

INDIANA GUARDSMAN

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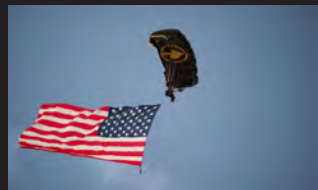
An Indiana National Guard Publication



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Front cover: Two Indiana National Guard A-10 Thunderbolt IIs with the 122nd Fighter Wing fly over the Fort Wayne Air Show at Baer Field, Sunday, Sept. 11, 2016. Photo by Staf Sgt. William Hopper

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Guest Editorial

Indiana National Guard: passport to adventure, growth

By Staff Sgt. Casey Hamilton



The majority of my childhood I spent riding horses, playing with my dog and reading. I wasn't the best student, and argued with teachers, getting into trouble or just being obstinate. I also loved reading, and I loved the epic adventures of the characters I read about.

Despite their adventures, I assumed early on that I wouldn't go anywhere or do much. Despite my desire to travel, I stayed in Loogootee after graduating high school in early 2005.

I spent the next year and a half after in limbo. I worked as a manager at a fast food restaurant, and I didn't go to college because I didn't have the money nor the grades to get in.

The financial burden wouldn't have mattered anyway. I would have squandered any opportunity I had been given at the time.

I drank, did a lot of nothing, gained a lot of weight, I was unhealthy mentally and physically. I look back now, and I see that I had low self-esteem. I was unhappy.

Others saw potential though. My high school counselor kept telling me that I was really smart, that I needed to apply myself. But I never saw myself like that.

It took me a long time to get to the point where I realized what my counselor said was true, that I was worthy and capable of more. That I could put responsibilities and goals on myself, and I could meet those expectations. Getting to the point of realizing you are capable of achieving something, and not talking yourself out of it, is a big deal. Too often we decide we shouldn't try because we think we will fail or we worry what others think.

My parents noticed that I was struggling, but I wasn't sure what I wanted.

Maybe my dad influenced me.

My dad had been in the infantry for

more than 20 years. He was a staff sergeant, and he deployed to Iraq in 2003.

All I thought the military was ... was dirt, sleeping outside, combat. I remember watching my dad shine his boots, my mom sewing on patches and nametapes, ironing uniforms. I remember by dad

coming back from training and smelling like cigars and cussing slightly more than usual.

I made the decision to join the military after several months of talking and internal debate. But the real point came at work on a Wednesday at 10 a.m., just after the restaurant opened. My first customer that day was a naked man, extremely intoxicated, who came through the drive-thru. That was my moment.

Say what you want about faith or God, but I believe that was my sign. That was the day God spoke to me and told me I need to do something different. I went and talked to a recruiter the next day. I had previously taken the ASVAB in high school and had scored a 12 by randomly filling in the bubbles. Had I stuck it out with that score, I would have only gotten in with a waiver, and my choices would have been limited.

So I took the ASVAB again at the request of my recruiter. I scored high enough on the retest that I could do any job I wanted, and I picked military intelligence analyst.

It was all gravy from that point. I started running, working out, for the first time in my life, taking better care of myself, and realizing that I could control the way I looked and felt about myself: that I was in control of my life and not just a passenger.

When I left for basic training in October 2006, I felt terror and fear about being in this new adventure all by myself, but I knew it was the right thing. In this environment of being pushed to do my best, a drill sergeant showed me how I should present myself as a woman in uniform. And I was encouraged by a group of female soldiers that the goals

of graduation, and moving forward into wearing this uniform with honor and pride, is obtainable.

Now, I couldn't go back to who I was, and I didn't want to. This was my place and where I was supposed to be. I went from talking myself out of things because I would fail, to talking myself into things because I knew I could succeed. Even if I failed, I would be OK, because I could learn from that too.

In the 10 years I have been in the Indiana Army National Guard, I can add some perspective to these past years.

I am constantly humbled by the fact that I can walk into and join my local Veterans of Foreign Wars Post # 9395 and the American Legion #120. While these veterans have no idea who I am, I am looked and treated like I am one of them, and that in and of itself is a huge honor.

I reclassified in 2008 as a geospatial engineer prior to my first deployment to Iraq, then I deployed to Afghanistan with the 101st Airborne Division shortly after. Now I am part of 2-238th General Support Aviation Battalion in support of an upcoming mission to Kosovo, as the noncommissioned officer for the intelligence section.

Between my deployments, I contracted with General Dynamics. I spent time working in Bahrain, Qatar, United Arab Emirates, Kuwait, Afghanistan, Saudi Arabia and Kyrgyzstan. I have also traveled extensively within the United States for military training. I have an associate degree in military intelligence and am working towards my bachelor's in safety management and risk mitigation.

I also work full time and have gained a ton of practical work experience while pursuing my degree. I have used my National Guard benefits to remain debt free, while getting an education.

All of this is because I took a chance at

See **Passport**, page 10



Indiana Army National Guard Lt. Col. Larry Muennich, 2-238th General Support Aviation Battalion commander, at lectern, thanks Indiana National Guard leadership, families and the town of Shelbyville for their support during the departure ceremony at the Shelbyville Armory, Friday, Sept. 16, 2016.

Hoosier Guardsmen set for Kosovo deployment

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

Approximately 100 Indiana National Guard soldiers with the 38th Infantry Division's combat aviation brigade are set to deploy to the Balkans in support of Kosovo Force.

Peers, family and friends wished the deploying Hoosier Guardsmen well at a departure ceremony in Shelbyville, Friday, Sept. 16.

Indiana Army National Guard Lt. Col. Larry Muennich, of Louisville, Kentucky, will lead the aviation troops.

"I could not be more humbled or proud to lead this organization of professionals in support our nation's mission abroad," said Muennich, 2nd Battalion, 238th General Support Aviation commander. "Make no mistake, today we know who the real heroes are; they are the citizen-soldiers and families of the aviation battalion."

The Hoosier Guardsmen with the 38th Infantry Division's combat aviation brigade will provide stability operations in the NATO-led mission that contributes to safe and secure environment that assists with the international humanitarian effort.

"We know the heart of our nation's defense stands our citizen-soldier. Today our citizen-soldiers in front of you are ready," said Muennich. "They are ready to once again answer the call of our nation in support of stability operations in Kosovo."

Muennich's senior-enlisted adviser is Command Sgt. Maj. Kenneth Mobley, of Greensburg, and he agreed with his commander.

"I'm looking forward to it," said Mobley of the mission ahead. "It's a great mission to support Kosovo."

More information on Kosovo Force can be found at <http://jfcnaples.nato.int/>.



Indiana Army National Guard Sgt. Ruben Valdes shows his son, Isaac, the cockpit of a UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter at the Shelbyville Armory, Friday, Sept. 16, 2016. Valdes, a 38th Combat Aviation Brigade crew chief, is deploying to the Balkans in support of Kosovo Force and will assist in stability operations to provide a safe and secure environment that helps with the NATO-led international humanitarian effort.



The 38th Infantry Division Commanding General, Maj. Gen. David C. Wood, right, listens to two soldiers who are heading to Kosovo to support the NATO-led international humanitarian effort in the Balkans.

Kosovo



Kosovo flag

A country in strife, Indiana's part to help

The central Balkans were part of the Roman and Byzantine Empires before ethnic Serbs migrated to the territories of modern Kosovo in the 7th century.

During the medieval period, Kosovo became the center of a Serbian Empire and saw the construction of many important Serb religious sites, including many architecturally significant Serbian Orthodox monasteries.

The defeat of Serbian forces at the Battle of Kosovo in 1389 led to five centuries of Ottoman rule during which large numbers of Turks and Albanians moved to Kosovo.

By the end of the 19th century, Albanians replaced Serbs as the dominant ethnic group in Kosovo.

Serbia reacquired control over the region from the Ottoman Empire during the First Balkan War of 1912. After World War II, Kosovo's present-day boundaries were established when Kosovo became an autonomous province of Serbia in the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

Despite legislative concessions, Albanian nationalism increased in the 1980s, which led to riots and calls for Kosovo's independence. The Serbs - many of whom viewed Kosovo as their cultural heartland - instituted a new constitution in 1989 revoking Kosovo's autonomous status.

Kosovo's Albanian leaders responded in 1991 by organizing a referendum declaring Kosovo independent. Serbia undertook repressive measures against the Kosovar Albanians in the 1990s, provoking a Kosovar Albanian insurgency.

Beginning in 1998, Serbia conducted a brutal counterinsurgency campaign that resulted in massacres and massive expulsions of ethnic Albanians, some 800,000 ethnic Albanians were forced from their homes in Kosovo.

After international attempts to mediate the conflict failed, a three-month NATO military operation against Serbia beginning in March 1999 forced the Serbs to agree to withdraw their military and police forces from Kosovo.

United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244 in 1999 placed Kosovo under a transitional administration, the U.N. Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo, pending a determination of Kosovo's future status. A U.N.-led process began in late 2005 to determine Kosovo's final status.

The 2006-07 negotiations ended without agreement between Belgrade and Pristina, though the U.N. issued a comprehensive report on Kosovo's final status that endorsed independence.

On Feb. 17, 2008, the Kosovo Assembly declared Kosovo independent. Since then, more than 100 countries have recognized Kosovo, and it has joined numerous international organizations.

In October 2008, Serbia sought an advisory opinion from the International Court of Justice on the legality under international law of Kosovo's declaration of independence. The ICJ released the advisory opinion in July 2010 affirming that Kosovo's declaration of independence did not violate general principles of international law, Resolution 1244, or the Constitutive Framework. The opinion was closely tailored to Kosovo's unique history and circumstances.



Map of Kosovo, capital Pristina, and its four neighbors.

Serbia continues to reject Kosovo's independence, but the two countries reached an agreement to normalize their relations in April 2013 through European Union-facilitated talks and are currently engaged in the implementation process. Kosovo seeks full integration into the international community.

Editor's Note: Background narrative, map and flag courtesy of CIA World Factbook at cia.gov.

Indiana Deployments

Indiana National Guard soldier and airmen deployments, by year, to support Kosovo Force, the NATO-led mission since 1999.

2004	171	— Army National Guard
2005	9*	— Air National Guard
2006	3	— Army National Guard
2007	21	— Army National Guard
2010	12	— Air National Guard
2011	12	— Air National Guard
2012	4	— Army National Guard
2013	26	— Army National Guard
2015	2	— Army National Guard
2016	99	— Army National Guard

Totals 359 — 13 Air & 10 Army**

*Average represents total between 2000 and 2010, no records by year

**Multiple deployments per year

122nd Fighter Wing hosts Thunderbirds, Fort Wayne air show



Photo by Staff Sgt. William Hopper

A U.S. Special Operations Command paratrooper flies into the 2015 Fort Wayne Air Show, Sunday, Sept. 11, 2016, hosted by the Indiana National Guard's 122nd Fighter Wing at Baer Field and featured the U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds aerial demonstration team.



Photo by Staff Sgt. William Hopper

Crowds watch as aircraft perform aerobatics during the 2016 Fort Wayne Air Show.



Photo by Staff Sgt. William Hopper

An F/A-18 Super Hornet aircraft breaks the speed of sound producing a distinct vapor cone during the 2016 Fort Wayne Air Show at Baer Field, Sunday, Sept. 11, 2016.



Photo by Staff Sgt. William Hopper

An A-10 Thunderbolt II aka Warthog comes in for a landing during the 2016 Fort Wayne Air Show, Sunday, Sept. 11, 2016, hosted by the 122nd Fighter Wing. Along with the headlining Thunderbirds aerial performance, the air show featured a wide variety of acts and interactive static displays for the public to enjoy.



Photo by Staff Sgt. William Hopper

A U.S. Air Force Thunderbird gains altitude during the 2016 Fort Wayne Air Show as the crowd watches, Sunday, Sept. 11, 2016, at the 122nd Fighter Wing's Baer Field. Along with the Thunderbirds' performance, the air show featured a wide variety of acts and interactive static displays for the public to enjoy.



Photo by Staff Sgt. William Hopper

The U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds fly in the four-aircraft diamond formation that demonstrates the pilots' teamwork, training and precision at the Fort Wayne air show.

Load Out! Troops head to Slovakia

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

Indiana National Guard soldiers loaded four UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters and miscellaneous supplies in September from the Gary/Chicago International Airport for two missions in Slovakia: Operation Slovak Shield and Operation Tobruk Legacy.

“The Indiana National Guard has a strong and growing presence in northwest Indiana and our cooperation with the airport reflects our commitment to the region,” said Lt. Col Matthew Handy, Indiana’s aviation support facilities commander.



National Guard soldiers and airmen load a UH-60 helicopter onto a C-17 in Gary, Indiana.



A UH-60 Black Hawk moves into position aboard a C-17 Globemaster III.



West Virginia and Indiana National Guardsmen load a 38th Combat Aviation Brigade UH-60 Black Hawk onto a C-17 cargo plane at the Gary/Chicago International Airport, Thursday, Sept. 15, 2016.



National Guard troops load a C-17 cargo plane in Gary.

Special forces unit now calls Indiana home

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

EDINBURGH, Ind. - National Guard soldiers with Company A, 2/20th Special Forces Group can officially call the Hoosier State their home.

The Indiana National Guardsmen held a ceremony Saturday at Camp Atterbury to mark the move that started last year.

“This ceremony demonstrates the interest and support of the 20th Group and Alpha Company specifically moving to Indiana. There’s a lot of support for you all,” said Maj. Gen. Courtney P. Carr, the Indiana National Guard adjutant general.

With that support, Carr offered resources such as the 122nd Fighter Wing’s A-10s, the 181st Intelligence Wing capabilities, world-class training venues and conventional forces throughout the Indiana National

Guard as opportunities to create the integrated training environment units such as Company A requires in order to be ready for future conflicts.

“We are honored to have Alpha Company, 2nd Battalion, 20th Special Forces Group in the Indiana Guard. We are uniquely positioned and structured to support you,” said Carr who spotlighted the Muscatatuck Urban Training Center, Camp Atterbury’s cyber range and Indiana’s intelligence assets.

The soldiers will base their operations at the southern Indiana post, which is approximately 35 miles south of Indianapolis and has increased Company A’s operational tempo.

“In the last six months we have executed more training events than we have in the last year all because of the state support we received from both Illinois and Indiana,” said Maj. Colby Broadwater, the Company

A commander. “We have a bright future ahead. We strive to be a key piece of the state’s strategic initiatives that develop capability and international partners. We want to honor the state’s amazing military tradition and be an important part of its future.”

Special forces units are the primary U.S. Army element responsible for nine principle tasks which include unconventional warfare, foreign internal defense, counterinsurgency, security force assistance, special reconnaissance, direct action, counterterrorism, counter proliferation, and preparation of the environment.

Previously the unit was stationed in Chicago. The company’s higher headquarters is stationed in Mississippi, but will be operationally controlled by Indiana National Guard Headquarters in Indianapolis.

Warrant officer candidates visit Indy war memorials



National Guard and Reserve soldiers participating in the Warrant Officer Candidate School at Camp Atterbury visited Indianapolis for a class photo at the Indiana War Memorial and listened to retired Indiana Air National Guard Brig. Gen. J. Stewart Goodwin, the executive director of the Indiana War Memorials Commission, Tuesday, Sept. 13, 2016. The candidates also participated in a military history scavenger hunt that fostered teamwork and deepened their knowledge of military leaders and tactics. Indianapolis ranks second only to Washington, D.C. in monuments and memorials dedicated to U.S. armed forces service members with 41.

Indiana names new property, fiscal officer

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

Indiana's Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. Courtney P. Carr, announced the selection of Col. Kenneth E. Ring Jr. as the leader of the Indiana National Guard's U.S. property and fiscal office.

Ring, an aviation officer, has held many positions in the military since commissioning as a second lieutenant from the United States Military Academy in 1986 including scout platoon leader, assistant operations officer, personnel officer, executive officer, acting brigade commander, flight facility commander, state aviation officer, Atterbury-Muscatatuck deputy commander and 38th Infantry Division chief of staff.

Ring's, a veteran with deployments to Bosnia in 2004 and Afghanistan in 2009, most recent position was as the director of personnel force innovation at the Defense Finance and Accounting Services in Lawrence, Indiana.

"I am humbled, honored and blessed to be selected by Maj. Gen. Carr, the governor and chief of the National Guard Bureau to such an important position," said Ring. "Our country continues to face challenges in a resource constrained environment, and I will dedicate my efforts to teaming with Maj. Gen. Carr and his great staff to ensure Indiana can meet our nation's readiness needs while being a leader in fiscal stewardship and accountability. I look forward to the challenge and thank Maj. Gen. Carr for his confidence and support."

In addition to Ring's three-year, active-duty tour at the Defense Department's finance and accounting services, Ring also worked as a senior manager and certified public accountant with Ernst and Young specializing in human capital and global relocation.

"Ken is an outstanding soldier to lead the USPFPO," said Carr. "He brings a wealth of knowledge and leadership skills to guide and advise the Indiana National Guard in terms of fiscal responsibility and property management."



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Lasima O. Packett

Indiana Army National Guard Col. Kenneth E. Ring Jr., right, signs paperwork during a ceremony at the Indiana National Guard Headquarters in Indianapolis, Tuesday, Sept. 20, naming him as Indiana's new property and fiscal officer as Maj. Gen. Courtney P. Carr, the adjutant general, left, and Col. Paul Wolfley, outgoing property and fiscal officer, watch.

Indiana National Guard serves as passport to growth

Continued from page 3

saying yes and seeing a recruiter.

When I first joined the military, my mom got some push back from various people about me joining the military especially in the middle of two wars. Now after 10 years, she has some of the same people, saying they wish their children had joined. Some of my friends tell me the same.

I plan on taking this uniform as far as it can take me. I know wherever I go, I will be more than OK, and I can meet whatever challenges

life throws at me, and I can handle them well.

Working with young enlisted soldiers, helping people, traveling, the bonds I've built, the experiences I have had are fun and rewarding. I love getting to know new soldiers, seeing the potential they have, helping them build confidence and pushing them on into greater things, like flight school or fulfilling career goals.

The Army National Guard has given me tools and skills that I can never pay back. It's not monetary. It's having people in my local community trust me. The self-confidence of

walking into something new and knowing I can handle it.

My mom always said, "Casey, you have to bloom where you are planted." I have been trying to do that for 10 years now. And I feel like I'm just getting started. It's exciting.

Editor's Note: Staff Sgt. Casey Hamilton, a 10-year veteran in the Indiana Army National Guard, serves as the intelligence noncommissioned officer in charge for 2-238th General Support Aviation Battalion, and she's on the deployment to Kosovo. She deployed with the 38th Combat Aviation Brigade in 2009.

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The U.S. flag flies at half-staff at the 2016 Fort Wayne Air hosted by the 122nd Fighter Wing, Sept. 11. Photo by Staff Sgt. William Hopper