DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS

MAJOR GENERAL GREGORY J. VADNAIS, DIRECTOR/ ADJUTANT GENERAL OF MICHIGAN

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The **Department of Military and Veterans Affairs**, also known as the state military establishment, has 3 primary missions: to execute the duties required by various statutes and the Governor, to administer state-supported veterans programming, and to assist both state and federal authorities with military preparedness. The Michigan Army and Air National Guard constitute the armed forces of the state and serve under the orders of the Governor as commander-in-chief. The Governor appoints an adjutant general to serve as commanding general of the Michigan National Guard and as director of the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs.

The primary military mission of the department is to recruit, train, and maintain the Michigan Army and Air National Guard as reserve components of the United States Army and Air Force for **federal mobilization**.

The **state military mission** of the department is to train and maintain National Guard forces for the protection of life and property of Michigan citizens in natural disasters and the preservation of peace, order, and public safety.

The Department of Military and Veterans Affairs provides **support services** for the approximately 11,000 military personnel constituting the Michigan National Guard. Approximately 3,000 full-time employees (state and federal) are assigned to various divisions, sections, and units located across the state, including 43 armories; 3 air bases (Selfridge Air National Guard Base, Alpena Combat Readiness Training Center, and Battle Creek Air National Guard Base); 19 maintenance shops; the 146,000-acre military reservation at Camp Grayling; and the 7,500-acre Fort Custer Training Center in Augusta.

The department, through the **Veterans Affairs Directorate**, provides executive oversight and coordination for state veterans programming. Operations encompass the Grand Rapids and D.J. Jacobetti (Marquette) Veterans Homes, the Michigan Veterans Trust Fund and the administration of annual legislative grants to veterans service organizations to help their service officers assist veterans in processing claims with the federal government.