



Growing Healthy Military Families

By: Senior Airman Elise Stout, 126th Air Refueling Wing, Public Affairs

SCOTT AIR FORCE BASE, Illinois -

Members of the Illinois Air and Army National Guard, Air Force, and Air Force Reserves came together April 27 at the Mid-America Army National Guard Readiness Center, Shiloh, Illinois, to learn healthy eating habits from Operation Homefront.

Darcy Clardy, the organizer of Growing Healthy Military Families said this is the first time that Operation Homefront has partnered with Walmart to teach healthy living to military families.

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Illinois hosts foreign military attachés

CHICAGO – The Illinois National Guard hosted foreign military attachés from more than 30 different countries April 27.

Maj. Gen. William Cobetto of Hillsboro, Illinois, Assistant Adjutant General-Air, Illinois Air National Guard, said the group was particularly interested in how the Illinois National Guard works with civil authorities during domestic operations.

“They were all very intrigued by our command structure during emergency incident response where civilian authorities are in charge and the National Guard elements play a supporting role,” said Cobetto.

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VISION:

The Premier State Joint Force within the National Guard

Soldiers compete to be Best Warrior

By: Staff Sgt. Bryan Spreitzer, Illinois National Guard Public Affairs

Marseilles, Illinois

– The Illinois Army National Guard’s top Soldier said he was motivated to win by the love of his family and of a hometown still recovering from a devastating 2013 tornado.

Seven Soldiers from across the state met at the Illinois National Guard’s Marseilles Training Area in Marseilles, Illinois April 9 for a four-day competition to determine the best enlisted Soldier and non-commissioned officer in the Illinois Army National Guard.

This year’s winners are both members of the 444th Chemical Company in Galesburg, Illinois.

Spc. Paul Born of Washington, Illinois, took honors as Illinois’ enlisted Soldier of the Year and Sgt. Christopher Morris of Springfield, Illinois, took the spot as Illinois’ NCO of the Year.

“I knew that I had to train hard,” said Born. “My motivation to win came from the love of my family and the love for my hometown.” Born’s hometown of Washington, Illinois was devastated by a tornado in November 2013.

Staff Sgt. Christopher Stoops of Geneso, Illinois, a member of Troop C, 2nd Squadron, 106th Cavalry Regiment out of out of Aurora, Illinois, crawls under barbed wire during the confidence course portion of the Best Warrior competition at Marseilles Training Area April 10. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Spc. Jason Dorsey, Illinois National Guard Public Affairs)

Born said the town’s resilience in recovering from the tornado inspired him.

Going into the final event on April 12, competition was tight with less than 10 points separating the leaders in each division. Born solidified his top spot by finishing the 10-mile road march in less than two hours.

Morris said his motivation came from his family as well and was grateful for the opportunity to compete at the state level.

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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.

Senior Leader’s Corner

A Common Goal

As we continue moving forward in our current environment of limited time and resources, you will notice our efforts becoming more and more focused on a common goal. Within our strategic plan, individual and unit readiness is a product of deliberate actions with specific lines of effort in support of this common goal.



Chief Warrant Officer 5 David W. Hammon Illinois Command Chief Warrant Officer

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Camp Lincoln conducts active shooter exercise

SPRINGFIELD, Illinois – The Illinois National Guard conducted an active shooter exercise April 23 to enhance cooperation between agencies during a variety of emergency scenarios.

“We conduct an active shooter exercise annually to ensure that personnel on Camp Lincoln are aware of how to protect themselves in these types of scenarios,” said Capt. Jacob Beard of Jacksonville, Ill., Provost Marshal for the Illinois National Guard.



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KEY TENETS:

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

NGB's Top NCO Visits Illinois Soldiers

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

MARSEILLES, Illinois – Chief Master Sergeant Mitchell O. Brush, Senior Enlisted Advisor for the National Guard Bureau, visited Marseilles Training Center in Marseilles, Illinois April 10-11 to connect with Soldiers from units throughout Illinois.

Brush linked up with Command Sgt. Maj. Mark W. Bowman of Naperville, State Command Sergeant Major of the Illinois National Guard to discuss Illinois National Guard Training.

The two leaders had breakfast with the troops, watched the Best Warrior competitors negotiate the confidence course, attended the Best Warrior social and then

travelled to see the Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 178th Infantry train at the Marseilles forward operating base. There they observed the mortar men going through operating procedures to fire the weapon system.

Sgt. David Gray of Chicago, Indirect Fire Infantryman with the Headquarters and Headquarters 178th Infantry Company based in Chicago, gave Brush an overview of the weapon and training.

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Chief Master Sergeant Mitchell O. Brush, Senior Enlisted Advisor for the National Guard Bureau speaks to Soldiers at a town hall meeting at the Marseilles Training Area in Marseilles Illinois April 11. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Spc. Jason Dorsey, Illinois National Guard Public Affairs.)

108th Makes Leadership Changes

SPRINGFIELD, Illinois – When it was time for Col. Drew Dukett to rotate out of command of the 108th Sustainment Brigade, the Illinois National Guard didn't have to look far for a replacement.

Lt. Col. Rodney Boyd, the brigade's operations officer, took command of the 108th on Feb. 8 during a ceremony at Chicago's Northwest Armory.

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Combined Pre-Mobilization Training

MARSEILLES, Illinois – A convoy of humvees rolling down the street suddenly came to a screeching halt. A group of Soldiers jump out with weapons in hand, their eyes glued to a suspicious object in the middle of the road. Someone yelled, "Wires! Wires! Wires!" and the entire group fell back to their vehicles to take precautionary measures and await further instructions.

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Soldiers Home from Africa

DECATUR, Illinois – Approximately 10 Illinois Army National Guardsmen who served in Africa with Detachment 36, Operational Support Airlift based in Decatur, Illinois have returned home.

The unit mobilized in July 2014 and deployed to Djibouti, Africa, for approximately nine months. [READ MORE](#)

C Battery, 2-122 FA Uncases Their Colors

CHICAGO – Soldiers of the 2nd Battalion 122nd Field Artillery (2/122 FA) in Chicago gathered at the General Richard L. Jones Armory in Chicago April 12 for the uncasing of the colors for a new Battery C.

The ceremony marks the first time in nearly 10 years that the Battery has been part of the 2/122 FA.

"It's great to be the founding members of the new chapter of this battery's history," said Capt. William Fitzsimons of Evanston, Illinois, the new battery commander.

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First U.S. Tank Commander to Engage Enemy Forces in World War II Dies

MAYWOOD, Illinois – 1st Lt. Benjamin Morin, the first U.S. tank commander to engage enemy forces in World War II and the last surviving officer of the National Guard's famed 192nd Tank Battalion, has died at a retirement home for Catholic priests in Michigan.

Morin died April 23, of natural causes at the Colombiere Center in Clarkston, Michigan. He was 94 years old. After his service in the Philippines' and Japan during World War II, Morin returned home to Maywood, was ordained as a Roman Catholic priest in 1946 and worked as a missionary in Peru for 38 years.



U.S. Army photo of Lt. Ben Morin taken prior to his deployment to the Phillipines. (Submitted photo.)

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ARNG Commissions Two

Springfield, Illinois – The Illinois Army National Guard's 129th Regional Training Institute Officer Candidate School (OCS) commissioned two officers at the Illinois Military Academy on Camp Lincoln April 19.

Sgt. First Class Timothy Glass of Urbana, Illinois, and Staff Sgt. Benjamin Pepeich of Plainfield, Illinois, became second lieutenants after completing more than 650 hours of classroom and field training.

As a noncommissioned officer, Glass was assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 33rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team in Urbana, Illinois, where he will remain for his first assignment as an officer.

Pepich was assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion, 130th Infantry Regiment in Marion, Illinois. [READ MORE](#)

Hanging up their boots after 20 years:

■ **Lt. Col. Michael Bolwitt**
182nd Airlift Wing

■ **Chief Master Sgt. Aaron Gatterdam**
182nd Airlift Wing

■ **Master Sgt. Steven Mathis**
HHC 108th Sustainment Brigade

■ **Sgt. 1st Class Richard Fuller**
2-123rd Forward Support Company

■ **Staff Sgt. Martin Castillo**
HHC 108th Sustainment Brigade

■ **Sgt. Robert Duncan**
Det. 1 1344th Transportation Company

■ **Sgt. Fred Douglas**
HHC 404th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade

■ **Master Sgt. Robert Johnson**
182nd Airlift Wing

■ **Master Sgt. Vance Thomas**
182nd Airlift Wing

■ **Master Sgt. Franklin Smith**
126th Force Support Squadron

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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

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