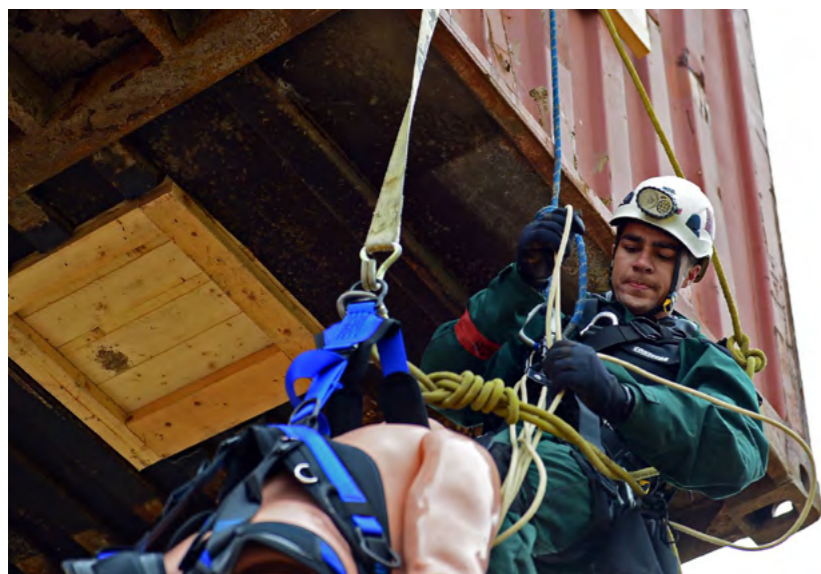




## Top Stories Around the Illinios National Guard

### Specialized Illinois National Guard Rescue Team Earns Certification



### Illinois National Guard Marksmanship Team is Army's Best



### Illinois Soldiers Compete for Title of Best Warrior



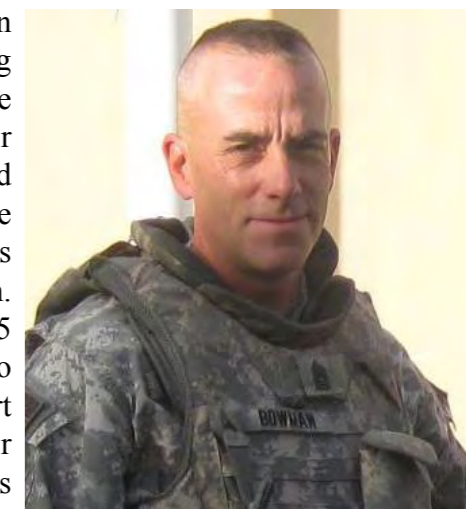
### Crew from 126th Air Refueling Wing Earn Air Force's Hoyt Award



## Senior Leader's Corner

### Command Sgt. Major Bowman Talks Retention in the Illinois Guard

At a different time in my life, I was facing my first ETS date and had to consider reenlisting. I served 4 years on active duty in Germany as an Armor Crewman. I was a young E5 but still decided to leave so I could start school. Start another life. I did. Two years later I was back in



as an Armor Instructor in the reserves. Why did I come back? I missed it. I was comfortable with those around me. I was serving my Country and my Community. It was a part time job with real benefits that was helping me reach my goals. The last few months I have had the opportunity to talk to Soldiers that were leaving our formations as they were completing their contracts. Most of the reasons were positive, we provided what they needed to reach their personal goals and they are moving on. That's fine, I respect that. They did exactly what they said they would when they first enlisted, they served with honor. But, if you are fully qualified for the position you are in now, we need you to stay in the Illinois Army National Guard. Simple as that.

Hear me out, during this retention event we spoke about benefits, benefits you have now for being in the Illinois Army National Guard and what you receive if you stay until retirement. You have to realize what you will lose if you leave.

**READ MORE**



#### VISION:

A relevant, integrated, community -based joint force - always ready and always there.

#### MISSION:

Protect our state, defend our homeland, and fight our nation's wars when called on.

#### KEY TENETS:

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

## ***Additional Headlines***

**Illinois National Guard and Law Enforcement Train to Combat Drugs From the Air**

**Storied Quad Cities Field Artillery Battalion Cases its Colors, to Transition to Engineer**

**Franklin Soldier Assumes Command of Recruiting, Retention Battalion**

**Illinois National Guard Hosts Sexual Trauma workshop**

**Illinois National Guard Hosts Valid Risk 2016 Exercise**

**Illinois Air National Guard Hosts Visit From Warsaw Air Operations Center**

**Marine Enlists into Illinois Army National Guard**

**Illinois Soldier Assists at Crash Scene in Quincy**

**Illinois Army National Guard Recognized for Excellence in Process Improvement**

**Springfield Military Couple Retires from Illinois Army National Guard**

**Illinois National Guard Computer Network Defense Team Among the Best**

**Soldier Earns Top Honors at Court Reporting School**

**Civilians Get a Glimpse of the Life of a Soldier**

**Petersburg Colonel Retires after 33 Years of Service**

**Illinois Soldier Becomes Signal Support Specialist**

**Frankfort Soldier Inducted into ROTC Hall of Fame**

**Illinois National Guard Computer Network Defense Team Among the Best**

**Two Illinois Soldiers Become Food Service Specialists**

**Governor Rauner Discusses Emergency Readiness with Illinois Guard Members**

**Soldier Earns Top Honors at Court Reporting School**

**Illinois Army Guard Aviation Battalion Welcomes New Commander**

**Rochester Soldier Promoted to Sergeant Major**

**Springfield Based Air Operations Personnel Deploy to Middle East**

**Illinois National Guard Soldiers recognized as Transportation Corps Officer, Soldier of the Year**

**Firefighters 'Feel the Heat' During Airport Rescue Fire Fighting Exercise**

**Illinois Infantry Battalion Welcomes New Commander**

**ILARNG Officers Graduate U.S. Army War College**

**Illinois Governor Recognizes Guard's Top Marksmen**

**Illinois National Guard Remembers First African-American State Command Sergeant Major**

**Illinois Army National Guard Welcomes New Commissioned Officers**

**Springfield Airman Represents Illinois Air National Guard at Polish Air Force F-16 Anniversary**

## ***Hanging up their boots after 20 or more years:***

■ **Staff Sgt. Anthony Robinson**  
Co. C, 2nd Battalion, 130th Infantry Regiment

■ **Sgt. 1st Class John Long**  
631st Engineer Support Co.

■ **Sgt. 1st Class Melanier Hebenstreit**  
Joint Force Headquarters

■ **Chief Warrant Officer 4 Mark Hebenstreit**  
Joint Force Headquarters

■ **Tech St. Michael Gensler**  
183rd Air Operations Group

■ **Senior Master Sgt. Mark Lee**  
183rd Air Operations Group

■ **Lt. Col. Robert McCullers**  
Headquarters, Illinois Air National Guard

■ **Master Sgt. Michael Silius**  
217th Engineering Installation Squadron

■ **Maj. William Bilbruck**  
183rd Air Operations Group

■ **Master Sgt. Paul Selhime**  
183rd Air Operations Group

■ **Master Sgt. Mark Sherbeyn**  
1144th Transportation Battalion

■ **Master Sgt. Brian Ludwig**  
Marseilles Training Center

■ **1st Sgt. Kevin Guyot**  
B Trp., 2nd Squadron, 106th Cavalry Regiment

■ **Staff Sgt. Gentry Hawkins**  
Headquarters and Headquarters Co., 108th Sustainment Brigade

■ **Master Sgt. David Ray**  
2nd Battalion, 129th Regional Training Institute

■ **Sgt. 1st Class Althea Bradshaw**  
Joint Force Medical Detachment

■ **Staff Sgt. William Duffy**  
Co. C, 2nd Battalion, 130th Infantry Regiment

■ **1st Sgt. Aaron Ferrer**  
Illinois Recruiting and Retention Battalion

■ **Staff Sgt. Kristopher Fifer**  
Co. B, 2nd Battalion, 130th Infantry Regiment

■ **Sgt. 1st Class Monty Flynn**  
Headquarters and Headquarters Co., 766th Engineer Battalion

■ **Staff Sgt. Benjamin Hagerman**  
Co. B, 634th Brigade Support Battalion

■ **Sgt. 1st Class Gary Reid**  
108th Medical Battalion

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

### **DEADLINES:**

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

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