

The

RAILSPLITTER



Illinois National Guard

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Illinois senior leaders place wreath at Lincoln's tomb

By Staff Sgt. Robert R. Adams
Illinois National Guard Public Affairs Office



U.S. Air National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. Lealan Buehrer, 182nd Airlift Wing Public Affairs

Governor Bruce Rauner (middle) and Maj. Gen. Daniel Krumrei, the Adjutant General of the Illinois National Guard (left) along with American legion members, honor President Lincoln during the 81st Annual National American Legion Pilgrimage Feb.12 in Oak Ridge Cemetery in Springfield, Illinois. (U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Robert R. Adams)

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. – Illinois Governor Bruce Rauner, the Adjutant General of the Illinois National Guard Maj. Gen. Daniel Krumrei, State Sen. Sam McCann and American Legion officials participated in a wreath-laying ceremony to mark the 81st annual National American Legion Pilgrimage to the Tomb of President Abraham Lincoln Feb. 12 in Oak Ridge Cemetery in Springfield.

Maj. Gen. Krumrei of Springfield, the Governor's top military officer, started the ceremony by placing a wreath in Abraham Lincoln's Tomb on behalf of President Barack Obama to honor Lincoln on his 205th birthday. After President Obama's wreath was placed, Governor Bruce Rauner and members of the American Legion also paid their respects by placing wreaths in the tomb.

As a young man Lincoln served as a captain in the Illinois National Guard during the Black Hawk War.

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Air transportation Airmen return from overseas mission

Illinois Air National Guard Public Affairs

PEORIA, Ill. - Two air transportation journeymen with the 182nd Airlift Wing in Peoria, Illinois returned home Friday, Feb. 6, after nearly five months deployed to Southwest Asia in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

The deployed personnel are members of 182nd Logistics Readiness Squadron, a component of the 182nd Mission Support Group. As part of the 455th Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron, they provided..

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Soldiers grapple for superiority in TAG's Combatives Tournament

By Staff Sgt. Bryan Spreitzer
Illinois National Guard Public Affairs Office

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. - Soldiers from all over the state converged on Camp Lincoln Feb. 22 for the annual Adjutant General's Combatives Tournament hosted by the Illinois Army National Guard's Modern Army Combatives Team.

The two-day tournament had bouts in eight weight divisions from 105 pounds to more than 205 pounds.

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129th RTI makes leadership changes

Illinois National Guard Public Affairs

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. –The Illinois National Guard's 129th Regional Training Institute (RTI) held a change of responsibility ceremony and a change of command ceremony for its Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment (HHD) Feb. 21, at the Illinois Military Academy at Camp Lincoln in Springfield, Illinois.

The RTI's mission is to train soldiers and leaders at all levels in multiple specialties, such as drivers, cooks and signal specialists.

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VISION:

The Premier State Joint Force within the National Guard

MISSION:

The Illinois National Guard is a Joint Team of Citizen Soldiers and Airmen Ready to Help our Neighbors, Protect our State and Defend our Nation.

KEY TENETS:

Personal -- Professional
Organizational -- Ready
Responsive -- Accountable
Resilient -- Relevant



CSM's Open Letter: A Question of TRUST

What can I, as a Soldier and NCO do to prevent Sexual Harassment and Assault of a fellow Soldiers? After we have all had annual SHARP training and listened to all the speeches, Soldiers are still victimized by people they have been TRAINED to trust the most.

Most of our victims are young and still within their first two years of service. Most of our Soldiers may not have been victimized by



Command Sgt. Maj. Mark W. Bowman
Land Component Command
Sergeant Major

these crimes, but they know somebody who has. They know we are dedicated to address and fix the problem, to find the predators, and to prosecute them for the crimes they have done. Many do not feel we are doing enough, fast enough.

Our goal is to eliminate sexual assault in the National Guard. To accomplish this we NCOs need to step up to the plate to educate and inform our Soldiers on the importance of respecting each other. We all need to focus on our Army values. NCOs need to take an active lead in supporting the SHARP program. Every Soldier in the Illinois National Guard must understand sexual assault is the complete violation of integrity, dignity, respect and honor.

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5th Civil Support Team exercises with local first responders



By Staff Sgt. Bryan Spreitzer Illinois National Guard Public Affairs Office

MACOMB, Ill. - 5th Civil Support Team members acting meet with Macomb Fire Department Lt. Steve Welch, of Macomb, Illinois, the reception, staging, and onward integration officer during the 2015 Western Response exercise in Macomb Feb. 20.

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Hanging up their boots after 20+ years of service

■ **Master Sgt. Karraker**
183rd Air Wing

■ **Tech Sgt. Joshua Touma**
126th Air Refueling Wing

■ **Staff Sgt. Shawn Peck**
Co. A 634th Brigade Support Bn.

■ **Sgt. Major Vernon Wilfinger**
65th Troop Command

404th MEB brings power and technology to its command post

Illinois National Guard Public Affairs

CAMPATTERBURY, Ind. - Its a moonless night. Icy wind rips its way across the cold, muddy gravel and slaps itself tirelessly against the sides of a large tan tent ringed by grumbling generators and pale yellow lights.

This duty dome is home-away-from-home...

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Western Illinois University ROTC Presented Minuteman Award

Illinois National Guard Public Affairs

MACOMB, Ill. - Lt. Col. Dan Reichen of Springfield, Illinois, Illinois Army National Guard (ILARNG) Recruiting and Retention Battalion Commander, presented the Minuteman Award to Lt. Col. Richard Helling of Galesburg, Illinois Western Illinois University (WIU) Professor of Military Science, Feb. 24 at WIU in Macomb, Illinois.

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Springfield Soldier takes oath as Illinois Inspections Chief



Illinois National Guard Public Affairs

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. - Maj. Jason Steinkamp of Springfield, Illinois, and a native of Quincy, Illinois, with Joint Force Headquarters in Springfield, Illinois took the oath of office as the Illinois National Guard (ILNG) Inspections Branch Chief for the Office of Inspector General Jan. 28 during a ceremony at Camp Lincoln in Springfield, Illinois.

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PHOTOS FROM THE FIELD

- **Athens Soldier receives Meritorious Service Medal**
- **Springfield Battalion mobilizes for Afghanistan**
- **Infantryman Receives Order of Saint Maurice Award**
- **Springfield Soldier promoted to colonel**
- **DMA Accountant Wins \$2.5 million from Illinois Lottery**
- **Soldiers Grapple at TAG's Combatives Tournament**
- **Soldiers Graduate from Signal Course**
- **5th CST Exercises with Local First Responders**
- **Recruiting Command Works with Poland**

Prairie Minuteman Scholarships available

Scholarships are open to dependents (both children and spouses) of NGAI members in good standing. One \$1000 and three \$2,500 scholarships are available.

[Click here for more details](#)

Equine Assisted Military Youth Camp

Activities include horseback riding and horse care. Sessions focus on strengthening family bonds, communication and teamwork. Limited number of available seats per session.

[Click here for more details](#)

The Railsplitter

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DEADLINES

Story and photo submissions are due the 1st of each month to ng.il.ilarng.list.staff-pao@mail.mil

The Railsplitter is the official newsletter of the Illinois National Guard authorized by the Adjutant General.

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