decision makers as a



thought leader, piloting future capabilities, and providing unrivaled training opportunities that leverage Michigan’s unique blend of geography, people, and technology-based industry.

“The purpose of the Kelly Johnson Joint All-Domain Innovation Center is to provide opportunities (and a location) for all military members, government, and industry professionals to research, problem solve, and collaborate in direct support of state, national, and Michigan leadership objectives,” said Maj. Gen. Paul Rogers, Adjutant General and Director of the Michigan Department of Military and Veterans Affairs.

The innovation center has been named in tribute to Michigan native Clarence “Kelly” Johnson, Lockheed’s master aeronautical engineer, who contributed to the successful design of dozens of U.S. military aircraft including the F-80 Shooting Star, the U-2 Dragon Lady, and the SR-71 Blackbird.

Michigan has long been an engine for innovation within the Department of Defense. Michigan’s close ties to the defense industry date back to World War II and the “Arsenal of Democracy.” The Kelly Johnson Joint All-Domain Innovation Center will link this proven track record with future initiatives to defend the air, land, sea, space, and cyberspace warfighting domains.

“The Kelly Johnson Joint All-Domain Innovation Center will align Michigan’s national assets such as the National All-Domain Warfighting Center at Camp Grayling and Alpena Combat Readiness Training Center with senior leadership objectives,” said Brig. Gen. Bryan Teff, Assistant Adjutant General – Air and commander of the Michigan Air National Guard. “It provides a venue to shape the future by solving problems and applying technology solutions, enabling service members and industry partners to solve crucial needs.”

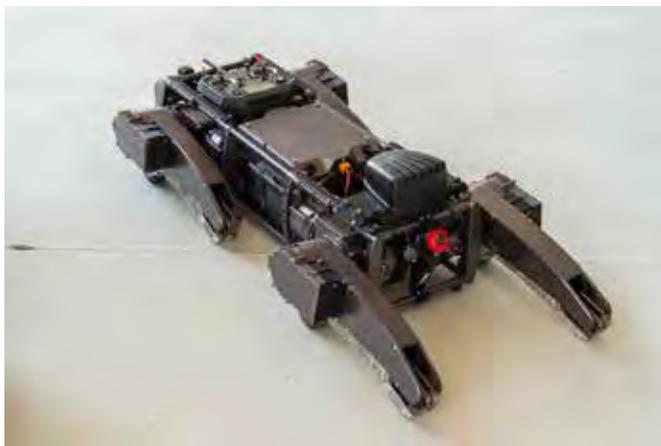


Fostering partnerships with industry professionals is an important element of the Kelly Johnson Joint All-Domain Innovation Center’s mission.



Innovation should: “Be Quick—Be Quiet—and Be On-Time”

Why invest in Michigan? Because Michigan is an engine for innovation:



- Michigan Defense Center established support
- Critical ideas come from Joint “Mission Edge”
- Established Army and USAF R&D Partnership
- Deep knowledge of Industry & Manufacturing
- Joint Task Force established in support of ACC
- Innovation requires measured Risk
- New ideas must be able to displace old ideas & fielded programs that are falling behind
- MING proven track record on Joint All-Domain Exercise and Operations support
- Open Leadership & Management Culture
- Giving control to innovation without taking control-allowing a disruptive innovation culture is game-changing
- Express commanders intent & empower without detailed governance

The purpose of the Kelly Johnson Joint All-Domain Innovation Center is to provide opportunities, and a location, for all military members, government, and industry professionals to research, problem solving, and collaborate in direct support of National, Military, and Michigan leadership objectives.

The Kelly Johnson Joint All-Domain Innovation Center is established to:

1. Promote the collaboration of joint service and industry technologies
2. Support major exercise alignment with Michigan senior leadership objectives
3. Solve problems and apply technology solutions in an “Innovation lab” environment
4. Establish Northern National Guard Innovation Center tied to the Hap Arnold Innovation Center in California
5. Enable service members to contribute to solving crucial needs
6. Link current and future National Innovation Centers to Kelly Johnson Joint All-Domain Innovation Center

Leverage Michigan’s unique industry and manufacturing capability in Engineering, Disruptive Innovation, R&D, and Testing

- All Domain solutions that impact joint service interoperability
- Collaborate and bridge key research labs that focused on:
 - Emerging technologies
 - Robotics
 - Artificial Intelligence
 - Machine Learning
 - Autonomy
 - Entrepreneurship
 - Partnership with State initiatives (Latvia)
- Support Michigan Defense Center objectives and Merit network
- Support funding small business solutions to current All-Domain needs
- Partnership with contracting organization to fund tech competition
- Collaborate with Joint service Innovation groups:
 - Army Futures Command
 - Air Force Warfighter Integration Center
 - AFWORx
 - SOFWORx
 - DIU
 - Joint Artificial Intelligence Center (JAIC)

CARING FOR PEOPLE

The Michigan ANG prioritizes Airmen as its most precious resource. A robust “caring for people” emphasis shapes everything we do, because the men and women who define the Michigan ANG’s excellence and core values are the organization’s truest strength. This is apparent with the establishment of Airmen and family wellness centers and family readiness programs at the 110th and 127th Wings. These initiatives are designed to strengthen communities, encourage self-sufficiency, and enhance mission readiness.

Chaplains provide spiritual care and the opportunity for Airmen, their families, and other personnel to access their constitutional right to the free exercise of religion. This is accomplished through religious observances, providing pastoral care, and advising leadership on spiritual, ethical, moral, morale, core values, and religious accommodation issues.

Directors of psychological health advocate, promote, and guide Wing members and their families by supporting psychological resiliency for operational readiness.

The Employer Support of the Guard and Reserves contractor develops and promotes supportive work environments for service members in the reserve components through outreach, recognition, and educational opportunities that increase awareness of applicable laws, and resolves employment conflicts between the service members and their employers.

Sexual assault response coordinators are available to assist victims of sexual assault and set an organizational culture based on respect at all levels. The SARC serves as the single point of contact for integrating and coordinating sexual assault victim care for members and is also responsible for providing Sexual Assault Prevention and Response (SAPR) training at both the 110th and 127th Wings.

Suicide Prevention program managers encourage members’ help-seeking behaviors and attain proficiency in the “Ask-Care-Escort” principles training.

The Michigan ANG stands ready to provide trained, capable, and resilient Airmen to support any mission directed by state or federal leaders.



110th Wing chaplain, Lt. Col. Gregory Van Huekelom, gives a sermon to members of the 110th Wing during the 110th Wing’s annual Prayer Breakfast. The Prayer Breakfast has been an ongoing tradition for 21 years, started by Lt. Col. Van Huekelom.

COMMUNITY SUPPORT

The Michigan ANG is by definition a community-based organization, with phenomenal, cultivated local support surrounding each of its three bases. Multiple community councils, outreach events, airshows, and open houses stand as proof of this vital relationship. Overall, the Michigan ANG enjoys widespread support at the state, regional, county, and local levels.

The Selfridge Military Air Museum hosts the monthly Base Community Council meeting at the outdoor Air Park. Attendees from the local community leadership and industry, officers and enlisted, and museum volunteers enjoyed lunch and multiple speakers including the Selfridge Commander.



Members of the Army and Air National Guard of Michigan gather for a women's leadership symposium at the Battle Creek Air National Guard Base, Michigan.



Joint innovation a hallmark of Michigan National Guard's response to COVID-19

Nearly sixty days after Gov. Gretchen Whitmer's announcement activating the Michigan National Guard for COVID-19 humanitarian support, U.S. Air Force Brig. Gen. Bryan Teff, Assistant Adjutant General – Air and commander of the Michigan Air National Guard, is reflecting on the challenges and triumphs of the Michigan National Guard's time at the front lines of the COVID-19 fight.

"It has required a complete, joint response in order to appropriately plan, execute, and support the state's response to COVID-19," he says. "It couldn't be done with just one branch."

Between March 10 and May 15, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services reported more than 50,000 COVID-19 cases. On May 15, 2020, Michigan had the fourth-largest number of COVID-19-related deaths in the country.

During this time of need, approximately 1,100 Soldiers and Airmen have teamed to bring aid to state and local agencies, responding to more than 600 unique requests for support. To date, areas of assistance include logistics aid for medical equipment, medical screening operations, planning augmentation, support for construction of alternate care facilities, and COVID-19 testing. Along the way, the scope and scale of the guard's COVID-19



Michigan National Guard Soldiers and Airmen view the bay inside the TCF Center in Detroit, Michigan, April 14, 2020. Task Force 801-2 Soldiers deployed from Indianapolis, Indiana, in support of the Department of Defense COVID-19 response. U.S. Northern Command, through U.S. Army North, are providing military support to the Federal Emergency Management Agency to help communities in need.



Staff Sgt. Bill Humbree, Senior Airman Mathew Shaver, and additional members of the 127th Wing, assemble hospital beds at the TCF Center in Detroit, Michigan. A team of ten citizen Airmen from the 127th Wing at Selfridge Air National Guard Base, joined approximately twenty other Michigan National Guard members to assist the Federal Emergency Management Agency in creating a Federal Medical Station at the TCF Center.

response continues to demand innovative solutions to sustain performance excellence for neighbors and communities.

Looking back, Teff says that a joint response was integral in the fight against COVID-19 from the very beginning.

“When you look at the missions, they’re different in terms of their scope, scale, and level of expertise that they require, so we all bring something different to the fight,” he said. “In certain cases, the Army has more expertise or personnel in a certain area. In other areas, the Air side has the right equipment or the right people for the mission.”

Teff and his Army counterpart, U.S. Army Brig. Gen. Lawrence Schloegl, Assistant Adjutant General – Army and commander of the Michigan Army National Guard, agree that several COVID-19 missions supported by the

Michigan National Guard stand out as prime examples of joint innovation.

Working Groups

Early in the state’s COVID-19 response, joint working groups were formed to align the right products, people, data, and places to support the needs of Michigan agencies and clinicians combating the COVID-19 pandemic. These working groups combined Michigan Air and Army National Guard assets with representatives from other agencies such as the Michigan State Police and the Michigan Department of Health and Human Resources to optimize resources in response to community, district, and state needs.

For instance, the procurements working group aims to secure products for frontline health care workers. These products, everything from medical gowns to live-saving ventilators, have specific requirements in order to meet the needs of the medical teams. The innovation and dedication of working group members have brought new supply lines for medical assets, as well as improvements upon modern personal protective equipment – all in the name of protecting medical professionals.

“The working groups were the first joint mission we did,” says Teff. “From the planning, to the working groups, to the boots-on-the-ground in the field, the most successful missions we’ve had have been joint because you’re bringing in people with different skillsets from all walks of life.”

Alternate Care Facilities

As COVID-19 cases mounted in late March, hospitals in the Detroit Metro Area were at risk of being overwhelmed. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers partnered with the Michigan National Guard to create a 970-bed alternate care facility at Detroit’s TCF Center, as well as a 250-bed alternate care facility at Suburban Collection Showplace in Novi. More than 100 guard members from the 177th Military Police Brigade, Taylor, Mich. and the 127th Wing at Selfridge Air National Guard Base in Macomb County, came together to complete conversion of the TCF Center by providing logistics support, warehouse staffing, and setup of patient care facilities. The total transformation of the 350,000 square-foot section of TCF Center into a COVID-19 care facility was completed in only nine days.

Schloegl points out that the Michigan National Guard’s work on these alternate care facilities is an example of how the true definition of “joint” goes well beyond the concept of combined Air Force and Army National Guard components to include myriad other agencies and partners.

“It’s really a whole-of-government response in how we’ve been able to work, whether it’s with the Michigan State Police, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, or the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers,” he says. “For the first time ever in the State of Michigan, we had a dual-status commander with Title 32 National Guard and Title 10 active duty forces integrated together at TCF Center, so to expedite that in the manner in which we did – it’s all of those agencies pulling together to be successful.”

COVID-19 Testing

Since early May, the Michigan National Guard has been fulfilling a request from the Michigan State Police and Michigan Department of Corrections to facilitate testing of inmates at many of the state’s prison facilities, ensuring the health and welfare of vulnerable populations. In the first week of operations, guard members tested more than 7,300 inmates at six different correctional facilities in Michigan’s Upper Peninsula. Army and Air National Guard medical specialists are presently working side-by-side to test inmates at additional Lower Peninsula correctional facilities as well as Long Term Care facilities in the Upper Peninsula.

“When you look at the COVID-19 testing, this mission is quite robust and you have to have medical expertise to



ABOVE: Michigan National Guard Soldiers and Airmen from various units conduct COVID-19 testing at the Chippewa Correctional Facility, Kincheloe, Michigan.

RIGHT: Master Sgt. Sharmine Hicks, 127th Wing, Michigan Air National Guard, practices COVID-19 testing on Spc. Erin Towns, 1432nd Engineer Company, Michigan Army National Guard, at the Ishpeming Armory.

be successful,” says Teff. “There are only so many medical experts in the force, so we needed to pull the whole team in to get the job done. It required a joint response to meet what the mission required.”

Schloegl agrees that planning for the COVID-19 testing required a holistic organizational outlook.

“The COVID-19 testing is another mission that has been about bringing not just the Army and Air together to serve our communities, but also how we’ve been able to work as a team and inculcate all of these other organizations in that effort,” he says. “There’s no doubt in my mind that what we’re doing to assist other state agencies and to assist the State of Michigan is making a difference – and that’s something our Soldiers and Airmen should be proud of.”

Looking to the future, both commanders agree that



COVID-19 has reinforced lessons that will ensure an even swifter and more cohesive response when the Michigan National Guard is called upon in the future.

“The National Guard’s missions are to fight our nation’s wars, defend the homeland, and build global partnerships,” says Teff. “We’ve done a lot of joint training for the warfighting piece of that triad, but I think now we’re bridging into more joint partnerships for our homeland mission.”

Teff adds that while the fight against COVID-19 is far from over, a joint perspective can bring assets to bear for the short-term and inform the holistic approach needed to optimize resources and secure an edge over the next challenge.

“I think one thing we’ve learned,” says Teff, “is that when you’re conducting an operation of this scope and scale, the joint solution is usually the best solution.”

Michigan National Guard’s response to COVID-19: *Cumulative Summary (16 March 2020-30 September 2020)*

Counties Supported: 81 of 83

Long-term Care Facilities Supported: 292

Food Banks: 8 Locations, 7+ Million Pounds Distributed

COVID-19 Testing: 123,219 Tests Conducted, 44,273 Tests Distributed

Since March 16, 2020, nearly 1,100 service members from Joint Task Force Michigan conducted over 630 COVID-19 response missions in 81 counties and all eight Michigan State Police districts. Michigan National Guard supplemented Michigan’s health care system by participating in the construction of two Alternate Care Facilities and providing medical providers, resulting in the addition of 2,000 bed capacity in the Metro Detroit area. Michigan National Guard service members supported eight food bank distribution centers and four warehouse support supply missions. Throughout the state, Michigan National Guard teams and working groups, provided medical operations support, assisted the Governor’s office in communications efforts, augmented Bureau of Laboratories lab testing capabilities and coordinates Michigan National Guard efforts with state emergency operations center personnel. Michigan National Guard conducted COVID-19 testing at Michigan correctional facilities, county jails, long-term care facilities, and numerous drive-thru locations throughout the state.

NORTHERN STRIKE

Inside Northern Strike, the National Guard's ultimate Joint Fires training opportunity

Summer in Northern Michigan means boating, fishing – and increasingly, premier Joint Fires readiness training.

Since 2012, Northern Strike, the National Guard Bureau's largest joint, multi-component exercise, has been held at the pristine training grounds of Camp Grayling Maneuver Training Center and Alpena Combat Readiness Training Center. In 2020, those facilities were christened the National All-Domain Warfighting Center, a fitting nod to the unique capabilities and integral support these locations in Northern Michigan contribute to the U.S. National Defense Strategy.



Michigan citizen-soldiers assigned to Bravo Battery, 1st Battalion, 119th Field Artillery Regiment, Michigan Army National Guard, ensure their M777 155mm howitzer is on target before firing the gun in a direct fire training exercise during Northern Strike 20, Camp Grayling, Michigan, July 25, 2020. The National All Domain Warfighting center in Northern Michigan, of which Camp Grayling is a part, is the premier location to replicate the future operating environment, benefiting military readiness.

By definition, Northern Strike is a decisive action, joint collective training event. Participants increase Mission Essential Task proficiency in synchronizing Joint fires with ground maneuver elements through repetitious execution of task iterations at echelon. This is accomplished over four-season terrain sets more consistent with the anticipated future operating environment, set over 13,500+ square miles of special use airspace and integrated within nearly 148,000 acres of maneuver training area, 4.3 square miles of artillery impact area and 17 square miles of inert impact area.

While this terminology may sound every bit as complex as the synchronized art of calling in an airstrike from a blazing-fast A-10 Thunderbolt jet, the heart of Northern Strike comes down to one thing: teamwork.

“The bottom line is joint fires – joint fires are difficult to do,” said Michigan Army National Guard Col. Bart Verbanic, Northern Strike deputy exercise director. “We have a tendency as services to focus on our skills and be able to accomplish the mission by ourselves, but in order to win in combat, what makes the U.S. military so phenomenal is joint fires; it truly is, because we can’t do it without each other.”

Venture into the training spaces of Northern Strike and you will see U.S. Marine Corps joint forward observers directing U.S. Army artillery and Joint Terminal Attack Controllers from NATO partner countries coordinating with U.S. Air Force fighter aircraft. Bringing together these multicomponent warfighters with diverse skillsets and experiences – and challenging them to problem-solve together in realistic situations – is what Verbanic is talking about.



This is the type of training that takes basic warfighting skills to the graduate level.

This is the type of training that wins wars.

“Northern Strike is a good opportunity for our Soldiers who normally don’t get to use close air support, with F-16s coming from other states, incorporating our ground training with what’s happening in the air, as well as field artillery units from other states, and incorporating their fires into our mission planning,” said U.S. Army Capt. Aaron Bickerstaff, full-time training officer, 125th Infantry Regiment, Michigan National Guard. “It’s a great joint exercise, where we typically don’t get to do that on an inactive duty training (IDT) weekend.”





Master Sgt. Mickey Shaffer, a radio frequency transmission specialist with the 271st Combat Communications Squadron, Pennsylvania Air National Guard, manually adjusts a satellite system attached to a small-scale communications suite, in order to provide the strongest possible signal at the Alpena Combat Readiness Training Center, during exercise Northern Strike 20.

Joint fires specialists from other services agree.

“Northern Strike proves to be an awesome opportunity for our unit to come together with Guard and Reserve units,” said U.S. Marine Corps Sgt. William Weisberg, a fire control team chief with 6th Air Naval Gunfire Liaison Company, Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Washington. “Blending our training practices, we can come together in this massive training environment and be seamless on the battlefield together.”

While Northern Strike’s primary training audience consists of Army National Guard Infantry Brigade Combat Teams with their organic, direct-support field artillery battalions merged with aligned Air National Guard Air Support Operations Squadrons, the exercise has routinely attracted as many as 6,000 to 7,000 personnel from all service components and more than 20 U.S. states. Numerous coalition partners including NATO forces from countries like Latvia, Lithuania, and Estonia have also attended, bringing a dynamic that takes the interoperability between multicomponent, multinational, and interagency partners to the next level.

“This exercise is different because we can integrate close air support with different types of units – at the lowest level ground forces, but also different types of aircraft and different types of tasks performed by the ground forces and by the JTACs,” said Sgt. Edijs Hermansons, a Joint Terminal Attack Controller with the Latvian National Armed Forces. “This environment allows us to test the interoperability of our forces with our partners. This is my

third year at Northern Strike and maintaining our currency and our proficiency are the two main points that we always take away from attending this exercise.”

Even amid the COVID-19 pandemic, Northern Strike planners have partnered with public health officials to build a comprehensive plan that allows the exercise to carry on its mission, fusing the capabilities of the National All-

Domain Warfighting Center to provide a low-cost joint fires training construct capable of all-domain integration.

“What we’ve built here at Northern Strike is the opportunity to do a complete train-up focused on that joint fires process,” said Verbanic. “The resources that are brought to bear here at Northern Strike are a forcing function to get you to be really good at it.”



Airman 1st Class Franklin Simon, 164th Security Force Squadron defender dons a helmet before starting an all-terrain vehicle while serving as a member of the opposition force during Northern Strike 20. The 164th SFS acted as the opposition force for other participants of Northern Strike to compete against.



U.S. Army Soldiers assigned to Charlie Battery, 1st Battalion, 120th Field Artillery Regiment from the Wisconsin National Guard conduct a live-fire exercise at Camp Graying Joint Maneuver Training Center, in support of Winter Strike 20.

ALPENA COMBAT READINESS TRAINING CENTER



Alpena is one of four Combat Readiness Training Centers in the United States and operates the largest overland airspace east of the Mississippi River. The CRTC is included in more than 147,000 acres for ground maneuver units in the Northern Michigan joint training complex and is the location of choice for the training of more than 20,000 joint and coalition personnel annually.

Only the second organization in the Air National Guard to be certified as a Joint National Training Center, the base boasts a 9,000' runway with barriers, parking for up to three fighter squadrons, as well as live load/flight operations and service. Alpena

The Alpena CRTC provides premier support, facilities, instruction, and airspace to Department of Defense, Department of Homeland Security, coalition, and emergency responders to meet mission requirements of Combatant Commanders and Civil Authorities.

offers unparalleled Joint Tactical Air Controller training including a JTAC four-meter dome simulator. Comprehensive base operations, fire, operations, range instrumentation, lodging, and base support offer a premier training environment.

Alpena Combat Readiness Training Center, formerly named Phelps Collins Field and Phelps Collins Air National Guard Base, has a long history beginning in the early 20th century when flying machines began to appear in the sky over most of the country including the Alpena area. It didn't take long for the early aeronautical risk takers to realize that flat open area about seven miles west of Alpena was just what they needed to land and take off with their aircraft.

On August 31, 1931, the airport was formally dedicated as Captain

Phelps Collins Field in honor of Alpena's World War I hero, who in May 1917 volunteered for the French Air Service and fought with the celebrated French Escadrille 103. On January 7, 1918, he transferred to the famed American 103d Aero Squadron, a successor to Lafayette Escadrille, and died while defending the airspace over Paris on March 12, 1918. Governor Wilber M. Brucker flew in to formally accept the Airport and it became Michigan's first State owned airport.

As a result of World War II, the demand for training facilities became crucial and so the field was taken over by the War Assets Administration. The rough landing strip was replaced by a military airfield, with construction beginning on July 29 1942. It was activated on April 19, 1943.



In 1946, Alpena Army Air Base was declared surplus and turned over to the War Assets Administration for disposition. It became Alpena County Regional Airport. By January 1952, plans were in place to have joint use with the civilian airport. The facility would be reinstated as an ANG Permanent Field Training Site.

During the 1960s, the runway taxiways were extended and an air traffic control tower was added. Also during that decade, the Air Defense Command Detachment from Wurtsmith AFB, Oscoda Michigan, had 60 persons permanently stationed here in Alpena until 1972-1973 at which time their unit was discontinued.

In early 1960s, the Grayling Air-to-Ground Gunnery Range was constructed on 1,900 acres near Grayling, Michigan. Soon after, aircraft could be seen using the site to fly sorties for aircraft gunnery and bombing exercises. This added asset increased the usage and value of the base immensely.

Today, units from all over the U.S. come annually to train, totaling in the tens of thousands. In 1991, the site was renamed the Alpena Combat Readiness Training Center. This new title was more in line with the base's mission of "forging lethal warfighters." Alpena's signature annual exercise, Northern Strike, has been held since 2011 and is the Department of Defense's largest joint, reserve component readiness event.



While participating in exercise Emerald Warrior 20, members of Squadron 721 of the Royal Danish Air Force prepare their C-130J Hercules for flight at Alpena Combat Readiness Training Center, Alpena, Michigan. Emerald Warrior is a Department of Defense exercise focusing on irregular warfare in a joint, NATO combined realistic environment. This training hones special operations force's air and ground combat skills and the development of improved tactics, techniques, and procedures while strengthening relationships for future deployments.



Alpena capabilities include but are not limited to:

- Certified Joint National Training Center
- Billeting / dining facilities for 1,000+ personnel
- Configurable facilities for operations, maintenance, and support
- Ramp space for three flying squadrons (including joint operations or adversary aircraft)
- Instrumented air-to-air ranges and Ground Controlled Intercept GCI airspace capability
- Three Joint Threat Emitters
- Drop zones and assault landing
- Military Operations On Urban Terrain



Joint Terminal Attack Controllers from the Latvian National Armed Forces conduct close air support training with A-10 Thunderbolt II aircraft at Grayling Aerial Gunnery Range in Waters, Michigan. Michigan and Latvia have been linked under the U.S. National Guard Bureau's State Partnership Program since 1993.

USDA, Michigan Air Guard program cuts risk of bird collisions

The flightline at Alpena Combat Readiness Training Center is a busy place.

As the year-round host for training events like Northern Strike – the Defense Department's largest joint reserve-component exercise – it's not uncommon to see more than 60 aircraft on Alpena's tarmac. During exercise Northern Strike 19, more than 450 flights launched from the airfield over two weeks.

Adding to this high-intensity operations tempo, military aircraft aren't the only wings soaring over the base.

Located in the picturesque Northern Michigan woodlands near Lake Huron and other natural waterways, the training center attracts a significant migratory bird population. This presents a challenge for Senior Master Sgt. Pat Czajka, who oversees airfield safety.

One of Czajka's greatest concerns is the risk birds and wildlife pose to aircraft on approach and takeoff.

"You can't even begin to quantify the worst-case scenario," Czajka said. "Imagine an A-10 (Thunderbolt II) hitting a goose and crashing, killing the pilot and causing millions of dollars in damage. That's the whole point of the program, to properly manage the risk of a bird hitting an aircraft."

Czajka is talking about the Defense Department's Bird/wildlife Aircraft Strike Hazard Program, which aims to provide the safest possible flying conditions by discouraging wildlife from the vicinity of airfields. The Air Force reports about 4,000 bird strikes each year, causing tens of millions of dollars in damage. Czajka says



understanding the behavior and movement of birds in the airfield environment is critical to reducing aircraft bird strikes.

“There’s no one thing that manages the BASH program,” Czajka said. “It’s a multiple-pronged effort.”

Since taking on the job of chief of safety for Alpena CRTC in 2011, Czajka says one question has loomed over the base’s BASH program: how does one man do it all?

That’s where Dane Williams, a wildlife specialist with the Gaylord office of the United States Department of Agriculture, comes in.

Since 2012, Alpena CRTC has received an annual grant from the National Guard Bureau, enabling the USDA to partner with the Michigan Air National Guard to manage wildlife at the airfield. The amount of the grant has steadily increased with the success of the program.

“If I were to die tomorrow, I’d die knowing that because of what we’ve been able to do with our USDA partners, a good BASH program has been implemented on this base,” Czajka said.

Today, Williams is behind the wheel of a pickup, making the rounds to check on a series of live traps he monitors around the airfield. It’s a trip he makes two to three times a week.

“I don’t know anybody who’s better to work with than Pat,” Williams said with a grin. “We’ve gotten to be really tight, as often as I’m out here.”

Williams climbs out of the truck and heads over to a grassy area not far from Alpena’s runway. During Northern Strike, this part of the airfield is used as a drop zone for parachuting cargo.

“The airport is surrounded by water, so there are constantly going to be waterfowl coming in,” he says, pointing toward the lily pads and cattails of Lake Winyah, a short distance from the end of the runway.

“The most I’ve been using out here is eight pole traps. We also have three Swedish goshawk traps out here right now.”

Williams said the pole traps, designed to harness a bird safely when it perches on top, are ideal for the open spaces lining the airfield.

“That trap has been modified to be really gentle. It just catches the bird by the foot, and they fall to the ground.”

He puts his hand between the pieces of metal and springs the trap, demonstrating its light tension.

“A small kid could put their hand in it,” he said.

Using pole traps, Williams has captured about 25 kestrels this year. The Swedish goshawk traps have captured several snowy owls and other species, including red-tailed hawks. After Williams tags and bands the birds,

they are relocated to wildlife areas near Gaylord.

“We’re trying to do it the way that’s safest, most humane for the bird or animal, and we’re trying to do it effectively,” he said.

So far, none of the birds he has tagged and released have returned to Alpena.

While the BASH program remains focused on reducing the risk of bird strikes, Williams’ work also encompasses the management of conditions and factors that could lead to the arrival of new species.

“Lately, I’ve been watching what the beavers have been doing at this channel,” he said, kneeling to check a trap set underwater. “The beavers aren’t a risk for a strike, but if they build a dam here, it’ll start backing up the water to create a habitat that will be more likely to attract ducks – which of course are a risk.”

Williams also monitors other factors, like the length of the grass at the airfield, which could deter wildlife by eliminating food sources.

By all estimates, Williams’ work at Alpena is making the airfield safer for humans and wildlife alike. According to Lisa Kruse, environmental program manager for Alpena CRTC, the airfield’s BASH program is contributing to the implementation of an integrated Natural Resource Management Plan, which outlines the base’s holistic approach to environmental stewardship.

“I think the fact that we can manage species and still complete the mission is really great,” Kruse said. “I think most people have the impression it’s either one or the other.”

Kruse says DoD installations must comply with many environmental regulations, including the Sikes Act – which provides for cooperation by the Interior Department and DoD with state agencies in planning, development, and maintenance of fish and wildlife resources on U.S. military installations – and the National Environmental Policy Act, which requires federal agencies to evaluate the environmental impact of their actions.

“Most people would have no idea how much effort we put into appropriately managing our natural resources,” she said. “It’s a balance, and we work really hard at it.”

For Czajka, the USDA partnership means peace of mind knowing the right team is in place to maximize the airfield’s operational needs with safety.

“I don’t care if it’s a military aircraft or civilian,” he said. “If we can save a life, it’s totally symbiotic.”



OPERATIONS

- Air Combat Training Systems including:
 - 3 Joint Threat Emitters
 - IR MANPAD simulator
 - 2 Datalink gateways (Link 16/SADL)
 - MSCT & RADS feeds
 - 12 P5 pods
- ***Largest Overland Special Use Airspace east of the Mississippi***
- 9001' x 150' Primary Runway
- Ramp Space for 3 Flying Squadrons (a/c type dependent)
- 10 Certified hot refueling locations
- 6 Shelters for tactical Fighter Wing/Rotary Wing aircraft
- Multi-Aircraft (up to C-17) hangar project underway
- Instrumented air-to-air ranges
- Modernized facilities configurable for operations, maintenance, and support functions
- Air Traffic Control (tower and RAPCON) training opportunities
- Maritime range capability (R4207)
- Land/maritime drop zones
- Aircrew ground equipment sufficient for Wing-level deployment
- Munition Storage Area with storage and build up areas complete with munition delivery equipment

FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES

- 4-story burn/rappel tower
- High angle rescue tower trainer
- Hazardous material response training
- Basic search and rescue training
- Confined space training with multiple scenarios
- Aircraft live fire trainer
- Vehicle live fire trainer
- WMD/terrorism response training
- Water/cold water/ice rescue training

SECURITY FORCES

- 10 Building military operation and urban terrain sites with tunnel system
- Training classroom with overhead projectors
- Visiting unit security building
- 27-position small arms range
- 9mm pistols
- M-4 rifles
- Air soft weapons
- Laser Collective Combat Advanced Training System
- Improvised Explosive Device Kits
- Land navigation Course
- ATV's
- "Red man" simulated weapons
- "Red man" training suits
- Training mats for combatives training
- Ground Fighting Suit
- AF-approved ultimate training mission helmets for sim-munitions training
- Ultimate training mission replacement bolts for sim-munitions training both M-9 and M-4



Special Forces teams clear a stairway while testing a new laser collective combat advanced training system during annual training. The LCCATS is a wireless-based training system that reinforces marksmanship and tactical skills.

At Michigan's combat readiness training center, public health specialist "chooses to help"



Six years ago, Staff Sgt. Tim Frasier made a rash decision.

"I got handed my first restaurant at age 19 – being a manager was good for that part of my life, but I was going to school and I was looking to do something else, but I wasn't sure what."

"Then, I ran out of money," explains Frasier, who now serves as a public health specialist at Alpena Combat Readiness Training Center in Northern Michigan.

"I enlisted in the Air National Guard on a whim."

Fast forward to January 2020 and Frasier is front-and-center at an assembly of dozens of special operations Airmen, delivering a "right start" brief during the opening days of Emerald Warrior 20, a U.S. Air Force Special Operations Command exercise staging from Northern Michigan and other locations around the United States. He's providing guidance to exercise participants for how to avoid sanitation and public health maladies during their training, offering assurance that if any one of them calls with a concern during their time at Alpena, he'll answer.

Frasier tells his story with humility and determination; the same determination that inspired him to leap from the first phase of his career – in base contracting at the 127th Wing, Selfridge Air National Guard Base, Michigan – into an uncertain, part-time position at Alpena CRTC that soon evaporated during a force-shaping realignment.

Given the choice to cross-train into the public health field, Frasier saw it as an opportunity to rekindle an interest in health and wellness he'd first explored while working on a degree in surgical technology.

What Frasier found in public health was an opportunity to connect with others to inspire a change for good. As a one-man team, Frasier now works at a level usually reserved for individuals with vastly more experience – and rank.

"It's busy, but I like busy, because you don't have the opportunity to be complacent."

The most frenetic two weeks of Frasier's year come during Northern Strike, the signature event of Northern Michigan's joint military training complex, which, in addition to Alpena CRTC, includes Camp Grayling Joint Maneuver Training Center and encompasses some 147,000 acres of ground training area with the largest military operating airspace east of the Mississippi River.

The exercise is the Department of Defense's largest annual joint, reserve component readiness event.

"Northern Strike is intense," says Frasier "I remember the first day of the exercise last year, I got a call at 11 o'clock at night saying, 'There are bedbugs.' My initial reaction was, 'There are no bedbugs, we do not have bedbugs, but I will be there in a minute to figure out what it is.' They ended up being sand fleas, tracked in on someone's boots – so that's how Northern Strike 19 started out for me."

In addition to responding to public health concerns of all varieties, during Northern Strike 19, Frasier also assisted with the planning and execution of several medical response and triage drills involving personnel from the Michigan Air National Guard, U.S. Army Reserves, and the National Armed Forces of Latvia.

"As part of Alpena CRTC's way of customer service, it's always about what we can do to make sure their training is sufficient so that they are effective [and lethal] warfighters, as well as promoting the possibility that they may want to come back," he says.

Frasier has a regular opportunity to make a difference in the training experiences of military personnel from all service branches of the U.S. military, as well as coalition



Aeromedical evacuation exercises with nation-wide National Guard support are staged as part of Northern Strike 19 at the Alpena Combat Readiness Training Center.

partner countries. However, he says one of the most impactful experiences of his career came recently at an Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training (ASIST) event. ASIST is a two-day workshop that emphasizes suicide first aid skills for professionals in helping roles as part of the care they provide.

The training added new fire to Frasier's passion for mental health advocacy.

"I think the important thing is that everyone can be a mental health advocate," says Frasier. "You don't have to be ASIST trained, but the beauty of ASIST training is that it teaches you to recognize the symptoms of suicidal ideations that aren't as blatant as self-mutilation and things like that."

Frasier's hunger to leave a positive impact on every person he meets is evident in each word he's speaking. He has followed that passion to utilize the Michigan National Guard's State Tuition Assistance Program in pursuit of a bachelor's degree in psychology. He will graduate this semester.

Explaining his desire to build on his psychology degree with a master's in clinical social work, Frasier pauses.

Then, he gets right to the point.

"Let's face it – I want to change the world," he asserts. "I want to change the world because I have to hope for a world that is better than it is today. I'm not saying we live in a bad world, but we can always be better; we can be kinder."

Frasier says he's thankful the Michigan National Guard is an organization that prioritizes the wellbeing and mental health of its Soldiers and Airmen, but more can – and always should – be done for suicide prevention. He says this is especially true within the military community, which has traditionally been marked by a culture of stoicism and stigma toward mental health advocacy.

"That culture is changing, but the progress that's been made still isn't enough," says Frasier. "It starts with people going to ASIST classes, talking with their unit's director of psychological health – not because they have a problem, but to see what else they can do. Seek out people you

might not otherwise know, or have the opportunity to know, and see the difference you can make in their lives.”

Looking back on his journey these past six years, Frasier can hardly believe the personal transformation he has experienced; the sense of purpose, teamwork, and openness that has infused his life since joining the Michigan Air National Guard is profound. That sense of community was confirmed for Frasier when he and his husband, Master Sgt. James Fuller, were married. Fuller is also a full-time member of the CRTC staff and Frasier says their experience serving together has been positive.

“The climate of diversity is also changing in the military – it all comes down to being part of one team with one, shared mission,” he says.

Without question, Frasier has come a long way from that impulsive phone call to the ANG recruiter’s office.

“I am a completely different person than I would ever have expected myself to be,” he says. “It’s one of those things where not everyone may be set up for success, but that doesn’t mean you can’t be successful. You have to find your route – and this just happened to be my route.”

The Michigan Air National Guard’s two primary Wings, the 110th Wing Battle Creek Air National Guard Base, and the 127th Wing Air National Guard Base, both have full-time specialists assigned as directors of psychological health. Looking to the future, Frasier can see himself fitting well in a DPH position. Because Alpena CRTC has a smaller full-time cadre, there is no DPH presently on staff – but that doesn’t mean its personnel aren’t in need of mental health resources. Frasier has already stepped up to help fill that void.

His reason is simple.

“Given the choice to help, do it,” he says. “You will never know the impact you could have on someone.”



COMMUNICATIONS

- VoIP telephone technology
- Meshed 1G fiber optic network backbone
- Modernized ISP/OSP infrastructure
- 2nd generation wireless
- Over 100 handheld advanced encryption standard capable Land Mobile Radios
- Networked classroom environment:
 - NIPR Classroom up to 30 Students
 - SIPR Classroom up to 16 Students

CIVIL ENGINEERING

- Airfield damage repair
- Operational training assets & equipment
- Mobile aircraft arresting system
- Reverse osmosis water purification unit

SERVICES

- Lodging for 1000+ personnel
- 2 dining facilities for 100/350 people
- Fitness center (weight and cardio w/showers & saunas)
- Free WiFi with hotspots throughout the base



LOGISTICS

- Qualified full-time JTAC instructors
- Combined ARMS training—co-located with Army National Guard artillery range—147,000 acres of ground maneuver space
- Joint threat emitter adjacent to impact area
- Multiple villages and urban areas for theater-specific training
- Live fire, bomb/strafe scoring capable, high fidelity heated targets

Tech. Sgt. Jim McCarroll, 182nd Logistics Readiness Squadron, aerial porter, loads pallets on the airfield at the Alpena Combat Readiness Training Center during the Northern Strike 19 exercise.



MICHIGAN ANG BASES

110TH WING, BATTLE CREEK AIR NATIONAL GUARD BASE

Preeminent multi-domain ANG Wing providing MQ-9, Cyber Defense, Agile Combat Support, Command & Control, and Plans for Combatant Commanders and Civil Authorities.



The 110th Wing traces its lineage back to WWII with the 361st Fighter Group, 375th Fighter Squadron.

The 375th served in the European theater until inactivation. The 375th was reactivated and re-designated the 172nd Fighter Squadron in 1946. Kellogg Field in Battle Creek, Michigan became home station for the 172

FS by order of then Governor Kim Siegler in 1947. This is the same year the U.S. Air Force became an independent branch of the armed forces and the 172 FS received federal recognition as an Air National Guard squadron. The 172 FS was federally activated in 1951 for the Korean War and re-designated as the



172nd Fighter Interceptor Squadron. The 172 FIS shifted its operational location to Selfridge AFB where they flew their North American P/F-51D Mustangs in support of the Eastern Air Defense Force. The 172 FIS flew the P/F-51 until 1954. The 172nd, re-designated as a Fighter Bomber Squadron, transitioned into the North American F-86 Sabre Jet.

The unit flew this aircraft only until 1955 when they transitioned into the more sophisticated Northrop F-89 Scorpion. In 1956, the National Guard Bureau announced that the 172 FIS would become part of the newly created 110th Fighter Group. The 110 FG flew the F-89 Scorpion until 1958. In 1958, the 110th traded its Northrop F-89s for a new mission and a new airframe, the Martin RB-57A Canberra reconnaissance aircraft. The 172nd, now designated as the 172nd Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron flew the RB-57A until 1971.

In 1971 the unit's mission changed again to forward air control with the transition to the Cessna O-2 Skymaster which flew from Battle Creek until 1980 when the unit upgraded to the Cessna OA-37 Dragonfly. The dedicated mission lasted until the 110th transitioned into the Fairchild A-10A Thunderbolt II in 1991. The A-10s of the 110th served with distinction in several United Nations operations in Europe and Southwest Asia, most notably with the 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The 110th Fighter Wing underwent a major transition moving from the A-10 to the C-21 aircraft in 2009. The C-21 is a twin turboprop engine passenger aircraft, the military version of the Lear Jet 35A.

In addition, the base also witnessed the creation of a new unit, The 217th Air Operations Group on April 1, 2009. The 217th AOG is a unique

organizational structure to support U.S. Air Forces in Europe-Air Forces Africa. The 217th AOG has five squadrons that include air support, communications, Intel, mobility, and operations in a largely self-contained package.

In 2010, the 110th Fighter Wing became the 110th Airlift Wing.

In 2015, the 110th Airlift Wing was re-designated the 110th Attack Wing. Its MQ-9 Reaper operations facility was fully activated in February 2017. In January 2018, the 272d Cyber Operations Squadron was activated, completing the 110th Attack Wing's transition to a multi-mission capability set supporting MQ-9, Cyber Defense, Agile Combat Support, Command & Control, and Plans for Combatant Commanders and Civil Authorities. The unit was again re-designated the 110th Wing to reflect its current versatility in mission capability on March 1, 2019.



Staff Sgt. Marcee Lettinga: “Family Vibe” defines Michigan National Guard service

For Staff Sgt. Marcee Lettinga, a services technician with the 110th Force Support Squadron, Battle Creek Air National Guard Base, her seven years of service in the Michigan ANG have been defined by one word: family.

“How I ended up here is kind of a crazy story,” she explains, shortly after administering a physical fitness for members of her unit. “I wanted the military lifestyle because I have always been an athlete and I like the team aspect of working together. I just didn’t know which branch I would join or when it would happen.”

As a junior in college, Lettinga met with recruiters from multiple branches of the armed forces as she was contemplating her decision.

“I was getting different information and it was mostly focused on the money and benefits,” she says. “That wasn’t doing it for me – anybody who knows me has heard me say, ‘You can always make money but you can never make back time or experiences, or opportunities.’”

Then, Lettinga connected with a recruiter with the Michigan ANG.

There was a spark.

“All she said was, ‘Tell me about you,’ recalls Lettinga. “That was it for me, because no other branch had done that. I was looking for family and for opportunity, so the fact that my recruiter already wanted to get to know me on a personal level offered that family vibe from the beginning. I was sold.”

When Lettinga enlisted in early 2013, it marked a rebirth of sorts after an early adulthood largely defined by personal struggles. She recalls how the structure of basic military training, combined with the close-knit community she found at her unit in Battle Creek, gave her life skills and a support network she had never had before.

“As long as you work hard, people will want you around – so that’s kind of what I did,” Lettinga says. “I just want to be that ‘go-to’ gal who says yes to everything. It’s opened up a lot of opportunities for me.”

Lettinga has indeed made the most of her time in the Michigan ANG: in just seven years, she has served in a variety of roles including base services specialist, base training assistant, and physical fitness monitor. Part of her duties now include a special assignment as recruiting office administrator.



“I said if there’s a deployment, I want to go – so I ended up going to the Middle East from the summer of 2016 to 2017,” says Lettinga. “After I got a taste for that, it was game over.”

Lettinga has since volunteered to serve on two Innovative Readiness Training missions in Puerto Rico and Virginia, which combine military training opportunities with care for populations in underserved areas.

“People like to ask, ‘what are your plans in five years, or even ten years,’ Lettinga says, laughing. “I still sometimes don’t feel like I have a plan for what I’m doing in five days. That can be a great thing, though, because the military is like a tree – you start at the base and you can work your way up, but you can also branch out; you can take all these different paths.”

Lettinga will insist that her motivation comes from an inner drive toward service, kind-heartedness, and loyalty, but external accolades have come her way as well. Recently, she was recognized as an outstanding future leader of the Michigan ANG with the Gen. Omar Bradley Award from the Battle Creek Area Chamber of Commerce.

Mentioning the award, Lettinga shrugs.

“It means a lot, but I’m very internally motivated, so for

me, it's still all about coming in and being able to help people.”

Of all her experiences in the Michigan ANG, Lettinga believes her present assignment in recruiting gives her the best chance to do exactly that.

“My recruiter changed my life and now I want to give that to other people – that’s honestly the best feeling,” she says. “I like helping people better themselves, whether it’s in the gym, or kayaking, or in their professional lives.”

Regarding her own future, Lettinga is upbeat, having experienced firsthand the opportunity that can come with hard work and an open mind.

“I’m still growing, but I know I want to be in the military, I want to serve, and I love my experience here so far.”

MISSIONS

AIR OPERATIONS GROUP

The 217th Air Operations Group’s mission is to provide combat ready personnel to support the command and control of U.S. Air Forces in Europe/U.S. Air Forces-Africa, as well as aiding any emergency response within the state of Michigan.

Organized as a Group with four squadrons, the unit is designed to engage at the operational level of warfare by providing a full spectrum of command and control capability. To accomplish this mission, unit personnel are trained to support all five Air Operations Center divisions – strategy, combat plans, combat operations, intelligence-surveillance-reconnaissance and air mobility; as well as Air Force special staffs and directorates.

For the first time in Michigan Air National Guard history, foreign partners work in the 217th Air Operations Group, Air Operations Center. Three members of the Polish military work alongside Michigan and Illinois National Guard members observing and assisting in operations for Northern Strike 19.





Col. Armands Saltups, Air Force commander, Latvian National Armed Forces, visits the Battle Creek Air National Guard Base, 110th Operations Group. Saltups is shown the unclassified MQ-9 simulator, base facilities, and discusses new areas of collaboration between the Michigan Air National Guard and the Latvian Air Force. Latvia and Michigan are partners under the National Guard Bureau’s State Partnership Program.

OPERATIONS GROUP

The 110th Operations Group’s mission is to provide exemplary intelligence-surveillance-reconnaissance support to various federal and state entities, at any time, anywhere in the world with the MQ-9 “Reaper” remotely piloted aircraft.

The MQ-9 Reaper’s intelligence-surveillance-reconnaissance mission became fully operational in February 2017. The unit supports MQ-9 operations worldwide as well as domestic operations when called upon during any disaster relief emergency.

The 172d Attack Squadron provides motivated and skilled pilots, sensor operators and Mission Intelligence Coordinators who will operate the MQ-9 anywhere worldwide from home station at Battle Creek Air National Guard Base. The squadron also provides a medical

contingent to these crews to ensure they are mission ready and to address any of their medical needs.

The 110th Operation Support Squadron provides professional officers and enlisted members to support the day to day administrative needs of the Group and Attack Squadron. This team establishes systems and processes to ensure all unit members are trained, proficient, and ready to accomplish and excel at any mission requested by federal or state chains of command.

272nd CYBER OPERATIONS SQUADRON

The 272d Cyber Operations Squadron was officially activated in January 2018, standing up from initial operational capability to full operational capability 143 days faster than Cyber Mission Force standards. The 272nd has accomplished many firsts, to include executing ANG Cyber Protection Team missions for defensive cyberspace operations, paving the way for future cyber mission sets. Furthermore, the 272d successfully mobilized, supporting Operation Ardent Wolverine in defending critical national networks while improving cybersecurity posture and mission assurance.

MISSION SUPPORT GROUP

The 110th Mission Support Group is responsible for oversight and operation of all facilities/infrastructure/supporting agencies for all assigned missions including the Security Forces Squadron, the Force Support Squadron, which encompasses the Services Sustainment and Airman/Family Programs Flights, and the Communications Flight, the Civil Engineer Squadron, Logistics Readiness Squadron, as well as Contracting and Environmental Management for the wing and Human Resources support to the Michigan National Guard Joint Force Headquarters.



Firefighters from the 110th Wing Civil Engineering Squadron, Battle Creek Air National Guard Base, Michigan, perform fire training exercise scenarios with the Detroit Metro Airport Fire Department.

MEDICAL GROUP

The 110th Medical Group's mission is to improve the readiness, reliability, and relevance of Medical Group personnel, promote health and enhance human performance, and respond when called upon for all local, state, and national contingencies.

The 110th MDG has credentialed physicians, optometrists, dentists, nurses, and medical technicians capable of augmenting local health agencies in domestic operations. Capabilities also include specialized Preventive and Aerospace Medicine teams to include public health, bioenvironmental engineering, and disease assessment, surveillance, intervention and abatement.

The 110th MDG has a track record of providing health care support in during wartime contingency operations and humanitarian missions within Continental United States and Outside Continental United States. The Group currently has a training agreement with the Veterans Administration Hospital and Bronson Hospital Kalamazoo/Battle Creek. The training platforms are important to sustain required medical training. The location of the Michigan Civil Support Team within the local area is relevant to a domestic operations mission and works in conjunction with bioenvironmental engineering and public health resources within the medical group to support chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, and explosive threats. These medical group resources have a full spectrum/all-hazard response capability

Battlefield Coordination Detachment breaks new ground at Northern Strike 20

Held annually at the National All-Domain Warfighting Center in Northern Michigan, exercise Northern Strike has long been recognized as a premier joint fires training opportunity, designed to enable joint live-fire proficiency at the company/troop level and multi-component units from battalion to division level.

Last month, Northern Strike 20 (held July 19-31) took a new step forward by integrating a Battlefield Coordination Detachment from the California Army National Guard into the training environment.

Co-located for the exercise at the 217th Air Operations Group's Air Operations Center, Battle Creek Air National Guard Base, Michigan, the Soldiers added a critical dimension to the AOC's support for the exercise.

“An AOC covers a large span of area,” said Michigan Army National Guard Col. Bart Verbanic, deputy exercise director for Northern Strike 20. “As they go through the targeting process, if the Air Tasking Order requires precision munitions to be shot through a target area, they need a means to communicate directly down to a unit that’s on the ground that could possibly be affected by it: that is the role of the BCD.”

The deputy commander of the 251st Battlefield Coordination Detachment, Lt. Col. Daniel Anderson, was one of 13 California Army National Guard soldiers participating in the exercise. The 251st forms the vital link between Army forces and the AOC, ensuring seamless communication and synchronized operations in a joint environment.

“This is the first National Guard-driven exercise we’ve been to,” Anderson said. “It’s a unique opportunity to demonstrate the Guard’s capability. We appreciate the 217th’s invitation to host us.”

BCDs like the 251st bring intelligence, fires, air defense, aviation and airspace together and employ them at the operational environment. Like their partners in Michigan, Soldiers from the 251st have benefitted from the Guard’s advantage in continuity and institutional knowledge – Northern Strike is adding to their experience and capability.

“The only way we can exercise our function is by working with an AOC,” Anderson said. “We’ve worked with a number of them over the years, but Northern Strike is unique in its scope and level of National Guard involvement including Army artillery and Air Force aircraft and ordnance in a joint environment.”

Another participant was a detachment of the Army’s 1-58th Airfield Operations Battalion, based out of Fort Rucker, Alabama. They operate the Tactical Airspace Integration System. This active duty unit has participated in Northern Strike before, but never within an AOC.

“Last year we were at Camp Grayling, setting up antennas and communications,” said Spc. David Vazquez, responsible for air traffic control for the 1-58 Air Operations Battalion. “This puts us at another level.”

The 31st Air Defense Artillery Brigade from Fort Sill, Oklahoma, normally operates within AOCs but this is their first experience in one belonging to the Air National Guard. Their task is to manage the Army’s defensive systems and ensure they do not conflict with friendly aircraft movements.

Assisting them is a subordinate unit from their brigade, the 5th Battalion, 5th Air Defense Artillery. This is a unique opportunity for the two units to participate together, and one made even more ground-breaking by their ability to

communicate with their home station units at Fort Sill.

“I’m directly linked to them (5-5 ADA) and can link back to Fort Sill,” said CW3 Gerald Forgione. “The challenges of COVID really opened our eyes [in terms of] how to do an exercise without bringing as many people and equipment.”

For the Air National Guard members, the Army’s participation is a tremendous help, particularly in the use of Tactical Airspace Integration System (TAIS), which not only tracks aircraft movement, but also the munitions expended by artillery barrages.



Spc. David Vazquez of the 1-58 Air Operations Battalion works air traffic control at the 217th Air Operations Center, Battle Creek Air National Guard Base, Michigan during exercise Northern Strike 20.



Members of the 251st Battlefield Coordination Detachment work at the 217th Air Operations Center, Battle Creek Air National Guard Base, Michigan, during exercise Northern Strike 20.

While rare, it is possible for aircraft at certain altitudes to be hit by rocket and tube artillery projectiles in flight. Deconflicting these movements is an essential task for the AOC.

Senior Master Sgt. Carl Westphal, an Airspace Management Technician with the 217th Cyber Operations Squadron, explains: “Prior to TAIS System integration, deconfliction was a lengthy and tedious process. One launch could generate 49 coordinates that had to be manually entered into the system, which also created opportunities for human error. TAIS makes this process 95 percent faster by importing that data directly into our system. It is a huge improvement to the enablement of joint fires.”

Northern Strike planners believe the presence of a BCD will be a fixture of future exercise iterations.

“In the National Guard, there are only two BCDs,” said Verbanic. “We’re looking at continuing that relationship to have one or the other back next year; they are a critical piece that ties into that joint targeting cycle and this is one of the only exercises with the capability to tie those pieces together.”

127TH WING, SELFRIDGE AIR NATIONAL GUARD BASE



The 127th Wing flies both the A-10 and KC-135 aircraft. The Wing organizational hierarchy matches ANG standards as an Air Combat Command - gained Wing with the addition of a fifth Group: the 127th Air Refueling Group – the only Air Refueling Group in the ANG as well as the only ANG global mobility mission set assigned to an Air Combat Command-gained Wing.

History

Selfridge Air National Guard Base is one of the oldest continuously operating military airfields in the nation. The military first took possession of the field formerly known as Joy Aviation Field on July 1, 1917. It was renamed Selfridge Field and the

first flight took place on July 8, 1917. The base has been in continuous use ever since. 2017 marked Selfridge's 100th year of continual service to state and nation!

The 127th Wing is the home of the Air National Guard's only Air Refueling Group integrated into an Air Combat





Recent Air Mobility Command inspections rated 127th KC-135 Operations as “outstanding,” demonstrating the Wing’s versatility in maintaining both an Air Mobility Command as well as Air Combat Command gaining Major Command commitment.

Command-gained Wing. The historic 171st Air Refueling Squadron “Six Pack” flies the KC- 135 Stratotanker in the high-demand Global Mobility Mission. From refueling U.S. Air Force, joint service, and allied aircraft all around the world, to excelling in the

strategic 80XX mission set.

KC-135s have directly supported Wing fighter aircraft deployments, State Partnership Program missions, spin-up deployments, water survival training, and short notice taskings.

On numerous occasions in 2015, 127th Wing tankers refueled 127th Wing A-10s during Operation Inherent Resolve combat missions – combat proven Wing integration of diverse mission capabilities! The bottom line: Michigan is home to the only



Air National Guard Wing with collocated and integrated KC-135s bringing extraordinary flexibility, resiliency, and efficiency to operations.

The 127th Operations Group consisting of the 107th Fighter Squadron and 127th Operational Support Squadron continues to meet Combatant Command requirements, sharpening its skills through extremely demanding off-base operational exercises.

Over the last several years, the 127th Operations Group has participated in numerous large scale exercises, two of which were located in Germany and Latvia. In 2015, the 127th Operations Group deployed for its first ever six-month deployment to Ahmed Al Jaber Air Base, Kuwait in support of Operation Inherent Resolve. This was the longest deployment for the 127th Operations Group since the Korean War. Selfridge was one of only three Guard units to deploy for this long, and it accomplished the mission with great success.

The unit's current missions consist of Close Air Support, Combat Search and Rescue, Air Interdiction, and Forward Air Controller. Over the past several years, the Air National Guard has led the combat armed forces in developing new systems for the A-10 to better advance the aircraft and make it the premier and most highly sought after aircraft to support our troops on the ground for CAS. Combat Commanders specifically requested 107th Expeditionary Fighter Squadron aircrew and aircraft to be available 24 hours a day, seven days a week during Operation Inherent Resolve to provide Combat Search and Rescue and personnel recovery.



TENANTS

The 127th Wing operates and manages the "... model of intergovernmental cooperation," (Rep. Candice Miller – 2015) hosting more than 66 tenant organizations replete with capabilities, expertise, and unrivalled partnerships. The arrangement is unique in the U.S. government and offers distinct synergies and economies.

ABOVE: The U.S. Marine Corps has both an infantry battalion as well as an aviation support element that call Selfridge ANGB home.

The U.S. Coast Guard maintains a regional search and rescue aviation element at Selfridge flying HH-65 Dolphin helicopters.

LEFT: U.S. Customs and Border Protection Detroit Sector Michigan is based out of Selfridge and includes an Operations Integration Center as well as the regional Air and Marine Wing.

The 127th Wing is the installation host, coordinating base-wide safety and security, operating support, utility infrastructure, environmental management, and much more. The level of cooperation between tenants is facilitated by monthly tenant meetings where base-wide issues are addressed and corporate decisions are discussed with all equity holders.

The diversity of services and experience at Selfridge provide amazing teamwork and synergies that no other ANG base can match. The tenants also provide a wealth of opportunities for spouses and families of the 127th Wing and for future Active Duty associate families.



The National Guard Bureau established the Michigan Air National Guard as the host of the Selfridge facility in 1971, a unique arrangement offering unparalleled capacity, safety, security, and flexibility to future F-35 operations.

- U.S. Air Force Joint Personnel Recovery Agency
- U.S. Air Force 339th Air Force Recruiting Squadron
- Joint Reserve Intelligence Center
- U.S. Navy Operational Support Center Detroit
- U.S. Marine Wing Support Group 47
- U.S. Marine HQ 1st Battalion, 24th Marine Regiment
- Coast Guard Air Station Detroit, Department of Homeland Security
- Detroit Border Patrol Sector
- Border Patrol Operations Integration Center
- Great Lakes Air & Marine Branch
- National Guard Bureau Contracting Support PARC
- NGB Civilian Human Resource Office
- Michigan Army Guard Army Aviation Support Facility – CH-47 Chinook
- US Army Reserves 2-337th Training Support Battalion
- US Army TACOM/TARDEC – more than 12 research laboratories and administrative offices
- US Army Morale, Welfare, and Recreation
- Bryant Child Development Center
- Base Marina
- Base Golf Course
- Mulligans Café
- Air Air Force Exchange Services Base Exchange

- Commissary/ Defense Commissary Agency
- Selfridge Air Museum / Michigan Air Guard Historic Association
- STARBASE ONE– the country’s first STARBASE STEM education program
- United States Civil Air Patrol
- Military Retiree Affairs

WING-OPERATED AIRFIELD

Selfridge is one of only four Air National Guard-operated and maintained airfields. The 127th Wing has received many accolades including recently being lauded as the 2015 Air National Guard Airfield Operations Complex of the Year.

The airfield complex boasts an impressive 1.2 million square yards of taxiway/ramp/runway including a 9,000’ x 150’ runway that incorporates a 1000’ additional overrun on the south end that is available for takeoffs and landings.

Other flight operations out of Selfridge include a myriad of DHS-assigned aircraft, Coast Guard H-65 Dolphin helicopters, Army National Guard CH-47 Chinooks, and a wide variety of transient and air terminal aircraft.



Readiness stands as the first and foremost consideration in 127th Wing resource decisions. The men and women of Michigan’s Hometown Air Force demonstrate the highest levels of readiness and capability. In this photo, a 127th Wing A-10 lands on a highway strip in Estonia in 2016.

READINESS

The 127th Wing motto is “We Stand Ready” – and it does. The Citizen-Airmen of Selfridge have proven their mettle in combat, daily in operations around the world, and under the microscope of the Inspector General. Like every ANG Wing across the country, readiness in today’s environment is a constant challenge of setting priorities and managing risk to achieve balance while maintaining the Wing’s value proposition. Despite problematic pressures of multiple conversions and A-10 divestiture uncertainties, the men and women of the 127th Wing have consistently demonstrated their grit in not only meeting readiness standards – but being recognized as the best Flying Wing in the Air National Guard in 2016 (Spaatz trophy winners) as well as being only the third Air National Guard Wing in history to receive the Meritorious Unit Award.

During the last transition from the F-16 to the A-10 in 2008-2009, the 127th Wing completed the conversion well ahead of schedule and deployed to Afghanistan – proving the mission resiliency, adaptability, and the culture of success at Selfridge.



In 2015, the 127th provided more than twice the down-range mobilization of any other Air National Guard unit in the country, with the Wing A-10s flying more than 11,000 hours with only 12 jets in a 6 month period!



Senior Master Sgt. Ronald Thornsberry, an aircraft maintenance supervisor for the 127th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, Selfridge Air National Guard Base, Michigan, communicates information while wearing level four mission oriented protective posture, at the Alpena Combat Readiness Training Center, during an operational readiness assessment. More than 500 Citizen-Airmen of the 127th Wing mobilized for a simulated deployment that created opportunities to practice their job proficiency while being assessed for wartime tasks.

During the last five years, almost every measure of readiness has increased. In 2015, the 127th Wing was mobilized at a rate more than twice any other, and flew significantly more hours than any other Air National Guard Wing. The result was more precision ordnance on target over longer distances than ever recorded to date in the Area of Responsibility. The 127th deployed A-10s maintained an astonishing 79% Mission Capable rate, well exceeding U.S. Air Forces Central Command goals. The Wing's Fighter Squadron also dropped the first A-10 GBU-54 precision weapons in combat, proving ingenuity despite technical challenges and introducing a new level of flexible lethality to the battlefield. Selfridge A-10s are brutally effective at warfighting.



An Airman of the 127th Wing, receives and immunization from one of the Wing's medical technicians.



In 2015, the 107th Fighter Squadron deployed for 6 months of continuous combat operations flying 1,700 sorties, logging 11,000 flight hours, and dropping 1,700 precision weapons - 272% above peer unit performance, proving both capacity and capability resulting in unsurpassed combat effectiveness.

The recent history of the 127th Wing showcased its mission of providing trained, equipped, and motivated air refueling, fighter, and support resources serving the Community, State, and Nation. With a long and very proud heritage, the 107th Fighter Squadron deployed to U.S. Central Command in 2015 for its the longest unit deployment since the Korean War. After nearly seven months of leading the fight in Operation Inherent Resolve it amassed a record of combat successes that remains intact to this day.

The squadron destroyed more enemy resources than any other A-10 flying squadron deployed to fight ISIS. The squadron logged 1,700 combat sorties, dropped 1,594 precision munitions, and employed 19,000 rounds of 30mm. Finally, the unit pioneered the employment of the GBU-54 precision weapon from an A-10 platform with superior results destroying enemy forces. Following the lauded combat deployment, the 107th shined again in supporting NATO efforts in Eastern Europe. 107th Fighter Squadron A-10s conducted the first highway landings with tactical aircraft since the height of the Cold War. In this high intensity media event, the unit demonstrated the ability to land A-10s on European highways underscoring the jet's continued rugged combat capability.

Concurrently, the 127th Air Refueling Group also deployed to CENTCOM in 2015. During that time, their aircraft had the best mission-capable rate of all KC-135 units deployed then. Furthermore, the unit successfully accomplished a major U.S. Strategic Command Nuclear Operational Readiness Inspection in 2015. The group's operations were rated "Outstanding" with the first ever perfect test scores. It further was described as "almost flawless" during mission generation and unit employment.

The Governor of Michigan's response was, "We should be so proud...they were perfect...their performance shows the spirit of Michigan." The CENTAF Commander described the 127th Wing as his, "go to" lead unit for critical Southwest Asia joint operations providing refueling, strike, personnel recovery, and Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance capabilities. Indeed, the 127th Wing helped push Operation Inherent Resolve much closer to its end state.

127th Wing welcomes home deployed Airmen

SELFRIDGE AIR NATIONAL GUARD BASE, Mich. — More than 200 Airmen of the 127th Wing received a warm welcome from Michigan's Lieutenant Governor Garlin Gilchrist and base leadership as they returned home from a combat tour July 23, 2019

Deployed to the U.S. Central Command area of responsibility in Afghanistan, Selfridge operators, maintainers, and support staff were responsible for supporting close air support missions, aircraft maintenance, and logistics operations.

"First and foremost we are excited to see everyone back safely," said Brig. Gen. Rolf Mammen, 127th Wing commander. "Now we want to get them in processed as quickly as possible so they can enjoy some well-earned time with their families."

Airmen from the Michigan Air National Guard executed sustained operations in support of Operations Freedom's Sentinel, Inherent Resolve, and Spartan Shield.

"Being ready for the mission downrange is what we constantly train for," said Mammen. "We are an operational reserve, and this successful deployment is a testament to our combat capability."

The lieutenant governor added that "The men and women of the 127th Wing continue to go above and



More than 200 Airmen of the 127th Wing were welcomed home by the Michigan lieutenant governor, and Michigan National Guard leadership, as they returned home from a combat tour, July 24, 2019. The Airmen, who were deployed for up to six months are assigned to the 127th Maintenance Group, 127th Operations Group and 127th Mission Support Groups here. Overall, 127th Wing Airmen executed approximately 1,100 sorties in support of Operation Freedom's Sentinel, Operation Inherent Resolve, and Operation Spartan Shield.

beyond in their duties – their service makes our state, country, and world safer. We are truly grateful for their commitment,” said Gilchrist.

Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer visited Selfridge earlier in the day, touring both the 107th Fighter Squadron and 171st Air Refueling Squadron to become familiar with their flying missions.

“Selfridge has been a cornerstone of Michigan communities for more than a century and I’m proud to welcome home these brave men and women who have dedicated their lives to serving our country,” Whitmer said. “They’ve been on the front lines every day fighting to ensure our safety and now that they’re home, it’s on us to ensure we treat them with the respect they’ve earned.”

Before the Airmen’s arrival, family members gathered in a hangar where the Selfridge Base Community Council, Family Readiness Group, and American Red Cross provided refreshments. Lt. Gov. Gilchrist mingled with the families and waited alongside Wing leadership for the Airmen to return.

“The men and women of the 127th Wing are heroes, and it is a tremendous honor to welcome them home after a long deployment away from their families,” Gilchrist said. “I want to recognize the families who provide the support

for them to be successful.”

As the flight was delayed and the sun set, mosquitos and mayflies swarmed the crowd and parents rocked tired children.

“He took a nap in the car for about 20 minutes,” Staff Sgt. Brianna Werr, 127th Wing Headquarters staff, said of her one-year old son Lincoln, after she’d been waiting with him for nearly three hours late into the night. Her husband, Staff Sgt. Brennan Werr had been deployed with the 127th Maintenance Group’s munitions team.

But the energy of the crowd quickly grew after the plane landed. The Airmen started exiting the plane and were reunited with their families. Three hours was nothing compared to six months.

“It’s been a long wait,” Werr said. “But we are so ready.”

SPACE & TAXIWAY CAPACITY

Selfridge has two primary ramps. The East Ramp is comprised of 337,193 square yards and the West Ramp consists of 241,271 square yards of ramp space. The East Ramp has designated locations for A-10s, Transient Alert, and KC-135s. The A-10 parking area consists of three parking rows: Alpha, Bravo, and Charlie. Alpha Row consist of 12 sunshades which were installed in 2009.

Bravo Row is currently sited for 12 additional A-10 parking spots with six spots having re-enforced tie-downs and grounding locations. Charlie Row is sized to accommodate six KC-135s or 12 A-10s. It serves as the current hot pit re-fueling and rocket loading location for A-10s and has five grounding locations.



The expansive ramp space of Selfridge provides unmatched capacity to accommodate up to 48 fighter aircraft and still routinely operate the KC-135 as well as multiple transient/deployment support aircraft.



TOP: The 127th Wing operated and maintained airfield provides incomparable force protection, encroachment/noise management and operational flexibility guaranteeing the long-term viability, efficiency, and sustainability.

BOTTOM: The 127th Wing hosts Air Force One in September, 2020.



Selridge ANGB boasts a 9,000' runway with capacity to meet all future generation aircraft requirements. There are also multiple alternate/emergency airfields in the local area providing a variety of safe and efficient divert options.



A KC-135 Stratotanker from the 171st Refueling Squadron lands at Selridge Air National Guard Base.

Selfridge Airman hailed as hero for saving a life while on a recent training exercise



“My instincts kicked in. I had to find out what the problem was and help,” said Davie, who works as a pre-school teacher in addition to serving in the Michigan ANG.

Two other Michigan Citizen-Airmen, Tech. Sgt. Justin Nabarrette of the 127th Mission Support Group Vehicle Operations shop and Master Sgt. Gregory Atkins from the 127th Maintenance Group, arrived on the scene shortly after Davie and assisted in rendering care until paramedics arrived.

Senior Airman Tamara Davie used the first aid buddy care skills she learned as a member of the Michigan Air National Guard to respond quickly to calls for help while working at MacDill Air Force Base, Fla., Jan. 22, 2019. A woman had fallen, hitting her head. She was bleeding and vomiting. The woman, the mother of another Airman, recovered thanks to Davie’s quick response.

Davie, a Command Support Staff journeyman with the 127th Maintenance Group at Selfridge Air National Guard Base, Michigan, was making her way to her room at the MacDill Inn on the base after closing out another day on her two-week training mission during exercise Emerald Warrior with the 127th and its A-10 Thunderbolt II aircraft. Then she heard the frantic cries for help from another guest at the on-base hotel. The Airman immediately jumped into action.

As Davie approached, a guest stated that her mother had fallen and needed help right away. Davie quickly identified an elderly woman in the guest suite who was bleeding from the head. Davie jumped into action and began rendering first-aid.

“I fell back on my Self Aid Buddy Care training that I received in the Michigan Air Guard,” Davie said. “I just reacted. I rolled her on her side to prevent her from choking and I applied dressings to the wound.

“This is what we do. These Airmen assessed the risk of going into a situation unprotected from bodily fluids, and they saved her life. They put the woman’s care above their concern for their own health and welfare,” said Senior Master Sgt. Robin Cleaver, first sergeant for the 127th Wing personnel at exercise Emerald Warrior.

Chief Master Sgt. Charles Snyder, maintenance flight chief with the 127th Maintenance Group, singled out Davie for her actions, along with those of Nabarrette and Atkins.

“We couldn’t be more proud of our Selfridge Guardsmen. They really stepped up and utilized their training,” said Snyder. “You never know when you’ll be placed in a situation where you can be a hero.”

EPILOGUE: THE MICHIGAN ADVANTAGE

The Michigan Advantage is nothing new.

In 1861, President Abraham Lincoln exclaimed, “Thank God for Michigan,” when Michigan Soldiers were the first to respond to his call for volunteers at the beginning of the Civil War.

In 1941, President Franklin Roosevelt called upon Michigan and its industries to equip and support our armed forces and those of our allies as America faced its greatest threat. The enemies and battlefields have changed over the last 75 years, but Michigan’s importance in delivering innovative solutions to support the military remains the same. These solutions come in the form of innovative technology and equipment provided by our industrial base, as well as the combat-ready men and women of the Michigan Air National Guard.

Leveraging Michigan’s unique assets, the Michigan Air National Guard is poised to lead the nation in providing a cutting-edge, integrated force; steeped in innovation and possessing some of our nation’s finest All-Domain training resources.

With this unrivaled training environment, bolstered by unique and vibrant partnerships, we are able to prepare for today’s global, joint fight, posture for tomorrow’s missions, and stay one step ahead of our adversaries.

The proven record of excellence our Airmen have set across all spectrums underscores the remarkable asset that the Michigan Air National Guard offers to our National Defense Strategy. Based on Michigan’s strength and proven capability, we are perfectly postured to competitively modernize, expand, and accept new mission sets.

Above all, the people of the Michigan Air National Guard are our most treasured resource. Leveraging their immense talent and potential to constantly look for ways to innovate and find creative solutions to current and future challenges is one of the hallmarks of our success – and it always will be.

With these advantages in mind, the future is bright for this elite and diverse force. We are lethal, resilient, and innovative. We are ready for the next time our nation’s leaders will turn to the mitten state and say, “Thank God for Michigan.”



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