



Mission

- The Michigan Volunteer Defense Force (MIVDF) at the direction of the Adjutant General provides reliable personnel support to local and State agencies during declared emergencies.

Essential Tasks

- Support MI's Receipt, Store and Stage (RSS) of the Strategic National Stockpile (SNS)
- Support MI with certified Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT)
- Support the MING with county Liaison Officers (LNO)
- Support the MING with Joint Reception, Staging, Onward Movement and Integration (JRSOI) staffing
- Support the MING with Cyber Network Defense staffing

Michigan Volunteer Defense Force History

- The Michigan State Defense Force was established on 17 April 1917 by Act Number 53 in the Public Acts of Michigan which established the Michigan State Troops. That Act provided for two forces to be developed. First was the Home Guard that was to serve the military mission intrastate assignment and service expanding and remaining needs as the Michigan National Guard was federally activated for World I. The second force was the Michigan State Troops Permanent Force (MSTPF) with state constabulary authority, which continues today as the Michigan Department of State Police. The Michigan State Troops (state defense force) was active intrastate in World War I, World War II and during the Korean Conflict, but was deactivated on 30 June 1952. On 09 July 1988 Michigan's first peace time State Defense Force was activated with the name of the Michigan Emergency Volunteers (MEV) but were reduced to a standby cadre on 01 October 1998 by the then Adjutant General. On 01 January 2005 Major General Thomas Cutler (The Adjutant General of Michigan) activated the Michigan Volunteer Defense Force (MIVDF) under the command of BG (Ret) Warren J. Lawrence with eleven homeland security missions and a four field regiment organization stationed across Michigan's 83 counties. On 06 January 2007, BG Lawrence relinquished command to COL (RET) William R Ewald in a change of command ceremony officiated by Major General Cutler. Since January 2007, the MIVDF has been reorganized into a Brigade composed of seven battalions whose areas of operation duplicate the districts of the Michigan State Police. Currently the MIVDF has five missions.

Organization

The MI-VDF is organized as an Army Infantry Brigade with seven assigned battalions. It is an adjunct to the Michigan Department of Military and Veterans Affairs and is under the control of The Adjutant General of Michigan. Currently VDF operates under the Michigan with a focus on Homeland Security. The MI-VDF's area of operations is the entire State of Michigan; each of the seven battalions has an area of operation which corresponds to the geography as defined by the Michigan State Police District. Volunteer personnel for manning

the battalions are recruited from within each area of battalion operations with the emphasis on maintaining home town knowledge within the operational region and state. The current active MI-VDF volunteers exceed two hundred active members in the Brigade and the seven Regional Battalions.

Battalion Personnel and Organizational Building Plan and Goals (3+3+3)

Gentlemen, the following remarks represent the supportive concept and plan for discussion on why we must expand membership through recruitment to ultimately serve our state-wide missions and have prepared and ready cadre level operational battalions. These thoughts and questions lead to the idea that four combined concepts are needed for VDF success: (1) Organization, (2) geographic assessment, (3) battalion field unit location related to state needs and (4) intense brigade and battalion focus on recruitment of soldiers to serve in our field operational company, platoon and squad unit levels.

In regard to each battalion's field structure it is realistic to begin with three regional companies (CPT) their three platoons (LT) and the three squads (SSG) per platoon. The battalion structure provides for a commander, four staff positions (executive, adjutant, operations and support service officers, and a command sergeant major. The battalion three field companies include a commander, executive officer and first sergeant, with each having three platoons with a leader and sergeant (SFC). The core of each battalion's preparation, operational and service delivery system are the three squads because they deliver the field mission needs. Each squad therefore has a squad leader and 6 soldiers which about totals the legal authorized VDF cadre strength in listed TO positions.

The initial base line personnel cadre goals for each battalion is about 225 authorized positions, without accounting for most of the larger population needs in the 2nd Battalion and the large geographic needs in the 6th and 7th Battalion areas. This number indicates that down the road VDF must move from about 175 total members to near 1600 members, and the 2nd may need another company with the 6th and 7th needing smaller but more squads to meet their geo-area challenges. (However this is not the moment for major TO change because VDF only has about ten+ percent of authorized cadre positions filled.)

Should a major state-wide emergency arise with MING activated our legal cadre status personnel limit could increase by a draft of the "state unorganized militia." In such case the VDF table of organization could first expand by initially adding two additional companies to each battalion and two additional platoons to each company, and by our increasing all squads to 11 soldiers.

Where we need to head together is toward battalion plans to locate their three company headquarters and the assigned subordinate platoons thereof. Once geographic assignment plans are shared with brigade, the staff offices become more helpful to each battalion in coordinated planning, training and service delivery within our seven areas of operation.

As Colonel Ewald has said, our important effort at this point is recruitment and training of personnel most associated with our field delivery service responsibility. That begins with basic training for most and later advanced mission specific plans as developed through OTI with your battalion executive and operations officers. We believe that working together with common training is a force builder for all battalions and will help all involved to support each other as may be needed.

Who is eligible to join?

The following persons are eligible for enlistment or appointment:

- Applicants who are between 17 and 65 years of age, whether or not a prior service veteran;
- Applicants who are a citizen of the United States* and a resident of the State of Michigan (*Applicants who are aliens must show proof that they have made a legal declaration to become a United States citizen and must present a United States Department of Homeland Security, BCIS Form N-300, authenticated by a Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services Local Office);
- Applicants who have a demonstrated understanding and proficiency in the English language;
- Applicants who are either a high school graduate or have passed the GED test;
- Applicants who are medically qualified.

Who is not eligible to join?

The following persons are considered ineligible for enlistment or appointment:

- Convicted felons; Persons adjudged as a youthful offender;
- Persons on parole or probation;
- Persons with prior military service who have an RE-4 re-enlistment code on their DD-214;
- Persons with prior military service whose discharge is characterized as other than "Honorable"; Persons adjudged as a security risk; Conscientious objectors;
- Persons not meeting acceptable height and weight standards;
- Current members of any Active or Reserve Component of the U.S. Armed Forces;
- Persons convicted of any offense involving moral turpitude;
- Persons with significant medical disorders which could endanger themselves or others;
- Persons with a medical disability which exceeds an RE-3 profile
- Persons required to register for Selective Service, but who have failed to do so.