




**MICHIGAN VOLUNTEER DEFENSE FORCE** **Ready & Able**



*"...the defense force shall be ready and able to protect the state..." MCL 32.855 Sec. 251*

**Michigan Defense Force History**

- 1917 Michigan State Troops and Michigan State Police are created (Public Act 53 of 1917)
- 1988 Michigan State Troops renamed Michigan Emergency Volunteers (Public Act 246 of 1988)
- 2004 Michigan Emergency Volunteers activated as the Michigan Volunteer Defense Force
- 2021 Michigan Volunteer Defense Force launches Ready & Able Initiative

*"The governor, as commander-in-chief, may activate within the military establishment such number of units to be known as the Michigan Volunteer Defense Force, as the governor considers necessary for adequate emergency assistance to the state." MCL 32.851 Sec. 251*

**Michigan's Military Establishment**

- Michigan Army National Guard
- Michigan Air National Guard
- Michigan Volunteer Defense Force

The Defense Force is a feasible and permanent military force that is commanded by Michigan's Governor through the Adjutant General - a state defense force cannot be federalized





*"The organized militia of this state taken collectively shall be known as the state military establishment and constitutes the armed forces of this state. The organized militia consists of the army national guard, the air national guard, and the defense force..."*


**Ready & Able Initiative**

Under the guidance of LTC Michael Ewing, the Defense Force launched its Ready & Able initiative this year

The initiative is based upon the Michigan Military Act 150 of 1967 and the current Michigan Department of Military and Veteran Affairs (DMVA) Strategic Plan.

The MI-DMVA plan outlines a 21st century total force strategy that includes all elements of Michigan's Military Establishment, including the Defense Force (MVDf).

The Ready & Able initiative consists of three elements: train, equip, fund



### Train






The Incident Command System is a "systematic tool used for the command, control, and coordination of emergency response."

Federal Highway Administration

### How does the Michigan Volunteer Defense Force benefit Michigan?

- The Defense Force provides a force multiplier for MING in any tasking in which they need support
- The Defense Force provides professionally trained personnel to assist in local and state emergencies
- The Defense Force provides a support to local communities.
- The Defense Force provides meaningful opportunities for veterans to serve their state.

*"As a combat veteran, being a member of the Defense Force allows me to stay physically and mentally competent and allowing my skill set to grow simultaneously."*

SGT Orlando Santiago, MVDF

### Equip



State Defense Forces leverage equipment from a variety of partners in order to maximize readiness while reducing costs

*"The MG will consider the SDF as any other State entity with respect to preparation for and participation in domestic or civil support operations, and the related use of Federal equipment..."*

CNGBL 6500.01

### Supporting local communities.




Defense Force soldiers are trained in the Incident Command System - the language of emergency response.

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

Charles D. Shalton, CPT, MVDF



**One third of Michigan Defense Force soldiers are veterans.**

*I was XO of the 150th Signal Battalion, Michigan Army National Guard. 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), MAFNG

**Mission Framework**

- Mission types are stated within the Michigan Military Act (PA-150), the Michigan Emergency Management Act (PA-390), and Command Policy Regulation 600-20.
  - Inside Michigan
  - Governments with mutual aid agreements
  - MIVDF to be "Ready & Able" to assume National Guard duties
- Missions are submitted through the State Emergency Operations Center, directed to National Guard, through JFHQ-MI. JFHQ-MI determines whether the assistance of the MIVDF is required. If it is required, a request is made to the Governor to authorize deployment.
  - Emergencies and Disasters
  - Planned Events that may overwhelm local responders

*The "defense force shall perform missions as determined by the department of military and veterans affairs in cooperation with the department of state police and the state emergency preparedness plan."*

ME3, 20, 86) Sec. 251

**Manpower**

- MIVDF currently has approximately 190 active personnel
- Approximately 32.5% of personnel served in the U.S. Armed Forces
- Personnel maximum permitted strength is 15% of the Michigan National Guard

**Next Steps**

- Continue collaboration between the defense force and MING to assure strategic objectives and missions are met
- Discuss revising the Michigan Military Act to promote better utilization of the MIVDF in support of local community needs (i.e. search and rescue support / disaster relief)