

The

RAILSPLITTER



Illinois National Guard

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Illinois Soldiers travel to Poland for Pilgrimage, Armed Forces Day

Sgt. 1st Class Cassidy L. Snyder
Illinois National Guard Public Affairs

WARSAW, Poland -- Illinois National Guard Soldiers celebrated Polish Armed Forces Day in Poland with Polish President Bronislaw Komorowski, Polish military members and international military leaders in Warsaw, Aug. 15.

“This was an especially important year to honor the Polish military because it marks 20 years since we started our State Partnership Program with Poland,” said Brig. Gen. Daniel M. Krumrei of Springfield, the Illinois National Guard Adjutant General. “Over the past 20 years Illinois Soldiers have established enduring relationships with Polish Soldiers and Airmen, working together and sharing expertise to strengthen our military capabilities.”

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

Chaplain (Capt.) J Kroencke with the 2nd Battalion, 130th Infantry Regiment in Marion, Ill., and Sgt. Ryan Twist with the 139th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment wave to Polish citizens along the pilgrimage route in Czestochowa, Aug. 14.



U.S. Army National Guard photo by Sgt. Ryan Twist
139th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Sgt. Anastasia L. Evans, with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 33rd Brigade Special Troops Battalion takes her boots off after walking 21 miles in Poland, Aug. 10.

Click here to READ MORE about the 200-mile trek

Recruit Sustainment Program earns top 10 ranking

Sgt. Jason Treadway
139th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. -- For the second consecutive year the Illinois Army National Guard's Recruit Sustainment Program (RSP) earned a top 10 ranking nationwide for the number of Soldiers who complete their initial entry training as honor graduates.

The RSP, created in 2004 by the National Guard Bureau, ensures Soldiers are physically, mentally and administratively prepared for the rigors of initial entry training.

In fiscal years 2012 and 2013 more than 12 percent of the Illinois Army National Guard recruits completed Basic Combat Training and Advanced Individual Training as distinguished honor graduates and honor graduates.

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State Partnership Program with Poland flourishes

This year, on July 14, 2013 was the 20th anniversary of the State of Illinois' partnership with the Republic of Poland in a program

known as the State Partnership Program, or SPP. The SPP is a National Guard program that links states and territories with partner countries around the world, supporting security cooperation objectives by the Department of Defense and the geographic

Combatant Commanders. The SPP aims to promote strong relationships, improve cultural awareness and skills amongst military personnel, foster integration of the reserve and active components into a "total force," improve the capability of the partner nation to protect their citizens, and promote political and financial stability.



**Col. Stephen Baggerly
Director of Staff-Air**

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Illinois Soldier named Instructor of the Year

Sgt. 1st Class James Griffin
Illinois Military Academy Instructor

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. -- An Illinois Army National Guard Soldier was named the National Defense Transportation Association's (NDTA) Transportation Instructor of the Year for 2013. Staff Sgt. David M. Berry, of Ipava, Ill., is an instructor in the Illinois National Guard's 1st Battalion, 129th Regional Training Institute (RTI) at Camp Lincoln in Springfield, Ill.

Berry has been an instructor with the RTI, which is part of the Army School System, for three years.

"I am honored to be recognized for doing something that I enjoy," said Berry. "Working with students in overcoming the challenge of certain motor transport tasks is what makes the job gratifying."

Lt. Col. Max Casteleyn of Mundelein, Ill., commander of 1st Battalion, 129th RTI praised Berry's performance. "Staff Sergeant Berry is one of our top instructors within a group of outstanding performers," said Casteleyn.

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34 Soldiers graduate Officer Candidate School



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

The Illinois Army National Guard's 129th Regional Training Institute Officer Candidate School at Camp Lincoln in Springfield commissioned 34 Soldiers as second lieutenants at Springfield High School, Aug. 25.

2013 OCS HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

Col. Joe Almodovar, Lt. Col. Paul Belobrajdic, Lt. Col. Renysha Brown, Lt. Col. Brian Creech, Lt. Col. Ron JeanBlanc, Lt. Col. Stanley Manes and Lt. Col. Daniel Reichen

Hanging up their boots after 20+ years of service

- **Col. Albert Cox**
Joint Force Headquarters
- **Senior Master Sgt. John Pietrusinski**
126th Air Refueling Wing
- **Master Sgt. Brian Arnold**
1744th Transportation Company
- **Master Sgt. Bradley Schneider**
3637th Maintenance Company
- **Sgt. 1st Class James Buol**
Company B, 2-130 Infantry Regiment
- **Master Sgt. Nicole Frye**
126th Air Refueling Wing
- **Sgt. 1st Class Janice Smith**
HHC, 33rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team
- **Master Sgt. Lynette Weiss**
183rd Fighter Wing
- **Sgt. 1st Class Antonio Wellmaker**
1344th Transportation Company
- **Master Sgt. Gary Wemple**
183rd Fighter Wing
- **Tech. Sgt. Thomas Viehman**
126th Air Refueling Wing
- **Staff Sgt. Suzette Wallace**
HHC, 108th Sustainment Brigade

Freedom Salute honors Army aviation Soldiers

Illinois National Guard Public Affairs

CICERO, Ill. - Approximately 45 Illinois Army National Guard Soldiers with Company B, 106th Aviation Regiment in Chicago and 130 Soldiers with Company B, 935th Aviation Support Battalion were recognized Aug. 24 in Cicero, Ill., by the National Guard Bureau Freedom Salute Campaign for their service in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.



The Soldiers mobilized in June 2012 and deployed to Kuwait in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and returned home May 1.

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

Staff Sgt. Jason Jenkins with Company B, 1st Battalion, 106th Aviation Regiment in Chicago, twirls his daughter Kaelyn, before the Freedom Salute Ceremony at the Cicero Community Center in Cicero, Aug. 24.

Guardsmen compete in TAG Rifle and Pistol Match

Sgt. Zachary Zimerman
139th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

MARSEILLES, Ill. - "Shooters, watch your lanes!" was a familiar line on the qualifying ranges at the 2013 Illinois Army National Guard Adjutant General's (TAG) Rifle and Pistol Match Aug. 8 through 11 at Marseilles Training Center in Marseilles, Ill. Roughly 120 Illinois Army National Guard Soldiers participated in the annual marksmanship event.

"The TAG Match is training through competition," said Chief Warrant Officer 2 Kyle Gleason of Lincoln, Ill., with the 3625th Surface Maintenance Company in North Riverside, Ill., and range master for the contest.

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U.S. Army National Guard photo by Sgt. Zachary Zimerman
139th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Sgt. James Wayne with Joint Force Headquarters, drops his clip at the 2013 Adjutant General's Rifle and Pistol Match Aug. 8 to 11 at Marseilles Training Center in Marseilles, Ill.

PHOTOS FROM THE FIELD

- **BEST A10 honored during Freedom Salute**
- **Soldiers graduate 25U class at the 129th RTI**
- **Retired Lt. Col. Eric Murray retires again**
- **TAG, top Army officials meet to discuss training**

The Railsplitter
1301 North MacArthur Boulevard
Springfield, Illinois 62702-2399

DSN: 555-3569

Phone: (217) 761-3569

Facsimile: (217) 761-3527

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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Governor
Adjutant General
State PAO
Editor

Pat Quinn
Brig. Gen. Daniel M. Krumrei
Maj. Brad Leighton
Sgt. 1st Class Cassidy L. Snyder