

The

RAILSPLITTER



Illinois National Guard

www.il.ngb.army.mil

For the full story and more photos click the headline or photo

Illinois Guard Special Forces train Puerto Rico Guardsmen



U.S. Army National Guard photo by Spc. Jason T. Dorsey, Joint Force Headquarters Public Affairs

A Puerto Rico National Guardsman shoots the M240B machine gun April 3, at Camp Santiago in Salinas, Puerto Rico. Illinois Guard Special Forces Soldiers with Company A, 2nd Battalion, 20th Special Forces Group (Airborne) in Chicago provided weapon mentorship during the training.

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

CAMP SANTIAGO, Puerto Rico – Approximately 40 Illinois National Guard Special Forces (SF) Soldiers with Company A, 2nd Battalion, 20th Special Forces Group (Airborne) in Chicago conducted foreign internal defense (FID) training with the Puerto Rico National Guard, April 2 to 6, 2014 at Camp Santiago in Salinas, Puerto Rico.

More than 300 Puerto Rico National Guardsmen were familiarized with marksmanship training, mechanical and ballistic breaching procedures, military operations on urban terrain and close-quarter battle techniques.

“We were able to teach basic fundamentals to establish a baseline of proficiency to build upon in future training,” said a weapons sergeant with the Company A, 2-20th. “They were very receptive and we were able to challenge their abilities.”

SF Soldiers shared techniques for more accurate and proficient shooting with the M16A2 rifle, M4 Carbine, M249 squad automatic weapon and M240B machine gun.

READ MORE

New home for wounded Soldier

By Staff Sgt. Aleah M. Castrejon
Illinois National Guard Public Affairs

MORTON, Ill. – After receiving a building permit last week, Habitat for Humanity’s Habitat for Heroes program, held a groundbreaking ceremony in Morton, Ill., April 12, where Sgt. Brian Wood of Peoria, Ill., and his family will reside in their new house.

READ MORE



U.S. Army National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. Aleah Castrejon, Illinois National Guard Public Affairs

Sgt. Brian Wood of Peoria, Ill., his wife Julie and their daughters break ground for their new home, built in September by Habitat for Humanity’s Habitat for Heroes program, in Morton, Ill., April 12.

Assistant Adjutant General-Air gets second star

Illinois National Guard Public Affairs

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. – William D. Cobetto of Hillsboro, Ill., Assistant Adjutant General-Air was promoted to major general by the Illinois National Guard Adjutant General Dan M. Krumrei at Camp Lincoln in Springfield, Ill., April 4.

“This is a great day for the Illinois Air National Guard and Major General Cobetto’s family, friends and Airmen,” said Krumrei. “He is an outstanding officer who can be counted upon to assist leading our organization through fiscal uncertainty, changing priorities and opportunities. He understands the importance of our Air National Guard to remain ready, relevant and engaged globally as a valued component of the U.S. Air Force and the State of Illinois. He is the key to the ILNG meeting our mission to help our neighbor, protect our state and defend our nation.”

Cobetto is responsible for the command, control and operations of plans and programs affecting more than 3,000 Illinois Guardsmen.



U.S. Air National Guard photo by Master Sgt. Shaun Kerr
183rd Fighter Wing Public Affairs

William D. Cobetto of Hillsboro, Ill., Assistant Adjutant General-Air, is promoted to major general by his wife, Kelly (left) and the Illinois National Guard Adjutant General Dan M. Krumrei (right) at Camp Lincoln in Springfield, Ill., April 4. His extensive range of responsibilities include guaranteeing combat readiness and mission capability of three major air bases.

READ MORE

182nd Airlift Wing tests emergency protocols



U.S. Air National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. Lealan Buehrer, 182nd Airlift Wing Public Affairs

Staff Sgt. Neil Seaman, a firefighter with the 182nd Civil Engineer Squadron, rescues a simulated aircraft crash victim during a mass-casualty exercise in Peoria, Ill., April 12. An Illinois Air National Guard C-130 Hercules imitated an aircraft crash with 50 casualties on a Gen. Wayne A. Downing Peoria International Airport runway. The airport hosted the tri-annual exercise to test its emergency protocols.

[READ MORE](#)

Continuously refine skills, maintain balance

As we continue the transition from the war-fight back to our origins as a constitutional militia, we must move forward with a deliberate action plan that will continually develop our force, our warrant officers, and our Soldiers.



**Chief Warrant Officer 5
David Hammon**

It is imperative we continuously refine our technical skills, create multi-year training plans with built in performance measures, and execute these plans with fiscal stewardship. As key stakeholders in the security of our state and our nation, we must be ready to respond to multiple complex catastrophes.

As we strive for balance between the active Army and the National Guard, we can't overlook the fact Illinois warrant officers shoulder the same responsibilities as our active duty counterparts and more times than not, at a higher level of effectiveness. All of this is concurrent with supporting the home front and a civilian career.

[READ MORE](#)

BEST A13 mobilizes for Afghanistan

Illinois National Guard Public Affairs

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. – A deployment ceremony was held April 5 at Camp Lincoln in Springfield, Ill., for 16 Soldiers with the Bilateral Embedded Staff Team A13 who will deploy to Afghanistan as part of an embedded training team.

[READ MORE](#)

Illinois Soldiers train with Polish during Bagram XV exercise



U.S. Army photo by 1st Lt. Henry Chan
16th Sustainment Brigade

Polish Land Forces 10th Logistics Brigade Deputy Commander Lt. Col. Dariusz Zaremba, left, and Illinois National Guardsman Maj. Tomas Akers, center, deputy commanding officer of the Bilateral Embedded Staff Team A13, formulate reaction plans while taking cover during a simulated attack at the Bagram XV exercise.

World War I Soldier remembered

Jasper R. Dover was one of more than 300,000 Soldiers from Illinois who served in the Armed Forces during World War I. The 24-year-old farmer from Grand Chain enlisted in Company K, 130th Infantry Regiment, 33rd Division. Jasper enlisted for several reasons, among them a desire to "see what war was" and to go to France. Shortly after Dover's enlistment, the 33rd Division moved to Camp Logan, Texas.

[READ MORE](#)

Soldiers attend Basic Combatives Course



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

Thirty-three Illinois National Guard Soldiers attended the Basic Combatives Course at the Illinois Military Academy on Camp Lincoln in Springfield, Ill., April 14 to 18.

1965th contracting team deploys

Illinois National Guard Public Affairs

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. – A deployment ceremony was held for the 1965th Contingency Contracting Team (CCT) based in Springfield, Ill., March 19 at Camp Lincoln in Springfield.

The 1965th CCT is a group of highly-skilled contracting officers and contract specialists who execute and administer government funds through contracts to obtain goods, services and construction from commercial sources to support contingency operations.

[READ MORE](#)

PHOTOS FROM THE FIELD

- Israeli Home Front commander visits Illinois National Guard
- Governor, TAG tour readiness center at Heartland in Normal
- 108th Soldiers participate in Camp Arifjan Bataan Death March
- Guardsmen complete 2014 Abe Lincoln half marathon
- Leaders discuss homeland defense and training opportunities
- TAG receives Legion of Merit
- Four Illinois Guardsmen complete Officer Candidate School

Special Forces looks for new recruits, holds readiness assessment

By Staff Sgt. Amanda Nall and Sgt. James D. Sims
139th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

MARSEILLES, Ill. – Twice a year Company A, 2nd Battalion, 20th Special Forces Group (Airborne) in Chicago holds a Special Forces Assessment at Marseilles Training Center (MTC) for Soldiers considering a career change into the challenging world of special operations. Twenty-five servicemembers reported to MTC April 11 for a grueling weekend of physical training, ruck marching and other activities that tested their mental and physical abilities.

The number quickly dropped to 17 Soldiers after the first event, the Army Physical Fitness Test.

“If they can make it here, to our standards, then we are confident they will be able to make it through the selection process,” said Chief Warrant Officer 2 Leonard Huff, chief in charge of the readiness assessment evaluation.

One Soldier, who did not make it through the assessment on his first try, said he realized he hadn’t properly prepared. Therefore, he said he had to find the motivation within himself to train and make up in his mind this is the life he wanted and would not stop until he achieved his goal.

READ MORE



U.S. Army National Guard photo by Sgt. James D. Sims, 139th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

National Guard Soldiers from Illinois and surrounding states lift a log during a readiness assessment with Company A, 2nd Battalion, 20th Special Forces Group (Airborne) based in Chicago at Marseilles Training Center, April 12. The weekend assessment is designed to test the physical and mental toughness of potential Special Forces operators.

BEST A11 Soldiers recognized



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

Approximately 20 Soldiers with the Bilateral Embedded Staff Team A11 were recognized during a Freedom Salute Ceremony at Camp Lincoln in Springfield, Ill., March 22.

232nd CSSB gets new commander

By Spc. Rachel Brown
232nd Combat Service Support Battalion

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. – Soldiers of the 232nd Combat Service Support Battalion (CSSB) stood tall March 2 at the change of command ceremony as Lt. Col. Maxime Casteleyn of Mundelein, Ill., prepared to take command of the unit at Camp Lincoln, Springfield, Ill.

Col. Michael Glisson of Festus, Mo., 65th Troop Command Brigade (TCB) commander, passed the unit’s regimental colors from Lt. Col. Melissa R. Beauman of Glenarm, Ill., to Casteleyn to signify relieving authority of the unit.

READ MORE


Six applicants appeared before the ILARNG Army Medical Department Federal Recognition board
[click here for the full story](#)

Hanging up their boots after 20+ years of service

- **Col. Thomas Weiss**
Joint Force Headquarters
- **Lt. Col. Samuel Sims**
183rd Fighter Wing
- **Chief Warrant Officer 3 Amanda High**
Recruiting and Retention Battalion
- **Master Sgt. Forrest Norvell Jr.**
Joint Force Headquarters
- **Sgt. 1st Class Dionisio Alvarez**
1st Battalion, 129th Regiment (RTI)
- **Sgt. 1st Class Adam Bolthouse**
HHC, 33rd Brigade Special Troops Battalion
- **Master Sgt. Calvin Carter**
182nd Airlift Wing
- **Master Sgt. Stephen Crews**
183rd Fighter Wing
- **Sgt. 1st Class Travis Hayes**
HHC, 33rd Brigade Special Troops Battalion
- **Master Sgt. John Howe**
182nd Airlift Wing
- **Sgt. 1st Class Robert Klein**
Recruiting and Retention Battalion
- **Sgt. 1st Class Timothy Miller**
HHD, 405th Brigade Support Battalion
- **Master Sgt. Quentin White**
126th Air Refueling Wing

2-238th Soldiers honored



U.S. Army National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. Aleah Castrejon, Illinois National Guard Public Affairs

Approximately 60 Soldiers with the 2nd Battalion, 238th General Support Aviation Battalion in Peoria, Ill., were recognized during a Freedom Salute Ceremony April 5 in Peoria, Ill.

The Railsplitter
 1301 North MacArthur Boulevard
 Springfield, Illinois 62702-2399
 DSN: 555-3569
 Phone: (217) 761-3569
 Facsimile: (217) 761-2988

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.

Governor Adjutant General State PAO Editor	Pat Quinn Brig. Gen. Daniel M. Krumrei Col. Christopher F. Lawson Sgt. 1st Class Kassidy L. Snyder
---	---