

The

RAILSPLITTER



Illinois National Guard

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Illinois holds first MACP Instructor Summit, Soldiers compete in combatives tournament

Story by Capt. Dutch Grove
Illinois National Guard Public Affairs

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. – The Illinois National Guard’s 129th Regional Training Institute (RTI) hosted the state’s first Modern Army Combatives Program (MACP) Instructor Summit in conjunction with the Adjutant General’s Combatives Championships Sept. 14 and 15 at Camp Lincoln in Springfield.

Chief combatives trainer with the RTI, Staff Sgt. Nicholas Grant of Caseyville, Ill., planned the Instructor Summit and said MACP has evolved over the last few years to include new training to meet the tactical needs of forces on the ground.

Many of the techniques and training methods covered during the summit were adopted from the Special Operations Combatives Program, said Grant.

“We will train on how to fight with weapons, weapon retention and transition during hand-to-hand combat, hand cuffing and vehicle extraction techniques, and most importantly, how to conduct MACP training at the unit level in a safe yet realistic manner.”

Grant attended the three-day Army-wide national summit at Fort Benning, GA., in 2012.

“That sparked the idea to create a summit for our combatives instructors here in Illinois,” said Grant.

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

Spc. Logan Weir of Monmouth, with the 444th Chemical Company lands a round house kick to the body of Sgt. Ben Soloff of Sandwich, with Troop C, 2nd Squadron, 106th Cavalry Regiment, at the fourth annual Adjutant General’s Combatives Tournament at Camp Lincoln in Springfield, Sept. 15.

183rd Security Forces return home, Airman meets daughter for first time

Story by Lauren Leone-Cross
The State Journal Register

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. - The Facebook photos didn’t do justice to Zachary Pearce’s baby daughter. That’s what the Springfield-based senior airman said after holding his 3-month-old daughter, Madelyn, in his arms.

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MDAY Promotion Opportunities

If you’re looking for promotion opportunities, visit <http://www.il.ngb.army.mil/departments/hr/jobpostings.aspx> and submit a packet for an MDAY vacancy announcement.

Any Soldier up to two grades below the advertised vacancy may apply.

[click here for more information](#)

Joint Senior Leader Workshop proves insightful for attendees

Sept. 7 to 8 the Illinois National Guard conducted its senior leader workshop with attendance from Soldiers and Airmen from every major command and wing in the state. This year’s event was spectacular with outstanding speakers and senior military leaders who addressed our state’s leadership. The purpose of the workshop was to roll out the Adjutant General’s new vision “from STRONG to STRONGER,” to discuss and see the new environment we will operate, educate and collaborate on our new azimuth, and discuss areas of common interest.

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Guardsmen recognized for role in base defense

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

GHAZNI PROVINCE, Afghanistan – Four Illinois Army National Guard Soldiers were recognized by senior military leaders Sept. 15 in Ghazni Province, Afghanistan for their role in defeating a Taliban attack on their Forward Operating Base (FOB) Aug. 28.

Sgt. Maj. Lester Edwards of Mechanicsburg, Ill., and Chief Warrant Officer 3 Michael Clemens of Burbank, Ill., were presented the Bronze Star Medal with “V” device for valor and the Army Commendation Medal with “V” device for valor, respectively, by Deputy Secretary of Defense Ashton Carter and Marine Corps Gen. Joseph Dunford, Commander of International Security Assistance Forces and U.S. Forces - Afghanistan at a ceremony at FOB Ghazni.

Both Soldiers are part of the Bilateral Embedded Staff Team (BEST) A11, a team of approximately 20 Illinois National Guard Soldiers who deployed in February with



Sgt. Maj. Lester Edwards



CWO 3 Michael Clemens



Capt. Tristan Myers



Sgt. 1st Class Jeremy Buttram

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168th Air Support Operations Squadron hosts 168th United Kingdom ASOC



U.S. Air National Guard photo by Lt. Col. Robert Hart, 182nd Air Support Operations Group

The 168th Air Support Operations Squadron hosted the Royal Air Force ASOC and one representative from the Royal Australian Air Force in September for participation in Coalition Virtual Flag 13-4, a USAF sponsored command and control training event that links together coalition simulators from all over the world in order to fight a weeklong virtual war.

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Guard members targeted for civilian employment

Story by Capt. Dutch Grove
Illinois National Guard Public Affairs

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. – The Illinois National Guard’s Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) office is experiencing greater success with a smaller approach to helping Illinois Soldiers and Airmen find civilian jobs.

“We have found that smaller job fairs, featuring one or two major Illinois employers and focusing on specific skill sets is where we’ve had success getting Soldiers and Airmen civilian employment,” said Lt. Col. Tim Franklin of Springfield, Ill., the Illinois ESGR program director.

The Illinois ESGR program, in conjunction with the Hero2Hired program, and the Illinois Department of Employment Security will hold a job fair Dec. 12 at the Decatur armory, 5550 Ocean Trail, where Archer Daniels Midland Company (ADM) will be the only employer recruiting Illinois Guardsmen and Illinois veterans.

“Hiring veterans is good for ADM and good for America,” said Mike D’Ambrose, senior vice president and chief human resources officer of ADM. “Veterans bring a set of unique skills and attributes that make them great employees; veterans are reliable, dedicated, hardworking, quick learners and strong leaders, providing companies with the competitive advantage to succeed.”

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168th ASOS emblem approved

The United States Air Force approved the 168th Air Support Operations Squadron’s submission for the squadron emblem.

Maj. Steve Rice volunteered his graphic arts skills which aided immensely in the design and approval.

Ultramarine blue and Air Force yellow are the Air Force colors.



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Illinois National Guardsman remembers father, all veterans

Story by Sgt. 1st Class Rob Fafoglia
139th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

ROCKFORD, Ill. – Veteran’s Day means something different to everyone. For some, it is a time to grieve for what has been lost. For others, it is celebrated for the freedoms fought for and gained.

For Illinois Army National Guard Staff Sgt. Lawrence Orsborn Jr., it is a moment for reflection and pride.

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Illinois Guardsmen display true Citizen-Soldier qualities

■ 405th Soldiers help car crash victims ■ FA Soldier aids heart attack victim

FOREST PARK, Ill. - Two soldiers with the Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 405th Brigade Support Battalion in North Riverside rendered first aid to victims involved in a traffic accident Sept. 14 in Forest Park.

Spc. Johanna Hernandez of Des Plaines, Ill. and Spc Jovonta Devon Duncan of Plainfield, Ill., were returning from lunch when they witnessed an accident occur when a vehicle collided with a SUV in a funeral procession.

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SPRINGFIELD, Ill. – On Sept. 27 Jeffery Blakeman returned to his Olathe, Kan., residence happy to be home and happy to be alive. After a near fatal heart attack and a near weeklong stay at a hospital he credits the quick actions of good samaritans to his survival.

It was Sept. 22, when Blakeman was running across the Government Bridge on mile 19 of the Quad Cities Marathon when he suffered a major heart attack.

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933rd Soldiers recognized during Freedom Salute



U.S. Army National Guard photo by Capt. Dustin Cammack, Illinois National Guard Public Affairs

Illinois Army National Guard Soldiers from the 933rd Military Police Company at Fort Sheridan, Ill., were awarded a Bronze Star Medal for their service in Afghanistan at a Freedom Salute ceremony Oct. 12, in Chicago. (Left) Capt. Thomas Gilligan of Bolingbrook, 1st Lt. Christopher Rothwell of Chicago, 1st Lt. Lorrie Novak of Oak Forrest, Sgt. 1st Class Delval Desavieu of Dolton, Staff Sgt. Bret Thompson of Yorkville. Sgt. 1st Class Joel Mauney of Springfield also earned a Bronze Star Medal but was not present for the ceremony.

Illinois names Best Warriors



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

Sgt. 1st Class Matthew Tallman of Rockton, with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 33rd Brigade Special Troops Battalion in Machesney Park adjusts his equipment during the 2013 Best Warrior Competition Sept. 19 to 22 at Marseilles Training Center in Marseilles.

Is your family ready?

As the National Guard, we pride ourselves on being prepared to respond to our state, communities and nation when called. This response becomes more complicated if our family is also dealing with the implications of the disaster and not able to support themselves if we depart.



Col. Richard Neely
Chief of the Joint Staff

The recent images of the Colorado National Guard helicopters pulling thousands of citizens to safety, makes us proud to be in the National Guard. However, those crews and support personnel could not generate one flight if their families were not able to safely evacuate and take care of themselves during this disaster. The Colorado disaster is not unique. You can look back to other recent natural disasters such as super storm Sandy in 2012, hurricanes Irene in 2011 and Katrina in 2005.

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U of I memorial dedicated to fallen 1544th Soldier

Story by Sgt. 1st Class Kassidy L. Snyder
Illinois National Guard Public Affairs

URBANA-CHAMPAIGN, Ill. — A permanent memorial was dedicated in memory of Sgt. Shawna Morrison, a fallen Illinois National Guardsman, at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Sept. 8.

Morrison enlisted in the Illinois Army National Guard in 1996 at age 17 and was a member of the 1544th Transportation Company (TC) in Paris, Ill., and was a member of the University's Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC). While deployed with the 1544th to Iraq she was killed Sept. 5, 2004 by a mortar attack.

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Hanging up their boots after 20+ years of service

■ **Col. Paul Hastings**
Joint Force Headquarters

■ **Lt. Col. Matthew Voyles**
Joint Force Headquarters

■ **Command Sgt. Maj. Allan Freeland**
Joint Force Headquarters

■ **Master Sgt. Jody Collman**
1644th Transportation Company

■ **Senior Master Sgt. Ronald Lastoria**
182nd Airlift Wing

■ **Senior Master Sgt. Harry Marshall**
126th Air Refueling Wing

■ **Master Sgt. Tobey Beagle**
182nd Airlift Wing

■ **Master Sgt. Philip Flores**
183rd Fighter Wing

■ **Master Sgt. Leslie Frye**
126th Air Refueling Wing

■ **Master Sgt. Tawnia Guistolise**
182nd Airlift Wing

■ **Tech. Sgt. Jennifer Rudebeck**
182nd Airlift Wing

■ **Staff Sgt. Greg Ramsey**
Company A, 2nd Battalion, 130th Infantry

■ **Staff Sgt. Eric Short**
Company B, 634th Brigade Support Battalion

BEST A12 Soldiers deploy



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

Approximately 20 Soldiers with Bilateral Embedded Staff Team (BEST) A12 stand during their deployment ceremony Sept. 10 at the Bloomington Armory in Bloomington, Ill.

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PHOTOS FROM THE FIELD

- **Bryant Guardsman leads from the heart**
- **Five Soldiers sworn in at WWE event in Springfield**
- **Air Guard director visits all three Illinois Air Wings**
- **Soldier continues legacy of family's infantry service**
- **Lindenwood honors fallen ILARNG Soldier**
- **White Sox, USO partner for "Lunch with the Military"**

20 Airmen with the 217th EIS return from Afghanistan



[Click here for the video](#)

The Railsplitter

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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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