

The

RAILSPLITTER



Illinois National Guard

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182nd Airlift Wing Airmen return home



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

Approximately 40 members of the 182nd Airlift Wing in Peoria returned home July 8, after serving as part of Operation Enduring Freedom since February 2014. The returning members are a mix of C-130 aircrew and maintainers.

Illinois Army Guard first in MOS qualified Soldiers

Illinois National Guard Public Affairs



SPRINGFIELD, III. – The National Guard Bureau qualification scorecard found the Illinois Army National Guard moved to first place among the states and territories for duty military occupational specialty qualified (DMOSQ) Soldiers, July 14. Of the available 8,983 Soldiers assigned, 8,713 are military occupational specialty (MOS) qualified, which is a success rate of 97.5 percent.

A Soldier is DMOSQ when he or she graduates from a school required to qualify for the job specialty.

“The importance of this is about being a ready and relevant force,” said Chief Warrant Officer 4 Mark Hebenstreit of Springfield, Illinois, human resources specialist for the personnel branch.

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Guardsman, pianist performs across the country

Story by Staff Sgt. Aleah M. Castrejon
Illinois National Guard Public Affairs

SPRINGFIELD, III. – Outside of his military duties, Capt. Ian Gindes of Urbana, Illinois, with the Headquarters and Headquarters Company (HHC), 33rd Brigade Special Troops Battalion (BSTB) in Machesney Park, Illinois, is a professional concert pianist.



Capt. Ian Gindes

In addition to playing the piano for 28 years and around the country for more than 15 years, Gindes enlisted in the California Army National Guard before transferring to the Illinois Army National Guard in 2004. He commissioned as an officer in 2007.

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Detachment 36 deploys to Horn of Africa

Illinois National Guard Public Affairs

DECATUR, III. – A deployment ceremony was held for 10 Soldiers who will deploy to Djibouti, Africa. The ceremony for Detachment 36, Operational Support Airlift in Decatur was July 3 at Camp Lincoln in Springfield, Illinois.

The unit will train for a brief time in Fort Bliss, Texas, before deploying to Africa for nine months. Det. 36 will fly Beechcraft C-12 Huron aircraft and conduct operational airlift support and VIP transport in the region.

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A Soldier's personal thank you for the ASIST program
click here to read

126th chaplain assists Navy clergy in Japan

Story by Master Sgt. Ken Stephens
126th Air Refueling Wing Public Affairs

NAVAL AIR FACILITY, ATSUGI, Japan – Members of the 126th Chaplains Office assisted the U.S. Navy clergy for two weeks in June.

An Illinois Air National Guard chaplain and a chaplain assistant performed their annual training with the sister service, while filling in for chapel staff members who were on leave or at training seminars.

Capt. Carlos Bohorquez of Beardstown, Illinois, provided counseling and performed Catholic Mass services.

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Capt. Carlos Bohorquez

VISION:

The Premier State Joint Force within the National Guard

MISSION:

The Illinois National Guard is a Joint Team of Citizen Soldiers and Airmen Ready to Help our Neighbors, Protect our State and Defend our Nation.

KEY TENETS:

Personal -- Professional
Organizational -- Ready
Responsive -- Accountable
Resilient -- Relevant



Eight Illinois Soldiers earn Expert Infantryman Badge

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

CAMP ATTERBURY, Ind. – After five continuous days of testing, eight Illinois National Guard Soldiers earned the Expert Infantryman Badge (EIB) at Camp Atterbury, Indiana, July 17. Three of the Soldiers performed each of the 39 tasks to standard on the first attempt and were awarded an additional Army Achievement Medal.

“It really brings out the best of us as infantrymen,” said Spc. Michael Schaefer of Mundelein, Illinois, an infantryman with Troop C, 2nd Squadron, 106th Cavalry Regiment in Aurora, Illinois. “It is a lot of helping each other out and getting each other squared away for each day’s tasks. Everyone has really worked together to try and get each other as far as they can.”



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

Maj. Gen. Omer C. Tooley Jr., pins an Expert Infantryman Badge on Sgt. 1st Class Jeffrey Wells of Glen Carbon, Illinois, with Company C, 2nd Battalion, 130th Infantry Regiment at Camp Atterbury, Indiana, July 17.

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Two new commanders welcomed

■ 129th Regiment, Regional Training Institute

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. – The Illinois National Guard’s 129th Regiment, Regional Training Institute gained a new commander, Col. Paul Fanning of Chestnut, Illinois, during a change of command ceremony, June 21, at Camp Lincoln in Springfield, Illinois.



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■ 2nd Battalion, 130th Infantry Regiment

FORT RILEY, Kansas – Lt. Col. Neil Putnam, a native of New Haven, Connecticut, assumed command of the 2nd Battalion, 130th Infantry Regiment from Lt. Col. Clayton E. Kuetemeyer of Chatham, Illinois at Fort Riley, Kansas, June 26.



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Hanging up their boots after 20+ years of service

- **Chief Master Sgt. Gary Enochs Jr.**
126th Air Refueling Wing
- **Master Sgt. Douglas Doeding**
126th Air Refueling Wing
- **Master Sgt. Antoinette Ferguson**
126th Air Refueling Wing
- **Sgt. 1st Class William Gorman**
Marseilles Training Center
- **Sgt. 1st Class Travis Hayes**
HHC, 33rd Brigade Support Training Battalion
- **Sgt. 1st Class Brock Hutzler**
135th Chemical Company
- **Staff Sgt. Eugene Cytrych**
HHS, 2nd Battalion, 122nd Field Artillery
- **Staff Sgt. Lawrence Edwards**
Company B, 935th Aviation Support Battalion
- **Tech. Sgt. Aaron Nichols**
183rd Fighter Wing
- **Tech. Sgt. David Nojd**
183rd Fighter Wing
- **Sgt. Carlos Gomez**
3625th Maintenance Company

232nd CSSB completes logistics training exercise at Camp Dodge



U.S. Army National Guard photo by Sgt. Walter Lowell, 17th Sustainment Brigade Public Affairs

Leadership teams from the 232nd Combat Sustainment Support Battalion (CSSB) and the 169th CSSB from Kansas listen to Lt. Col. Michael Heil (far right), conduct a briefing on the shared mission during annual training at Camp Dodge, Iowa, June 14.

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Illinois National Guard engages Army Total Force Partnering

Command Sgt. Maj. Mark Bowman, Illinois Army National Guard Command Sergeant Major; Col. Mark Jackson, 33rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team (IBCT) Commander; Command Sgt. Maj. Timothy Beck, 33rd IBCT Command Sergeant Major and I attended the 101st Airborne (Air Assault) Division’s Total Force Partnering Conference at Camp Atterbury, Indiana, May 30 to June 1. The conference was held to build relationships between the 101st ABN (AA) brigades and the Army National Guard brigades partnered or aligned with the 101st.



Brig. Gen. Johnny Miller
Assistant Adjutant
General-Army

For example, Illinois Army National Guard brigades are aligned as follows: 33rd IBCT with 2nd Brigade, 101st ABN (AA).

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PHOTOS FROM THE FIELD

- **Illinois Guard Soldiers place first in Small Arms Championship**
- **88M class graduates**
- **2nd Squadron, 106th Cavalry conducts annual training**
- **126th supports global strike**
- **Brig. Gen. Miller visits troops during annual training at Fort McCoy**
- **406th Signal Company wins Supply Excellence Award**
- **108th honors 21-years of state partnership with Poland**
- **92G class graduates**

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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