

# THE GUARDIAN

FALL 2016

A Publication for Alumni



Flying to new heights, Exercise Slovak Warthog, Page 6

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THE ADJUTANT GENERAL  
MAJ. GEN. COURTNEY P. CARR

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**ON THE COVER:** Members of the Indiana National Guard and Slovak Armed Forces join together for Exercise Slovak Warthog to demonstrate joint operations with a variety of aircrafts during Operation Atlantic Resolve, July 27, 2016, at Sliac Air Base, Slovakia.

Photo by Staff Sgt. William Hopper

Volumn 1 Issue 1

# Pence signs bills to help Hoosier veterans

Indiana Gov. Mike Pence signed bills to help Hoosier veterans in a ceremony in the rotunda of the Indiana Statehouse.

On March 22, Governor Mike Pence signed into law 13 bills that are meant to improve life for Indiana's Veterans. Here is a brief summary, with links to the original bills for further reading:

**1. HEA 1313 – “Hoosier Veterans”** – This is perhaps the most important bill for members of the Guard and Reserve. This bill recognizes you as a Veteran in the state of Indiana, even if you don't meet the federal qualifications for Veteran Status. This one bill ensures that all of the Indiana National Guard and Reserve qualify for the new benefits listed below, assuming you are a resident of Indiana, complete your MOS training, and are not discharged under dishonorable or other than honorable conditions.

**2. HEA 1312** – Allows a veteran owned small business to register with the state for veteran preference in bidding for state contracts. Previously, a business needed to be registered with the Federal Government. This bill adds inclusion for National Guard and Reserve members who would not qualify under Federal regulations.

**3. SEA 304** – Increases the property tax deduction for certain veterans with a disability from \$143,160 to \$175,000. Basic requirements are an honorable discharge and verifiable VA disability of at least 50%.

**4. SEA 219** – This bill requires certain licensing boards and professional agencies to expedite the issuance or renewal of a license, certificate, registration, or permits to military spouses whose husband or wife is assigned to a duty station in Indiana. It is an amendment that changed the phrase “whose spouse serves on active duty” to “whose husband or wife is assigned to a duty station in Indiana.”

**5. SEA 295** – This bill expands the Military Family Relief Fund to all veterans. Currently, the fund is only open to those who served post 9/11. The bill also more clearly defines how this fund can be used and who is eligible. Finally it establishes a requirement that a county veteran service officer sit on the Veterans Affairs Commission and that all county VSOs become accredited by a national



Courtesy photo

veterans service organization through the United States Department of Veterans Affairs Office of General Counsel. This could really improve the quality of service rendered by the VSOs.

**6. HEA 1089** – Similar to the Senate Bill above, (SEA 295) this House of Representatives bill imposes requirements on the for reporting and accountability for county and city veteran service officers, and the general welfare of Veterans.

**7. SEA 154** – This bill increases from \$4,000 to \$8,000 the funeral allowance for a member of the Indiana National Guard who dies in the active service of the state.

**8. HEA 1359** – Waives the maximum hiring age restrictions that apply to the appointment and hiring of police officers and firefighters for an individual who is a veteran of the armed forces.

**9. HEA 1373** – This bill extends employment protections under USSERA and the Servicemember's Civil Relief Act to guard members who are called to state active duty. Also extends the Medicaid eligibility of a service member (and the service member's dependent) if they are called to state active duty or deployed outside of the State of Indiana.

**10. SEA 362** – Similar to the above House Bill 1373, extends the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Acts guidelines to the state level, and now includes the military service for the National Guard regiment of another state. The bill also allows the military records of an individual to be released to

a person with power of attorney, a court order, or a court appointed representative.

**11. SEA 145** – Requires the Indiana Department of Veterans Affairs (IDVA) to work with Veteran Service Organizations to establish a set of standards for the unclaimed remains of deceased veterans. This bill allows for the proper burial of veterans with no family members.

**12. HEA 1187** – Makes committing stolen valor, a Class A misdemeanor, for a person to knowingly or intentionally, with the intent to obtain money, property, or another benefit by fraudulently representing himself or herself to be an active member or veteran of the Armed Forces of the United States, using falsified military identification; or fraudulently claiming to be the recipient of certain military honors. This makes punishing military frauds much easier at the state or county level.

**13. SEA 189** – Provides information concerning attendance records and academic progress for a student attending an adult high school who is a member of the military or children in military families must be submitted to the Department of Education by each school corporation and charter school. This bill isn't a direct benefit to veterans at this point, but the data it facilitates the collection of may be used in the future to support beneficial initiatives.

<http://www.myngai.com/important-new-legislation-and-what-it-means-to-us/>



Photo by Spc. John Wolfe

## ***Vesper assumes command of 81st Troop Command***

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, Ind.

The unit is the designated Indiana National Guard 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, a resident of Carmel, Ind.,

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. He holds a Bachelor of Science in physics and mathematics from Butler University, a master’s in astronomy and a doctorate in astrophysics from Indiana University, as well as a master’s in strategic studies from the U.S. Army War College.

Vesper took the 81st reins from Brig. Gen. Michael J. Osburn who had commanded the brigade since January 2012 and who completed more than 40 years of military service.

## **2016 Annual Alumni Event Schedule of Events**

**0900-1000: Registration (Conference Center)**

**1000-1015: Opening Remarks (Conference Center)**

**1015-1230: Update briefings (Conference Center)**

**1230-1300: Movement to Indiana Resilience Center**

**(Lunch will be issued prior to departure)**

**1300-1430: Indiana Resilience Center Ribbon Cutting Ceremony**

**(Camp Atterbury)**

**1430-1700: Tour Resilience Center, Camp Atterbury**

**1700-1745: Personal Time**

**1800-UTC: No Host Social and bonfire (Conference Center)**

# Indiana and Slovakia fly to new heights

By Sgt. 1st Class Lasima Packett  
Indiana National Guard Public Affairs

INDIANAPOLIS – The Indiana National Guard and the Slovak armed forces took their long-standing partnership to new heights during an exercise dubbed Operation Slovak Warthog.

During the month of July airmen with the 122nd Fighter Wing took the lead in performing their first ever mission to Slovakia. They were joined by 181st Intelligence Wing's joint terminal attack controllers and soldiers with the 38th Infantry Division's long-range surveillance unit, Company D, 151st Infantry Regiment.

"This is the first time we've integrated the Air National Guard and the Army National Guard together with the Slovaks here in Slovakia," said Maj. Gen. David C. Wood, 38th Infantry Division commander.

The 122nd Fighter Wing deployed approximately 140 airmen and eight A-10s for this monthlong combined and joint operation, and the 38th soldiers and 181st airmen worked side-by-side with members of the



Photo by Staff Sgt. William Hopper



Photo by Staff Sgt. William Hopper

Slovak intelligence, surveillance, target acquisition reconnaissance unit.

"This operation gives us the opportunity to work with our partners here, the Slovaks, also other European partners, as well as with our two wings," said Indiana Air National Guard Brig. Gen. Jeffrey Hauser, an assistant adjutant general.

Hoosiers and Slovaks worked closely together to exchange close-air support capabilities and conduct familiarization classes on air combat maneuvers and air surveillance techniques. They also worked together to provide observation and reconnaissance on targets for close-air support provided by the A-10s.

It is here that real relationships are developed based on these shared goals, said Wood.

"This is great training for my soldiers and very important to building on to the strong relationship we have with the Slovak armed forces," said Wood.

The combined and joint operation between the two countries



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Lasima Packett



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Lasima Packett

and the land- and air-based forces demonstrates the continued commitment between Hoosiers and Slovaks to strengthening their ties and continuing their 20-plus-year partnership that supports the U.S. National Guard's and U.S. European Command's State Partnership Program.

Operation Slovak Warthog supported the U.S. European Command's Operation Atlantic Resolve, which uses the National Guard as a part of the rotational force working with our NATO partners.

To develop assurance and deterrence moving forward, states partner with European NATO countries. These partnerships seek to promote the opportunity for interoperability and enhance the principles of responsible governance. The partnership program currently has 22 partnerships with European countries.



Photo by Staff Sgt. James Davis



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Lasima Packett



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Lasima Packett

# WE WELCOME THE NEW INDIANA RESILIENCE CAMPUS

The Resilience Campus is located at Camp Atterbury. The campus will offer a continuum of services to those currently serving, transitioning out, alumni and retirees, as well as Department of the Army Civilian and family members. The backbone of the campus is its five support centers, which will provide the following focused services.



## RESILIENCE SERVICES

- Family Counseling
- Financial Management
- Substance Abuse
- Spiritual Fitness
- Suicide Prevention

## FITNESS AND WELLNESS

- State Master Fitness Trainer Program
- Individualized PT Improvement Programs
- At Echelon PT Improvement (Life-Fit)
- Installation MWR

## SERVICE MEMBER FOR LIFE

- Alumni Outreach and Communication
- Retiree Services
- Transition Assistance
- Family Assistance Center Referral

## GUARDING YOUR FUTURE

- Retention
- Career Management
- Employment Coordination
- Education Benefits
- MOS reclassification



## ARMY WELLNESS CENTER

- Health Assessment
- Physical Fitness
- Healthy Nutrition
- Stress Management
- General Wellness
- Tobacco Education

### Military Family Assistance Centers

Give us a call. No question is too small!

Service Branch	Community Outreach	I.D. Cards and DEERS	TRICARE Resources	Financial Resources	Legal Resources	Crisis Intervention

Family Assistance Center Location	Cell Phone	Position
711 N Pennsylvania St - Indy	317-650-1334	Coordinator
401 N Country Club Rd - Muncie	317-650-1859	Specialist
711 N Pennsylvania St - Indy	317-650-7750	Specialist
2000 Hwy 54 East - Linton	317-650-1829	Specialist
3300 E Division St - Evansville	317-650-7392	Specialist
130 W Cook Rd - Fort Wayne	317-650-8945	Specialist
2160 Arnold St - Columbus	317-650-7402	Specialist

Family Assistance Center Location	Cell Phone	Position
9920 E 59th St - Lawrence	317-650-8412	Specialist
315 E Markland Ave - Kokomo	317-650-9409	Specialist
5218 Haggerty Lane - Lafayette	317-650-1498	Specialist
2909 Grant Line Rd - New Albany	317-650-7756	Specialist
3008 Old Hospital Rd Bldg 225 - Atterbury	317-650-7741	Specialist
2501 E 15th Ave - Gary	317-650-8319	Specialist
1405 Washington St - Crawfordsville	317-650-8366	Specialist

**13 MILITARY FAMILY ASSISTANCE CENTERS SUPPORTS ALL BRANCHES OF ACTIVE, RESERVE, NATIONAL GUARD, RETIREE, AND VETERAN FAMILIES.**

**A FAMILY ASSISTANCE SPECIALIST IS AVAILABLE BY PHONE 24 HOURS A DAY.**

**OFFICE HOURS: MONDAY-FRIDAY 8:00AM-4:30PM**

**SERVE YOUR STATE AND NATION  
ADVANCE YOUR FUTURE**

**Check Out Our Next  
Open House Event**

November 12, 2016  
Johnson County Armory  
325 Minuteman Way  
Franklin, IN 46131

For more information call:  
Master Sgt. Benjamin Fox 765-715-5119

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- ★ STUDENT LOAN REPAYMENT ★ HEALTH/DENTAL INSURANCE ★ SIGN-ON BONUS ★



**Online Veterans and Military Documents**

While most of our holdings are not online, a variety of military records, from photos to documents to searchable databases are available. Listed below are online collections of specific interest to veterans, their families and researchers. Additional online records may be found by searching the National Archives Catalog and Access to Archival Databases (AAD) systems.

- Research Our Records
- Veterans Service Records
- Teachers' Resources
- Our Locations
- Shop Online

**Veterans Service Records**

Home > Veterans Service Records

**Request Military Service Records**

- Request Personnel and/or Medical Records Online
- More ways to get service records
- Learn about military service records (e.g. DD Form 214)
- Recently separated veteran?
- Request DD 214/ Separation Document Online

**Research Using Military Records**

- What's available online?
- Locate older (pre-WW I) military service records
- Using military records for genealogical research
- Other military and veterans records

**News and Notices**

**Need Help?**

- Online Requests/eVetRecs Problems
- Need Immediate Assistance
- Military Personnel Records, FAQ (Includes DD 214/ Separation Documents, Personnel Records, and/or Medical Records)
- More FAQs
- NPRC Veterans Service Officer (VSO) Information Page
- Funeral Home Director Information Page

**Replace Lost Medals and Awards**  
Learn how to replace lost or damaged medals and awards.

**Browse WWII Photos**  
View a sample of our extensive collection of photographs from World War II.

**NATIONAL  
ARCHIVES**  
AND RECORDS ADMINISTRATION



**Military Personnel Records:** Military personnel records can include DD 214s/Separation Documents, service personnel records found within the Official Military Personnel File (OMPF), and medical records. Military personnel records can be used for proving military service or as a valuable tool in genealogical research. Please note that NPRC holds historical Military Personnel Records of nearly 100 million veterans. The vast majority of these records are paper-based and not available on-line.

**Cost:** Generally there is no charge for basic military personnel and medical record information provided to veterans, next-of-kin and authorized representatives from Federal (non-archival) records. If your request involves a service fee, you will be notified as soon as that determination is made. However, Archival OMPFs are subject to the NARA fee schedule that authorizes the Agency to collect fees from the public for copies of archival records (44 USC 2116c and 44 USC 2307). Online, mailed and faxed archival requests require the purchase of the COMPLETE photocopy of the OMPF:

- A routine OMPF of 5 pages or less: \$25 flat fee
- A routine OMPF of 6 pages or more: \$70 flat fee (most OMPFs fall in this category)
- Persons of Exceptional Prominence (PEP) OMPF: \$.80 cents per page (\$20 minimum)

**Response Time:** Response time for records requested from the National Personnel Records Center (NPRC) varies and is dependent upon the complexity of your request, the availability of records and our workload. Please do not send a follow-up request before 90 days have elapsed, as it may cause further delays. While the NPRC works actively to respond to each request in a timely fashion, the Center receives approximately 4,000 - 5,000 requests per day. We are responding to requests for separation documents within 10 days about 92% of the time. However, requests that involve reconstruction efforts due to the 1973 Fire, or older records which require extensive search efforts, may take 6 months or more to complete.

**Military Awards and Decoration:**

- How Do I Request Military Awards and Decorations?
- Important information for Next-of-Kin
- Cold War Recognition Certificate

The National Personnel Records Center (NPRC) does not issue service medals; that is a function of each military service department. Requests for the issuance or replacement of military service medals, decorations and awards should be directed to the specific branch of the military in which the veteran served. However, for cases involving Air Force and Army personnel (click here for exceptions), the NPRC will verify the awards to which a veteran is entitled and forward the request along with the records verification to the appropriate service department for issuance of the medals. Use the addresses listed below, and mail your request accordingly.

## What is My HealthVet?



My HealthVet is VA's Personal Health Record (PHR). Its web-based resources and tools offer you greater control over your care and wellness. Using My HealthVet can empower you to make informed decisions and become an active partner in your health care.

### What can you do?

1. Use the VA Blue Button to print, save or download your personal health information
2. If you are a Veteran who uses the VA health care system, you can access portions of your VA health records online, 24/7
3. Refill your VA prescription(s)
4. View your VA Appointments and VA lab results at your convenience
5. Use Secure Messaging to communicate non-urgent matters with your health care team
6. **Access many more features, tools and resources** by going to My HealthVet at [www.myhealth.va.gov](http://www.myhealth.va.gov)

Bookmark [www.myhealth.va.gov](http://www.myhealth.va.gov) as a favorite.

## Start here

Register at [www.myhealth.va.gov](http://www.myhealth.va.gov) and become an active partner in your health care.

**1** Type [www.myhealth.va.gov](http://www.myhealth.va.gov) in the address bar on your web browser, and then press **Enter**. This takes you to VA's **My HealthVet** website.

**2** On the right-hand side, select the **Register Today** button.

**3** Enter your information on the registration page. Read and accept the **Terms & Conditions** and the **Privacy Policy** for using the **My HealthVet** website.

**4** Log into your **My HealthVet** account and create your **Personal Health Record**. That's it!

**Your health care team can't be with you all the time.** My HealthVet provides you trusted health and benefits information 24/7. Having this information at your fingertips, when you need it, can help you make informed decisions about your overall health and wellness.

My HealthVet offers a wealth of unique features such as:

- Your Military Service Information (if eligible)
- The ability to communicate, online, with your VA health care team through Secure Messaging
- The option to share your personal health information via the VA Blue Button
- The opportunity to read your health care team's notes from appointments and hospital stays with VA OpenNotes

PLUS... many other features available at your convenience!

**Log on**

Specific features in My HealthVet are available to you based on your account type.

Users with a Basic account are able to view their self-entered information. If you are a VA patient, you can upgrade your account to Advanced or Premium\*. These account types allow you to refill your VA prescriptions online and view parts of your VA health record.

\* With an upgraded Premium account, you can access all that My HealthVet has to offer and will be the first to use new features. Ask about Authentication, in-person or online, at your local VA facility today!

### Tools designed for you

#### Secure Messaging

Communicate non-urgent concerns or questions to your VA health care team.

#### VA Prescription Refills

Refill your VA medication(s) with just a few easy keystrokes and your medication(s) will be on their way to your mailing address.

#### VA Appointments

View detailed information about your VA clinic appointments.

#### VA Notes

View a copy of your **VA Notes** recorded during a clinic visit or hospital stay. This information comes from your official VA health record.

#### Medical Libraries

My HealthVet provides two extensive, online medical libraries: MedlinePlus and the Veterans Health Library. Both can be accessed under the Research Health tab.

#### Military Health History/Military Service Information

Enter and track all of your military health information, plus access your DoD Military Service Information (if eligible).

#### VA Blue Button

View, print or download your personal health information with the VA Blue Button.



Blue Button  
Download  
My Data

Online

My Health, My Care: 24/7 Access to VA

#### My HealthVet:

[www.myhealth.va.gov](http://www.myhealth.va.gov)

#### VA Main Website:

[www.va.gov](http://www.va.gov)



Scan this QR code to learn more.

## Your VA Personal Health Record:

### Take Control of Your Health and Wellness



Defining  
**VA HEALTH CARE**  
**EXCELLENCE**  
in the 21st Century

For more information, contact a local My HealthVet Coordinator.  
Revised 07/2013

IB10-233 P96276



Are you getting the most out of the benefits you've earned?

**MyNGAI.com**

**MyNGAI is a service provided to members of the National Guard Association of Indiana and all Hoosier Veterans.**



**Raising Awareness of and Improving Access to the Benefits and Services You've earned through military service**

**Recent briefings include:**

- **New Rules for the Military Family Relief Fund**
- **(Possibly) The Best Dependant Benefit Offered in Indiana**
- **Making Use of Your County Veteran Service Officer**



MyNGAI is brought to you by the National Guard Association of Indiana, dozens of businesses who are our Community Partners, and the Indiana Department of Veterans Affairs.

Join your National Guard Association of Indiana @  
[www.ngai.net/membership](http://www.ngai.net/membership)

## Taps



**Retired Col. Robert Duane Franke**  
**February 24, 1941 – March 27, 2015**

Robert Franke was a well-known Air National Guard Commander for the 122nd Tactical Fighter Wing, of Ft. Wayne, Ind. In his last three years of service, Franke served in Washington D.C., becoming the director of the counter-drug enforcement division for the National Guard. He is survived by his wife Carolyn, his son Curtis and daughter Julia.

**Retired Chief Master Sgt. Harold R. Lehman**  
**April 30, 1924 – December 23, 2015**

Harold R. Lehman, began his military career with the Army during WWII where saw active combat in France with the 100th Division. He later joined the Air National Guard, serving with the 122nd until he retired in 1984 as a Chief Master Sergeant. He is survived by his sons Harold, Charles, daughters Gloria, Martha and Josephine, and 17 grandchildren.

**Retired Col. Robert F. Miller,**  
**May 23, 1929 – July 28, 2015**

Robert Miller joined the Indiana National Guard right after he graduated high school in 1948. There he served with the 150th Artillery Battalion. He later switched to the Army Reserves, in Connecticut, attaining the rank of colonel. Miller served in the military for 42 years. He is survived by his son Michael, his daughters Marcia Bawron and Michelle Pape, and five grandchildren.



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