

The

RAILSPLITTER



Illinois National Guard

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933rd Soldiers return from Afghanistan



Photo by U.S. Army Spc. Jason Dorsey, Illinois National Guard Public Affairs

Capt. Thomas Gilligan of Bolingbrook renders a salute June 15 at O'Hare International Airport in Chicago before releasing his troops to their families after serving 10 months in Afghanistan.

Illinois warrant officers celebrate 95th birthday

Story by Staff Sgt. Michael Camacho
Illinois National Guard Public Affairs

SPRINGFIELD - Illinois National Guard Soldiers celebrated the Army Warrant Officer Corps' 95th birthday July 10 at Camp Lincoln in Springfield.

While the Warrant Officer Corps existed as far back as the Revolutionary War in other U.S. military branches, the Army did not have warrant officers until July 9, 1918.

In that year an act of Congress established the Army Mine Planter Service as part of the Coast Artillery Corps. With 40 new warrant officers in the Army, this created a corps of highly skilled specialty officers who serve as technical experts, providing valuable skills, guidance and expertise.

"The branches and area of expertise available to warrant officers began to expand after that," said Adriana Schroeder of Springfield, the Illinois National Guard command historian. "It was not until 1920 the Warrant Officer Corps was established in the Army National Guard."

Following the National Defense Act of 1920, warrant officers were able to serve as Army bandmasters.

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Glisson takes command of 65th TCB



Photo by U.S. Army Sgt. Zachary Zimmerman
139th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Brig. Gen. Johnny Miller hands the 65th flag to Lt. Col. Michael Glisson at Camp Lincoln in Springfield, June 22.

Illinois, Poland state partnership continues to thrive after 20 years

Story by Staff Sgt. Bryan Spreitzer
Task Force White Eagle Public Affairs Liaison



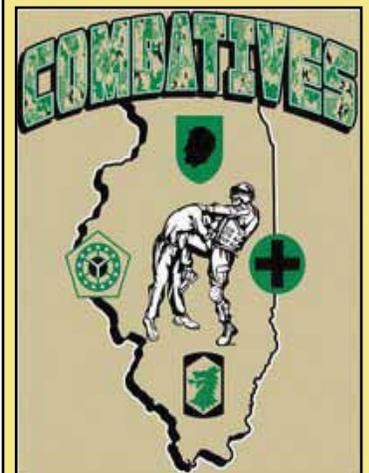
GHAZNI PROVINCE, Afghanistan – It looks like any average day in Afghanistan as troops from multiple nations stand around a table planning operations with the Afghan National Security Forces to create conditions for lasting peace. But the sight of Polish Land Forces and Illinois National Guardsmen of the Bi-Lateral Embedded Staff Team (BEST) A11 has greater meaning than what meets the eye.

The Republic of Poland and the Illinois National Guard have done this for 20 years, and for the past 10 years, they have done it every day, 24 hours per day, seven days per week in Iraq and Afghanistan. July 14 marks the 20th anniversary of the strategic partnership forged between the Republic of Poland and the Illinois National Guard as a part of the National Guard Partnership for Peace Program, now called the State Partnership Program.

Sparking the program 20 years ago was a request from the Latvian government.

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2013 ILNG Combatives Tournament



September 14 & 15

Meet Brig. Gen. Hayes, Deputy Adjutant General

Today as I write this article and reflect on the last six weeks since I assumed my new position, I stand in amazement and reflect on the pride I have in this great organization. We have great Airmen and Soldiers, and great caring leadership.



Brig. Gen. Richard J. Hayes

My intent is to make us stronger by being more proactive, innovative, efficient, flexible, and nimble. Today I want to take a few minutes to describe a little bit about myself, my leadership philosophy and style, as well as highlight my new role in this great organization.

I am married to my wife Danette, have three children David, Makayla, and Kelly, and have two grandchildren, Cecelia and Adriana. I have been an Illinois resident the majority of my life. I left Illinois after high school to attend the University of Kansas where I graduated and received my commission through the ROTC Program in the winter of 1987. I initially served in the Kansas Army National Guard for a couple years before I transferred into the Illinois Army National Guard. My first unit in the ILARNG was 2nd Battalion, 122nd Field Artillery.

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July 4 marks anniversaries

SPRINGFIELD – In addition to marking the independence of the United States, the Illinois National Guard is also marking the 150th anniversary of the Siege of Vicksburg and the Battle of Gettysburg during the Civil War and the 95th anniversary of the Battle of Hamel during World War I.

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PHOTOS FROM THE FIELD

- **Officer candidates train in South Dakota**
- **Three Soldiers graduate Sergeants Major Academy**
- **Capt. Aaron Tvrdy receives MacArthur award**
- **Guardsman serves with stepdaughter**
- **633rd Soldiers honored at Freedom Salute**
- **Soldiers graduate 88M school at Camp Lincoln**

Six Soldiers graduate inaugural 92G instructor course



Photo by U.S. Army Sgt. Robert Adams, Illinois National Guard Public Affairs

Sgt. Jeffrey H. McKinney of Niantic, with Company F, 634th Brigade Support Battalion in Mt. Vernon, places pork onto a baking sheet held by Staff Sgt. Aaron D. Warner of Independence, Mo., with the 1844th Transportation Company in Quincy, June 5 at Camp Lincoln in Springfield.

Hanging up their boots after 20+ years of service

- **Col. David Reynolds**
126th Air Refueling Wing
- **Maj. Lawrence Smith**
HHD, 405th Brigade Support Battalion
- **Senior Master Sgt. William Buckwalter**
126th Air Refueling Wing
- **1st Sgt. Cory Harbison**
1344th Transportation Company
- **Senior Master Sgt. Jeffrey LeMaire**
182nd Airlift Wing
- **Sgt. 1st Class Hector Gomez**
1st Battalion, 129th Regiment (Trans)(RTI)
- **Master Sgt. Linda Ivins**
126th Air Refueling Wing
- **Sgt. 1st Class Luanna Mills**
Company E, 634th Brigade Support Battalion
- **Sgt. 1st Class Rodney Thompson**
1344th Transportation Company
- **Tech. Sgt. Michael Hodson**
126th Air Refueling Wing
- **Staff Sgt. Radame Melendez**
1244th Transportation Company
- **Staff Sgt. Shaun Mills**
Medical Detachment (SP2)
- **Sgt. Michael Woodbury**
333rd Military Police Company

Welcome the new Child and Youth Program Coordinator
Holly Cormier
She will be located in Springfield and coordinating Education Outreach briefings and supporting other Youth Program events.

LCA graduates 292 cadets

SPRINGFIELD – June 15, 292 cadets graduated from Lincoln's Challenge Academy (LCA), an Illinois National Guard administered program for at-risk youth.



The ceremony for the Rantoul-based program was held at the Prairie Capital Convention Center in Springfield, Ill.

LCA is one of the most successful youth challenge programs in the nation. Approximately 75 percent of LCA graduates earn their graduate equivalency diplomas.

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Your input is needed in the transformation of the Illinois National Guard Readiness Centers
Please take a moment to complete the survey
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/ILARNGFunctionalSpaceSurvey>

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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

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

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