

INDIANA GUARDSMAN

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Military sets stage for 100th Indy 500, page 6

In this Guardsman ...

Memorial Day services, page 4

Indiana Guardsmen honor the fallen



Armed Forces Day, page 5

Guard, IMS celebrate military service

Military Salute at 500, page 6

Service members set state at historic race



Next man up, page 9

Field artillery staff sergeant fills void



Front cover: A multiservice color guard; consisting of Indiana National Guardsmen, Marines, a Sailor and a Coast Guardsman, march down pit lane after presenting the colors and prior to the start of the 100th Indianapolis 500, Sunday, May 29, 2016 Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Jeff Lowry

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Leadership message ... Command Chief Warrant Officer Chris Jennings

Past efforts ensure future endeavors

This is a great time in history for the warrant officer cohort within the Indiana National Guard, and I am honored to be a part of it.

As I embark on this chapter of my career and take over the duties of command chief warrant officer, I find myself surrounded by leaders with great vision, and Soldiers and Airmen with great skills. As a team we have what it takes to adapt to the changes we will face in the future in our state, our nation and throughout the world.

What I want to focus on though, is the past, what got us to the point we are today.

What got the warrant officer cohort to what it is today was the vision and hard work of the previous command chief warrant officers — from the first to the most recent — Chief Warrant Officer 5s Larry Massey, Frank Vaughn and Elizabeth Keene. They have all worked tirelessly to ensure warrant officers were trained and ready to support commanders across Indiana for any mission assigned. They worked diligently with commanders and warrant officers alike to provide the best solutions for the Indiana National Guard while



still taking care of people.

Another key thing that makes the warrant officer cohort in Indiana stand out are the warrant officers themselves.

Over the years I have witnessed the cohort evolving as more and more warrant officers get involved in guiding the future of our organization. Warrant officers are taking pride in their heritage and are realizing that we are all responsible for leaving a legacy that future generations will remember.

Lastly, the culture of our organization has shaped the Indiana warrant officer cohort into what it is today. Since I joined the military in 1982 I have seen a steady shift towards a solid core of empathy, discipline, Army values, and warrior ethos. This is true not only of warrant officers, but also of officers, noncommissioned officers, enlisted Soldiers and Airmen and civilian employees.

The Indiana National Guard as a whole is only successful because of the ethics and character of our leaders and members.

As the warrant officer cohort approaches its 100th birthday in 2018, I look forward to working with everyone to build on the efforts of the past in order to ensure a great future.

Editor's Note: Chief Warrant Officer 4 Chris Jennings officially took over for Chief Warrant Officer 5 Elizabeth Keene as the command chief warrant officer in June. Warrant officers use cohort to distinguish themselves as a subset of the officer corps.

Rigger detachment moves to Columbus Airport

By Capt. Catalina Carrasco

Indiana National Guard Public Affairs

Guardsmen with Detachment 1, 165th Quartermaster Company's formalized their move from Seymour to the Columbus Municipal Airport in a ceremony, June 4.

Columbus Mayor Jim Lienhoop, Indiana's Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. Courtney P. Carr, along with airport officials and city council representatives attended the ceremony held at the new facility.

"Locating this special unit within such close proximity to Camp Atterbury has powerful impacts for the community," said Carr. "This is yet another way to attract units from all across the country to train here in the Columbus area."

Indiana is one of only four states in the

Army National Guard with a unit capable of supporting rigging operations. The approximate 80-person detachment is responsible for packing, maintaining and repairing parachutes for airborne training and operations.

Moving the unit to Columbus just 14 miles from Camp Atterbury enhances the organization's capabilities in supporting large scale, complex exercises.

In addition to the prominent location of the new facility, the added space provided at the hanger helps consolidate the storage capabilities for the rigger's unit, which in the past was housed at three different locations throughout the state.

Lienhoop welcomed the unit to the city citing the community's appreciation for the military.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Daniel Bolinger



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Jeff Lowry

Headstones at Crown Hill Cemetery, one of the largest in the nation, in Indianapolis decorated with U.S. flags for Memorial Day, Monday, May 30, 2016.

Guardsmen support Memorial Day services



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Jeff Lowry

Sgt. Cara Pittenger plays the drum during a Memorial Day ceremony in Indianapolis.



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Jeff Lowry

Indiana Army National Guard 1st Lt. Matthew Venia, of Lawrenceburg, Indiana and the 2nd Battalion, 150th Field Artillery fire direction officer, explains the science of artillery to a family at Crown Hill Cemetery.



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Jeff Lowry

Maj. Gen. Courtney P. Carr, Indiana's adjutant general, speaks at a Memorial Day ceremony at Washington Park East in Indianapolis.

Guard, IMS celebrate Armed Forces Day



Photo by Staff Sgt. Katherine M. Forbes

Sgt. Justin E. Beaver, the administration noncommissioned officer for the Indiana National Guard's disaster-response team, shows Boy Scouts a powered air purifying respirator, Saturday, May 21, 2016.

By Sgt. 1st Class Jeff Lowry
Indiana National Guard Public Affairs

Indiana National Guard Airmen and Soldiers displayed their wares and equipment as they interacted with IndyCar fans at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway during Armed Forces Day weekend, May 21 and 22.

On pole day for the 100th running of the Indianapolis 500, Indiana National Guard recruits took the oath of enlistment along with Marine, Navy and Coast Guard recruits during a multiservice enlistment ceremony.



Photo by Senior Airman Lonnie Wiram



Photo by Senior Airman Lonnie Wiram



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Jeff Lowry

Military helps race in 100th Indy 500

By Sgt. 1st Class Jeff Lowry
Indiana National Guard Public Affairs

Indiana National Guard Soldiers and Airmen participated in prerace ceremonies, along with members of other service branches, for the 100th Indianapolis 500, Sunday, May 29, 2016.

Highlights included members of the Ceremonial Unit presenting the colors, Staff Sgt. Ron Duncan of the 38th Infantry Division Band playing “Taps” and the Indiana National Guard firing a three-round volley for fallen service members.

“It is a great honor for the Indianapolis Motor Speedway to have us out to be a part of the prerace activities,” said Sgt. 1st Class Nicholas A. Wall, Ceremonial Unit operations noncommissioned officer. “Being able to present the colors, to fire the three volleys and to play ‘Taps’ at the track helps us do our part to remind those hundreds of thousands of fans there and the millions watching around the world, what this weekend is really about. The Ceremonial Unit and IMS take great pride in ensuring that we all honor our fallen over Memorial Day weekend.”

Lt. Col. Lisa Kopczyński, Chief Warrant Officer 3 Dennis White and Sgt. Ron Walker sung “America the Beautiful.”

Other highlights included more than 400 military service members marching down pit lane, U.S. Army Lt. Gen. Joe Anderson delivering a speech, 38th Combat Aviation Brigade pilots coordinating the flyovers, military service members riding around the track and our Soldiers and Airmen helping introduce the 33 IndyCar drivers.

Survivors of the December 7, 1941 Pearl Harbor attack were put on orders to be a part of the Indianapolis Motor Speedway’s salute to the military and all its service members past and present.



A multiservice color guard; consisting of Indiana National Guardsmen, Marines, a Sailor and a Coast Guardsman, presents the colors of the nation and service branches at the Indianapolis 500.



Airmen 1st Class Nathan Geist, 181st Intelligence Wing, and Spc. Luke Walker, 38th Combat Aviation Brigade, hold a checkered flag during driver introductions at the Indianapolis 500.



An Airman and Soldier ride in the back of a pick-up truck as part of a salute to the military.



Indiana National Guard Soldiers, from left, Chief Warrant Officer 3 Dennis White, Lt. Col. Lisa Kopczyński and Sgt. Ron Walker sing “America the Beautiful” Sunday, May 29, 2016.



Indiana National Guard Sgt. 1st Class Nicholas A. Wall, Ceremonial Unit operations noncommissioned officer, instructs color guard members, Sunday, May 29, 2016, during the prerace activities for the 100th Indianapolis 500.

Indiana National Guard Soldiers with the 38th Infantry Division's Company D, 151st Infantry Regiment, Long Range Surveillance, pose for a photo after taking first place in heavy and light divisions of the 2016 Bataan Memorial Death March at White Sands Missile Range, New Mexico.



Courtesy photo

WWII prisoners inspire troops to win

By **Spc. Dylan Anderson & Spc. Nathanael I. LaCorte**
Company D, 151st Infantry Regiment

Our 2016 Bataan Death March experience didn't start very smoothly, but after only six and a half hours from crossing the starting line, every man from Indiana's long-range surveillance unit was smiling.

The trip out to White Sands, New Mexico had its share of hiccups. As we were boarding our 9:30 a.m. Friday flight out of Indianapolis, a lavatory truck clipped our plane, which caused a three-hour delay. This set off a sequence of rushing through and waiting in airport terminals as we made our way to New Mexico on re-booked connecting flights. All told, the last three of our now split group arrived at our hotel around 1:30 a.m. Saturday.

Regardless, team spirit was high. For many members of the group, this was their first time to New Mexico or even a desert environment. The weather was perfect – cool in the mornings and evenings, but sunny and warm throughout the day.

We woke Saturday, eager to prep for Sunday's race. Both of our teams, heavy and light, had our eyes set on first place in our divisions.

Sunday morning started like we assume most March mornings in New Mexico start — cool and clear. Opening ceremonies began before the sun rose. Near the ceremonial stage, a very large American flag hung from the extended ladder of a firetruck, high above the thousands gathered for the historic race.

During the opening ceremony, the names of the surviving members who had attended the prior year's event were read. Each surviving Soldier would sound off when their name was read. Yet, three did not since they had passed away since the last running of the Bataan Death March.

The brutal experience these men endured was also described.

For the team and myself, this helped instill in us the appropriate perspective. We weren't there just to compete in a race but to remember and honor those who died in Bataan and others who have paid the ultimate sacrifice.

The ceremony ended with a Black Hawk fly over and with that,

the race began. As we passed the starting line, we were able to shake the hands of a couple of surviving members who had gathered.

Spirits were high as we passed under the flag while the "Eye of the Tiger" was blaring from the starting line speakers.

Each of us took our turn lagging behind the group throughout the race as we endured pain. We had to rely on encouragement from each other in order to keep moving. There was pain from head to toe shared between us all. Yet, this was something we had all been training for so we trudged on.

We all knew from prior experiences that the ability to mentally push through the pain would be our biggest hurdle. Team members had to find their grit throughout the race to keep pushing forward.

It was inspiring to see all the amputees and wounded warriors walking side-by-side with us. Just when we thought about wanting to complain, we would see someone with a prosthetic leg, and we would pick our heads up.

We were there on our own accord while the Bataan prisoners of war had to walk an unknown distance. Unlike us, the original members of the death march were not afforded the luxuries of food, energy gels, energy drinks or water along the way. Also we had the ability to stop for a break whenever we wanted. This was not the case for the original POWs who were treated brutally along the way — sometimes being bayoneted, beaten or beheaded if they could not keep up. All this motivated us and put our temporary pain into perspective.

Crossing the finish line and taking first in our class was a very humbling experience. We had only completed under a quarter of the distance done by the POWs, yet we were able to take away a lasting impression of what the actual Bataan Death March may have been like. In the end, we were each able to push ourselves beyond what we thought we were capable of.

Editor's Note: Specialists Anderson and LaCorte competed in the 2016 Memorial Death March and helped Indiana's heavy and light teams garner first place. The Bataan Memorial Death March commemorates World War II POWs who were forced to march approximately 80 miles in the Bataan Peninsula, Philippines.

Next man up!

Staff sergeant fills void

By **Sgt. 1st Class Jonathan Griffin**
2nd Battalion, 150th Field Artillery Regiment
Unit Public Affairs Representative

"Next man up."

It's a phrase heard in sports and the military. When an athletic star gets hurt or a military leader moves on, it's time for the next man up.

That was the case in the Indiana National Guard's Battery B, 2nd Battalion, 150th Field Artillery Regiment too during the unit's annual training at Camp Atterbury.

Indiana Army National Guard Staff Sgt. Troy Ball, a Bloomington, Indiana native and a howitzer section chief, took over as a platoon leader with Battery B.

"It's motivating to know that leadership recognizes my attention to detail and my technical and tactical proficiency enough to instill their trust in me to perform in a position higher than my own," said Ball. "It's good to see that my hard work has paid off."

Normally the job of platoon leader and laying the battery is traditionally a task overseen by a sergeant first class.

Ball's leaders are training him to eventually be a platoon sergeant, and he has been acting as an interim platoon sergeant during annual training this year in order to help prepare him for his future role.

Emplacing an artillery howitzer is a very technical process that involves map reading, complex math and setting the howitzer in a position to fire with and without modern GPS.

National Guard Soldiers typically only get two weeks a year during annual training to hone their skills and stay proficient in their primary Army jobs. Conversely their active-duty counterparts train daily, year round.



Photo by Spc. Joshua Bales

Indiana National Guard Soldiers of Battery B, 2nd Battalion 150th Field Artillery, headquartered in Rockville, fire an M777 cannon during annual training at Camp Atterbury, Ind., June 7, 2016.

Vesper assumes command of 81st



Photo by Spc. John Wolfe

Brig. Gen. David N. Vesper, right, receives the 81st Troop Command flag from Maj. Gen. Courtney P. Carr, Indiana's adjutant general, during a ceremony, June 18.

By Sgt. 1st Class Aaron Tinsley
120th Public Affairs Detachment

Indiana Army National Guard Brig. Gen. David N. Vesper, a combat veteran with more than 30 years of military service, assumed command of 81st Troop Command in a ceremony June 18 at Hulman Field in Terre Haute, Indiana.

The unit is Indiana's response force geared to assist local, state and federal agencies in consequent management efforts while still fulfilling federal deployment requirements.

"There is no perceivable end to the need for a trained and ready Army National Guard and for you the trained and ready Soldier," Vesper told the assembled formation during the ceremony. "We are dedicated to making sure these units are ready."

Maj. Gen. Courtney P. Carr, the adjutant general for Indiana, participated in the passing of the unit's colors and welcomed Vesper to his new command.

Carr praised the troops during his ceremonial speech.

"Your presence and your responsiveness in the state is what makes our ability to successfully execute the support to civil authorities what it is," said Carr. You're there when our neighbors need you immediately and you've done it and you've showed it time and time again."

Vesper entered the Indiana National Guard in 1984 as an enlisted Soldier and was commissioned as an officer in 1988. He has deployed to Afghanistan twice and to Iraq.

Vesper took the 81st reins from Brig. Gen. Michael J. Osburn, who had commanded the brigade since 2012.

38th CAB changes commanders



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Jeff Lowry

Indiana Army National Guard Col. Daniel A. Degelow, receives the 38th Combat Aviation Brigade flag during the unit's change of command ceremony from Maj. Gen. David C. Wood, left, the 38th Infantry Division commanding general, Sunday, May 15, 2016. Degelow, a Rushville native, took the helm of the brigade from Col. Daniel K. Lane, a Wanamaker resident.

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Indiana National Guard Chief Warrant Officer 3 Dennis White and his daughter, Brayleigh, leave carnations at a wreath dedicated to the memory of all Hoosiers in all wars and conflicts who sacrificed their lives in defense of the nation. Photo by Staff Sgt. Jeremiah Runser