

The

# RAILSPLITTER



Illinois National Guard

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## Illinois aviation trains disaster relief in Patriot exercise

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

**FORT MCCOY, Wis.** -- Members of the Illinois Army National Guard's 1st Battalion, 106th Aviation Regiment (1-106th) of Decatur, Ill., traveled to Wisconsin with their UH-60 Blackhawk helicopters to conduct training, and participate in the annual joint service and multi-national disaster response exercise dubbed 'Patriot,' July 13 to 27.

The Patriot exercise simulates the occurrence of natural disasters. The exercise was comprised of three separate tornadoes and several terrorists attack scenarios. This combination of conditions is designed to overwhelm the first responder teams prompting a National Guard emergency response.



U.S. Army National Guard photo by Sgt. Charlie Helmholt, 139th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

**Sgt. Philip Weaver of Salem, Ill., crew chief with Company A, 1st Battalion, 106th Aviation Regiment in Decatur, Ill., refuels a UH-60 Lima Blackhawk helicopter during the Patriot exercise at Fort McCoy, Wis., July 16.**

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## Urbana, Milan units target artillery training

Story by Maj. Nathan Westby  
139th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

**FORT MCCOY, Wis.** -- Soldiers assigned to the Combat Observation and Lasing Team, "Colt" from Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 33rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team (IBCT), based in Urbana, Ill., conducted live-fire training exercises with the 2nd Battalion, 123rd Field Artillery Regiment (2-123 FA), headquartered in Milan, Ill., during the units' annual training at Fort McCoy, Wis., in July.

The two units, who are assigned to different brigades within the Illinois Army National Guard, rarely have the chance to work together despite having complimentary missions. The "Colt" team specializes in accurately identifying enemy locations and calling for indirect fire on enemy targets. The 2-123 FA uses its new M777 howitzers to provide indirect fire support on enemy targets. This training provided both units the opportunity to build proficiency in skills they couldn't accomplish without working together.

"We don't have organic 155mm howitzers,

specifically the M777 howitzer in our brigade. This opportunity allows us to call for indirect fire and observe rounds from that weapon system," said Master Sgt. Nathaniel McIntyre of Willisville, Ill., the brigade fires noncommissioned officer with the 33rd IBCT.

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U.S. Army National Guard photo by Maj. Nathan Westby  
139th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

**Sgt. William McNeese of Bloomington, Ill., forward observer with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 33rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team points at targets during annual training at Fort McCoy, Wis., July 18.**

## Lt. Gen. Ingram visits Illinois training areas

Story by Sgt. Robert Adams  
Illinois National Guard Public Affairs

**CHICAGO** -- Lt. Gen. William E. Ingram, Director of the Army National Guard, visited various training areas in Illinois July 21 to 23 to connect with Illinois Army National Guard leaders and Soldiers.

The visit started with a tour of the General Richard L. Jones Armory in Chicago. Ingram toured the historic facility built in 1928 and home to more than 300 troops of the Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 178th Infantry Regiment and Headquarters and Headquarters Service Battery, 2nd Battalion, 122nd Field Artillery Regiment. After the full tour of the facility Ingram met with Brig. Gen. Richard J. Hayes Jr. of Buffalo Grove, Deputy Adjutant General of the Illinois National Guard and other Illinois National Guard officers.

Later, Ingram toured the North Riverside Armory, which houses eight units with more than 700 troops drilling at the armory.

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# Remembering Sept. 11, our readiness obligation

I wanted to write the force a quick note to say thank you for the hard work you all have done and continue to do, and to reflect on what we have done the last 12 years. Today we pause to remember the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks on New York City, the Pentagon and Flight 93 in Pennsylvania.



**Brig. Gen. Johnny Miller**  
Assistant Adjutant General - Army

These tumultuous attacks did much to challenge our nation and particularly our armed forces. The National Guard has been on duty since that day performing operations defending the homeland, like Operation Noble Eagle, and fighting in theater in Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom. These operations have meant sacrifices for our Soldiers, families, and employers.

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## 33rd IBCT Soldiers train for future operations



U. S. Army National Guard photo by Maj. Brad Sinkler, 33rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team Public Affairs

**Pfc. Adrian Lopez of Berwyn, Ill., an electronic missile system repairer with Company B, 634th Brigade Support Battalion in Champaign, Ill., engages targets with his M4 carbine during reflexive-fire training July 19, at Fort Knox, Ky.**

## AMC commander visits 182nd Airlift Wing

Story by Staff Sgt. Lealan Buehrer  
182nd Airlift Wing Public Affairs

**PEORIA** -- Gen. Paul J. Selva visited the 182nd Airlift Wing July 17, during his multi-base tour of Air Force installations under Air Mobility Command (AMC). The four-star general officer is a U.S. Air Force Academy graduate who has served as the commander of AMC since Nov. 2012.

AMC is the Air Force's major command responsible for providing "rapid, global mobility and sustainment for America's armed forces."

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## Afghanistan continues improvement

Story by Col. Christopher Lawson  
Task Force White Eagle Deputy Commander, U.S.

**GHAZNI PROVINCE, Afghanistan** -- I read an article from the March 2013, Foreign Policy Magazine: What Went Right? (In Afghanistan) by Peter Bergen. He started the article with a quick question: Which Asian country has seen its life expectancy go up an astounding 18 years in just one decade, while turning from one of the world's most rural countries into one of its fastest-urbanizing? Oh, and the country's gross domestic product increased tenfold in that same period. No, this isn't Japan in the 1960s, Singapore in the 1970s, South Korea in the 1980s, or India in the 1990s. It is Afghanistan since the fall of the Taliban.

I got the question right. Recently I was in a helicopter at night flying from Bagram, over Kabul to Ghazni, and cities were lit up like holiday trees and Highway One looked like the road to the ball park in Iowa at the end of the movie "Field of Dreams" with Kevin Costner.

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## City of Chicago honors 933rd Military Police

Story by Capt. Dustin Cammack  
Illinois National Guard Public Affairs

**CHICAGO--** The City of Chicago City Council passed a resolution



honoring the returning members of the Illinois Army National Guard's 933rd Military Police Company at City Hall, July 24.

The Fort Sheridan based unit mobilized Aug. 7, 2012, and deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and returned home June 15.

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

- **Master Sgt. Lanina Clark**  
183rd Fighter Wing
- **Sgt. 1st Class Willard Erickson Jr.**  
Company A, 1-178th Infantry Regiment
- **Master Sgt. Richard Hand**  
183rd Fighter Wing
- **Master Sgt. Eleazar Rodriquez Jr.**  
126th Air Refueling Wing
- **Tech. Sgt. Deborah Peebles**  
126th Air Refueling Wing
- **Tech. Sgt. Christopher Walker**  
183rd Fighter Wing
- **Staff Sgt. Willis Whitley**  
1244th Transportation Company

## PHOTOS FROM THE FIELD

- **708th Soldiers honored during Freedom Salute**
- **Milan FA unit rains down rounds in Wisconsin**
- **Soldiers conduct mass casualty exercise**
- **Vietnam encampment held at Military Museum**
- **Stanley Cup visits Guardsmen in Springfield**

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**DEADLINES**  
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