



**MICHIGAN
VOLUNTEER
DEFENSE
FORCE**

READY | ABLE





MICHIGAN VOLUNTEER DEFENSE FORCE

Michigan law provides that the state military establishment "...consists of the Army National Guard, Air National Guard, and the Defense Force." (MCL 32.509). The Michigan Volunteer Defense Force (MIVDF) is established pursuant to the Michigan Military Act (MCL 32.509 et. seq.) as authorized by 32 USC § 109. The Governor of the State of Michigan is the Commander in Chief of the Defense Force, and the MIVDF operates under the direction of the Adjutant General of the State of Michigan.



The State Defense Force is a professionally-trained branch of the Michigan Military establishment, along with the Michigan Army National Guard and Air National Guard.

Mission

To provide ready and able military forces to assist state and local authorities in times of state emergencies, and to augment the Michigan Army National Guard and Michigan Air National Guard as required.

Ready and Able

With new leadership and renewed vision grounded in Michigan law, the new MIVDF is launching it's Ready and Able Program (R&A) designed to reengineer the force into a ready and able asset to the State of Michigan and the Michigan National Guard.



Sustained personal readiness to meet operational requirements through adequate training, funding and equipping.



Culture of values-driven excellence producing highly capable, trusted, defense force professionals.



Management that empowers all defense force personnel to energetically engage in the enduring mission of providing credible and versatile military forces.

Ready and Able Objectives

Support of domestic emergencies and humanitarian efforts in conjunction with civil authorities.

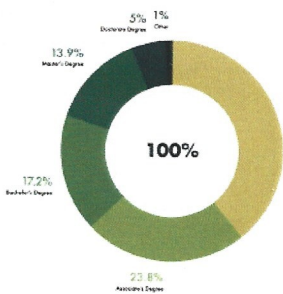
Support of regional homeland security operations IAW the EMAC and/or with FEMA and DHS partnership.

Support DMVA and MING with trained, competent and motivated personnel to assist with staffing, manpower and coordination of strategic tasks.

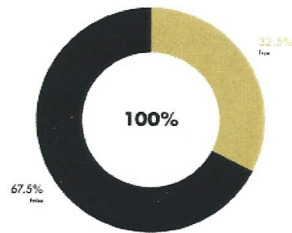
Support the state of Michigan with unwavering and steadfast resolve in defense of its borders in time of public danger, crisis or catastrophe.

Michigan Defense Force Education and Prior Military Service Demographics

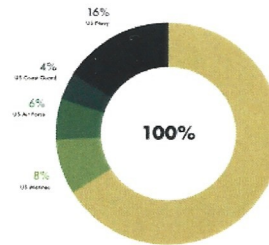
Highest Level of Education



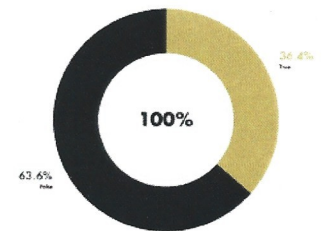
Served in the US Armed Forces



Prior Service Branch



Prior Service in the Michigan National Guard



State Defense Forces in the United States

In the United States, state defense forces are military units that operate under the sole authority of a state government. Twenty three states currently have an active State Defense Force. In similar fashion to the national guard, these troops drill monthly and annually. California, Georgia and Texas are among the states with the most active units, some of which are fully integrated with local national guard units.



Soldiers of the 1st Brigade, Georgia State Defense Force (GSDF) train to set up and support a helicopter landing zone. The GSDF supports landing zones during disaster recovery and medical evacuation and extraction missions.



As part of the statewide response to COVID, Georgia State Defense Force soldiers serve at a food bank distribution site in Gainesville, Georgia.

South Carolina State Guard and National Guardsmen train on marksmanship at drill. Weapons qualification and requalification are held regularly.



Texas State Guard soldiers assist residents displaced from Hurricane Laura.



New York State Guard soldiers assist members of the New York National Guard 3-142nd Assault Helicopter Battalion on a training mission.



"I commanded the 156th Signal Battalion (MIARNG) and later commanded the 6th Battalion of the Michigan Volunteer Defense Force. It was an honor to command and serve with members of the VDF. They bring many skills from their civilian occupations that are a Force Multiplier to the MING. The MIVDF is a highly professional force that is an invaluable asset to the State of Michigan."

James Parker, LTC, MIVDF (COL (Ret), MIARNG)

"The Defense Force has allowed me to fulfill the lifelong call to military service. For those prior service that want to continue to serve, or for those that missed their opportunity to serve in the federal forces, the MIVDF is a great way to serve the state and the country."

Kurtis M. Moilanen, MAJ, MIVDF

"I am proud to salute the flag in uniform serving with my fellow soldiers in the Michigan Volunteer Defense Force. I love our country and state and it is a chance for me to give back. I did not have previous military experience and I look up to those that do. Now I am fortunate to serve along side them."

Tommy Brann, 1LT, MIVDF, Representative, Michigan State House of Representatives

"I believe that a state defense force has remarkable potential in the modern era. SDF service members are truly the 'citizen soldiers' imagined by our nation's founders - trained and prepared to serve our communities in their time of need."

Charles D. Shelton, CPT, MIVDF

"I was Executive Officer of the 156th Signal Battalion, Michigan Army National Guard, and decided I wanted to continue serving in the military after retirement. I found the MIVDF the best way to do just that. The MIVDF is an invaluable asset to the State of Michigan, the Michigan Army National Guard and Michigan Air National Guard, and I cannot imagine a better way to continue my service to the state and my community."

Charles Colgren, LTC, MIVDF (MAJ (Ret), MIARNG)

"In case of war, or a national emergency, when the national guard may be in the military service of the United States, the defense force shall be ready and able to protect the state in case of insurrection, invasion, disaster or other emergency, actual or imminent."

MICHIGAN MILITARY ACT, Act 150 of 1967



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