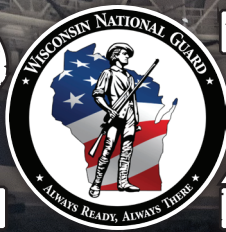


2020



# THE YEAR IN PICTURES





2020 began much like any year in the 21st century for the Wisconsin National Guard.

And then it became unlike any other year.

Following the global war on terror, the National Guard has regularly supported the nation's objectives overseas. Thanks to a global pandemic and social unrest, this year saw a marked increase in the National Guard's involvement in domestic operations. The Wisconsin National Guard was used in unprecedented ways, from administering

COVID-19 tests across the state to providing volunteers for polling stations, thereby guaranteeing in-person voting could continue uninterrupted.

2020 has revealed what Citizen Soldiers and Citizen Airmen have long known — the National Guard is versatile, adaptable, ready and available.

This project seeks to show the value of the Wisconsin National Guard to Wisconsin and to the nation.



## **JAN 15:** **Sendoff for the 1967th**

Lt. Gov. Mandela Barnes and Brig. Gen. Robyn Blader, assistant adjutant general for readiness and training, present a state flag to Capt. Gary Brown, 1967th Contract Team commander, during a formal sendoff ceremony Jan. 15 at Volk Field, Wis. The 1967th Contract Team consists of acquisition, logistics and technology contracting officers and noncommissioned officers. Five Soldiers from the team deployed to the Horn of Africa to support Operation Freedom's Sentinel. 112th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment photos by Sgt. Tianna Field





## **JAN 16:** Sendoff for the 924th Engineers

Maj. William Kesselring, commander of the deploying Soldiers of the Wisconsin Army National Guard's 924th Engineer Facility Detachment, passes his unit guidon to signify his unit is ready to deploy during a formal sendoff ceremony Jan. 16 in Madison, Wis. The 14-Soldier detachment deployed to Camp Arifjan in Kuwait, where they provide department of public works services for the base — design solutions, minor facility repair and maintenance, environmental assessments and remediation expertise. Wisconsin Department of Military Affairs photo



## Airmen of the Year

Senior Airman Alex King (above left), Tech. Sgt. Blake Brandner (above center), Master Sgt. Tyler Ostrowski (above right), and Master Sgt. Chontelle Southworth (left) have been recognized as the Wisconsin Air National Guard's Outstanding Airmen of the Year. Recipients must consistently demonstrate outstanding leadership, job performance and superior Airman qualities. These demonstrate what is required for the Wisconsin Air National Guard to fulfill its duties as the primary combat reserve of the Air Force, while simultaneously remaining ready to serve the governor in times of emergency.

King, a fire protection journeyman with the 115th Fighter Wing's 115th Civil Engineering Squadron, is the Airman of the Year. Brandner, who oversees many duties in the 115th Fighter Wing's Services Flight as well as a fatality search and recovery trainer, is the Noncommissioned Officer of the Year. Master Sgt. Tyler Ostrowski (above right), a cyber systems specialist with the 128th Air Control Squadron, is the Senior Noncommissioned Officer of the Year. And Southworth, a member of the 115th Fighter Wing's Logistics Readiness Squadron, is the First Sergeant of the Year. She was also selected as the Air National Guard's First Sergeant of the Year.



## **MARCH 5:** New adjutant general

Wisconsin Supreme Court Justice Rebecca Dallet administers the oath of office to Maj. Gen. Paul Knapp, during a March 5 ceremony at the state capitol appointing him as the state's adjutant general. Knapp was sworn in on the Wisconsin National Guard's 183rd birthday.

Wisconsin National Guard  
photo by Sgt. Alex Baum



## **MARCH 15:** Initial COVID-19 response

Twenty-nine Wisconsin residents aboard the Grand Princess cruise ship that docked at the Port of Oakland in California March 9 were safely transported to Volk Field Air National Guard Base at Camp Douglas, Wis., late March 15, where Wisconsin National Guard Soldiers and Airmen were waiting to transport them back to their homes for self-quarantine.

At 4:18 a.m. March 16, the 29 Wisconsin passengers from the Grand Princess cruise ship were safely returned to their homes. Two passengers chose to remain in quarantine in Texas under the custody of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), citing personal reasons. State officials continue to work with HHS to return home the seven Wisconsin passengers who remain in HHS custody in California. The National Guard troops were given hotel rooms at their final destinations.

Wisconsin National Guard photos by Sgt. Alex Baum



2020 THE YEAR IN PICTURES



## Preparing for a pandemic

Approximately 350 Wisconsin National Guard members were called to state active duty in March to train for their role in the state's response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Initial Guard support to local officials included providing medical specialists to augment staff at senior residences, as well as work at voluntary self-isolation facilities in Milwaukee and Madison, Wis. The Wisconsin National Guard also worked at a Department of Health Services warehouse to distribute personal protective equipment. Guard members also trained to safely collect specimen samples at COVID testing sites.

Wisconsin National Guard photos by Spc. Emma Anderson

Wisconsin National Guard

# STOCK UP ON FACTS NOT FEAR

If you see this message  
in your email or social media feed ...

Homeland security is preparing to mobilize the national guard.

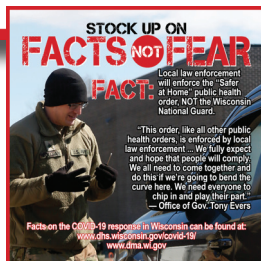
Preparing to dispatch them across the US along with military.  
they will also call in 1st responders.

they are preparing to mobilize the national guard  
... it is **FEAR**, not **FACT**!

Homeland Security cannot mobilize the National Guard

Facts on the COVID-19 response in Wisconsin  
can be found at:

[www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/](http://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/)  
[www.dma.wi.gov](http://www.dma.wi.gov)



## STOCK UP ON FACTS NOT FEAR FACT:

Local law enforcement will enforce the "Safer at Home" public health order, NOT the Wisconsin National Guard.

"This order, like all other public health orders, is enforced by local law enforcement... We fully expect and hope that people will comply. We all need to come together and do this if we're going to bend the curve here. We need everyone to chip in and play their part."  
— Office of Gov. Tony Evers

Facts on the COVID-19 response in Wisconsin can be found at:  
[www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/](http://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/)  
[www.dma.wi.gov](http://www.dma.wi.gov)

## Fighting misinformation

Shortly after Gov. Tony Evers declared a health emergency March 12, making the Wisconsin National Guard available to assist local authorities in the state's response to COVID-19, false information about the Guard's true mission began to spread.

The Wisconsin National Guard responded with a public information campaign on social media to address rumors and false information in real time. The Wisconsin National Guard also began posting weekly updates on its activities across the state supporting the COVID-19 response effort.

## STOCK UP ON FACTS NOT FEAR FACT:

Wisconsin National Guard members assisting at polling sites on April 7 will not be in uniform, and will not be armed. Polling site help? Yes. Armed security? No.



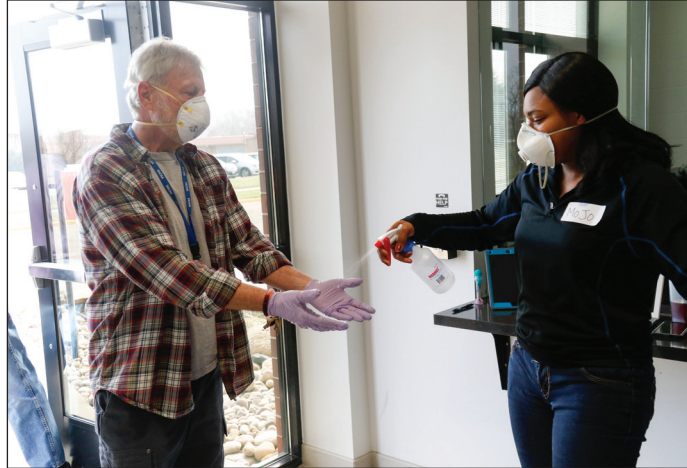
Facts on the COVID-19 response in Wisconsin can be found at:  
[www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/](http://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/)  
[www.dma.wi.gov](http://www.dma.wi.gov)

## STOCK UP ON FACTS NOT FEAR FACT:

Do not be alarmed if you see National Guard members wearing masks in the community. Due to the nationwide shortage of protective masks for medical professionals and first responders, Soldiers and Airmen may be using their own protective equipment to help with the conservation of resources and supplies in support of the COVID-19 response.



Facts on the COVID-19 response in Wisconsin can be found at:  
[www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/](http://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/)  
[www.dma.wi.gov](http://www.dma.wi.gov)



## Poll positions, spring

The COVID-19 pandemic led many polling station volunteers deciding to stay home during the spring elections. In a first for Wisconsin, more than 2,400 Wisconsin National Guard members were called to state active duty in April to be trained to work polling places in the counties where they lived. Approximately 250 were called to state duty to assist with the 7th Congressional District special election in May. Guard members performed their polling station duties in civilian attire.

Wisconsin National Guard photos





## In memory

Retired Maj. Gen. Albert Wilkening, Wisconsin's adjutant general from 2002-07, died April 8, 2020 after a long fight with cancer.

Wilkening commanded the Wisconsin National Guard during some of its most active and trying days early in the Global War on Terror. He was serving as the deputy adjutant general for Air when he was thrust into duty on Sept. 11, 2001 because the adjutant general at that time, Maj. Gen. James Blaney, was undergoing scheduled surgery.

Wilkening has been credited with developing the framework for managing deployments, as well as the state's protocols for when Wisconsin service members lost their lives serving overseas. He also served as Wisconsin's homeland security advisor and chairman of the governor's Homeland Security Council.

After retiring from the military, Wilkening was active with the Wisconsin chapter of the Employer Support for the Guard and Reserve. He remained an ardent backer of the Wisconsin National Guard.

"I've watched this organization grow and grow and become more and more of the benchmark organization it is today," he said in 2019. "There is no finer organization than the Wisconsin National Guard — Army and Air."



Wisconsin National Guard file photos

## **APRIL 15:** **115th Fighter Wing catches the Lightning**

After a three-year process, Secretary of the Air Force Barbara Barrett signed the record of decision selecting the 115th Fighter Wing as the next location to receive a fleet of F-35A Lightning II aircraft to replace its aging F-16 jets.

“The Department of the Air Force selected the 115th Fighter Wing and the 187th Fighter Wing as the next Air National Guard locations to receive the F-35A,” Barrett said. “Putting F-35s at these two bases continues our transition into the next generation of air superiority.”

The United States Air Force in 2017 selected the 115th Fighter Wing and Truax Field as one of its two preferred candidate bases, out of five originally considered for the next two F-35A bases. The Air Force’s basing criteria included mission requirements such as weather, airspace and training range availability, capacity requirements that focused on facility considerations, environmental requirements and cost factors.

The base will receive 18 F-35As, which will replace the current 21 primarily assigned F-16 Fighting Falcons, and the first aircraft arrival is estimated to be in 2023.

Wisconsin National Guard photos



Brig. Gen. David May was named Wisconsin's deputy adjutant general for Air April 24. In this role he serves as the chief advisor to the adjutant general on all matters pertaining to Wisconsin Air National Guard programs, policies, operations, management and command and control of the Wisconsin Air National Guard.



Chief Master Sgt. Meredith Conn became the Wisconsin Air National Guard's senior enlisted leader June 1. She is the top Air National Guard senior enlisted advisor to the adjutant general on readiness, professional development, training and quality of life issues for Wisconsin's 2,200 Airmen.



## Leadership changes in the Wisconsin Air National Guard



Brig. Gen. David May hands the unit guidon to Col. Leslie Zyzda-Martin, Volk Field's new commander, during a Sept. 10 assumption of command ceremony. Wisconsin Air National Guard photo by Tech. Sgt. Andrea F. Rhode



Col. Adria Zuccaro receives the unit guidon from Brig. Gen. David May, assuming command of the 128th Air Refueling Wing in Milwaukee during a Sept. 12 ceremony. 128th Air Refueling Wing photo by Airman 1st Class Madison Knabe



Brig. Gen. David May hands the unit flag to Col. Bart Van Roo, assuming command of the 115th Fighter Wing, as part of the official change of command ceremony Oct. 3. Van Roo succeeded Brig. Gen. Erik Peterson, who recently assumed the duties of chief of staff for the Wisconsin Air National Guard. 115th Fighter Wing photo by Tech. Sgt. Mary Greenwood



## COVID response in April

Wisconsin National Guard troops tested staff and residents at Sunny Ridge Nursing and Rehabilitation Center in Sheboygan (upper left) April 5, sort and load personal protective equipment at a Madison warehouse (lower left) April 2, conduct specimen collection April 25 at Orchard Manor in Lancaster (upper center) and April 20 at Isaac Coggs Heritage Health Center in Milwaukee (lower center), staff a statewide COVID-19 test result call center in Madison April 23 (above) and help set up an alternative care facility April 20 at the Wisconsin State Fair Park in West Allis. Eleven specimen collection teams collected nearly 3,200 specimens statewide by April 28.

Wisconsin National Guard photos





2020 THE YEAR IN PICTURES



## COVID response in May

Left, a Wisconsin National Guard member gives a COVID-19 test at a mobile testing facility in Keshena, Wis., May 19. Testing in Keshena helped members of both the Menominee Nation and Stockbridge-Munsee Band of Mohican Indians receive testing for COVID-19.

Above, the 115th Fighter Wing conducted an honor flight across the state for frontline health care workers May 12.

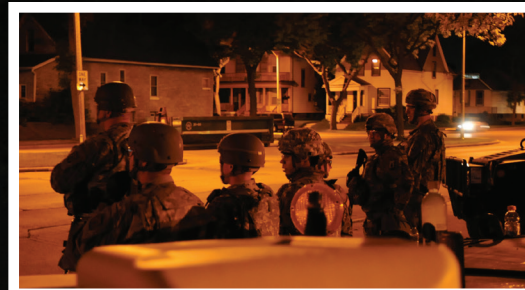
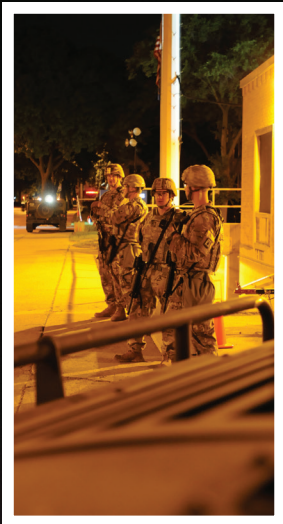
Top right, the Wisconsin National Guard staffed a mobile testing site at the Resch Center in Green Bay, Wis., May 5, one of 15 specimen collection teams supporting communities across Wisconsin. The Wisconsin National Guard collected more than 80,000 specimens around the state by May 28.

Bottom right, Sgt. Brandon Fischer sanitizes his personal protective equipment at an isolation facility in Milwaukee May 29.

Wisconsin National Guard photos



Wisconsin National Guard



## Protecting public safety

More than 1,400 Wisconsin National Guard Soldiers and Airmen were called to state active duty in late May and early June to support local authorities across the state after civil unrest erupted in Milwaukee, Madison, Green Bay, Racine and Kenosha.

The Guard's mission was to help preserve public safety and ensure individuals could exercise their right to nonviolently protest.

Wisconsin National Guard photos





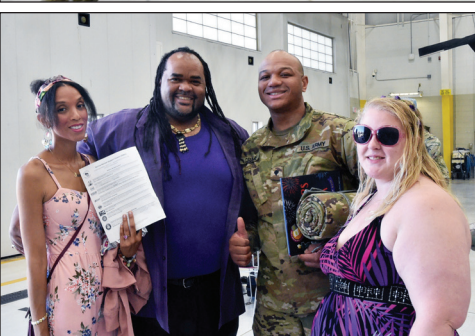
## COVID response in June

Upper left, Gen. Joseph Lengyel, National Guard Bureau chief, talks to Wisconsin National Guard Soldiers and Airmen during a visit to a the COVID-19 specimen collection site in Madison, Wis., June 17.

Above, Wisconsin National Guard troops continued specimen collection in Racine, Wis., June 19.

At left, specimen collection proceeds at the Door County Justice Center in Sturgeon Bay, Wis., June 2. By June 29, the Wisconsin National Guard collected 167, 525 specimens statewide.





## **JUNE 17: Middle East medevac missions**

Family and friends joined Wisconsin National Guard leaders at a June 17 sendoff ceremony for approximately 35 members of Detachment 1, Company G, 2nd Battalion, 104th Aviation. The unit deployed to conduct medevac missions in the Middle East in support of Operations Inherent Resolve and Spartan Shield.

Wisconsin National Guard photos



## **JUNE 23: Best in the nation**

Lt. Col. Joseph Davison (left) and 1st Sgt. Kenneth Prieur, commander and first sergeant of the Wisconsin National Guard's 54th Civil Support Team — a specialized unit of full-time Army and Air National Guard members trained to respond to chemical, biological, radiological or nuclear emergencies — attach the 2020 Maj. Gen. William L. Sibert Award streamer to the unit's guidon during a June 23 virtual U.S. Army Chemical Corps ceremony. The U.S. Army Chemical Biological Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN) School annually presents the Sibert Award to the top CBRN units in the active component, Army Reserve, and Army National Guard. This is the first year civil support teams were eligible for the award.

Wisconsin National Guard photos





## COVID response in July

Wisconsin National Guard specimen collection teams exceeded the quarter-million mark in July, topping 288,000 in support of local and state COVID-19 testing efforts.

Above, Citizen Soldiers and Citizen Airmen collect specimens for COVID-19 testing July 13 at a community-based specimen collection site at the Eleva-Strum High School in Strum, Wis.

At left, Wisconsin National Guard troops collect specimens for COVID-19 testing July 25 at the Jefferson County Fairgrounds in Jefferson, Wis.

Wisconsin National Guard photos



**AUG. 10-21**

## Northern Lightning

The Volk Field-based two-week joint-training exercise Northern Lightning, one of the first to take place since the COVID-19 pandemic began, involved nearly 25 units from all across the country – including Guam – and included Air Force, Army, Navy and Air National Guard assets.

Due to the pandemic, fewer aircraft and personnel were staged out of Volk Field, but the realistic combat scenarios that Northern Lightning is known for were still conducted with a force size similar to past years, with many aircraft flying directly to the military operating area from their home station. During the exercise, air crews flew 658 sorties, and off-loaded more than 870,000 gallons of jet fuel. Thousands of ground tasks were executed simultaneously. Throughout the exercise, simulated threats targeted aircraft from four different locations to replicate the fight aircraft would face with a near-peer adversary.

Wisconsin National Guard photos





**AUG. 14**

## Guardian Angels return home

Thirteen months after their sendoff ceremony, the remaining members of the 1st Battalion, 128th Infantry Regiment safely returned to Wisconsin Aug. 14, left, after completing a security mission in Afghanistan.

The nearly 400 “Red Arrow” Soldiers mobilized for deployment to Afghanistan in July 2019 and embarked on a mission serving as a security element for the Army’s 3rd Security Force Assistance Brigade, or SFAB. The 128th integrated into the 3rd SFAB as its seventh battalion. Known as “guardian angels,” the Red Arrow Soldiers provided force protection for key leader engagements and training between advisors, other coalition forces, contractors, and Afghan troops.

Nearly 200 Soldiers returned in April and June, below, as part of a planned troop drawdown effort in Afghanistan.

Wisconsin National Guard  
and submitted photos



2020 THE YEAR IN PICTURES



Wisconsin National Guard



## **AUG. 21:** **Task Force Juvigny returns**

The 32nd Infantry Brigade Combat Team headquarters company returned to Wisconsin Aug. 21 from a 10-month mission in Ukraine Aug. 21 in support of the European Defense Initiative.

Approximately 165 Red Arrow Soldiers supported Joint Multinational Training Group-Ukraine by providing administrative oversight, logistical support for the multinational forces stationed at the Ukrainian Combat Training Center-Yavirov, and security for advising teams working with the Armed Forces of Ukraine.

Above, Red Arrow troops depart Ukraine July 21.

Wisconsin National Guard photos  
Wisconsin National Guard



## Annual training

Every Wisconsin National Guard Soldier and Airman completes a minimum of two weeks of training every year in addition to their regular weekend drills. This annual training looks different for Soldiers and Airmen depending on their military occupation, but the training's important contribution to unit readiness stays the same even during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Above, members of the 1158th Transportation Company spent much of July and part of August at the National Training Center, Fort Irwin, Calif., supporting the Minnesota Army National Guard's 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, part of the 34th Division.

At left, the 173rd Brigade Engineer Battalion's annual training consisted of practicing steel cutting charges, detonating Bangalore torpedoes, breaching obstacles and qualifying on M-16 rifles.

Wisconsin National Guard photos





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## COVID response in August

Wisconsin National Guard specimen collection teams' cumulative total gathered for COVID-19 testing surpassed 420,000 by Aug. 31 as teams continued to operate across Wisconsin supporting local health departments and the Wisconsin Department of Health Services with COVID-19 testing efforts.

Above, Citizen Soldiers and Citizen Airmen from the Wisconsin National Guard collect specimens for COVID-19 testing Aug. 3 at the Alliant Energy Center in Madison, Wis.

At left, a Wisconsin National Guard member collects a specimen for COVID-19 testing Aug. 12 at UMOS in Milwaukee.

Wisconsin National Guard photos



## **AUG. 24-SEPT. 7: Kenosha civil support mission**

The Wisconsin National Guard supported local authorities in Kenosha for two weeks following civil unrest there.

Approximately 125 troops arrived in the city Aug. 24 to serve in a supporting role to local civil authorities and to help preserve public safety and the rights of individuals to demonstrate peacefully. The number of troops doubled Aug. 25 to 250 and then to 500 Aug. 26 in conjunction with local requests received from Kenosha.

On Aug. 26, Gov. Tony Evers made an Emergency Management Assistance Compact request to other states to send additional National Guard military police companies to Kenosha. Michigan, Arizona, and Alabama sent more than 700 troops collectively, and by Aug. 28, approximately 2,000 National Guard troops, including more than 1,200 Wisconsin National Guard troops, were on the ground in Kenosha assisting in public safety efforts.

Wisconsin National Guard photos





**SEPT. 11-OCT. '16:**  
**California wildfire support**

The 1st Battalion, 147th Aviation Regiment sent two UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters and crews to California Sept. 11 to assist with wildfire suppression efforts there.

"The Wisconsin team has been a true value added to Joint Task Force Phoenix," said Col. David L. Hall, commander, California National Guard's 40th Combat Aviation Brigade and JTF Phoenix commanding officer. "They were recently singled out [for] their expertise and seamless integration into the firefighting team here in California. We are lucky to have them out here."

Army National Guard photos by Staff Sgt. Eddie Siguenza



2020 THE YEAR IN PICTURES



**SEPT. 24**

## 829th Engineer return

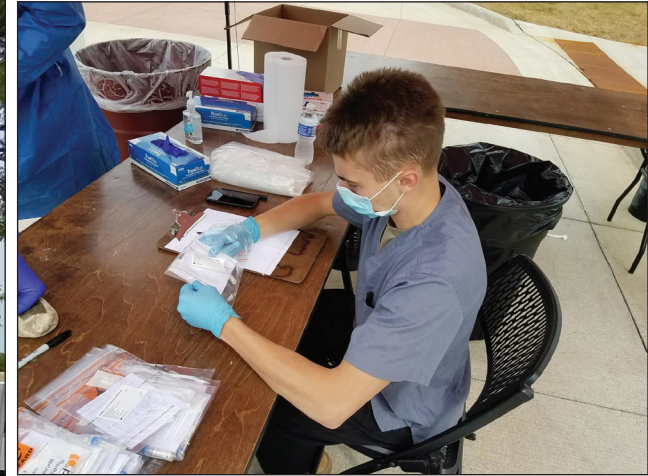
Approximately 150 Wisconsin Army National Guard Soldiers in the 829th Engineer Company, based in Spooner and Ashland, Wis., returned to Volk Field Sept. 24 from a nearly 12-month deployment in Afghanistan and the Middle East.

The 829th Engineer Company supported the Indiana Army National Guard's 113th Engineer Battalion, and served at 21 bases spread across seven countries, ranging from

Afghanistan and Iraq to Syria, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, and Kuwait. There they improved existing facilities, completed construction projects for others, or deconstructed facilities no longer needed for the mission.

Wisconsin National Guard photos





## COVID response in September

Wisconsin National Guard specimen collection teams' COVID-19 testing efforts. cumulative total gathered for COVID-19 testing surpassed 534,000 as teams continue to operate across Wisconsin supporting local health departments Sept. 1 at the Waukesha County Expo Center in and the Wisconsin Department of Health Services with Waukesha, Wis.

Wisconsin National Guard photos



## **OCT. 7-12:** **Wauwatosa civil support mission**

Approximately 500 Wisconsin National Guard helped Wauwatosa civil authorities preserve public safety in the city Oct. 7-12.

While the troops remained under the Wisconsin National Guard's command and control, they served in direct support of local officials and did not operate autonomously.

Wisconsin National Guard  
photos





## In memory

Retired Maj. Gen. James Blaney, Wisconsin's adjutant general from 1997-2002, died Oct. 18, 2020 at the age of 82.

Blaney commanded the Wisconsin National Guard during the 9/11 terror attacks and the beginning of the Global War on Terror. He was undergoing scheduled surgery on Sept. 11, 2001.

Blaney joined the Wisconsin Army National Guard as an enlisted Soldier in 1960 and served nearly 42 years when he retired in 2002. He was a Spc. 4 with Headquarters Troop, 2nd Recon Squadron, 105th Cavalry during the Berlin Crisis (below center), serving on active duty at Fort Lewis, Washington. He commissioned as an armor officer in 1963 after completing officer candidate school at the Wisconsin Military Academy, and changed branches to infantry in 1971.

Blaney was the last Wisconsin Army National Guard officer to serve as Wisconsin's adjutant general.

"His whole life was the National Guard," said his wife Ramona Kane-Blaney. "He loved what he did and all the people he served with."



Wisconsin National Guard file photos



**OCT. 27:**

## Cyber Protection Team sendoff

The Wisconsin Army National Guard's Detachment 1, 176th Cyber Protection Team deployed to Fort Meade, Md., where the 20-person unit will conduct cyberspace operations in support of U.S. Cyber Command and Cyber National Mission Force requirements.

Above, Brig. Gen. Joane Mathews, Wisconsin's deputy adjutant general for Army, presents Capt. Jamison Clark, commander of Detachment 1, 176th Cyber Protection Team, with a state flag during an Oct. 27 sendoff ceremony at the Armed Forces Reserve Center in Madison, Wis.

The 176th Cyber Protection Team also includes Soldiers from Minnesota, Illinois and Virginia.

Wisconsin National Guard photos

Wisconsin National Guard



## COVID response in October

Wisconsin National Guard specimen collection teams gathered nearly 45,000 specimens — a record number of COVID-19 tests in one week — while supporting Wisconsin Department of Health Service's efforts to expand the availability of COVID-19 testing across the state.

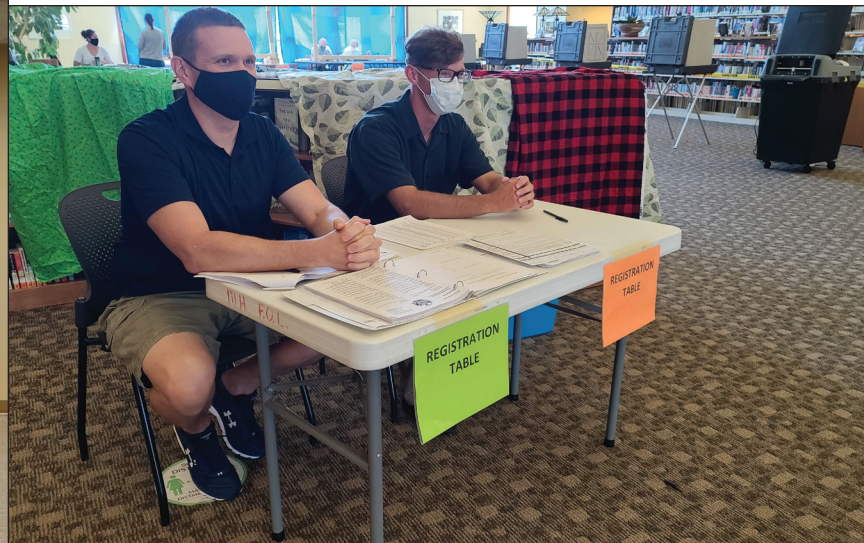
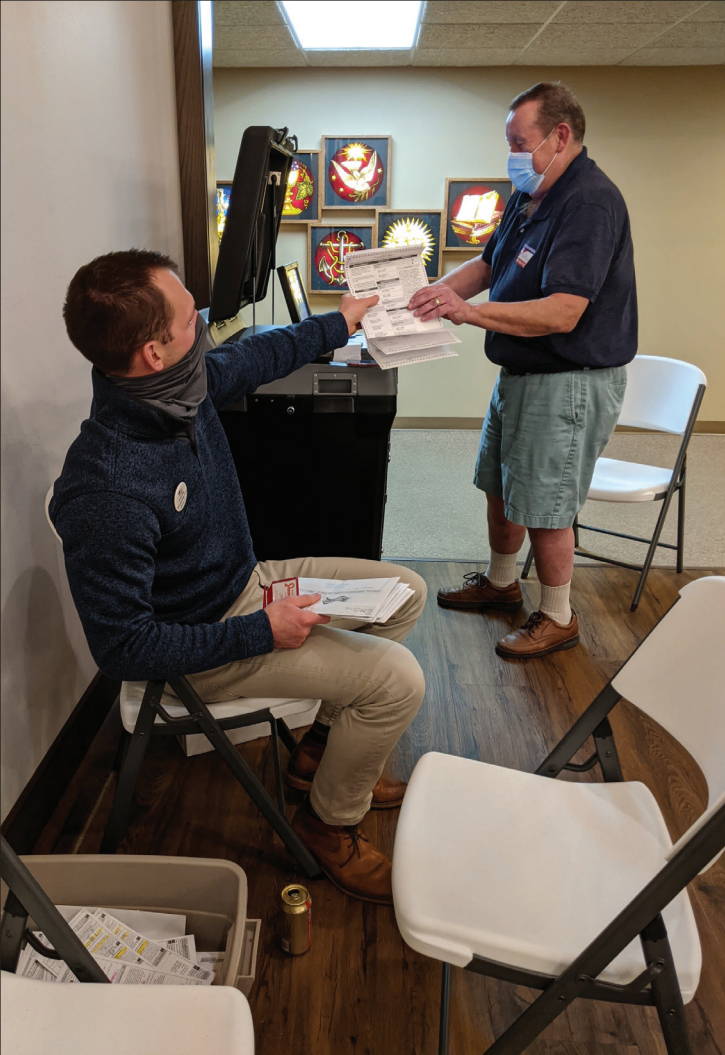
As of Oct. 26, Wisconsin National Guard teams collected 698,632 specimens statewide.

Above and right, Citizen Soldiers and Citizen Airmen collect specimens for COVID-19 testing Oct. 7 at a community-based testing site at UMOS in Milwaukee.

Wisconsin National Guard photos

2020 THE YEAR IN PICTURES





## Poll positions, fall

Nearly 700 Wisconsin National Guard members supported local officials during the Aug. 11 primary elections, and more than 300 assisted during the Nov. 3 general election across Wisconsin.

Far left, Airman 1st Class Timothy Kaminski of the 115th Fighter Wing opens absentee ballots to be scanned and counted at a polling station in Beaver Dam, Wis., Nov. 3.

Above, Capt. Matthew Shaw from the 115th Fighter Wing, and Sgt. Corey Nolden from the 1st Battalion, 128th Infantry staff a voter registration desk at the Mount Horeb Public Library during the Aug. 11 election in Mount Horeb, Wis.

Below, Staff Sgt. Zach Zenk from the 115th Fighter Wing processes absentee ballots at the Mount Horeb Public Library during the Aug. 11 election.

Wisconsin National Guard photos



2020 THE YEAR IN PICTURES

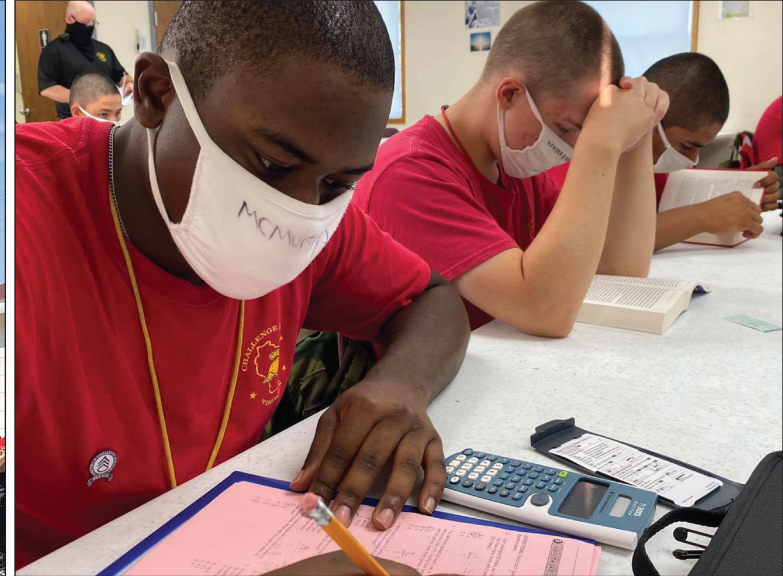
## NOV. 18: 924th Engineer Facilities Detachment returns

The 14 Soldiers of the Wisconsin Army National Guard's 924th Engineer Facilities Detachment landed safely at airports across Wisconsin Nov. 18 after a 10-month mobilization to Kuwait.

The unit overcame significant challenges stemming from the COVID-19 pandemic as it managed the daily functions of Camp Arifjan, Kuwait.

Wisconsin National Guard photos





## NOV. 20: Challenge Academy

Eighty-two Wisconsin National Guard Challenge Academy cadets were slated to graduate in a Nov. 24 ceremony. However, due to COVID, the Challenge Academy released all cadets Nov. 20 as graduates of the program.

The Wisconsin National Guard Challenge Academy, with its campus at one corner of Fort McCoy, Wis., provides 11th and 12th-grade students at risk of not graduating high school an opportunity to earn a GED if they are willing to commit to a strict daily regimen, unlearn bad habits and learn valuable life skills. Living in military barracks, away from the distractions and peer pressures at their school and home, helps the cadets focus and improve.

Wisconsin National Guard Challenge Academy photos



## COVID response in November

Wisconsin National Guard specimen collection teams collected more than 930,000 specimens at community-based testing sites and institutional-based testing missions by the end of November. The Wisconsin National Guard's collection activities support the Wisconsin Department of Health Service's efforts to expand COVID-19 testing throughout the entire state.

Above, Wisconsin National Guard members collect specimens for COVID-19 testing Nov. 25 at a community-based testing site at the Waukesha County Expo Center in Waukesha, Wis.

At right, Wisconsin National Guard members collect COVID-19 testing specimens Nov. 14 at a community-based testing site at the Jefferson County Fairgrounds in Jefferson, Wis.

Wisconsin National Guard photos





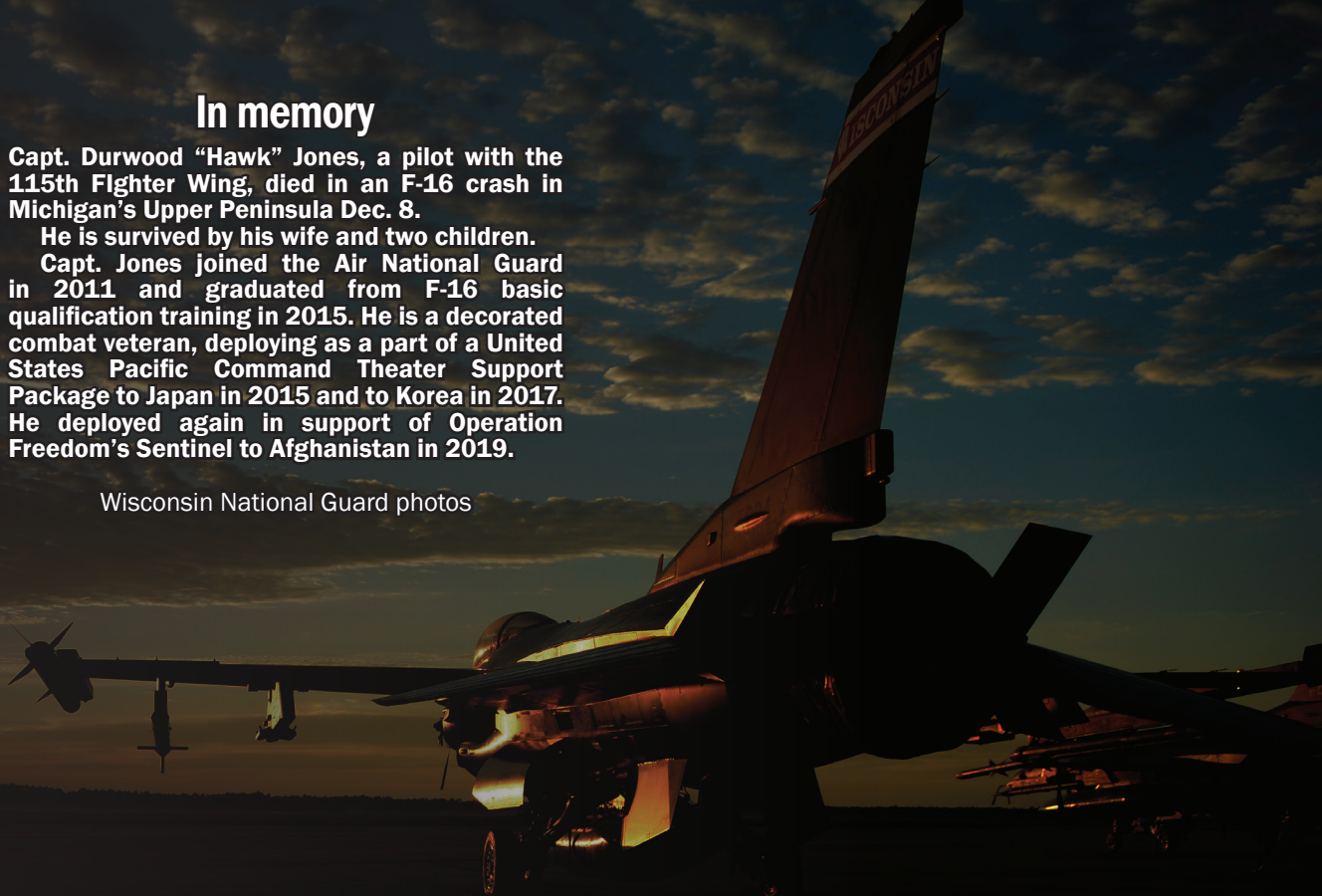
## In memory

**Capt. Durwood “Hawk” Jones, a pilot with the 115th Fighter Wing, died in an F-16 crash in Michigan’s Upper Peninsula Dec. 8.**

**He is survived by his wife and two children.**

**Capt. Jones joined the Air National Guard in 2011 and graduated from F-16 basic qualification training in 2015. He is a decorated combat veteran, deploying as a part of a United States Pacific Command Theater Support Package to Japan in 2015 and to Korea in 2017. He deployed again in support of Operation Freedom’s Sentinel to Afghanistan in 2019.**

Wisconsin National Guard photos



**“Capt. Jones was a great pilot, leader, patriot, and combat veteran, who lost his life training to protect our state and nation. Like all Guardsmen, he was more than that. He was also a loving husband, father, son, brother, and friend.**

**“We will cherish his memory, and honor his sacrifice, as we pray for the healing of his family and the 115th Fighter Wing community.”**

**Maj. Gen. Paul Knapp, Wisconsin adjutant general**



2020 THE YEAR IN PICTURES



**DEC. 18:**

## 1967th returns to Wisconsin

The five-person 1967th Contracting Team arrived safely at Volk Field before reuniting with their families Dec. 18 after an 11-month mobilization to the Horn of Africa and Camp Lemonnier, Djibouti. The unit awarded contracts worth almost \$10 million, which supported U.S. military efforts in the region.

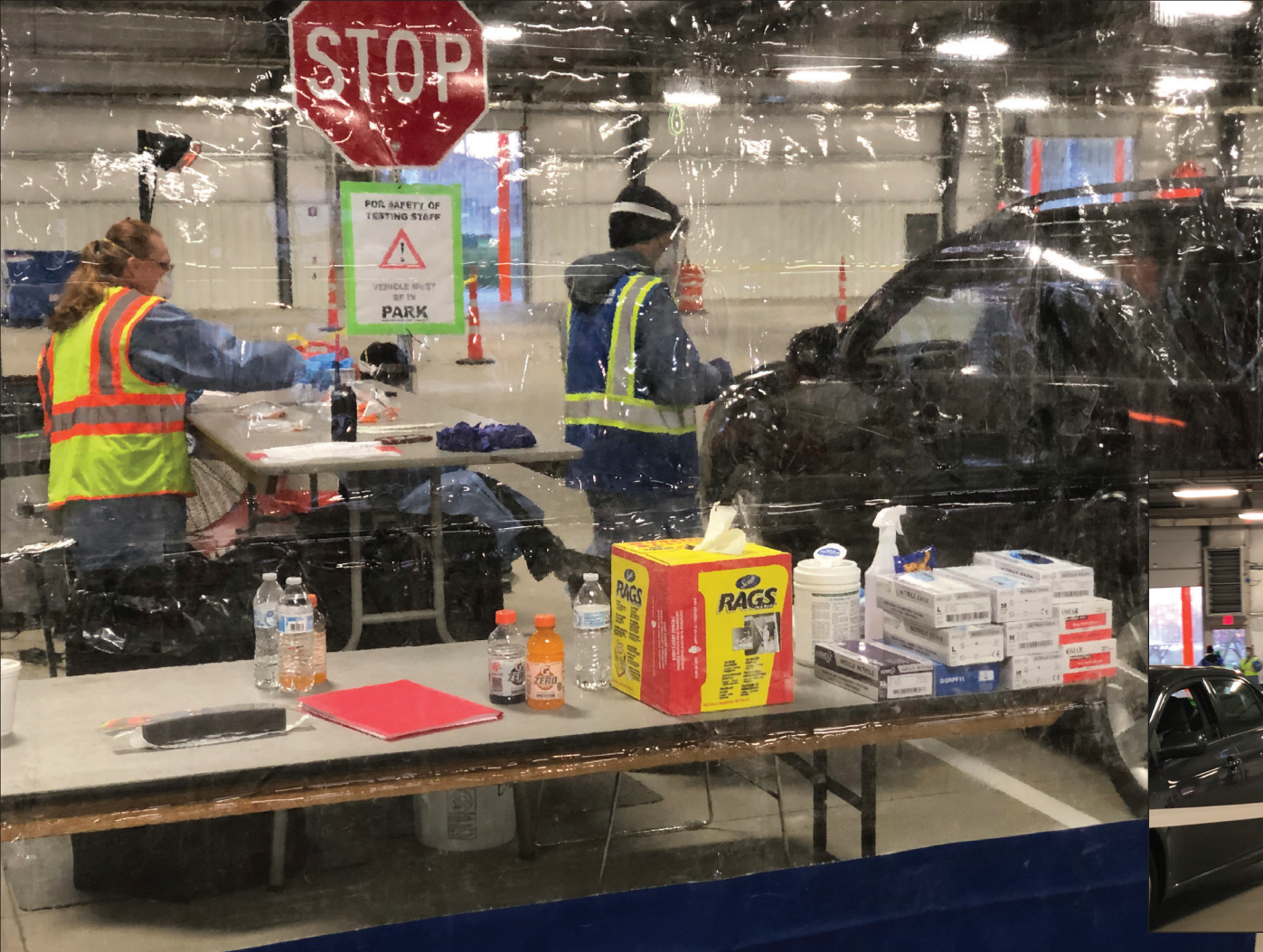
Far left, senior Wisconsin National Guard leadership greet members of the 1967th Contingency Contracting Team at Volk Field Dec. 18

At top, the 1967th Contingency Contracting Team at Combined Joint Task Force Horn of Africa. Pictured are, left to right: Capt. James Hedman, Sgt. 1st Class Curtis Clements, Capt. Gary Brown, Sgt. Brookelyn Nelson and Master Sgt. Zachary Tevis.

At bottom, Dr. Saleh Banoita Tourab, Executive Secretary of the Djiboutian Ministry of Health, speaks during a June 25 ceremony held at Bouffard Hospital in Djibouti City, Djibouti. Combined Joint Task Force-Horn of Africa (CJTF-HOA), donated 60 beds valued at \$9,400 to the Djiboutian Ministry of Health for its efforts during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Working with the U.S. Embassy, the 1967th helped the Djiboutian COVID response.

Wisconsin National Guard  
and U.S. Air Force photos

Wisconsin National Guard



## COVID response in December

By Christmas week, Wisconsin National Guard specimen collection teams collected a cumulative total of nearly 983,000 specimens at community-based testing sites and institutional-based testing missions.

At left and below, Citizen Soldiers and Citizen Airmen from the Wisconsin National Guard collect specimens for COVID-19 testing Dec. 1 at a community-based testing site at the Alliant Energy Center in Madison, Wis.

Wisconsin National Guard photos

