

# DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY & VETERANS AFFAIRS



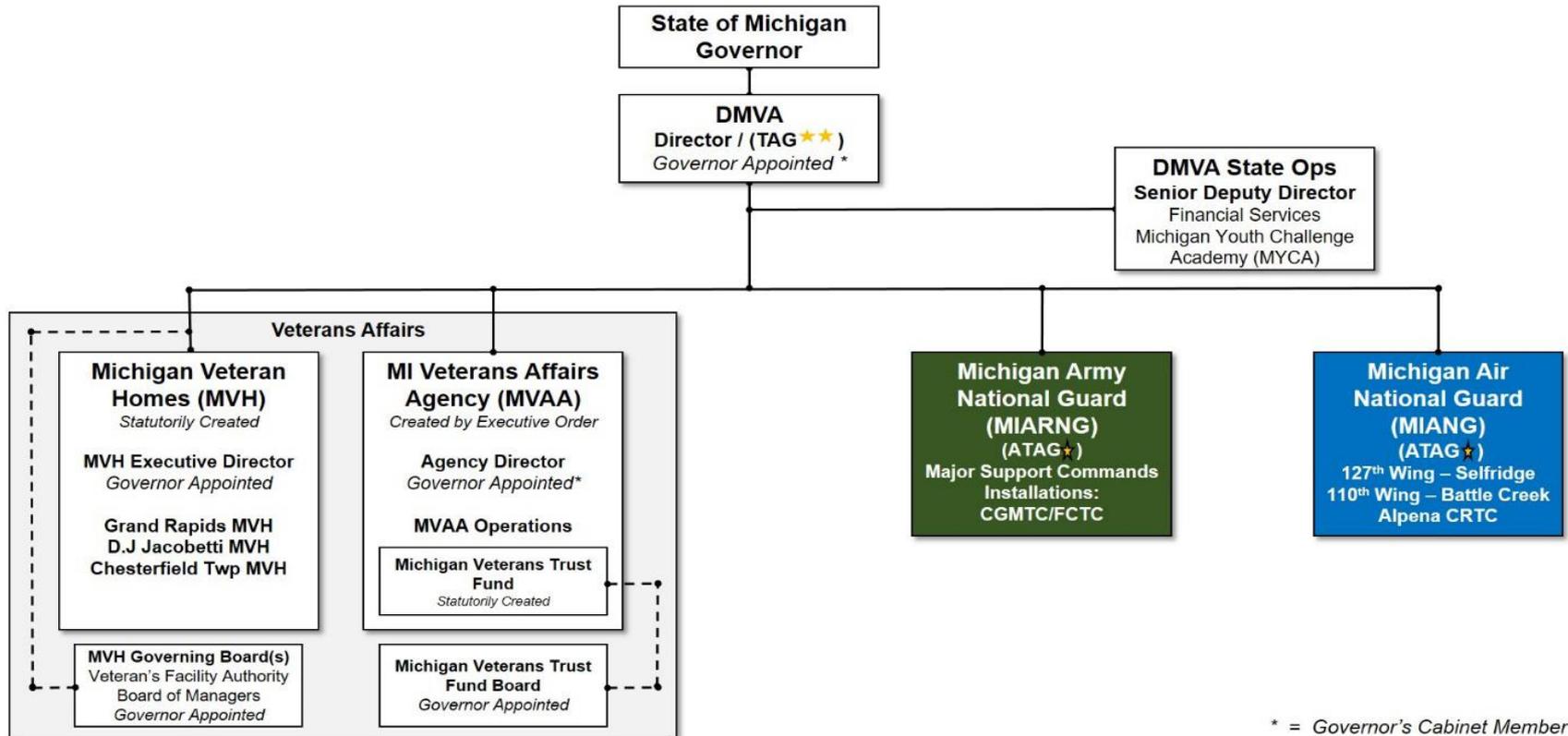
February 9, 2021

House Appropriations Subcommittee on DMVA Budget

# DMVA Overview

- DMVA is comprised of five main branches; the Michigan Army National Guard, Michigan Air National Guard, State Operations, Michigan Veteran Affairs Agency and Michigan Veteran Homes.
- We embrace the concept of “member for life” which means from the minute an individual takes their oath of service, while they are serving, once they leave the service and through the end of their life, we have their back.
- The DMVA culture reflects our behavior based on what we value most – our people, readiness, integrity, initiative, innovation, diversity, and ethical behavior. The foundation of these values is the dignified and respectful treatment of all members. Collectively, these behaviors foster buy-in, trust, and empower members who freely choose to give their best to the organization.
- All DMVA members lead! Members who influence, engage and encourage excellent performance to promote the enduring success of the organization characterize Leadership within the DMVA. At all levels, our members eliminate corrosive behavior and toxic leadership to strengthen department cohesion.

# DMVA Organization



\* = Governor's Cabinet Member



# DMVA Leadership

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- Major General Paul Rogers is The Adjutant General of the Michigan National Guard and the Director of the Department. In this capacity he serves on the Governor's cabinet.
- MG Rogers is starting his third year in this role. Since being appointed he has focused on increasing collaboration between all branches within the DMVA and enhancing efforts to attract new investments and expansions at our existing National Guard installations, while ensuring our force structure grows and remains strong.
- He has almost 35 years of service within the military and is originally from Michigan's Upper Peninsula. Prior to starting this position, he was the Director of the U.S. Army's Tank Automotive Research, Development and Engineering Center (TARDEC, now known as the Ground Vehicle Systems Center) in Warren, MI.

# DMVA Leadership

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- Brigadier General Lawrence Schloegl is The Assistant Adjutant General of the Michigan Army National Guard.
- In this role BG Schloegl is responsible for overseeing the day-to-day operations of the Michigan Army National Guard, ensures the readiness and capabilities of the formation to be able to respond to requests for assistance and helps advance overall DMVA strategies and goals.



- Brigadier General Bryan Teff is The Assistant Adjutant General of the Michigan Air National Guard.
- In this role BG Teff is responsible for overseeing the day-to-day operations of the Michigan Air National Guard, ensures the readiness and capabilities of the formation to be able to respond to requests for assistance and helps advance overall DMVA strategies and goals.

# DMVA Leadership

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- Zaneta Adams serves as the Director of the Michigan Veteran Affairs Agency and in this capacity serves on the Governor's Cabinet.
- Director Adams is the chief advocate for veterans' issues in the state. She oversees the outreach and engagement efforts of the MVAA and works to facilitate collaborative efforts with other state departments to ensure veterans are receiving the assistance they need.



- Anne Zerbe serves as the Executive Director of the Michigan Veteran Homes. Per statute this position is appointed by the Governor based on a recommendation provided by the MVFA Board of Directors.
- Executive Director Zerbe is responsible for overseeing the operations of Michigan's Veteran Homes, supporting the MVFA Board of Directors in its oversight and governance of the Homes and managing the budget process which involves both federal and state engagement.

# DMVA Leadership

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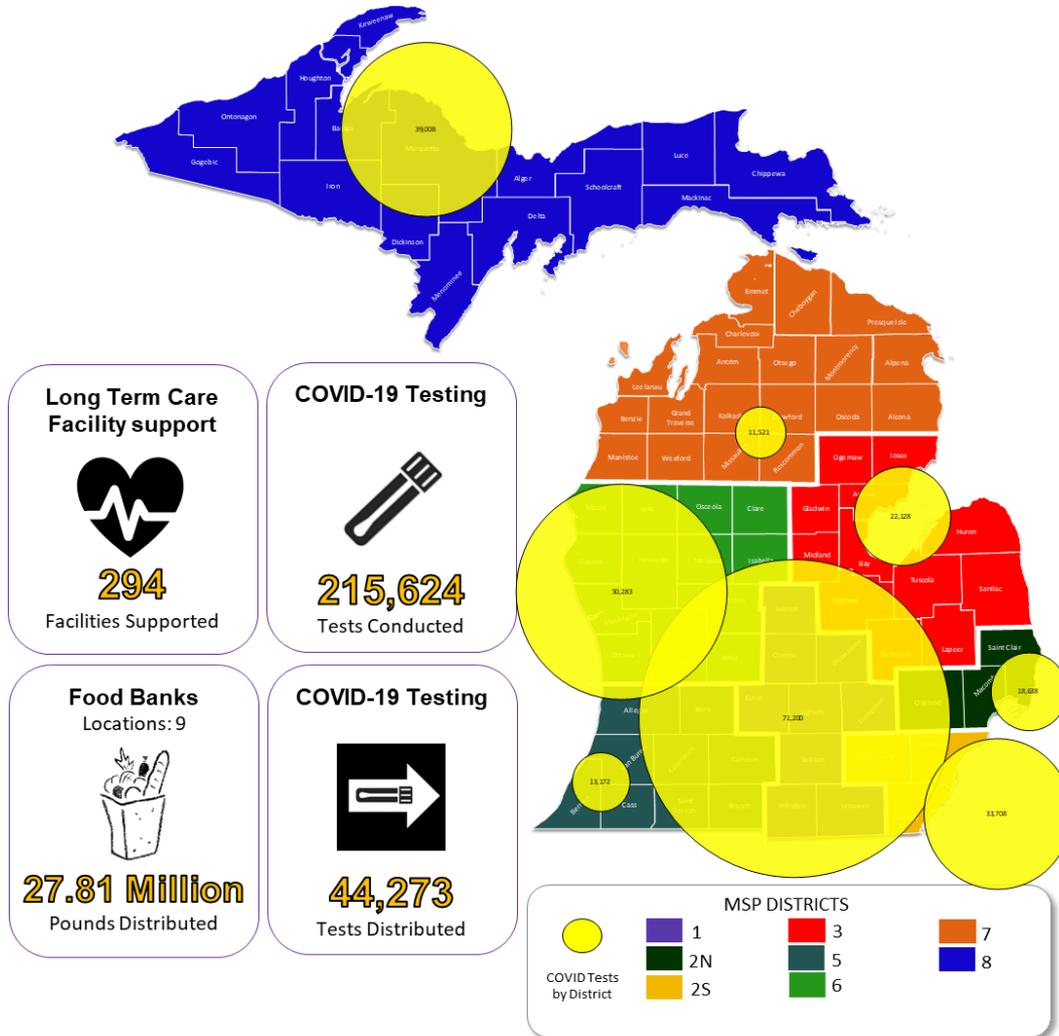
- Colonel (ret) Michael Price currently serves as the Senior Deputy Director for the Michigan Department of Military and Veterans Affairs.
- COL Price oversees the State Operations team which provides resources to the DMVA and equips internal partners with the tools to support strategic goals and initiatives in a fiscally responsible way. The DMVA State Operations team aligns procurement, funding, and complex data structures to provide sustainable and persistent support throughout the enterprise.



# The National Guard

- The National Guard has been defending the nation for over 377 years; in Michigan organized militias date back to our time as a territory.
- There are 54 separate National Guard organizations in the 50 States, 3 Territories, and the District of Columbia.
- The National Guard maintains a dual status role, with a Federal and State mission.
- The Federal mission is to serve as the operational reserve component of the Army and the Air Force.
- The State mission is to respond to domestic and homeland security emergencies under the Command and Control of the Governor.
- In Michigan, we have over 8,200 Soldiers in the Army National Guard and over 2,450 Airmen in the Air National Guard.
- The men and women of the Michigan National Guard are your friends, neighbors, and community members. Our armories, readiness centers and installations are integral parts of the communities in which they are located.

# MING COVID-19 Response



- Since March 16, 2020, nearly 1,100 service members from the Michigan National Guard have conducted over 1,250 COVID-19 response missions in all 83 counties.
- 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.
- MING supported eight food bank distribution centers and four warehouse support supply missions. Throughout the state they provided medical operations support, COVID testing at MDOC correctional facilities, county jails, long-term care facilities, and numerous drive-thru locations throughout the state.
- MING personnel are also supporting state and local health departments in their efforts to vaccinate Michigan residents, administering over 44,000 vaccine doses to date.

# Additional Missions and Responses

- Over the last year, in addition to COVID-19 response activities, the Michigan National Guard also supported and served in the following ways:
  - Midland flooding:
    - Door-to-Door checks, moving people to safety, help preserve materials at DOW Library, moving goods/equipment for shelters.
  - Assisting local law enforcement with protests/civil disturbances in Grand Rapids, Lansing and Kalamazoo. Engineering support in Grand Rapids to assist with clean-up:
    - Responded once requested by local elected officials and provided support to local efforts on the ground.
  - Out-of-State requests for assistance:
    - Kenosha, WI civil disturbances, California wildfires, Inauguration Mission in D.C., Capitol Security mission in D.C.
  - Federal missions:
    - SW Border Security, deployments to Iraq, Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar, Afghanistan, Poland, Cuba and Kosovo, supporting global aviation mobility missions and global aviation intelligence/recon missions.

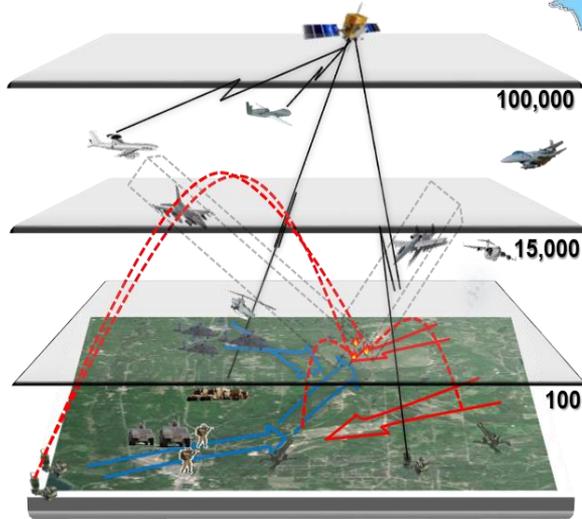
# Investing in Michigan

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- DMVA is committed to making Michigan the premier destination for multi-domain warfighting training and next generation space and aviation assets.
- Last summer we re-branded our training environment as the National All-Domain Warfighting Center (NADWC). The NADWC is the confluence of capability between Camp Grayling, the Alpena Combat Readiness Training Center, and the entirety of the training environment to include our Airspace, ranges, and over 148,000 acres of ground maneuver training space.
- In SE Michigan we continue to expand and innovate with new partnerships at Selfridge Air National Guard Base.
  - Last year we announced the Kelly Johnson Joint All Domain Innovation Center and Selfridge Research Park that will truly position Selfridge and SE Michigan as a prime location for innovation, research and public/private partnerships.
- There are several other ongoing discussions as it relates to new investments at the Alpena Combat Readiness Training Center, Camp Grayling, Selfridge and Battle Creek.

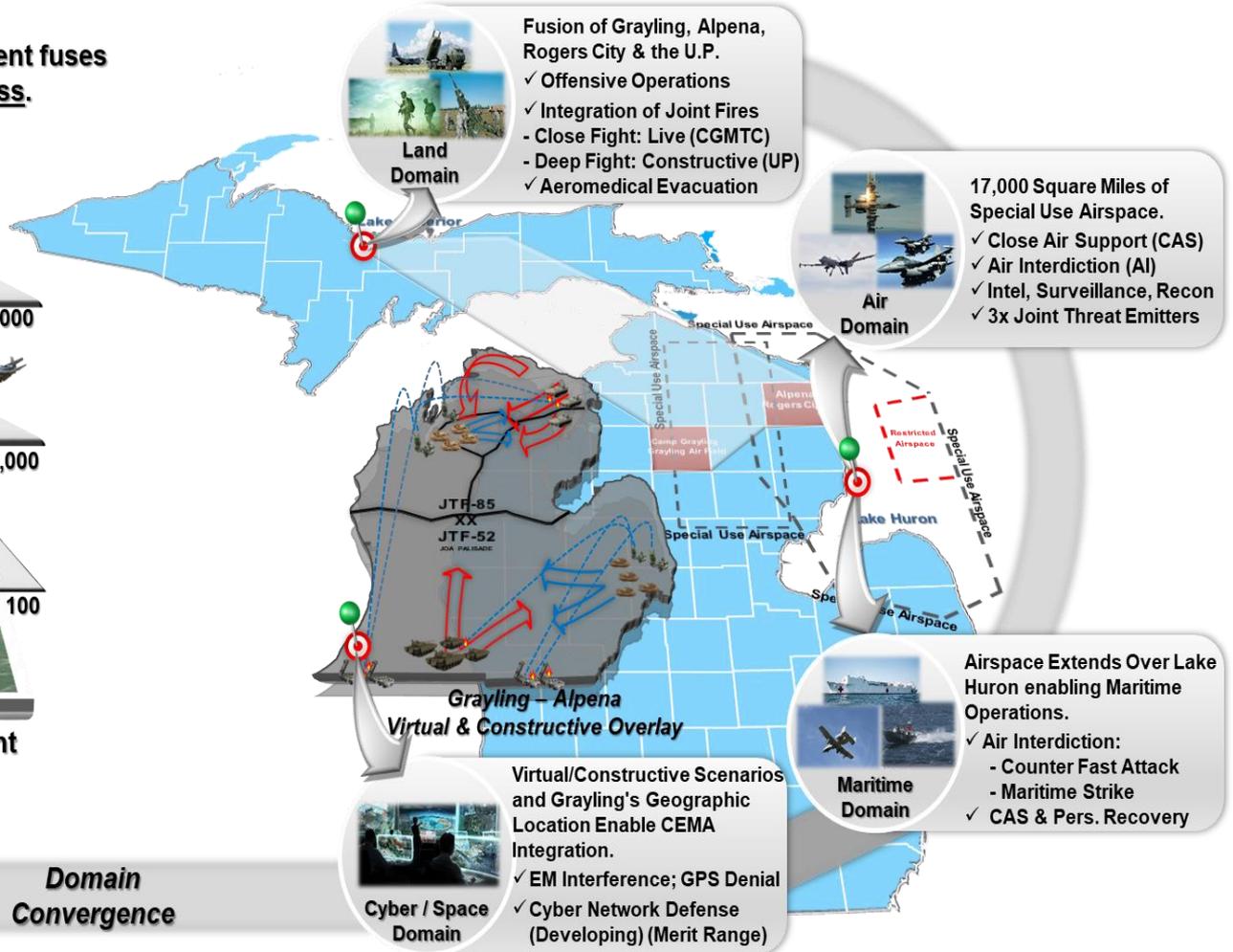
# National All Domain Warfighting Center

Michigan's All-Domain Training Environment fuses capability to Maximize Unit Readiness.



Live - Integrated Training Environment

Domain  
Convergence



# Kelly Johnson All-Domain Innovation Center

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**VISION:** 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.

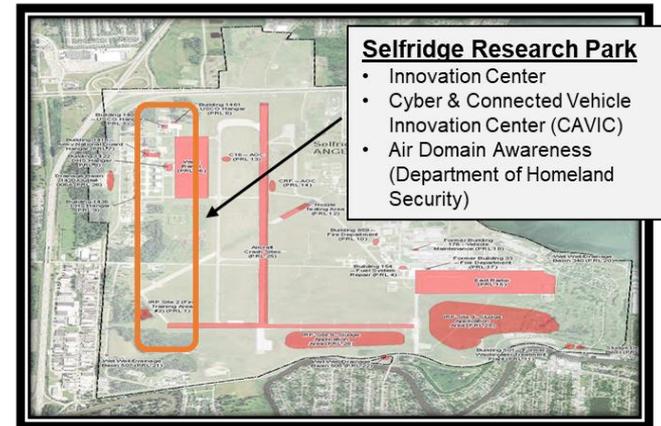
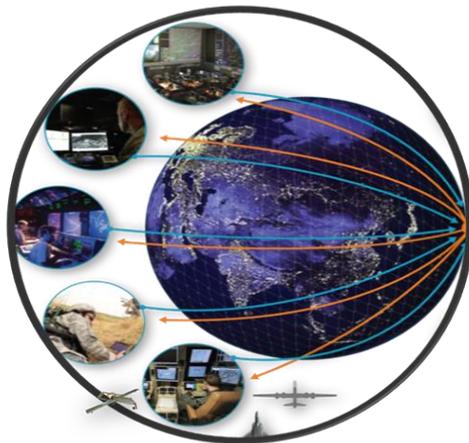
**FOCUS:**

- Promote collaboration of joint service/industry technologies
- Solve problems and apply technology solutions
- Establish MI Innovation Center and link current/future centers
- Enable service members and industry to solve crucial needs
- Support exercise alignment with senior leadership objectives



**WHY USAF IS INVESTING IN MICHIGAN**

- Michigan is an engine for innovation
  - Michigan Defense Center Support
  - Established Army and Air Force R&D Partnership
  - Deep Knowledge of Industry & Manufacturing
- Innovation requires measured Risk
  - Proven track record
- Leadership and Management Culture
  - Disruptive/Creative/Inclusive



# DMVA State Operations

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- In addition to supporting the financial and administrative functions of the DMVA, State Operations is also responsible for several other critical programs:
  - The Michigan National Guard State Tuition Assistance Program (MINGSTAP), more detail about this program in following slides.
  - Michigan National Guard Youth ChalleNGe Program.
    - This program is designed to intervene in and reclaim the lives of 16 to 18-year-old at-risk youth, producing program graduates with the values, life skills, education and self-discipline necessary to succeed as productive citizens.
    - The program has graduated more than 4,200 students since its inception in July 1999. The most recent class graduated 100 students and the current class has 112 students participating.
  - Michigan Job ChalleNGe Program
    - Originally established through a federal Dept. of Labor Grant to provide additional Career Pathways and Skills for Youth ChalleNGe Graduates in a structured-independent residential setting. In January 2019, this initiative became a Department of Defense program.
    - The program has served more than 479 individuals since its inception. Currently there are 40 participants working with the program.

# MI National Guard State Tuition Assistance Program (MINGSTAP)

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- Since the program started, MINGSTAP has been utilized by 4,899 Army Guard members and 1,182 Air Guard members.
- For the most recently completed Academic Year (2019-2020) approx. 1,200 Army Guard members and 425 Air Guard members utilized this program.
- Critical tool in our efforts to recruit and retain soldiers and airmen, while providing an outstanding benefit that supports the Governor's 60 by 30 goal.
- Enabling legislation necessary to be able to allow transferability of benefit to spouses and dependents.
- These enhancements would allow Michigan to compete with surrounding states who already offer this type of benefit.



# MINGSTAP Benefits

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## Current MINGSTAP Benefits

### Program Details

- **Reimburses** up to 100% of eligible participants tuition and mandatory fees per academic year at the maximum rate of \$600/credit not to exceed:
  - Training Programs – up to \$6000
  - Certificate Programs – up to \$6000
  - Master's Degree – up to \$6000
  - Associate Degree – up to \$14,400
  - Baccalaureate Degree – up to \$14,400
- Reimbursable courses must be passed with :
  - 2.0 on a 4.0 scale for undergraduate work
  - 3.0 on a 4.0 scale for graduate work.
- Members must first use Federal Tuition Assistance (FTA), unless meets a waiver able exception
- Courses must be eligible institution
- Use of MINGSTAP does not incur an additional service obligation

**Average Annual Cost at Michigan's Public Universities:  
\$14,400\***

*\*Projected for FY20*



## MINGSTAP Criteria

### Eligibility Criteria

- Active drilling member of his/her unit
- Not under UCMJ; Not AWOL
- Not under suspension of favorable actions (Army) or adverse administrative actions (Air)
- Cannot be flagged for the Army or Air fitness standards and have a passing APFT or AFFA within last 12 months for M-Day and with last 6 months AGR
- Cannot be flagged for height/weight
- Must have completed basic military training or its equivalent before the first day of class
- Any other criteria determined by the Adjutant General

# Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency

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## **MVAA Administration**

- Director Zaneta Adams leads the management and day to day operations at MVAA.
- Completed an organizational restructure focused on increasing capacity for outreach and raising awareness of veteran programs/benefits.

## **Outreach and Connecting Veterans to their Benefits**

- 552,412 veterans reside in the state.
- 11<sup>th</sup> largest population in the country.
- National Center for Veterans Analysis & Statistics reports that 21.6% of veterans are connected to a Disability Compensation or Pension in the State of Michigan.
- Unfortunately, many veterans are still not connected to or do not know about the benefits they are owed.

# MVAA Outreach and Services

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## **MVAA Veteran Service Officers**

- In FY 20, MVAA Veteran Service Officers (VSO) processed 968 claims for Michigan veterans and eligible family members and realized nearly \$14 million in recoveries.
- For the 1st quarter of FY 21, MVAA VSOs have processed 296 applications and realized over \$3 million in recoveries.

## **Michigan Veteran Resource Service Center/1-800-MICHVET**

- Responded to 16,594 inquiries, including 2,121 calls for emergency assistance in FY20.
- Call volume increased in 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter of FY 21 by 15.8% compared to FY 20 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter.
- Increased VSO referrals in 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter of FY 21 by 79.5% compared to FY 20 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter.

## **Strategic Outreach and Communications**

- Pandemic Outreach:
  - Created Check on MIVet to connect MVRSC Technicians with veterans.
  - Championed the MVAA COVID-19 VA Awareness Campaign.
- Community Outreach and Regional Engagement (C.O.R.E.) Initiative:
  - Currently staffed with 38 personnel across all 10 prosperity regions.
  - Fulfilled the executive requirement to establish and maintain a Veterans Speakers Bureau.
  - This initiative has resulted in successful engagement with 1,949 veterans, service members, and/or family members in only 5 months.

# MVAA Financial Assistance Efforts

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## **Michigan Veterans Trust Fund**

- Established in 1946 with \$50M trust, created to assist war-era veterans with emergent needs.
- Approved 625 of the 930 grant applications totaling \$1,048,318 in FY 20. Assisting 1,203 veterans and their families.
- The GreenPath Financial Wellness partnership continues to provide Michigan veterans with free financial counseling.

## **County Veteran Service Fund**

- Focused on increasing a county's capacity and capability to provide veterans services.
- FY 20 grants were awarded to 59 counties with the total grant amount exceeding \$5.4 million.
- Grant funds resulted in technology upgrades that allowed remote operation of veteran services during the COVID-19 pandemic, emergency relief funding directly to veterans and their families, and many other veteran service provision enhancements.

## **Veteran Service Organization Grants**

- FY 20 investment totaled \$3.8 million.
- Focused on connecting veterans with a VA accredited veteran service officer.
- Michigan Veterans Coalition (consisting of five veteran service organizations) currently receives the grant and coordinates providing 84,000+ hours of direct service provision.

# Michigan Veteran Homes

(Michigan Veteran Facility Authority)

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## Michigan Veteran Homes

- Executive Director Anne Zerbe leads the management of our two existing Homes and construction of the two new facilities.
- Centralized administration and financial services provides streamlined and consistent management of Homes.

## D.J. Jacobetti Home for Veterans

- 171 Residents (as of January 2021)
  - 81 beds CMS certified.
  - Prioritized for replacement due to inability to fully CMS certify and aging infrastructure.

## Grand Rapids Home for Veterans

- 204 Residents (as of January 2021)
  - Transition to new Home begins later this summer.
  - Building needs assessment to be completed to determine future use of existing buildings.



## Michigan Veteran Homes at Chesterfield Twp.

- Construction essentially complete of 128 bed, small house model Home.
- Staffing ongoing with Administrator and other key leadership positions in place.
- Late April 2021 will begin to admit residents (limited beds) to begin the VA and CMS certification process.
- Once those certifications are received, we will then admit additional residents with the goal of full occupancy by the end of 2021.

# Michigan Veteran Homes

(Michigan Veteran Facility Authority)

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## Transition to One Oversight Board:

- Last year legislation was passed which takes effect on March 24, 2021.
- The legacy Board and 1885 PA that governed the Homes will be repealed and all oversight transitioned to the Authority Board of Directors.
- Final step in process that began in 2016 to modernize the way our state veteran homes were managed and operated.



## COVID-19 Response

- Like all skilled nursing facilities, the Homes have been significantly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Early in the response, decisive action was taken to protect resident members and staff.
- While not untouched by the virus, the Homes continue to adapt and adjust mitigation efforts to effectively respond to the threat this virus presents.
- First vaccination clinics were held in January and second clinic is scheduled for February 3. All resident members and staff who wanted the vaccine have been able to receive it.