

The

RAILSPLITTER



Illinois National Guard

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108th Sustainment Brigade Soldiers return from Kuwait

Illinois National Guard Public Affairs

CHICAGO – More than 200 Illinois Army National Guard Soldiers who served in Kuwait returned home to their families. Homecoming ceremonies for the 108th Sustainment Brigade were held Oct. 25 in Bridgeview, Illinois and Springfield, Illinois.

The 108th, led by Col. Drew Dukett of Roodhouse, Illinois, and Command Sgt. Maj. John Burns of Benld, Illinois, deployed to Kuwait in January. Most were headquartered at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, while several Soldiers served in other locations throughout the region.

In Kuwait, the 108th provided mission command and conducted logistical support operations, including Army watercraft, finance, human resources, land transportation, contract oversight and U.S. Army postal operations in support of the servicemembers and civilians serving in the Central Command area of operation.

Along with sustainment support on multiple military installations, the 108th supported retrograde operations.

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U.S. Army National Guard photo by Capt. Dustin Cammack, Illinois National Guard Public Affairs

More than 200 Illinois Army National Guard Soldiers with the 108th Sustainment Brigade who served in Kuwait stand in formation during a welcome home ceremony in Bridgeview, Illinois, Oct. 25.

126th Air Refueling Wing wins Outstanding Unit Award



U.S. Air National Guard photo by Master Sgt. Ken Stephens, 126th Air Refueling Wing Public Affairs

Army Maj. Gen. Daniel M. Krumrei (left), presents the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award to Col. Peter Nezamis, Commander of the 126th Air Refueling Wing, at Scott Air Force Base, Oct. 4.

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Illinois National Guard Soldiers complete Polish military exercise

Story by Staff Sgt. Patrick DeGeorge
33rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team Public Affairs

ORZYSZ, Poland – Soldiers from the Illinois Army National Guard's 33rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team (33rd IBCT) in Urbana, Illinois, and the 244th Digital Liaison Detachment in Chicago, participated in the largest multi-national military training exercise in Polish history, Sept. 24 to Oct. 4.

Anaconda 14 involved nearly 13,000 Soldiers from nine nations throughout the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and was conducted at various sites throughout Poland. The 33rd IBCT participated in the event through a tactical operation center exercise from the Orzysz training area. The brigade worked closely with the 12th Mechanized Division from the Polish Army

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U.S. Army National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. Patrick J. DeGeorge, 33rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team

Leaders of the multinational exercise Anaconda 14 pass the 33rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team and the 244th Digital Liaison Detachment Soldiers during the opening ceremony in Orszys, Poland, Sept. 24.

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



Illinois C-130 crews conduct exercise in Poland



Story by Oriana Pawlyk
Air Force Times Staff writer

POWIDZ AIR BASE, Poland - The Air National Guard landed its first C-130 aircraft rotation at the U.S. Aviation Detachment in Poland for a joint training exercise, Oct. 15.

About 50 Airmen and three C-130 Hercules aircraft from the 182nd Airlift Wing, Illinois Air National Guard, joined their Polish counterparts at the 33rd Air Base, home of the Aviation Detachment at the Powidz Air Base, for the start of exercise Aviation Detachment rotation 15-1.

The Av-Det 15-1 training is hosted by Detachment 1, 52nd Operations Group from Lask Air Base, Poland.

Dozens of the two three-week NATO exercises have taken place this year in Poland, the Baltics, Bulgaria and the Czech Republic as part of Operation Atlantic Resolve to maintain joint readiness and reassure regional allies and partners.

“Our mission here is to support the Aviation Detachment rotation and build upon the interoperability between our two forces,” U.S. Air Force Lt. Col. Douglas Applegren.

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U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Dylan Nuckolls, 52nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs, Spangdahlem, Germany

Two C-130 Hercules cargo aircraft assigned to the 182nd Airlift Wing, Illinois Air National Guard, wait to taxi on the flight line during U.S. Air Force Aviation Detachment rotation 15-1 at Powidz Air Base, Poland. Three C-130 aircraft participated in the exercise hosted by the U.S. Aviation Detachment, 52nd Operations Group, Lask Air Base.

Mentorship, an important ingredient to success

As I approach the close of my 31 years of military service July 31, 2015, I thought back at the opportunities I had in the Air National Guard and some of my successes, which I can directly attribute to the mentors in my life and career. Wikipedia defines mentorship as “a personal developmental relationship in which a more experienced or more knowledgeable person helps to guide a less experienced or less knowledgeable person.”



Col. Stephen Baggerly
Director of Staff - Air

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Illinois National Guard collaborates with rape crisis centers

Illinois National Guard Public Affairs

SPRINGFIELD, III. – Daniel M. Krumrei of Springfield, Illinois, Adjutant General of the Illinois National Guard signed memorandums of understanding between the Illinois National Guard and multiple rape crisis centers to provide insight into the care and advocacy a sexual assault victim receives.

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Bloomington recruiter excels in Strongman Competition

Story by Spc. Kyle Hessenauer
Illinois National Guard Public Affairs Office

SPRINGFIELD, III. – Staff Sgt. Kellye Brestan of Bloomington, Illinois, recruiter for the Illinois Army National Guard, placed third in the North American Strongman (NAS) National Competition in Reno, Nevada, Oct. 4 and 5.

NAS is the premier amateur strongman corporation in the world. This event attracted more than 200 men and women to prove their strength against each other within their own weight class. Challenges ranged from lifting cars to throwing kegs.

“I have known Brestan for three years,” said 1st Sgt. Holly Donald of Peoria, Illinois, Recruiting and Retention Battalion. “When she first joined, she struggled to pass the Army fitness test. She decided to become fit and better as a recruiter.”



Photo courtesy of
Staff Sgt. Kellye Brestan

Staff Sgt. Kellye Brestan of Bloomington, Illinois, an Illinois Army National Guard recruiter, performs the Yoke carry.

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766th Engineer Battalion receives new commander

Illinois National Guard
Public Affairs

DECATUR, III. – Lt. Col. Craig A. Holan of Litchfield, Illinois, relinquished command of the 766th Engineer Battalion to Maj. Douglas M. Masters of Naperville, Illinois, during a change of command ceremony Sept. 27 in Decatur, Illinois.

“I am relieved to be leaving the battalion in such great hands,” said Holan. “The job is made easy when you have a group of Soldiers as fine as the ones in this unit.”

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

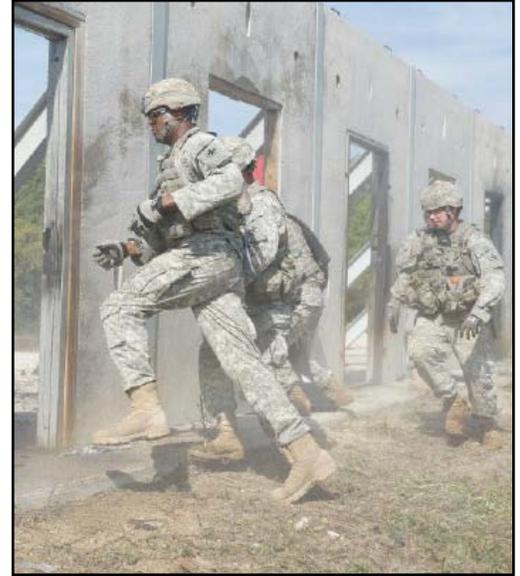
108th Special Troops Battalion receives Maintenance Award

Story by Staff Sgt. Michael Camacho
108th Sustainment Brigade

WASHINGTON, D.C. - The ILARNG 108th Special Troops Battalion received a national-level Army Award for Maintenance.

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33rd BSTB conducts explosive breach operations



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

Soldiers from Company A, 33rd Brigade Special Troops Battalion in Marseilles conducted explosive breaching operations and training at Marseilles Training Center in Marseilles, Sept. 28. The training, which included shotgun breach techniques and explosive charge breaching, allowed the Soldiers to fine tune skills of breaching doorways and pathways, which is a vital asset to military operations across the globe.

Hanging up their boots after 20+ years of service

- **Col. Christopher Hall**
Joint Force Headquarters
- **Col. Alexander Lawson**
Joint Force Headquarters
- **Col. Charles Osum**
183rd Fighter Wing
- **Lt. Col. Scott Hastings**
183rd Fighter Wing
- **Lt. Col. Kenneth Yoggerst**
183rd Fighter Wing
- **Maj. Joseph Dorman**
183rd Fighter Wing
- **Chief Master Sgt. James Pearson**
183rd Fighter Wing
- **Chief Master Sgt. Steven Stewart**
183rd Fighter Wing
- **Sgt. Maj. Darnell Shaffer**
Joint Force Headquarters
- **Master Sgt. Adam Cannon**
126th Civil Engineer Squadron
- **Master Sgt. Steven Daley**
HHD, 405th Brigade Support Battalion
- **Master Sgt. Andrew Fowles**
HHC, 33rd Brigade Combat Team
- **Senior Master Sgt. Robert McCrary**
182nd Airlift Wing
- **Master Sgt. Jeffrey Palmisano**
Joint Force Headquarters
- **Master Sgt. James Scott**
126th Civil Engineer Squadron
- **Sgt. 1st Class Jeremy Buttram**
Recruiting and Retention Battalion
- **Sgt. 1st Class John Long**
Recruiting and Retention Battalion
- **Sgt. 1st Class Shane Martin**
Marseilles Training Center
- **Tech. Sgt. Angel Amaral**
183rd Fighter Wing

- **Tech. Sgt. Michael Brockway**
182nd Airlift Wing
- **Tech. Sgt. Christopher Jenner**
182nd Airlift Wing
- **Tech. Sgt. Patrick McCauley**
108th Air Refueling Squadron
- **Staff Sgt. Garath Mills**
Company D, 1-106th Aviation
- **Staff Sgt. Jason Milner**
662nd Engineer Detachment
- **Staff Sgt. Michael Ortiz**
333rd Military Police Company
- **Staff Sgt. Christopher Ayers**
183rd Fighter Wing
- **Spc. Mario Janneau**
HHD, 405th Brigade Support Battalion

PHOTOS FROM THE FIELD

- **182nd Medical Group annual training in Hawaii**
- **Illinois National Guard Soldiers place in marksmanship competition**
- **Illinois Army National Guard conducts live-fire training**
- **Illinois Recruit Sustainment Program, number one in nation**
- **Soldiers conduct team exercise for state troopers**
- **Duckworth retires**
- **USO of Illinois, White Sox host lunch for Soldiers**

1st Battalion, 106th Aviation Regiment gets new commander

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

PEORIA, Ill. – Lt. Col. John Husemann of LaGrange Park, Illinois, relinquished command of the 1st Battalion, 106th Aviation Regiment to Lt. Col. Christopher McIntyre, a resident of Cantrall, Illinois, and native of Peoria, Illinois, during a change of command ceremony Oct. 18 in Peoria, Illinois.

“It’s good to be back in Peoria,” said McIntyre. “This is the same hangar my father drilled in during the ‘60s when he was part of the 182nd Airlift Wing.”

McIntyre’s previous assignment was the Army aviation officer with Joint Force Headquarters.

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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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