

The

# RAILSPLITTER



Illinois National Guard

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## Sexual assault reports rising, reporting encouraged

Story by Monica Eng and Stacy St. Clair  
Chicago Tribune

**CHICAGO** - The Illinois National Guard had 17 reported sexual assaults in 2012, a record number that leaders say reflects increased efforts to encourage victims to come forward and the work that still needs to be done nationwide to change the attitude toward sexual

violence in the military.

The numbers represent a 55 percent increase in reported attacks over the previous year and more than double those reported in 2008 and 2009. There have been eight cases reported this year, a guard spokesman said.

The newly released statistics come as the Obama administration and Congress have expressed frustration with the Pentagon's

efforts to curb sexual assaults. Results of an anonymous survey published by the Department of Defense last month estimated 26,000 people in the armed forces endured unwanted sexual contact — ranging from rape to groping — last year, compared with 19,000 in 2010.

Still, there were 3,374 reported sexual assaults against service members in fiscal 2012.

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## 182nd Hercules aircraft conduct rare seven-ship taxi



Photo by U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Lealan Buehrer, 182nd Airlift Wing Public Affairs

Illinois Air National Guard C-130H3 Hercules aircraft conduct a flyby over the 182nd Airlift Wing in Peoria, June 2. The 182nd was presented the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award for exceptional meritorious service June 1. The wing was noted specifically for reducing the enemy forces' fighting capability and for actions that saved the lives of coalition forces during Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan.

### Hayes appointed as new Assistant Adjutant General

Illinois National Guard  
Public Affairs Office

**SPRINGFIELD** – Governor Pat Quinn appointed Brig. Gen. Richard J. Hayes of Buffalo Grove as the Assistant Adjutant General of the Illinois National Guard on June 3.

As the Assistant Adjutant General, Hayes will serve as the principal assistant to the Adjutant General Brig. Gen. Daniel M. Krumrei in all matters pertaining to supervision and management of the Illinois Department of Military Affairs and the Illinois National Guard.



**Brig. Gen. Richard J. Hayes**

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### Maj. Gen. Dennis Celletti retires after 41 years

Story by Mike Chrisman  
Illinois National Guard  
Public Affairs

**SPRINGFIELD**—Maj. Gen. Dennis Celletti of Springfield has always made time for both his military and civilian family. After 41 years, he is saying farewell to his family in the Illinois Army National Guard.

“He holds a strong bond to family life. His ability to manage the busy life of the Guard and then take time to spend time with all of us is unbelievable,” said Celletti’s only son, Maj. Jason Celletti of Springfield.



**Maj. Gen. Dennis L. Celletti**

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### Zerbonia appointed Land Forces Commander

Illinois National Guard  
Public Affairs Office

**SPRINGFIELD**—Brig. Gen. Daniel M. Krumrei, the Adjutant General of the Illinois National Guard, appointed Col. Michael R. Zerbonia Jr. of Chatham, Ill., as the Illinois National Guard’s Land Forces Commander.

The appointment means Zerbonia will also be promoted to brigadier general.

Zerbonia is the Colonel of Operations for the Illinois State Police.



**Col. Michael R. Zerbonia**

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# Special Forces train in public places

Story by Capt. Dutch Grove  
139th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

**CHICAGO** - Illinois National Guard Special Forces Soldiers have taken advantage of a relatively new Department of Defense initiative to bring realism to military training by conducting it in public places rather than the controlled environment of a military base.

“The Realistic Military Training (RMT) initiative creates more opportunity to train realistically and to train with the populace in an area that has non-standard buildings, government structures, traffic lights... things that we wouldn’t normally encounter on a military base,” said Joseph Kilcullen, commander of Company A, 20th Special Forces Group (Airborne) in Chicago.

The RMT mission dubbed “Operation Pushback” was May 17 to 19 at several suburban Chicago residential and government buildings. The training scenario challenged Illinois National Guard Special Forces Soldiers’ foreign language skills while gathering intelligence information to break up a human, gun and drug trafficking ring.

The unit planned and executed the training exercise with the help of the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement’s (ICE) Homeland Security Investigations (HSI), which assisted securing training locations and played the role of the bad guys.

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Photo by U.S. Army Capt. Dutch Grove  
139th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

**A Soldier with the Illinois National Guard’s Company A, 20th Special Forces Group (Airborne), searches a suspect while his teammates watch for other activity in Manteno, May 19.**

## BEST tradition continues

By Col. Christopher Lawson  
“Wise Guy 6” Commander BEST A11

We arrived on Forward Operating Base Ghazni, Afghanistan, home to Task Force White Eagle (TF WE), in early April. Bilateral Embedded Staff Team (BEST) A10 “Blackjack” welcomed our team with the warmest of smiles and brotherly hugs glad we had arrived. Eager to transfer authority and return home to enjoy the comforts of family, friends and Illini football, A10 lowered their Illinois flag and A11 “Wise Guys” proudly raised our Illinois flag.

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Courtesy photo

**Afghan National Police give a demonstration at Forward Operating Base Ghazni, Afghanistan, March 19.**

## PHOTOS FROM THE FIELD

- **935th Soldier competes on TV series MasterChef**
- **TAG celebrates Armed Forces Day at Navy Pier**
- **Breakfast with the Boss**
- **633rd mom returns in time for Mother’s Day**
- **634th wife recognized for Spouse Appreciation Day**
- **Four new chaplains**
- **Soldiers secure seats at West Point Academy**
- **Two generals receive the Legion of Merit**
- **Tim McGraw has lunch with Illinois Guard troops**

# Summer approaches, motorcycles emerge

Story by Staff Sgt. Jaime Witt  
139th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

**SPRINGFIELD** - As summer approaches and temperatures rise, more than 350,000 registered motorcycles in Illinois will emerge from their garages. The Office of Safety and Occupational Health would like to remind the motorcyclists of the Illinois Army National Guard of safety expectations and requirements.



Maj. Jayson Coble of Springfield, Ill., the safety and occupational health manager for the Illinois Army National Guard, said motorcycle safety is important because motorcycling is inherently more dangerous. According to the Division of Traffic Safety, there were 145 motorcyclist fatalities in 2011, an increase from the previous year.

“You’re riding on two wheels instead of four,” said Coble. “An experienced rider once told me that when you’re on a motorcycle you’ve always got to watch out for everyone else around you, because they’re not watching out for you.”

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## Guard remembers fallen Illinois heroes

Story by Sgt. Charlie Helmholt  
139th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

**SPRINGFIELD** - Two events to honor fallen servicemembers and recognize their families for their sacrifice were held at Camp Lincoln in Springfield May 4. The Fallen Heroes Memorial Ceremony honored fallen servicemembers and Connections in the Capital focused on fallen servicemembers’ surviving family and friends.

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Photo by U.S. Army Sgt. Charlie Helmholt  
139th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

**Jim Frazier, father of Illinois Air National Guard Staff Sgt. Jacob Frazier who was killed in action, visits the Fallen Heroes Memorial in Springfield, May 4.**

## Regional Best Warriors compete in Marseilles



Photo by U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Michael Camacho, Illinois National Guard Public Affairs

**Staff Sgt. Beau Detrick of Marion, with the Illinois National Guard's Recruiting and Retention Command, crawls under barbed wire during the 2013 Region IV Best Warrior Competition at Marseilles Training Center in Marseilles, May 15.**

## Illinois recognizes 290th Guard birthday at museum

Office of Governor Pat Quinn

**SPRINGFIELD** – The birth date of the Illinois National Guard - May 9, 1723 - was determined last year after months of research by Illinois National Guard Command Historian Adriana Schroeder of Springfield. The diary of a French territorial captain, Diron Dartaguiette, was the primary source for the date. In the diary, Dartaguiette said he called together the village of Kaskaskia because he was ordered to form a company of military to defend themselves. The date the armed villagers first gathered and drilled was May 9, 1723.

“Our first muster gives us a reference point to truly understand the rich history of this organization, which we can share with our communities and our families,” said Brig. Gen. Daniel Krumrei, the Adjutant General.

In addition to serving in every major United States conflict, the Illinois National Guard has conducted peacekeeping missions around the globe, including in Egypt and the Ukraine.

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## Military Associations keep members informed

Story by Sgt. Jesse Houk  
139th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

**SPRINGFIELD** – Drilling and preparing for a mission is something everyone who puts on a uniform is familiar with. The military places a considerable amount of emphasis on making sure troops are equipped and informed. It is, in fact, essential to the successful completion of any mission. The Illinois National Guard is equally dedicated to informing and equipping its members with resources that help.

The National Guard Association of Illinois, Veterans Affairs, Veterans of Foreign Wars, American Legion, Reserve Officers Association, Air Force Association, Military Officers Association of America and Wounded Warrior Project are just a few of the many.

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## BEST A10 returns home

Illinois National Guard Public Affairs

**SPRINGFIELD** - Approximately 20 Illinois Army National Guard Soldiers who served in Afghanistan returned to Illinois. The homecoming ceremony for the Bilateral Embedded Staff Team (BEST) A10 was May 16 at Camp Lincoln.



Photo by U.S. Army Sgt. 1st Class Cassidy L. Snyder  
Illinois National Guard Public Affairs

**Sgt. 1st Class Thomas Watson kisses his daughter Adalyn, during the Bilateral Embedded Staff Team A10 Welcome Home Ceremony at Camp Lincoln in Springfield, May 16.**

## Hanging up their boots after 20+ years of service

- **Col. Steven Konie**  
Joint Force Headquarters-Air
- **Col. Nicholas Rantis**  
Joint Force Headquarters-Air
- **Sgt. Maj. Lew Alba**  
129th Regional Training Institute
- **Chief Master Sgt. Daniel Hawkins**  
126th Air Refueling Wing
- **Sgt. Maj. Robert Sheahan**  
Joint Force Headquarters
- **Sgt. 1st Class James Buol**  
Company B, 2nd Battalion, 130th Infantry
- **Sgt. 1st Class Danilo Cardenas**  
Det. 1, Co. C, 1st Battalion, 178th Infantry
- **Sgt. 1st Class Heath Clark**  
HHC, 2nd Battalion, 130th Infantry
- **Master Sgt. Christopher Lambert**  
182nd Airlift Wing
- **Sgt. 1st Class Jefferey Slater**  
Det. 1, Co. A, 634th Brigade Support Battalion
- **Sgt. 1st Class Preston Suminguit Jr.**  
Det 3, HQ, 2nd Battalion, 20th SFG
- **Tech. Sgt. Melissa Bowton**  
182nd Airlift Wing
- **Staff Sgt. Joseph Spieth**  
Company A, 634th Brigade Support Battalion
- **Tech. Sgt. William Weber III**  
126th Air Refueling Wing
- **Tech. Sgt. Gary Willis**  
126th Air Refueling Wing
- **Sgt. John Schutz**  
Company B, 1st Battalion, 178th Infantry

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### DEADLINES

Story and photo submissions are due the 1st of each month to [ng.il.larng.list.staff-pao@mail.mil](mailto:ng.il.larng.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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