



Happy 375th Birthday, National Guard!

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Illinois

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Soldier prevents robbery

By Army Staff Sgt. Jaime L. Witt
139th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

CHICAGO – Quick actions by a 21-year-old Illinois National Guard Soldier thwarted an attempted robbery and resulted in three teenagers being arrested by Chicago Police.

Spc. Paville N. Simpson of Chicago, a military police officer with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 404th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade in Chicago, prevented an armed robbery Jan. 7. Simpson detained three robbers after they



Spc. Paville N. Simpson

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Tate-Nadeau first Israeli NGB LNO

By 2nd Lt. April Hawes
Illinois National Guard Public Affairs

SPRINGFIELD – Illinois Army National Guard Col. Alicia Tate-Nadeau has been the first at a few things in her military career: first female deputy commander of the 404th Chemical Brigade in Chicago in 2006; first female director of operations in Illinois Army National Guard history in 2009; first female joint chief of staff for the Illinois National Guard in 2010.



Col. Alicia Tate-Nadeau

Now she is the first National Guardsman, male or female, in the country appointed as the National Guard Bureau (NGB) Liaison Officer (LNO) to the Israeli Home Front Command.

She may not know the exact duration of

See **ISRAEL** page 10

Airman saves life in Afghanistan

By Staff Sgt. Cassidy L. Snyder
Illinois National Guard Public Affairs

SPRINGFIELD – When Senior Airman Evan Stevens first heard the explosion, he thought it was incoming fire and a possible ambush, so he took cover.

Stevens, who has been a member of the 183rd Fighter Wing's Security Forces

Squadron in Springfield for the past four years, was 100 meters outside the gate of Bagram Air Field in Afghanistan conducting a presence patrol early one May morning.

Staff Sgt. Russell Logan, of the 164th Airlift Wing's Security Forces Squadron in Memphis, Tenn., stepped on an anti-personnel mine causing the explosion. The

field had been established as cleared.

"I didn't realize he was alive until I heard him scream," said Stevens.

Stevens was the team's lead combat life saver and with his alternate, Senior Airman Yanick Koenig, of the 143rd Airlift Wing's Security Forces Squadron in Quonset

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Fallen but never forgotten

■Glenwood park dedicated in honor of Williams

By Capt. Nathan Westby
33rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team

GLENWOOD – On Veteran's Day the Village of Glenwood dedicated a memorial garden in Glenwood's Veteran's Park in honor of 2nd Lt. Derwin Williams, who was killed in 2009 while serving in Afghanistan with the Illinois National Guard.

Williams' wife, Felicia, was in attendance at the ceremony and said her husband would have been honored to have a park named after him, especially a park that provides a place for children to play.

"Derwin would be so honored by this. Kids will play in this park and this is so fitting for Derwin because he loved children. He was so willing to give his time, anything he could do to help. He was a very courageous person," said Felicia Williams.

Williams also expressed her own gratitude, "I am just honored that he will be the face that the kids and people will see when they come here just to sit and to reflect, and to just have a moment to

See **WILLIAMS** page 4



Photo by U.S. Army Capt. Nathan Westby, 33rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team

The Village of Glenwood dedicated a memorial garden in Glenwood's Veteran's Park Nov. 11 in honor of 2nd Lt. Derwin Williams, who was killed in 2009 while serving in Afghanistan with the Illinois National Guard. Williams, a resident of Glenwood, lived in the neighborhood near the park.

■1544th re-dedicates plaque from Balad for KIAs

By Sgt. Michael Camacho
108th Sustainment Brigade Public Affairs

PARIS - Nearly two years ago, the 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) honored the memory of seven Soldiers and two civilian contractors with a plaque dedication ceremony at the Balad Post Office Dec. 17, 2009 at Joint Base Balad, Iraq.

The Soldiers and civilians played a vital role in postal operations in the early stages of the war in Iraq. The plaque honoring the fallen hung in the post office, until it closed its doors as operations in Iraq come to an end. The plaque now has a new home.

The 1544th Transportation Company rededicated the Balad Post Office's plaque honoring the nine in a ceremony Nov. 19 where the plaque found its permanent

home at the Illinois Army National Guard Armory in Paris, Ill.

Friends, families, members of the Paris community and Soldiers from as far away as Fort Lewis Wash., and units across Illinois gathered to honor the memories of the Soldiers and civilians:

Mr. Fredi Bryant, KBR Inc. Contractor, Aug. 5, 2003; **Spc. Darryl Dent**, 547th Transportation Company, Washington D.C. Army National Guard, Aug. 26, 2003; **Mr. Vernon Gaston**, KBR Inc. Contractor, Sept. 3, 2003; **Spc. Jeremy Ridlen** of Paris, 1544th Transportation Company, Illinois Army National Guard, May 23, 2004, **Spc. Charles Lamb** of Casey, 1544th Transportation Company, Illinois Army National Guard, Sept. 5, 2004; **Sgt. Shawna Morrison** of Paris, 1544th Transportation Company,

Illinois Army National Guard, Sept. 5, 2004; **Sgt. Jessica Cawvey** of Mahomet, 1544th Transportation Company, Illinois Army National Guard, Oct. 6, 2004; **Pfc. Isaiah Hunt** of Green Bay Wis., 497th Transportation Company, Fort Lewis, Wash., Nov. 15, 2004; **Sgt. Rocky Payne** of Howell, Utah, 497th Transportation Company, Fort Lewis, Wash., March 16, 2005

"Today I ask you to join me in saluting these Soldiers and civilians, for their dedication, bravery and courage," Brig. Gen. Robert Pratt, of Hopedale, the director of the joint staff for the Illinois National Guard. "Without their service and sacrifice we wouldn't be able to enjoy many of the little things we take for granted every day,

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COMMAND FOCUS

375 years of history, defending our homeland

Happy 375th Birthday! If you hadn't heard, the National Guard turned 375 years old on Dec. 13. We are the oldest component of the U.S. military and one of the oldest military institutions in the world.

Maj. Gen. Celletti can tell you that a lot has changed since 1636. But one thing that hasn't changed is that the National Guard is as relevant as ever.

This has been a truly historic year for the National Guard.

The Chief of the National Guard Bureau now has a seat on the Joint Chiefs of Staff. This is because of the hard work of the men and women of the National Guard. You have proven that the National Guard is vital to this nation's defense, not only in overseas conflicts, but in responding to natural and man-made disasters in our hometowns.

As a Joint Chief, Gen. McKinley can formally communicate the capabilities of the National Guard to the other Chiefs, the Secretary of Defense and the President as decisions are made in defense of our homeland – whether the troops are under the Governor's command on state active duty or Title 32 or they are called to Title 10 orders by the President. He also will have more sway in fighting for resources.

The National Guard has a longer history and heritage than all other U.S. forces, but there are many other factors that set us apart.

When you signed up for the Illinois National Guard, you were committing to more than either an Army Reservist or Air Force Reservist or any other Reservist. You respond to America's military missions. The



Maj. Gen. William Enyart

National Guard has been involved in every war this country has fought and thousands have given their lives for this nation.

But you also committed to assisting the state of Illinois when called on by the governor or to help in other states through state-to-state emergency agreements. This makes us the military's first responders – the Minutemen.

The National Guard – then known as the state militias – was written into the U.S. Constitution. It stemmed from our Founding Fathers belief that a small standing regular Army supplemented by state militias was the best formula for the nation's defense.

The Constitutional provisions for the state militias, today's National Guard, are one of only two instances in which the states and the federal government share federal power. The other is amending the Constitution.

The Constitution recognized the existing state militias, and gave to them the federal roles to “execute the Laws of the Union, suppress Insurrections and repel Invasion.” In addition, the U.S. government could federalize the “Militia of the Several States” in times of national emergency or international conflict.

The Constitution gives Congress authority “for organizing, arming, and disciplining, the Militia, and for governing such Part of them as may be employed in the Service of the United States...” The states, however, retain the authority for “the Appointment of the Officers, and the Authority of training the Militia according to the discipline prescribed by Congress.”

Federal legislation since the drafting of the Constitution has further shaped the National Guard as a unique state and federal institution. The use of federal forces to police southern states after the Civil War led to the Posse Comitatus Act, which forbids the use of federal forces in domestic law enforcement. But the National Guard in state status is not restricted by this law.

The Dick Act of 1903 and the National Defense Act of 1916 affirmed the National Guard as the United States'

primary reserve force.

Federal law dictates that National Guard units stand in this nation's first line of defense and that the federal government cannot mobilize Reservists without first calling on the National Guard.

Further still, the force structure of the National Guard is a shared responsibility between the President and the Governors of the respective states. Neither can change the organization or existence of a unit without the concurrence of the other.

In 1933, the National Guard Mobilization Act made the National Guard a component of the Army, although National Guard Soldiers were training to Army standards and were integrated into the Army when called to federal service for more than a century before that legislation. After the Air Force became its own service, similar legislation created the Air National Guard in 1947.

Today, many people do not understand the differences between the National Guard and other Reserve forces. Often even those in the military don't know the differences.

This is a tribute to the great job you have done integrating into the Army or Air Force when deployed. I often hear stories of active duty commanders who “cannot tell the difference” between the Guard troops who served under them and the active duty forces. More often than not, our troops outperform their counterparts.

But there are differences between the National Guard and other military forces – fundamental differences outlined first by the framers of the U.S. Constitution.

We are unique. We are special. We are the National Guard – Always Ready, Always There.

“This is a tribute to the great job you have done integrating into the Army or Air Force when deployed.”

-Maj. Gen. William Enyart

State readiness directly linked to quality training

You can't be ready for something if you don't train for it. Leader have to keep that in mind. Our readiness for state or federal missions is directly related to the quality of our training.

Use every second of training time to keep our Soldiers mentally and physically challenged. Keep them actively engaged.

That will retain Soldiers in both your unit and the Illinois Army National Guard.

This means mechanics need to have that wrench time, drivers need time behind the wheel and leaders at all levels must be creative with the resources available and plan all events in detail.

A lot if this is happening already. In 2011 we executed our State mission, reacting to floods, blizzards and hurricanes – protecting the lives, property and infrastructure of Illinois citizens as well as citizens of

other states. We also supported our Federal mission by sending Guardsmen and women to Iraq, Afghanistan, Africa, Poland, Kosovo, Japan, Central and South America and many other places in support of overseas operations. The success of these missions could not have been achieved without the hard work and dedication our Soldiers invested during training.

We can improve on our accomplishments. As you receive new Soldiers, ensure they understand the unit's mission and are competent in the Warrior Tasks and Battle Drills. Ensure you employ your seasoned leaders and NCOs – their lessons learned from the past decade of conflict is a valuable asset. Not only will this prevent the new generation from being left behind, but it will guarantee institutional knowledge remains within our organization.

With this in mind, the Illinois Army National Guard is using the Army Force Generation (ARFORGEN) Model for training the 33rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team to reach critical aiming points.

Major exercises like the Exportable Combat Training Capability (XCTC) rotation in Spring 2012 and the Joint

Readiness Training Center (JRTC) rotation in 2013 will allow the Illinois Army National Guard to train other units within the other Major Commands to also increase their readiness levels.

With all this comes the issue and question of the budget and money within the current fiscal crisis. As the effects of defense spending cuts impact operations, now, more than ever, commanders must be creative when planning training.

We already have many assets available to train our Soldiers – qualified trainers, unit equipment and vehicles, Marseilles and Sparta training areas – let's get our money's worth out what we already have in the state.

Regardless of the budget, our duty and responsibility to the state and nation will not change. Focus on the principles of training – leaders are responsible for training, NCOs train soldiers, train as you fight, train to standard, train to sustain, conduct multi-echelon training, and develop agile leaders.

By doing this, the Illinois National Guard will continue to be the best National Guard state in the nation. Always there and always ready.



Maj. Gen. Dennis Celletti

New year, new vision: Robinson takes responsibility

I would like to begin by saying that I humbled and honored to have been selected as the tenth state command sergeant major and the third senior enlisted leader of the Illinois National Guard. I look forward to representing the Illinois Army and Air National Guardsmen and their families as we continue our legacy of taking care of Soldiers, Airmen and their families.

I would like to thank Command Sgt. Major John Starbody, who recently retired, for his leadership with tireless efforts along with each of you for making the Illinois National Guard what it is today.

We are a better equipped and a better trained force as a result of your leadership and training. It is my expectation

that we continue to work together to make the Illinois National Guard even stronger and more viable in the future.

We are a very diverse and professional organization that is made up of citizen-Soldiers and Airmen such as yourselves. We all have a shared responsibility, which is our commitment and willingness to serve.

There are many challenges ahead as we face budget cuts and troop withdraws in the future. But we must remain diligent in our efforts to sustain our force. Our focus will remain building relationships and Soldier and Airmen care. It is my expectation that we reach one, teach one. Soldier and Airmen readiness, family support, military education and mentorship will be pushed at all levels.

If NCOs are the backbone of our Army, then families are the support systems that keep us together. My wife, Deborah, and I would like to personally thank the families for all they do. Families are what make us

strong and allow us to do our jobs. Families support our efforts when we are away and then welcome us upon our return. We, as Guardsmen, must support them as well. Remember it's always the little things that count.

To our deployed Soldiers and Airmen, I ask you continue to keep them in your prayers for their safe return to their families. We are all proud of them and what they do in harms way to keep us safe.

Last, but not least, I would like to thank our adjutant general, Maj. Gen. Enyart and our Army assistant adjutant general, Maj. Gen. Celletti, for their support, confidence and leadership.

As the senior enlisted leader I will continue to uphold and instill the Army values, advise on all Soldiers and Airmen related matters and continue to lead the team as my predecessors have done in the past.

I ask that you, along with your families, have a safe and happy holiday season. I look forward to seeing each of you in the new year.



CSM Howard Robinson

Football coach turned Soldier

By Staff Sgt. Robert Fafoglia
139th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

SPRINGFIELD – “Ready. . . set. . . go! Pay attention to what you’re doing! Not fast enough, do pushups!”

These phrases probably sound familiar to anyone who played high school sports. For Chandler Wescott of Springfield, defensive back coach for the Springfield High football team and a personnel trainer at Gold’s Gym in Springfield, they are about to take on a whole new meaning.

Wescott leaves for Army Basic Combat Training in March 2012. He said the decision to join the Illinois Army National Guard was an easy one for him.

“It’s something I’ve always been interested in,” he said. “I guess I never really lost that urge.”

Wescott graduated from Springfield High in 2007. He attended Southern Illinois University in Carbondale, where he earned a degree in history.

“I’ve always been into military history,” he said.

With a younger brother serving in the Marine Corps and an uncle who is a member of the Honor Guard at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, military service is something of a family tradition for Wescott.

“My family is very supportive,” he said. “They’ve always told me to do what I love. That’s why I’m out here coaching. I love being out here with my guys.”

Wescott also played football for Springfield High. That, combined with his young age, allows him to connect with his players, he said.

“They’re very intrigued,” he said. “They ask a lot of questions, but they’re also very supportive. A few of my guys weren’t really sure what they wanted to do after

high school, so I’ve been pushing them to look into the military.”

Dale Sprague, former defensive coordinator for Springfield High, said he sees a bright future ahead for Wescott.

“I’ve coached for 37 years, at the high school and college level,” he said, “and [Wescott] was among the best I’ve had, on the field and in the classroom. He expects a lot of himself and those around him.”

Sprague, now the defensive line coach for Washington and Lee University in Lexington, Va., said Wescott is a natural leader whose skills should serve him well in his new career.

“[Wescott] expects everyone he plays with and works with to play right, to execute,” said Sprague. “He is an absolute perfectionist, and someone others look up to.”

Wescott said he plans to take the leadership skills he developed on and off the field, and put them to good use in the National Guard. After Basic Combat Training and Advanced Individual Training, he plans on going straight into Officer Candidate School.

“As an officer, when things aren’t going well, people look to you,” he said. “It’s a lot like being a coach.”

Wescott said his two main priorities now are coaching and preparing to leave for training.

“I’m sure I’ll be nervous closer to, but for now I’m excited,” said Wescott. “I’m doing what I love, coaching. It’s how I give back. Now I feel like I owe something to my country. It’s something I’ve always wanted.”

After graduating Basic Combat Training, Wescott will be assigned to the Illinois Army National Guard’s Company A, 1st Battalion, 178th Infantry Regiment in Bartonville.



Photo by U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Robert Fafoglia
139th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Chandler Wescott, defensive back coach for Springfield High School, throws passes with his team before a game against Lincoln High School Oct. 7. Wescott, a former football player for Springfield High, recently joined the Illinois Army National Guard and leaves for Basic Combat Training in March 2012. Upon completion, Wescott will be assigned to Company A, 1st Battalion, 178th Infantry Regiment in Bartonville.

Springfield High plays Danville High School at 2 p.m. Oct. 29, in round one of Class 6A High School Football Playoffs.

Are you really a leader?

Leadership! Some say people are born leaders. Others believe that individuals are developed into leaders. If the latter is true, then how does this happen? How do people become leaders? I know we all complete leadership/management classes in college and through our PME, but how do we really become leaders? On an organizational chart, you may be a supervisor, but are you really a leader? Before we answer these questions, we first must examine this powerful word.



CCMSgt. Aaron Gatterdam

Leadership is defined as the art and science of influencing and directing people to accomplish the assigned mission. President Dwight D. Eisenhower said it best as “the art of getting someone else to do something you want done because he wants to do it.” How do we get people (Airmen) to do something because they want to do it? The answer is quite simple. . . .with solid Leadership!

This is the part where you must check yourself and take a hard look at who you are and what you stand for. The Air Force (through AFDD 1-1) has identified six personal enduring leadership competencies that should be common to all Air Force members. As you read the below competencies, ask yourself. . . .does this describe me?

- Exercise Sound Judgment
- Adapt and Perform Under Pressure
- Inspire Trust
- Lead Courageously
- Assess Self
- Foster Effective Communication

Think about it this way. If your supervisor possesses the above competencies, then you’re probably more likely to be motivated to accomplish your assigned tasks. As subordinates, we recognize solid leaders and are eager to follow them. So with that being said, I call on you to embrace and exhibit these very same competencies.

This will lead to further development of your Airmen. If Airmen see you demonstrate these attributes, it will become contagious. You will see those Airmen more likely begin to demonstrate those very same personal enduring leadership competencies. You just deliberately developed your Airmen without even realizing it.

The Air Force’s core values are the foundation of leadership. Integrity is the basis of trust, and trust is the unbreakable bond that unifies leaders with their followers and commanders with their units.

Trust makes leaders effective, and integrity underpins trust. Service Before Self is the essence of our commitment to the nation. Leaders who serve selflessly inspire support from everyone in their command and promote a spirit that binds organizations into an effective warfighting team. Excellence in All We Do is our commitment to the highest standards of service to our country. Leaders set the standard for excellence in our organizations.

As you can see, Leadership is more than just a word. . . .it’s a standard of living. It’s how you define yourself. I really don’t believe it’s a destination, as it’s more of an evolving journey. As long as one seeks to maintain their personal enduring leadership competencies, you and your organization will achieve high standards.

Lead courageously!

Historic Cavalry Spur Ride held at Marseilles



Photo by U.S. Army Capt. Nathan A. Westby, 33rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team Public Affairs

2nd Squadron, 106th Cavalry Regiment Commander Lt. Col. Marc M. Sullivan, of Springfield, leads his cavalry troopers on the four mile timed run at Marseilles Training Center, Marseilles during the units historic spur ride conducted Nov. 5 to 6.

ROBBERY

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took someone else’s iPhone.

Simpson works as a security guard for World Security Agency and was waiting for a train at the North/Clybourn station while on his way to work around 6:30 p.m. Simpson was flagged down by the robbery victim.

After receiving the description of the suspects, he quickly went into action.

“It was just instant. The guy needed help so I helped him,” Simpson said.

Simpson chased the suspects, all juveniles, up the stairs. Simpson seized two of them, both 16 years old, on a

storage bin. The third suspect, a 17-year-old male, attempted to run back down the stairs. When Simpson caught him, the suspect pulled out a replica gun. Simpson then drew his own gun, which as a security guard he had a permit to carry.

The suspects surrendered, and Simpson controlled the suspects until Chicago police officers arrived.

Police arrested and are holding all three suspects, said Officer Robert Perez, a public information officer with the Chicago Police Department.

“One of the values that the Army and the Illinois National Guard instills in our Soldiers is personal courage. Spc. Simpson certainly displayed that courage in helping a fellow Chicago citizen,” said Maj. Gen.

William L. Enyart, the Adjutant General of the Illinois National Guard.

Lt. Col. Maurice Rochelle of Flossmoor, the Officer in Charge for the 404th, said this is what having citizen-Soldiers in our communities is all about. He said the unit had just completed Army combatives training that day, which teaches the art of self defense.

“That very evening Spc. Simpson put those skills into action,” Rochelle said. “I think this is tremendous. What he did is amazing.”

When asked of his heroic actions, Simpson humbly denied being a hero.

“It’s not about me being a hero. It’s about me doing the right thing at the right time,” Simpson said.

PARIS

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Photo by U.S. Army Sgt. Michael Camacho, 108th Sustainment Brigade

Cindy Morrison, mother of Sgt. Shawna Morrison of Paris, 1544th Transportation Company, holds a photo of her daughter placed next to plaque that hung in Balad Post Office honoring the nine Soldiers and civilians in a ceremony Nov. 19 in Paris, Ill.

including gathering here today.”

Pratt said Illinois National Guard was chosen to receive the plaque since it had the most Soldiers honored on it.

The 1544th lost a total of five Soldiers during its 2004 to 2005 deployment to Iraq. Staff Sgt. Ivory Phipps of Chicago, who was not included on the plaque, would be honored in another ceremony in March, near the anniversary of his death in Iraq. Capt. Rachael Stribling, commander of the 497th Transportation Company in Fort Lewis presented Dennis and Marie Payne with a plaque honoring their son Sgt. Rocky Payne. This plaque resided at the 497th's headquarters at Fort Lewis. With the 497th soon to be deactivated Stribling wanted the Paynes to have the unit's plaque honoring their son's service in the 497th.

In the seven years since her daughter's death, Sandra Cawvey said the 1544th Soldiers who deployed with her daughter are still a part of her and husband Kevin's life and have played a role in the life of Jessica's daughter Sierra, now 13.

“We've seen them numerous times throughout the years and they've supported us and Sierra,” said Sandra. “Taking her trick-or-treating, taking her to the park, having sleep overs with her. They've helped us get by over the years.”

“Sandra said the event honored the memory of her daughter and she was happy the plaque was relocated to the Paris Armory.

“It's like a touch of her we can have here,” Sandra said.

Capt. Jeremy Tackett of Springfield, the commander of the 1544th said the plaque accompanied with photos of the Soldiers, it will hang in the Armory for visitors and Soldiers to remember those have made the ultimate sacrifice.

“Men and women in uniform willingly take on the duties and obligations that come with military service and will continue to serve with distinction and carry on the honor and legacy of those who have sacrificed and carry on their memory and mission,” said Tackett.

Blood and probes: CERFP strikes again

■ CERFP exercise includes evacuation, chemical reaction

By U.S. Army Spc. Kristi Goodin
139th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

RANTOUL – Old decrepit buildings with ivy growing inside and out, bloodied bodies of teenagers strewn about, strange masked beings breathing heavy, roaming through the halls desperately searching, probing for.... chemical, biological or nuclear contamination?

Outside observers might have thought they were stepping into a horror movie at the Lincoln's ChalleNGe Academy in Rantoul on Nov. 4. Actually it was the Illinois National Guard training to respond to real horrors.

The 5th Chemical, Biological, Radiological/Nuclear and High Explosive Response Force Package (CERFP) Team, 444th Chemical Company in Galesburg, conducted training on finding and containing chemical, biological, radiological or nuclear threats and safely evacuating casualties.

“The gaps between civilian and military resources were identified shortly after the 2001 attacks in New York City,” said Capt. Christian E. Pedersen, the CERFP commanding officer with Joint Force Headquarters in Springfield. “We recognized that the Guard had many chemical units that could fill a very close functional alignment of that gap.”

Pedersen, a Sherman resident, said the specific gaps were mass casualty decontamination, mass casualty triage treatment and evacuation, wide area and confined spaces search and extraction, fatality search and rescue teams and an enhanced command and control structure.

The Department of Defense recognized these gaps and assigned the National Guard to fill them. The National Guard, with its dual state and federal missions, are in the perfect position to coordinate between federal, state and local authorities. The CERFP emerged in 2004.

Sgt. 1st Class Michael E. Markham of Bushnell, and operations noncommissioned officer with the 444th Chemical Company, said the site was ideal for the Soldiers because it taught them how to achieve mission success in an environment that could be present during a man-made or natural disaster.

The dilapidated condition of the buildings created a realistic training environment for the team. Lincoln's ChalleNGe cadets helped by serving as simulated casualties during the training scenario.

The cadets had injuries ranging from sprained ankles to being trapped by rubble. The CERFP triaged the casualties, treated wounds that needed immediate attention and evacuated cadets the safest and quickest manner possible.

“Everything they do in their training is very realistic,” said Warrant Officer Sean K. Morley, Clinton, Iowa native, and an element leader for the night shift with the 444th. “They take the missions with a real-world mentality.”

The scenario made it possible to pinpoint possible obstacles the search and extraction team might face during a real disaster. Staff Sgt. Dustin J. Engle, a search and extraction team leader from Davenport, Iowa, said his

Illustration by U.S. Army Sgt. Michael Camacho
Illinois National Guard Public Affairs

team tried to maintain standard operating procedures to understand and fix problems for future missions.

Before the exercise, CERFP Soldiers trained over the course of one week with civilian experts in an effort to establish a working protocol for both entities.

Markham said in the case of a disaster, the CERFP will work with the fire department, police forces, Illinois Emergency Management Agency and any other state or federal responders.

“Building a relationship beforehand with the fire department is important, as well as understanding each other's capabilities,” he said. “The fire chief and I know each other by name.”

Two Polish Army officers observed the training in order to decide if the Polish Army should adopt a similar resource.

The Polish Army and the Illinois National Guard have trained together for many years as part of a State Partnership Program, and the Polish decided to modify their training to reflect that of the National Guard, said Pedersen.

The CERFP Soldiers noticed a difference in efficiency from the beginning of the week, and found the training very useful, said Spc. Caleb M. Swank, a reconnaissance team member with the 444th.

WILLIAMS

■ From page 1

themselves. They will be able to look and to honor him. He is so deserving of it.”

Williams, a resident of Glenwood, lived in the neighborhood near the park and it was an easy decision for the Village of Glenwood President, Kerry Durkin to dedicate the Veteran's Park garden in honor of Williams.

“We started this program of redoing the parks while Derwin was alive and lived on the next block. We thought this would be a very appropriate tribute to his memory and to the sacrifice that his family has made,” said Durkin.

Durkin encouraged the community to use the park as a place to reflect, “I would hope that in time coming when you really need a place for solace, especially those that are veterans that you could come here and have a place to reflect.”

Among those in attendance were members of Williams' National Guard unit, the 33rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team, and officers from the Cook County Corrections Department, where Williams worked as a corrections officer.

Williams' brigade commander, Col. Paul Hastings spoke at the event. And spoke of Williams' character on his deployment.

“I can tell you for certain as his brigade commander that he was a man who was always in the arena. He was one of those guys we really counted on to make sure that the job got done. He never once hesitated,” said Hastings. Hastings also commended the community for honoring its veterans. “As I look about this park, what it is really about, and what it truly means. Mr. Mayor, Village of Glenwood you got it exactly right. Well done.”

STEVENS

■ From page 1

Point, R.I., together administered first aid to Logan.

“We saw that his left leg had been amputated by the land mine and immediately started going through the individual first aid kit for tourniquets.”

They applied a tourniquet to each leg, said Stevens. Logan also had wounds to his stomach and other areas.

“I saw black dirt and a white light,” said Logan. “I didn't know I was hurt, but only felt pressure.”

Stevens and Koenig applied the necessary bandages and were ready to move Logan's stretcher when a second mine exploded. Staff Sgt. Ben Seekell, a dog handler from Seymour Johnson Air Force Base in North Carolina, stepped on another land mine and lost his foot due.

“We were a little confused and slowly began to figure out that we were standing in a mine field,” said Stevens.

With only one stretcher, a couple team members, including Staff Sgt. Christopher Mazrim of the 183rd Security Forces Squadron, moved Seekell as the team walked a straight line back out the way they had entered, said Stevens.

“In those situations, seconds count and if you practice with your medical supplies and know where everything is, the better off you will be,” said Stevens. “That day we learned that placement and practice is beyond vital.”

Logan was evacuated to Germany within a few days of the detonation and had nine surgeries. He was released from Walter Reed National Military Medical Center, Oct. 11 and is back to work at the 164th.

Stevens, of Rochester, returned from his deployment in early October with his 13-man security forces team and reunited with Logan at the Enlisted Leadership

Photo by U.S. Air Force Senior Master Sgt. Sheri Riggs
Headquarters, Illinois Air National Guard

(Left to right) Staff Sgt. Russell Logan, of Munford, Tenn., 164th Airlift Wing Security Forces Squadron in Memphis, Tenn., stands next to Senior Airman Evan Stevens, of Rochester, 183rd Fighter Wing Security Forces Squadron, at the Enlisted Leadership Symposium in Nashville, Tenn., Nov. 1.

Symposium in Nashville Tenn., Nov. 1.

“I got to see him again in much better shape than the last time I saw him,” said Stevens.

Logan said it was one of the worst situations, yet one of the best things that has happened to him.

“It showed me what life really means,” said Logan, who has a 21-month-old daughter at home.

The two Airmen plan to stay in touch and remain tied through their experience overseas.

Unsung hero saves lives

By Sgt. Jesse Houk
139th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

RUSHVILLE—"When I came down the hill I could see small flames making their way through the hood," said Spc. Mark Johnson of Rushville, a member of the Illinois Army National Guard's 3637th Support Maintenance Company in Springfield. "I knew that they needed my help immediately."

That was the dilemma that Johnson found himself in while driving home from drill Aug. 12. He had to decide whether or not he was going risk his life to come to rescue others. His actions showed it wasn't much of a decision at all.

"It's incredible," said Tim J. Fordkamp, a Columbus, Ill. police officer and grandfather of the rescued child. "If the vehicle was burning when he got there or if he didn't respond the way he did I could have lost my grandson."

Johnson was making his way home from Camp Lincoln in Springfield when a vehicle that cut him off just minutes before, veered across on-coming traffic and crashed in a valley beside Fairway Hills Golf Course in Virginia, Ill.

Johnson pointed to providence and purpose being behind his act of bravery.

"He kind of cut me off earlier in my drive and I didn't appreciate it too much," said Johnson. "But in hindsight if I would have been in front of him I probably wouldn't have been there to help. Sometimes it makes you think that there is a higher power that makes things happen for a reason. I think there's a reason God put me behind him."

Johnson pulled over and approached the accident site. He then heard the cries for help followed by the proclamation that there was a baby in the vehicle. Johnson, a father himself, immediately and almost instinctually came to their aide.

"I unbuckled the seatbelt and pulled the driver out of the broken window," said Johnson. "He had blood coming from



Photo courtesy of U.S. Army Spc. Mark Johnson

Spc. Mark Johnson of Rushville, a member of the Illinois Army National Guard's 3637th Maintenance Company in Springfield, reacted without hesitation on Aug. 12 when a car crashed in front of him near Virginia, Ill. His quick actions saved the life of a father and his baby.

lacerations to his face and couldn't see that well. So when I got the baby out I put him in my right arm and wrapped my left arm around the father as we made our way up the hill."

Johnson said the vehicle was completely engulfed in flames within a couple minutes of rescuing the passengers.

"I know it means a great deal to me and my daughter for him pulling out my grandson especially after a wreck like that," said Fordkamp. "You don't see that happen very much; even in my profession. Most people just drive on by."

Johnson's actions were no surprise to Soldiers in his unit.

"He's not the type that goes out and looks for heroic situations, but will spring to action when need be," said Staff Sgt. Andrew W. Trine of Sherman, 3637th Support Maintenance Company. "I am extremely proud of Mark's actions that day,

but then again I am proud of everything he does."

Johnson downplayed the significance of his actions, but pointed to his training while in the Illinois Army National Guard as a factor that influenced his actions.

"I would like to think that anyone in my situation would have helped, but I do believe that my military training assisted because all military training is based on getting you out of your comfort zone and doing things that you normally wouldn't do," said Johnson. "It gave me the courage to do what I did regardless of whether my life was in danger or not."

But instead of potentially mourning a tragedy, Fordkamp and his daughter are celebrating a rescue; a rescue that gave his grandson a future and a hope.

"My grandson is doing great," said Fordkamp. "He actually just took his first steps recently."

Cobetto appointed ATAG-Air

By Illinois National Guard Public Affairs Office

SPRINGFIELD – Gov. Pat Quinn and Maj. Gen. William L. Enyart, Adjutant General of the Illinois National Guard, recently announced the appointment of Col. William Cobetto, of Hillsboro, as the Assistant Adjutant General - Air.

As the Illinois National Guard's Assistant Adjutant General - Air, Cobetto is responsible for the command, control and operations of plans and programs affecting more than 3,000 Illinois Air National Guard Airmen located at Scott Air Force Base, Peoria and Springfield. His broad range of responsibilities includes ensuring combat readiness and mission capability of the three air wings and operations units and five mission support units. Cobetto also supervises a full-time force of more than 900 federal and state employees.



Col. William Cobetto

Cobetto is currently the acting Assistant Adjutant General – Air and Director of Staff, Illinois Air National Guard, at Camp Lincoln in Springfield.

Cobetto received his commission in 1985 from the Academy of Military Science, Knoxville, Tenn. During his career he has served in several key positions including the 183rd Fighter Wing Mission Support Group Commander and the 183rd Fighter Wing Comptroller. Additionally, Cobetto mobilized in 2003 and served at the Pentagon assisting the Air Force Crisis Action Team and the Secretary of the Air Force Financial Management.

Cobetto replaces Brig. Gen. James Schroeder, who served in the position until April 2011. The Change of Command

Veterans get help at Kedzie armory

By Sgt. Candace Echols
108th Sustainment Brigade

CHICAGO - A cold, chilled Chicago morning couldn't stop proud Veterans from attending "Winter Stand Down 2011" Dec. 10.

The event, held at the Illinois Army National Guard North Kedzie Armory, home of the 108th Sustainment Brigade, attracted more than 700 veterans from the Chicago-land area.

Targeting Veterans who are homeless, low income or needing assistance with basic living needs, Stand Down 2011 was a collaborative effort of multiple city, state, federal, private and public outreach organizations and agencies all with the common goal of assisting and relieving Veterans of their hardships.

"The term 'Stand Down' originated in Vietnam when exhausted Soldiers on the battlefield received three days of recreational and recovery time to relax, shower and eat," said Jean Douglas, Chairperson of Chicago Stand Down. "This time gave them a sense of security and hope."

Douglas has hosted these events since the summer of 1993, after being inspired by a video by Stand Down Founders Robert Van Keuren and Dr. Jon Nachison.

Veterans of various ages stood in line and waited for the doors to open. Several camped out over night while others arrived early to be the first to receive the resources and services offered.

It was Veteran Anthony Hardwick's first experience at a stand down.

"I thought it was great they provided medical checkups and gave us flu-shots," he said. "It was a positive event and offered job opportunities similar to a job



Photo by U.S. Army Sgt. Candace Echols, 108th Sustainment Brigade

Lynn O'Donnell performs Healing Touch on Veteran Pamela Perry at "Winter Stand Down 2011," held at the 108th Sustainment Brigade's North Kedzie Armory in Chicago, Nov. 10.

fair. There was good camaraderie among everyone and I saw a few friends from the past."

Hardwick served with the 1st Marine Division, 1st Light Armored Infantry Battalion at Camp Pendleton, Calif. from 1988 to 1991.

Local Veterans Affairs Hospitals, the American Red Cross, military and civilian volunteers, local businesses, and outreach organizations from around Chicago came

together to provide a multitude of services.

Veterans had access to food, haircuts, clothing, dental and medical treatment, women's services, employment opportunities, and housing information.

"Everything went smoothly, it was a success," stated Douglas.

If you would like to donate, volunteer or participate in future Stand Down events contact Jean Douglas at (708) 383-3225 or email jean.douglas@med.gov.

Illinois

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DEADLINES – Submissions for 2011 are due by the last Wednesday of the following months: March, June, September and December.

Letters, articles and photographs are welcomed, but may be edited for clarity or brevity. Publication of any submission is at the discretion of the editor.

Views and opinions expressed in this newspaper are those of the writers and are not necessarily those of the Illinois Department of Military Affairs or the U.S. Department of Defense.

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126th Air Refueling Wing Public Affairs
183rd Fighter Wing Public Affairs
182nd Airlift Wing Public Affairs

National Guard celebrates 375 ye

■ Celebration includes downtown Springfield com

By 1st Lt. Dutch Grove
Illinois National Guard Public Affairs Office

SPRINGFIELD – The Illinois National Guard celebrated the National Guard’s 375th Birthday at every armory and partnered with several organizations to celebrate the 375th anniversary over two days with public events at the Illinois Governor’s Mansion and the Illinois Old State Capitol Building in Springfield Dec. 13 and 14.

“Not everyone gets to be in a position for one of the big commemorative years,” said Adriana G. Schroeder of Springfield, The Illinois National Guard historian. “It’s a real important time to reflect on where we’ve been and how far we have come in 375 years.”

Nearly 200 invited guests enjoyed birthday cake, hors d’ oeuvres and the sounds of the 144th Army Band’s Jazz Combo at the Illinois Executive Mansion Dec. 13. The celebration brought together business leaders, civic leaders and current and past leaders of the Illinois National Guard.

“It is an opportunity for our people to celebrate; both Army and Air National Guard,” said Command Sgt. Maj. Howard O. Robinson of Olympia Field, the Illinois National Guard’s Senior Enlisted Soldier.



During the reception at the Executive Mansion, four individuals received the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) Seven Seals Award for their organizations’ collaborations with the Illinois National Guard for specific mobilization training.

“The individuals provided members of the Illinois Army National Guard an expanded knowledge of how our units of government accomplish its daily operations in the critical infrastructure sector,” said Lt. Col. Tim W. Franklin of Springfield, with the Illinois Army National Guard and Program Coordinator for Illinois ESGR. “Their expertise provided a collaborative subject matter experts in the fields of

environment between Soldiers and civilian technology, engineering, and culture.”

Seven Seals Award Recipient retired general manager of the public utility, City Water Light and Power of Springfield, Todd Renfrow said helping train National Guard and Reservists is something every employer and organization should aim to do.

“We prepared the Guard for what they could expect [related to the administration and functions of public utilities] and benefit from it,” said Renfrow. “It’s the thing you should want to do for the country. We depend on the Guard and the Reserves to bolster our safety and I would like to help them accomplish their mission in any way I can.”

The Illinois National Guard partnered with Downtown Springfield Inc., (DSI) for the second night of the National Guard birthday celebration during the DSI Downtown Holiday Walk Dec. 14. The event, around the Illinois Old State Capitol in Springfield was highlighted by static displays of vehicles and National Guard artifacts from the Illinois State Military Museum.

Downtown Springfield businesses stay open later into the evening during the DSI Holiday Walk to allow residents extended hours to shop and the static displays were an added draw.

“People of all ages enjoyed the equipment and vehicle displays,” said Ann Frescura, DSI Promotion and Event Director. “These activities highlighted the historical journey the Guard has made as well as provided more current educations information.”

The Illinois State Military Museum’s Living History Detachment re-enactors, dressed in period uniforms from the civil war, WWI, WWII, Korean War and Vietnam War eras gave demonstrations inside the Illinois Old State Capitol Building.

Across the street from the Illinois Old State Capitol, inside the National Museum of Surveying, visitors tried their hand at hitting targets using M4 rifles using the Engagement Skills Trainer.

Matt Parbs, assistant director of the National Museum of Surveying said the hands-on nature of the National Guard activities was more than enough to overcome rainy weather conditions.

“Many a parent had to drag their child(ren) away from the EST,” said Parbs. “The Guard tuned a night with terrible weather into a night that these children, and adults, will always remember.”

Each Illinois National Guard unit celebrated the National Guard’s 375th Birthday individually at its armory with cake and punch and by inviting friends, family and local civic leaders to participate in the commemoration, which was held in conjunction with the unit’s holiday meal.

Maj. Gen. William L. Enyart of Belleville, the adjutant general of the Illinois National Guard held a town hall meeting with the full time Soldiers and Airmen at Camp Lincoln on Dec. 13 to mark the National Guard’s birthday. Enyart also held a lengthy question and answer session at Camp Lincoln in Springfield, with the troops as cake and punch was served.

“It is pretty remarkable how long the Guard has been organized,” said Staff Sgt. Kyle E. Combs of Atlanta, the executive non-commissioned officer to the state Command Chief and the state Command Sergeant Major. “It shows we’ve been resilient and flexible as an organization and able to adjust to the needs of the President and the Governor.”

The National Guard is the oldest branch of all the U.S. Armed Forces and it can trace its roots all the way back to 1636 when the General Court in Salem, Mass., required all men ages 16-60 to join the militia.

Throughout 375 years, the country has experienced a lot of changes, but one thing hasn’t changed; the selfless service of citizen-Soldiers. The same sacrifices that were made then are being made now.

“There’s not really a big difference between yesterday’s Soldier and today’s Soldier,” said Robinson. “They have also left their families and jobs to provide safety to the community.”

“I think that the guard will always be around, and we will get better in what we do,” said Robinson. “We will carry on traditions. We will continue to produce fine leaders over the next 375 years and live up to the motto of the National Guard: Always Ready. Always There.”

Spc. Dorian Daily, 139th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment, also contributed to this story.



Photo by U.S.

Illinois Army National Guard Soldiers stand near M777 Howitzer canon display during the holiday walk Dec. 14 in Springfield. Celebrating the 375th birthday Guard displayed exhibits showing the advancements of warfare technology used



Photo by U.S. Army Sgt. Michael Camacho, Illinois National Guard Public

Maj. Gen. William Enyart of Belleville, the Adjutant General of the Illinois National Guard, and Pfc. Kendra Monical, of Champaign, with the Company C, 634th Brigade Support Battalion in Springfield, cut the birthday cake for the National Guard’s 375 birthday Dec. 13 at Camp Lincoln in Springfield.

celebrates with unit, community events

Community event ■ 33rd BCT celebrates with cake, raffle

By Spc. Christopher A. Garibay
33rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team

DANVILLE – More than 100 Soldiers of the 33rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team, Headquarters and Headquarters Company (IBCT HHC) based in Urbana, and their families ended the year celebrating the holidays, Soldiers’ achievements and commemorating the National Guard’s 375th birthday at the Turtle Run Golf Club, Dec. 11.

The holiday party is an annual event that brings Soldiers and their families together for a meal and holiday festivities. This year’s party included presents for the children, raffled prizes and a visit from Santa Claus. Also, a cake was cut for the birthday commemoration. The National Guard turned 375 years old on Dec. 13.

Capt. Jesse N. Wright, company commander of the 33rd IBCT HHC, said staff coordinated with the Illinois National Guard’s Family Readiness Group (FRG) to provide presents for children in attendance. The FRG also gave an annual briefing on the services offered to servicemembers and their families.

“It’s great for families to come together this time of year,” said Wright. “It’s also important every child gets a gift today, especially for those who are less fortunate.”

Sgt. 1st Class Holly J. Carlile of Peoria and Spc. Larry K. Moseley of Tuscola each said it was the first year they brought their children to the party.

“It was a fun event,” said Carlile, who brought her daughter Lucy and son Jack to the party. “It was well coordinated and they made it fun for the kids. I’d bring them again next year.”

Tina M. Meneely, wife of Staff Sgt. Anthony Meneely, said this was the second year she attended the party and would continue to attend for however long



Photo by U.S. Army Pfc. Alisha D. Grezlik, 33rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team

Pfc. William J. Wilder from Chenoa and Sgt. Michael Zombro from Maroa, both with the 33rd IBCT HHC based in Urbana, slice a commemorative cake in celebration of the National Guard’s 375th birthday. Wilder, the youngest addition to the company, and Zombro, the oldest, are a symbol of the different generations that have chosen to serve in the Guard and the communities it protects.

her husband remained in the National Guard. Both spent the day before the event volunteering at the Veteran Affairs Hospital in Danville with their 13-year-old daughter.

The latter portion of the holiday event included an awards presentation to recognize Soldiers in the company who went above and beyond their normal call of duty. Four Soldiers were awarded the Army Achievement Medal and one, Command Sgt. Maj. Philip J. Czajkowski

of Monticello, was awarded the Distinguished Service Medal. Czajkowski is retiring after 24 years of service.

Additionally, Col. Paul C. Hastings of St. Charles, brigade commander of the 33rd IBCT took a moment to reiterate the Illinois National Guard’s commitment to Illinois and the country. He said that even as the Guard has become a more sophisticated fighting force, it remains committed to the local communities for which it serves.



Photo by U.S. Army Sgt. Michael Camacho, Illinois National Guard Public Affairs

held outside the Old State Capital building of the National Guard the Illinois National Guard throughout history.



Photo by U.S. Army Sgt. Michael Camacho, Illinois National Guard Public Affairs

Maj. Gen. William Enyart of Belleville, the Adjutant General of the Illinois National Guard, speaks to Soldiers and Airmen at town hall meeting Dec. 13 at Camp Lincoln in Springfield. The forum allowed Soldiers and Airmen to speak to state leadership and learn the direction and progression of the Illinois National Guard.



Photo by U.S. Army Sgt. Michael Camacho, Illinois National Guard Public Affairs

Soldiers, Airmen, employers and civilians listen to Maj. Gen. William Enyart of Belleville, the Adjutant General of the Illinois National Guard, during the National Guard Birthday executive reception and Seven Seals Award presentation at the Governor’s mansion in Springfield Dec. 13.



Photo by U.S. Army Sgt. Michael Camacho, Illinois National Guard Public Affairs

Don Ferricks of Athens (right), a living historian, wearing the garb of World War I sergeant with the 33rd Infantry Division, speaks to Spc. Taylor Ring of Mattoon (middle) and Spc. Joseph Parkhurst of Louisville (left), both with Company A, 634th Brigade Support Battalion about equipment used by Soldiers in WWI during the downtown Springfield Holiday walk Jan. 14 in the Old State Capital building in Springfield.

Enlisted, officer record brief replaces DA Form 2-1

By Spc. Jason Dorsey
139th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

SPRINGFIELD –Soldiers in the National Guard can now get an easier look at their personnel information using the new adjustments to the Record Brief system.

The Record Brief replaces two forms—the four-page DA Form 2-1 and the three-page Personnel Qualification Record.

The Record Brief contains Soldiers administrative information used to manage professional development, assignments, promotions, civilian and military education, awards, decorations and skills. The new Record Brief is available to Soldiers 24/7 online and reflects the same basic information as the previous paper

form had, said Master Sgt. Aaron McAfee of Edinburg, the noncommissioned officer in charge of the Personnel Automation Branch of the Illinois National Guard's Joint Forces Headquarters.

McAfee said this new online system streamlines the Soldiers self service concept by allowing them to access their personal information accounts with a Common Access Card (CAC) through the National Guard's Web site anywhere they have internet connectivity and a CAC reader. (<https://minuteman.ngb.army.mil/Benefits/Unsecured/Login.aspx?ReturnUrl=%2fBenefits>)

"Soldiers still play a vital role by ensuring they review their Record Brief after changes in personnel status such as grade changes transfers etc....and reporting

discrepancies to their Unit Administrators for action," said McAfee.

Prior to this system, Illinois National Guard Soldiers had to go through their respective administrative shops to have this information evaluated, input and updated, said Lt. Col. Michael Hough of Petersburg, the State Personnel Director for the Illinois National Guard.

"The old method could be a very long process and have a significant negative impact on a Soldier's professional growth," said Hough. "This new system ensures that the Soldier's career will not be negatively affected by delays.

It will also allow them to check their records from the comfort of home instead of going out to their armory."

Soldiers will now have access to

their administrative information and the confidence that their records will be handled quickly, Hough said.

With the DA Form 2-1 outdated, the new online Record Brief system brings the National Guard up to date with its active duty and reserve counterparts, said McAfee.

The National Guard Bureau originally mandated all state National Guards to start transformation from the 2-1 in 2010. During the past 6-months the transition has come to its final stage and switch over, said McAfee.

If any discrepancies are noted on the Record Brief by a Soldier, the Soldier's Unit Administrator must submit appropriate documentation to update the Soldier's electronic records.

Athey says goodbye after six ATAGs, nine state CSMs

By Sgt. Michael Camacho
Illinois National Guard Public Affairs

SPRINGFIELD – Pam Athey of Springfield, never wore the boots, the uniform or ever enlisted, but has served nearly 26 years to the Illinois National Guard and the Department of Military Affairs when she retired Dec. 31.

Athey, a Vernon native, started working in the officer personnel branch, she would later become the executive assistant to the assistant adjutant general (ATAG) – Army of the Illinois National Guard in March 1985. She remained in this position for the next 24 years, working directly for the next six appointed assistant adjutant generals.

Athey said working for each of these leaders and in their time as ATAG was a different experience as each one brought something new to the Illinois Army National Guard.

"They each come in with their own personalities and styles and goals they want to accomplish," said Athey. "I quietly sit

and offer when asked advice, but let them establish what they want to and adjust in a way to compliment their leadership."

Athey said she learned and adapted as each ATAG helped bring in a new era for the Illinois Army National Guard.

"I learned something new from each ATAG and some things filtered well into the next ATAG and other times it was a basis to build on," said Athey.

Athey's last ATAG is Maj. Gen. Dennis Celletti of Springfield, the current Assistant Adjutant General – Army of the Illinois National Guard. Athey has been his secretary for the past five years and has been his trusted office aid, drawing on her years of experience.

"Pam has seen the Illinois National Guard and its Soldiers develop from a perspective few ever will," said Maj. Gen. Celletti. "She has seen young officers become senior leaders who continue and improve the level of performance and professionalism in the Illinois National Guard."

From all the current Soldiers and Airmen to retirees, 26 years worth of friends have called, visited or emailed her after hearing about her retirement.

"I've heard from several different people throughout the last couple days that have retire 10 years, 15 years," said Athey. "The family never goes far."

She said her sense of family extends outside of just the Illinois National Guard, but holds and servicemember and veteran in high respect.

Athey plans on spending more time with her mother, two children and four grandchildren; as well as picking up her paint brush and relaxing in her new freedom in retirement.

"A future with freedom," said Athey.

Athey said she has sat in the same place for 25 years, facing a door with an exit sign mounted above it. Now as she retires she can use that exit one last time and exit the building after a long career providing aid to the Illinois National Guard and some of its historic leaders.



Photo by U.S. Army Sgt. Michael Camacho
Illinois National Guard Public Affairs

Pam Athey of Springfield served nearly 26 years to the Illinois National Guard and the department of Military affairs when she retired Dec. 31.

Log-on to develop enlisted leadership, NCO skills

By Sgt. Ryan Twist
139th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

SPRINGFIELD - Soldiers leadership skills can now be learned online through the new Structured Self-Development (SSD) training course.

"SSD is a defined set of required learning, which is progressively sequenced across a career and is closely linked to and synchronized with operational and institutional domains," said Sgt. 1st Class Angela Cooper of Lincoln, with Illinois National Guard's Joint Forces Headquarters at Springfield.

Cooper said the four levels of the SSD are aligned with the Noncommissioned Officer (NCO) Education System, which has to be completed before a Soldier goes to a school or promoted. SSD will become prerequisite for attendance to all NCOES courses Oct. 1, 2012. SSD is both an individual and first-line leader responsibility executed at the individual's pace but under the supervision of the first line leader.

The significance of the SSD is in building better leaders for tomorrow, said Sgt. Maj. Tamy Kuzel of Springfield, the senior enlisted adviser for training and operations with Joint Forces Headquarters at Springfield.

"It's no longer enough to meet the institutional requirements of Warrior Leadership Course, Advance Leadership Course and Senior Leadership Course," said Kuzel. "Leadership is a life-long learning process and that is the intent of SSD."

Currently, there is no monetary incentive for completing SSD, except for promotions that can happen by maintaining the education, said Kuzel. There are some

colleges that will award credit hours for completed modules.

"There is a certain level of expectation throughout the enlisted/NCO ranks regarding performance, knowledge and accomplishment," said Kuzel. "SSD in the near future will be a requirement in order to attend the next level of institutional instruction and thus promotion."

Soldiers should contact their first-line supervisor or unit training NCO to find out more about SSD. Once enrolled Soldiers can get started immediately and automatically progress to the next SSD level once eligible. As of Jan. 1, 2011, all sergeants, E-5 or higher, after completion of ALC, SLC or Sergeant Majors Course will be automatically enrolled into their next required SSD level.

Go to the Army Learning Management System (ALMS) on AKO under the Self Service Tab for more information.



U.S. Army image courtesy of Army Learning Management System, Army Knowledge Online

Meet the first Family Life Chaplain

By Illinois National Guard Public Affairs Office

SPRINGFIELD - Making history is not something that is new to Chaplain (Capt.) Oluwatoyin Hines, of Chicago, with the 108th Sustainment Brigade in Chicago. She was the first female Chaplain Candidate and then female Chaplain in the state. In August 2011, Hines became the first fully qualified Family Life Chaplain chaplain in the Illinois Army National Guard Chaplain as a Family Life Chaplain.

Her training included a 15-month program at the Family Life Chaplain Training and Resource Center (FLCTRC) in Fort Benning, Georgia.

In addition to earning a Masters of Science in Community Counseling with a specialty in Marriage and Family Therapy, she completed a demanding clinical internship at the FLCTRC

that included 330 hours of supervised pastoral counseling and faith based relationship education; ministered to over 1,000 Soldiers and family members; and completed a rigorous process of theological integration and pastoral identity formation.

Before this position, in 2009 Hines became the Action Officer for the Illinois Army National Guard Wounded Warrior Ministry providing pastoral care to ill, injured, and Wounded Warriors assigned to Warrior Transition Units (WTU) at CONUS installations and the Community Based Warrior Transition Unit Illinois (CBWTU-IL).



Capt. Oluwatoyin Hines

Air Assault open to IET honor grads

By Spc. Jeffrey Granda
139th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

SPRINGFIELD- Hovering 90 feet in the air. Dangling from a Blackhawk helicopter and rappelling to land with a rope as the wind whistles through your hair.

This is an experience many who put on a U.S. Army uniform dream of, but few experience. Until recently, most of those opportunities were reserved for active duty Army personnel.

Through a new program, Illinois Army National Guard Soldiers are getting a unique opportunity to attend Air Assault School.

The program allows distinguished honor graduates from initial entry training (IET) to attend Air Assault School.

“Soldiers must graduate from IET as a distinguished honor graduate or honor graduate with a physical fitness test score of 280 or above,” said Sgt. 1st Class Angela Cooper of Hartsburg, Acting Training Seat Quota Manager. “Soldiers meeting the criteria must submit applications within 90 days after graduating from IET.”

Since October 2010, nine Illinois Army National Guard Soldiers qualified for the program, but only one Soldier has graduated from Air Assault School.

On January 14, 2011 Spc Jeremy Doggett of Greenvew, a member of the Illinois Army National Guard’s Troop A, 2nd Squadron, 106th Cavalry Regiment, in Pontiac graduated from Air Assault School at Fort Benning, Ga., a distinguished honor graduate and received the Draper Leadership Award, which is designed for upcoming leaders in armor and cavalry units.

Air Assault School is a 10-day course with a “Zero Day” that consists of a physical fitness test and an obstacle course.

The obstacle course is designed to assess a student’s upper body strength, agility, endurance, confidence and ability to perform at heights without displaying fear or distress.

This test is critical in determining if a Soldier will be able to complete Air Assault School without becoming a safety



Photo courtesy of U.S. Army Spc. Jeremy Doggett

A servicemember rappels from the tower with a combat load during Day 8 of Air Assault School on Camp Smith, N.Y., July 28.

risk during the demanding training events conducted during the course

“The obstacle course consists of nine separate obstacles that you must overcome,” said Doggett. “Two of the obstacles must be completed receiving a first time ‘go.’ You cannot receive more than one ‘no go’ on each of the remaining seven obstacles or you will fail.”

Air Assault School has three distinct phases, with each phase having a written test. Soldiers learn up to 17 hand and arm signals used during sling-load operations. There is a three-day phase focused on planning and preparation for sling-load operations, capabilities, characteristics and use of sling loading equipment. Soldiers eventually learn to rappel from a hovering helicopter.

“Between the first and second day we did a six-mile ruck march and it was nasty

and that’s when my uniform including boots were soaked, said Spc Doggett. “During the ruck my socks were drenched and fell down creating friction...and both of my boots were saturated in blood. The bad part was I knew I had another ruck to complete, but no pain, no gain.”

The final day starts at 1 a.m. when Soldiers wake up and conduct a 12-mile ruck march within three hours.

“It was January and there was a rain snow mix, so conditions were not ideal,” said Doggett. “I think the Air Assault School is a great course that improves attention to detail and leadership skill. The training sets you apart from your peers. It really toughened me up and made me the person I am today.”

Details of the new program can be found in Illinois Army National Guard Operations and Training Message 11-006.

Families connect with ICFF

By Spc. Dorian Daily
139th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

BELLEVILLE – Losing a family member can be difficult, especially when that loved one made the ultimate sacrifice while serving his or her country. However, those who grieve do not have to take the journey alone.

The Illinois Connections for Families of the Fallen (ICFF) held a conference “Connections in Southern Illinois: Bringing Families of the Fallen Together” on the campus of Southwestern Illinois College Nov. 5. ICFF is a coalition of more than 25 organizations, including the Army Survivor Outreach Services (SOS) program.

“ICFF ensures families are connected to resources, connected to their local community, and connected to peer support,” said Bob Gillmore, the support coordinator of Army Survivor Outreach Services and native of Petersburg.

The event was open to the families of fallen servicemembers. Participants were asked to bring a personal token of remembrance to use as a symbol of strength.

The event was comprised of three tracks: groups/workshops, resources, and creative arts.

In the groups/workshops track, participants discussed how they coped with the loss of their servicemember. Everybody described their grieving process differently.

“We found that we were so busy, we really didn’t have time to grieve,” said Sheila Tracy of Palestine, who attended on behalf of her son, Pfc. Jacob Tracy.

In the resources track, participants learned how to improve advocacy skills, develop peer networks in their home area, reach financial goals, and change or restart their careers.

The creative arts tracks helped participants reveal a creative side some may have thought they never had.

“Art therapy is a mental health profession that uses a creative process and art materials to help people express themselves,” said art therapist Leslee Goldman of Evanston. “When it comes to mourning a loved one, it becomes another language of expression for those who cannot find the words to say. The grieving process can be long and challenging and not everyone is comfortable with just talking.”

Children also attended the event and participated in activities with their family. The activities were designed to help families share positive memories of their loved one.

“My dad was a really nice person who wanted to make his family happy and laugh,” said a young Belleville participant describing his father, who served in the Marine Corps and Air Force. “He is irreplaceable.”

Another young participant, Jayse Weikert of Jacksonville, described his father, Staff Sgt. Matthew Weikert in only one word: “Awesome!!!”

Participants also had the opportunity to contribute to The Memorial Mosaic Wall, which was created by using tile pieces. Everyone contributed one piece to create an entire picture. It will travel throughout Illinois to enable others to contribute to this ever evolving piece.

The purpose of the SOS program is to provide long-term support to families of the fallen. This is done by facilitating support groups, providing life skills education, and connecting Survivors with counseling resources. SOS also works closely with benefits coordinators, casualty assistance officers, and others to ensure survivors receive the necessary services.

Candidates relive Illinois history

By Adriana Schroeder
Illinois National Guard Historian

VICKSBURG, Miss. - Two groups of Illinoisans trekked through the wilderness and up and down the Southern backwoods of Mississippi. In 1863, the first group contained thousands of militiamen with Gen. Ulysses S. Grant in command with a battle plan to cut the Confederacy in two and take back control of the Mississippi. Grant encountered problems with logistics, employed engineering feats and eventually carried out a new tactic, the siege.

Nearly 150 years later, a second group descended upon Vicksburg to study the command actions of the first. Officer Candidate School (OCS) Class 56-11 spent several months preparing for the Staff Ride at Vicksburg, Miss. that took place in November. They were each assigned a part to research, study and write a paper on, prior to the trip.

“It’s very enlightening as far as what the books don’t tell you,” said Officer Candidate Kenneth Ferguson, of Sainte Marie, with 631st Engineer Support Company in Lawrenceville. “You can see how once you are on this ground how the whole battle changes...how it could have easily have gone the other way.”

The OCS class experienced a total historical immersion. They stayed in a Confederate mansion that the Union commandeered as a hospital. The structure still bore scars from the 47 cannonballs that penetrated its walls and almost all of the furnishings were original with history lessons of their own.

For three days, the class traveled from



Photo by U.S. Army Spc. Zachary Zimmerman, Illinois National Guard Public Affairs

Officer Candidate School Class 56-11 stands in front of the Illinois Monument Nov. 5, at the Vicksburg National Battlefield Park, Mississippi during the class’ staff ride.

stand to stand learning about specific battles, why and how command decisions were made and carried out, and the results of those decisions.

Two guides from the Combat Studies Institute led the group and then the candidates presented their papers at the appropriate stand.

The National Park Service expressed pleasure at seeing the group there, with a couple of rangers stating, “Illinois owns

this battle,” at different times throughout the trip. The candidates saw rare, behind the scenes tour of the U.S.S. Cairo. They ate lunch alongside of the Union cemetery that contained graves of hundreds of Illinoisans.

OCS Class 56-11 walked in the footsteps of the commanders, on ground where Illinoisans fell while fighting for President Abraham Lincoln’s dream to keep the Union whole.

BEST A7 returns from Afghanistan

By Sgt. Michael Camacho
Illinois National Guard Public Affairs

BLOOMINGTON – After 10 months of deployment, the nearly 20 Soldiers with the Illinois National Guard's Bilateral Embedded Support Team A7 were welcomed home by a crowd of friends and family Oct. 28 in the Army National Guard armory in Bloomington.

"It was amazing to come back home and see how my children had grown and matured and how well my husband had managed everything. He did a fantastic job keeping the kids doing what they needed to do while I was gone," said Master Sgt. Sharon Hultquist of Delavan, with BEST A7.

While deployed her husband Sgt. Maj. David Hultquist, of Delavan, kept her informed about the everyday and significant events in their lives and their lives of their two children with story boards he emailed frequently. She saw her children grow and mature in her absence.

"Upon return, I sat back and just watched how the family operated without me before I started jumping back in and started making decisions," said Sharon. "I didn't want to ruin how they had grown and changed while I was gone. I think it made the transition easier."

The team was mobilized in January, deploying to Poland for approximately two months to train with the Polish Land Forces before departing for Afghanistan. The unique mission allowed Illinois Army National Guard Soldiers to train and deploy side-by-side with their Polish counterparts.

"I learned a lot from the Polish and how they operate on the battlefield. They are very welcoming of support from the BEST team and worked very cooperatively with us," said Hultquist.

The team provided operational, intelligence, logistical, communications, engineering and planning support to the ninth rotation of Polish Forces to Afghanistan. The task force it supported was composed of almost 4,000 Polish and U.S. forces assisting more than 9,000 Afghan security forces in one of the largest provinces in eastern Afghanistan.

The team completed several ongoing construction projects designed to improve the safety and expand the reach of all security forces in the Ghazni Province.

Ghanzi is a key area in Afghanistan because geopolitical and



Photo by U.S. Army Sgt. Michael Camacho, Illinois National Guard Public Affairs

Master Sgt. Sharon Hultquist of Delavan the Illinois National Guard's Bilateral Embedded Support Team A7, is hugged by her two children and husband Sgt. Maj. David Hultquist, of Delavan, following a welcome home ceremony Oct. 28 in the Army National Guard armory in Bloomington.

security concerns for ongoing military operations, said Col. Michael Haerr, of Eureka, the BEST A7 team chief and the deputy commander for Task Force White Eagle.

"Our mission was to help secure and develop Ghanzi Province," said Haerr. "It's one of the largest provinces in Afghanistan and has the longest stretch of high one between Kabul and Kandahar. It's a strategic location and the third largest city in Afghanistan."

The Soldiers worked heavily with Polish Land Forces as well as Afghan civilian and military leaders and other Coalition Forces in the area, said Haerr. The team supported Polish Soldiers across the province working long hours to optimize mission success.

A few of the BEST members received Bronze Stars, many of the Soldiers received Joint Awards such as the Defense Meritorious Service Medal and the Joint Service Commendation Medal which are unique awards that not all servicemembers can receive.

1644th last to leave Iraq

By 1st Lt. Linden Allen
1644th Transportation Company

CAMP ARIFJAN, Kuwait – It was late on the Dec. 17 of when Soldiers of the 1644th Transportation Company at Forward Operating Base Adder, one of the last of two bases in Iraq, prepared to leave on their last convoy out of the country and returning to Kuwait.

The Rock Falls based unit, known by its Soldiers as the "Rolling Thunder," was about to place its stamp on history in the final days of



Operation New Dawn and the responsible withdrawal of U.S. forces in Iraq.

This convoy was much like many other 1644th convoy missions. Unlike times before this was different, there would be no more trips after this one. This was the end.

Equipment was checked, all personnel were accounted for and loads were properly tied down to the M915 tractor trailers, heavily armored semi trucks and the workhorse of the Iraqi draw down of U.S. forces and equipment.

The 1644th left shortly after midnight. As they did they could see the Iraqi civilians lined up outside the gates eagerly waiting for the last troops to leave the base.

Four hours later, the trucks of the 1644th crossed into Kuwait for the final time, with a sense of relief said Capt. Mike Barton of Sterling, 1644th commander.

"This is a historic moment for the United States of America and the people of Iraq. Just the fact that the Illinois Army National Guard and the 1644th played such a big part in the final convoy is very special," said Barton.

As the trucks pulled into the staging lanes the Soldiers of the 1644th cheered and congratulated each other as they took off their body armor and unloaded their weapons.

"It is just exciting knowing that my team and unit are safe," said Staff Sgt. Steve Ross of Carol Stream. "It's like a huge weight has been lifted off my shoulders."

"It meant a great deal to me to be a leader on this mission, I kept my guys going by reminding them that we were making history," said Staff Sgt. Donald Wort of Ottawa. "I am anxious to start the new phase of our mission the reason the guard performs so well over here is because we bring to the table Soldiers who also have a wide variety of civilian acquired skills, the diverse backgrounds coming together really helps."

The Soldiers of the 1644th were asked to drive long hours on many missions to insure that the mission would be accomplished.

From mid August, when the 1644th arrived in theater, to the last convoy out of Iraq the unit completed 73 long haul retrograde missions, covering 3,724,552 miles on the dangerous roads of Iraq hauling 2,439 containers and 1,296 vehicles, at a total weight of nearly 67 million pounds.

During this time, enemy activity on their convoys resulted in 11 Soldiers with 1644th being awarded the Combat Action Badge.

"There is still a lot of work to be done in Kuwait," said 1st Sgt. Ryan Mason, of Warsaw. "Equipment needs to be sorted out, cleaned, put on to ships."

The 1644th will continue its mission until spring of 2012 and take its place as the last unit to support the final chapter of Operation New Dawn.

First-ever National Guard 35 ID Warfighter

FORT LEAVENWORTH, Kan. - In September, Illinois Army National Guard Soldiers with the 33rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team in Urbana and Detachment 3, Alpha Company, 35 Infantry Division (ID) in Bartonville participated in the first-ever National Guard Division Warfighter to exercise full-spectrum operations at the Battle Command Training Center in Leavenworth, Kansas.

"The training, mentoring and networking opportunities for the staff planners and operators was monumental," said Lt. Col. Katherine Schnare of Smithton, with the 35ID.

Past warfighter exercises have provided opportunity for division staff elements to prepare for Cold War conflict scenarios, while brigade exercises of the past decade have been primarily mission focused on counterinsurgency. The Warfighter helped forge the way ahead for the division by melding the two mindsets

to exercise full-spectrum operations.

Sgt. 1st Class Kristen Polley of Springfield, with the 35ID, worked with Active Duty and special non-military national assets to accomplish personnel recovery operations for the first time in 35ID WFX history.

"Even though division PR capability is in its infancy, we reacted to 35 simulated downed aircraft and exercised a massive coordination effort to successfully save four personnel classified as isolated, missing, detained or captured," she said.

35th ID within the Illinois National Guard primarily focus on Force Protection aspects of Headquarters Operations. The Protection Warfighting Function encompasses 12 Army tasks such as air and missile defense, personnel recovery, antiterrorism and explosive ordnance disposal (EOD).

compulsory service in Israel for both males and females. As a result, Tate-Nadeau said she does not anticipate her rank or her gender will be an issue when she works with the Israeli Home Front Command.

"It's all about your competency," she said. "I'm not worried because I will prove that I am tactically and technically proficient at my job."

Another difference she is not too worried about is the language barrier. Tate-Nadeau said most of her counterparts speak fluent English, however she said it is a personal goal to learn the country's native Hebrew language.

Along with learning the language, she is anxious to embrace the customs and culture of Israel and then share it all with her children, 20-year-old Lindsey and 14-year-old Gavin, when they visit.

As she prepares for the 13-hour-flight to her new temporary home of Israel, which is the size of New Jersey, Tate-Nadeau said she is thankful of her Illinois National Guard leadership, specifically Maj. Gen. William Enyart, the Adjutant General of the Illinois National Guard, and Maj. Gen. Dennis Celletti, the Assistant Adjutant General-Army.

She said they both fully support her decision and challenge her to take the position to grow as an officer and better the Illinois National Guard.

"When she told me about the opportunity I told her to absolutely go for it," Enyart said. "There is great turmoil in the Middle East but that brings great opportunity. It takes the right people in the right places to see the opportunity and then seize the opportunity. Col. Tate-Nadeau was in the right place and the right time."

Overall, Tate-Nadeau said she will miss the Illinois National Guard, but looks forward to what the future holds.

"The Illinois National Guard has been great to me, but I'm a firm believer that sometimes comfort breeds complacency," she said. "I'm at a point in my career to learn new skill sets and the Illinois National Guard has given me the opportunity to take this position."

ISRAEL

■ From page 1

the tour or what her living conditions will be, but she said she is confident this new position is a leap in the right direction.

"I like the adventure," said the Delavan-native with Joint Force Headquarters in Springfield. "It's kind of like bungee jumping. You don't know what it will look like or feel like, but you still want to do it."

As the NGB LNO, Tate-Nadeau will observe and participate in exercises with the Israeli Home Front Command, which falls under the Israeli Defense Force. She said the Home Front Command is comparable to the National Guard as it focuses on internal defense to its country. Like the United States, Israel has been exposed to terrorism in the past. However, Tate-Nadeau explained Israel has been exposed to it much longer and is more vulnerable to it than the United States.

"Every day for them is a battle; every day they're in the fight," she said. "Israelis are best known for their defense of their homeland. They stay very vigilant."

During her tour, which is estimated to last 12 to 24 months, Tate-Nadeau will observe the tactics and procedures of the Israelis and then bring it back home to the National Guard to ultimately improve the security within the United States.

Specifically she will observe the relationships between Israelis and their civilian counterparts and the early warnings and identification of emergencies, such as chemical and biological warfare and urban search and rescue. She will also have a physical role in these exercises.

"We're all about rolling up our sleeves and getting dirt on our boots," Tate-Nadeau's Israeli counterparts told her.

While a colonel in the U.S. Army would typically focus on strategic planning, she explained the Israeli Defense Force is more hands on, despite the rank of the service member. Another difference between the two countries' military forces is the

NEWS BRIEFS

Illinois Guard recognitions

■ Col. Gene Links

FORT GORDON, Ga. – Col. Gene Links of Mulberry Grove with the 1-14th Agribusiness Development Team (ADT) in Springfield was promoted to the rank of colonel and awarded the Purple Heart Medal Dec. 5 at Fort Gordon, Ga.

Links deployed with the 1-14th ADT in May, but returned to the U.S. to the U.S., for recovery after being injured during combat operations in Afghanistan.

■ Lt. Col. Tammy Duckworth

SPRINGFIELD – Maj. Tammy Duckworth of Hoffman Estates, Illinois National Guard Human Resources Office deputy director was promoted to the rank of lieutenant colonel, Nov. 5 at Camp Lincoln in Springfield. She was pinned by Edie Long, assistant to the director of the Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs.

■ Command Sgt. Maj Philip Czajkowski

SPRINGFIELD – Sgt. Maj. Philip J. Czajkowski of Monticello, with the 33rd Brigade Special Troops Battalion in Machesney Park, retired Dec. 15.

“Why I’ve done this for so long is because I get to do stuff that people pay just to go see in movies,” said Czajkowski. “I like the adventure and the challenge, and I love the Soldiers. The camaraderie is a big part of it for me. Soldiers are a different breed, especially the ones in the National Guard.”

■ Sgt. Maj. Tamy Kuzel

SPRINGFIELD – Sgt. Maj. Tamy J. Kuzel, of Springfield, with Joint Force Headquarters in Springfield, will retire Feb. 1 after a 32-year career in the Illinois Army National Guard.

“I am very proud of my career. I think I did my part for my country and for the Illinois Army National Guard and now it’s time to move on to other things,” said Kuzel. “I have grandchildren that are getting older, parents that are getting older and it’s time for family.”

Kuzel advised Soldiers to do what they love, love what they do, always give 110 percent and to remember what it means to wear the uniform.

■ Master Sgt. Kimberly Broome

SPRINGFIELD – Master Sgt. Kimberly S. Broome, of Chatham and a Chicago native, officially retired from the Illinois Army National Guard Dec. 31 after nearly 24 years of service.

Upon retirement she was hired by the State of Illinois as the executive assistant to the Illinois National Guard Adjutant General at Camp Lincoln in Springfield.

■ Vice Chief of Staff of the Army

CHICAGO – Gen. Peter Chiarelli, Vice Chief of Staff of the U.S. Army, met with Illinois Army National Guard Soldiers, Active Duty Soldiers and new recruits at the Calumet Armory in Chicago Oct. 14.

During the meeting he talked to current and future Soldiers about Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, Traumatic Brain Injury and the future of the U.S. Army.

“We have a lot of hard work ahead of us,” he said. “We must remain an example and engaged.”

Afterwards he held a luncheon at the Union League of Chicago and discussed similar issues. Capt. Dayton Loyd, of Carbondale and with Joint Force Headquarters in Springfield, attended the luncheon for his civilian career with the Department of Defense.

Chiarelli He also discussed providing health care and job placement for returning veterans, which he said is a challenge exacerbated by a struggling U.S. economy.

“For all they do to keep our country safe, we owe our troops better health and employment opportunities,” Chiarelli said. “The unemployment rate for veterans aged 20 to 24 is at a staggering 27 percent. After 10 years of war and persistent conflict, over 9,000 Wounded Warriors have been reported to suffer from PTSD or TBI. These are just the known cases as these are hidden injuries. Focused efforts continue on the research to get behind the causes and the remedies for PTSD and TBI.”

ILARNG offers unique jobs



Photo by U.S. Army Pfc. Jason Northcutt, 139th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Spc. Shawn Smith of Quincy and Spc. Karl Jeschke of Chicago, both members of the 661st Firefighting Team from Sparta, assist the other firefighters in containing an aircraft fire at the Golden Coyote exercise in 2010 at Ellsworth Air Force Base, S.D.

By Sgt. Michael Camacho
Illinois National Guard Public Affairs

SPRINGFIELD – The National Guard started 375 years ago when a group of men of different professions banded together with musket in hand to defend their colonial communities as Soldiers.

Nowadays, unlike the citizen-Soldiers of yesterday, there are dozens of military occupation skills (MOS) in the National Guard offered to today’s citizen-Soldiers and prospective recruits. These career opportunities include combat training, but bring a diversity of trade skills that may also be useful in the civilian sector.

With a wide-spectrum of career opportunities, there are unique jobs in its ranks for Soldiers. Some of these fields include religious service, electronic maintenance and repair, music and much more.

For those looking to reach new heights, jobs in aviation operations and maintenance are available for to Soldiers.

Maj. Jason Osberg of Champaign, with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 106th Aviation Regiment in Peoria, first enlisted as a utility helicopter repairer, UH-1H, in the Illinois Army National Guard in 1990.

“Pilot career and/or aircraft crew-chief are both very challenging and rewarding careers,” said Osberg. “Right now, both are extremely competitive to get into, though not impossible. They both require a lot of additional time other than drill weekends and annual training.”

There are multiple career fields available in aviation with most MOSs transferable to the civilian workforce.

“There are several MOSs available in maintenance such as avionics,

electrical, hydraulic, sheet metal, engine/power-plant repair, machinist, aircraft welder,” said Osberg. “These types of MOSs have many job opportunities in the civilian sector as well.”

One can specialize in just one area, or be a utility helicopter repairer where you replace components on the aircraft, said Osberg. These Soldiers are the back-bone of aviation and keep the aircraft flying.

In the engineering branch there are jobs such as construction, masonry and fire fighting available.

“In high school, all I really thought about doing was going to school to become a police officer and eventually working for the Drug Enforcement Agency or ATF (Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives),” said Staff Sgt. Jason Milner. “When I joined the Army as a Firefighter (12M) in 1994, I thought that I would simply do a six-year enlistment, pay for college, and get out.”

As years went by Milner continued his military career advancing in rank and experience.

“Little did I know that 16 years and multiple deployments later, I would have achieved a degree just from attending technical courses specific to my MOS, hold a full-time position, and am now certified at the (supervisor) level as a Department of Defense fire officer, a federal employment position I qualify for once I retire from the military,” said Milner.

There are many more job opportunities available in the Illinois Army National Guard than the ones mentioned previously. For more information contact your unit career adviser or personnel management for MOS openings.

ATTENTION SOLDIERS

New Re-enlistment/Extension Bonus Policy.



DON'T WAIT UNTIL THE LAST MINUTE TO EXTEND

The longer you wait...the lower your bonus.

Contract Length	Extend 365-271 Days before ETS	Extend 270-181 Days before ETS	Extend 180-91 Days before ETS	Extend 90-1 Days before ETS
6 Year Extension	\$10,000	\$7,500	\$5,000	\$0



Bonus Criteria
(Effective 1 October 2011 - 30 Sep 2012)

- Soldier must execute 6 Year Extension
- Soldier within 90 days of ETS are not eligible
- Soldier must be E7 or below with less than 10 years Time in Service (TIS) at time of ETS
- Soldier must be the primary position holder in a MTOE or medical TDA unit
- Soldier must not be flagged
- Soldier not ENGOSG at time of extension must become qualified within 24 months
- Soldier deployed OCONUS must be under Title 10 mobilization orders
- Soldier may only choose one incentive: BRP, Kicker or ELRP
- Military Tech or AGR Soldiers are not eligible

Payment Schedule: 502525


- Installment 1: 30% on contract start date
- Installment 2: 25% on 3 year anniversary date
- Installment 3: 25% on 5 year anniversary date

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Look out!

Upcoming Guardians will feature low-density MOSs in the Illinois Army National Guard.



Camp Butler Cemetery unveils new marker



Photo by U.S. Army Sgt. Michael Camacho, Illinois National Guard Public Affairs Office

Staff Sgt. Kyle Combs, of Atlanta, Ill., with Joint Force Headquarters in Springfield, and World War II veteran Rudy Escobar, of Decatur, unveil Camp Butler's new historic marker Dec. 14.

■ Civil War service honored

By Sgt. Michael Camacho
Illinois National Guard Public Affairs

SPRINGFIELD – The Illinois Sesquicentennial Civil War Round Table Commission and Illinois State Historical Society unveiled a historical marker Dec. 14 at Camp Butler in Springfield.

Maj. Gen. William L. Enyart, of Belleville, Adjutant General of the Illinois National Guard attended the event to honor Illinois units. He gave the keynote address. Chaplain (Maj.) Steve Foster, of Riverton with Joint Force Headquarters in Springfield, gave the invocation.

Camp Butler was established in 1861 as a training camp for Illinois recruits.

Named after Illinois State Treasurer William Butler, the camp was the second largest recruitment facility after Camp Douglas in Chicago. At the end of the Civil War in 1865 nearly 200,000 Union Soldiers had passed through the camp.

The Camp was deactivated in 1866, but today the cemetery still serves as an active military burial site for veterans and other eligible family members.

Hundreds of Illinois National Guard Soldiers from the Civil War have been buried at Camp Butler. Militia units from each state, today's National Guard, were the primary fighting units in the civil war.

Local veterans from other components of the military and past wars find a final resting place at Camp Butler including five from the Iraq and Afghanistan conflicts.

ILNG Facebook fan page

www.facebook.com/illinoisnationalguard

Calling all UPARs:

Calling all Unit Public Affairs Representatives – the Illinois Guardian needs you!

We are always on the lookout for good stories and photos or ideas for upcoming issues of the paper. If you have stories or photos to submit for consideration, see the deadline below or contact the public affairs office at (217) 761-3569 or via e-mail at ngilstaffpao@ng.army.mil for more information.

Deadline: Deadline for submission of materials for the Spring 2012 issue of the *Illinois Guardian* is the last Wednesday of March.

Address changes: If you are not receiving the Guardian due to a recent address change, please contact the Military Personnel Office to update your records.

Outreach program continues to reach military children

By Staff Sgt. Cassidy L. Snyder
Illinois National Guard Public Affairs

SPRINGFIELD – The Illinois National Guard Education Outreach Program began in September 2010 to help aid military children in school. The effort continues to reach more military children through distribution of the Educator's Guide Book created by the Illinois National Guard Family Program.

"Through the Education Outreach Program, the Illinois National Guard Family Program provides information and resources on the impact our families may experience while their servicemember is deployed away from home or working stateside with his or her unit," said Maj. Gen. William Enyart, the Adjutant General of the Illinois National Guard.

These resources include a five-week program with a military family life consultant is available at the school one day a week for five weeks, offering free sessions with children, printed materials and interactive Web sites for online tutoring.

"Our goal is to help schools create an environment of awareness and provide resources to better assist military children in school," said Christie Weiss of Sherman, the

Illinois National Guard state youth education coordinator. "We would like the chance to give each school social worker the Educator's Guide and a one-page, front and back Teacher's Reference Guide to help them better understand military children."

The Educator's Guide for military children includes an explanation of the deployment cycle, general information about the military, reproducible activities for children ages 5 to 12, information on caring for kids after trauma and death and Web sites and additional resources for the school.

The National Guard Family Readiness Office also provides resources to military families and educators.

The office can provide educators with the tools to apply for Department of Defense Education Activity and other governmental grants, team school counselors with qualified Military Family Life Consultants and offer free continuing education classes. In addition to assisting educators, the office provides information about free online tutoring for military kids whose parents are on active-duty orders along with many additional resources.

If you would like a copy of the Educator's Guide or Teacher's Reference Guide please call the Illinois State Youth Education Coordinator at 217-761-3842.

Soldiers compete in Best Ranger Assessment



U.S. Army photo courtesy of Fort Benning Public Affairs

Staff Sgt. Matthew Madiar, of Bensenville, and Staff Sgt. Tony Genovese (not pictured), of Chicago, both assigned to Troop C, 2nd Squadron, 106th Cavalry in Aurora, competed in the 2012 National Guard Best Ranger Assessment Tryouts Nov. 14 to 17 at Fort Benning, Ga. Madiar finished sixth and Genovese ninth out of 12.

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