

The

RAILSPLITTER



Illinois National Guard

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Illinois competes in Small Arms Championship

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

FORT BENNING, Ga. – Six Illinois National Guard Soldiers competed at the 2014 U.S. Army Small Arms Championships at Fort Benning, Ga., Jan. 26 to Feb. 1. Chief Warrant Officer 3 Ryan Landon of Creal Springs, Ill., with the 3637th Maintenance Company in Springfield, Ill., earned a Distinguished Rifleman Badge, making him only one of approximately 3,300 to receive the badge since its inception in 1959.

“It’s exciting to receive the badge because only so many have gotten it,” said Landon. “It was a goal I set and achieved.”

Landon accumulated the last six of 30 leg points needed to reach distinguished status. Leg points are awarded based on an individual’s placement among the top 10 percent of competitors in an authorized match. Leg points accumulate throughout a competitor’s lifetime until distinguished status is attained.



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

Chief Warrant Officer 2 Kyle Gleason of Lincoln, Ill., with the 3625th Maintenance Company in North Riverside, Ill., engages a target with an M9 pistol during the 2014 U.S. Army Small Arms Championships at Fort Benning, Ga., Feb. 1.

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Zerbonia promoted to brigadier general RTI gets new commander

Illinois National Guard Public Affairs

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. – Michael R. Zerbonia of Chatham, Ill., the Land Forces Component Commander for the Illinois Army National Guard, was promoted to the rank of brigadier general at the Illinois Military Academy on Camp Lincoln in Springfield, Ill., Feb. 1.

“With more than 30 years of military service and experience with the Illinois State Police, Brigadier General Zerbonia embodies what it means to be a Citizen-Soldier,” said Brig. Gen. Daniel Krumrei of Springfield, Ill., Adjutant General of the Illinois National Guard. “I am proud to promote him to brigadier general and welcome him as the newest general officer in the Illinois National Guard.”



U.S. Army National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. James McDonough
139th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

(Left) Brig. Gen. Daniel M. Krumrei, the Adjutant General of the Illinois National Guard, pins brigadier general rank on Michael R. Zerbonia, of Chatham, Ill., with Zerbonia’s son, Niko, at Camp Lincoln in Springfield, Ill., Feb. 1.

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Illinois National Guard Public Affairs

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. – Col. Thomas J. Weiss of Springfield, Ill., relinquished command of the 129th Regional Training Institute (RTI) to Col. Joseph J. Schweickert of Peoria, Ill., during a change of command ceremony Jan. 25 at the Illinois Military Academy, at Camp Lincoln in Springfield, Ill.

Weiss commanded the 129th RTI for the past 18 months and will retire April 30. Weiss expressed great confidence in the new 129th RTI commander and said he is excited to continue with his education and spend time with his family after more than 30 years in the military.

Schweickert has worked full-time as the Human Resources Officer for the Illinois National Guard since October 2011.



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Top performing Illinois Airmen announced



U.S. Air National Guard photo by Tech. Sgt. Rudolph V. Deiss III, 182nd Airlift Wing Public Affairs

(Left) Brig. Gen. William Cobetto, the Assistant Adjutant General-Air, along with (right) Command Chief Master Sgt. Aaron Gatterdam, the State Command Chief Master Sergeant, stands with the 2014 Outstanding Airmen of the Year recipients at the Illinois State Military Museum, Jan. 4 in Springfield, Ill.

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Bowman named ILARNG Land Component CSM

My name is Command Sgt. Maj. Mark Bowman. I am the Land Component Command Sergeant Major for our Illinois Army National Guard. I have been selected to serve as your full-time command sergeant major. It's a great honor and privilege to represent the NCO corps and enlisted Soldiers. Many of you know me. I have had the great opportunity to work alongside so many of you in the past years. I've had the privilege to train and equip so many of you as we tackled training exercises and deployed together. We worked shoulder to shoulder to rise to meet the challenges of those complex missions. We learned the hard lessons of our profession together, realistic difficult training and competent leaders save lives on the battlefield. Properly manned, equipped, and trained units is the key to success in our missions we face overseas.



CSM Mark Bowman
Land Component CSM

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Hanging up their boots after 20+ years of service

- **Lt. Col. Rufino Arbas**
183rd Fighter Wing
- **Maj. Lance Wilson**
5th Civil Support Team
- **Command Sgt. Maj. Zarrod Beck**
405th Brigade Support Battalion
- **Sgt. 1st Class David Billingsley**
Company G, 634th Brigade Support Battalion
- **Sgt. 1st Class James Buol**
Company B, 2nd Battalion, 130th Infantry
- **Sgt. 1st Class Matthew Burleson**
HHC, 1st Battalion, 178th Infantry
- **Master Sgt. Craig Prusa**
126th Air Refueling Wing
- **Master Sgt. Charles Przybylski**
126th Air Refueling Wing
- **Sgt. 1st Class Brian Rosenquist**
Battery A, 2nd Battalion, 122nd Field Artillery
- **Staff Sgt. Rene Deanda**
Battery A, 2nd Battalion, 123rd Field Artillery
- **Tech. Sgt. Sean Faires**
182nd Airlift Wing
- **Staff Sgt. Jack Graham Jr.**
Company A, 33rd BSTB
- **Staff Sgt. Edward Higginson**
233rd Military Police Company
- **Sgt. Timothy Fenoglia**
Company B, 935th Aviation Support Battalion
- **Sgt. Frederick Wilkins**
Recruiting and Retention Battalion

PHOTOS FROM THE FIELD

- **Leadership visits 108th during mobilization training**
- **Guardsmen attend Governor's State of the State address**
- **Blackhawks honor recently returned Illinois Guardsmen**
- **ESGR holds annual banquet**
- **Cubs Carivan recognizes Illinois servicemembers**
- **182nd Airlift Wing Airmen compete for Services Award**
- **COL Mueller honored with formal resolution in Missouri**
- **183rd Security Forces Airman receives NGB-level award**
- **O'Fallon Airman receives regional recruiting award**
- **182nd Airmen receive regional Recruiting, Retention awards**

 Recent social media posts by Guardsmen have gained national attention and scrutiny.

 Please remember to keep it professional at all times.

Attention OFFICERS

A new Army OER system is slated for implementation September 2014

[Click HERE for the full details](#)

Looking for a JOB?

Check out our website

<http://www.il.ngb.army.mil/departments/hr/jobpostings.aspx>

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

The Railsplitter is the official newsletter of the Illinois National Guard authorized by the Adjutant General.

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

