



## Glisson promoted to brigadier general

By Sgt. James Sims, 139th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment



Maj. Gen. Richard J. Hayes, the Adjutant General of the Illinois National Guard, recites the oath of office to Brig. Gen. Michael Glisson of Festus, Missouri. (U.S. Army photo by Spc. Daniel LoGrasso, 139th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment)

**SPRINGFIELD, Illinois**— The former commander of the 65th Troop Command based in Springfield, Illinois, Michael J. Glisson of Festus, Missouri, was promoted to brigadier general, Jan. 9, in a joint change of command and promotion ceremony at Camp Lincoln, Springfield, Illinois.

Glisson was appointed as the Illinois National Guard's Director of the Joint Staff in mid-October replacing Brig. Gen. Alicia Tate-Nadeau of Chicago, formally of Delavan, Illinois, who now serves as the Assistant Adjutant General – Army.

In a statement Governor Rauner said he was pleased to announce this key appointment within the Illinois National Guard and congratulated Glisson on his promotion.

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## Springfield's 233rd Military Police Company Mobilizes for Afghanistan

By Sgt. 1st Class Bryan Spreitzer, Illinois National Guard Public Affairs



Illinois Governor Bruce Rauner (left) and Brig. Gen. Michael Glisson of Festus, Missouri, director of the Illinois National Guard's Joint Staff, present 1st Lt. Carl Crawford of Springfield, Illinois, commander of the deploying Soldiers, with the Illinois flag that will accompany them on their mission. (U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Robert Adams, Illinois National Guard Public Affairs)

**SPRINGFIELD, Illinois** – Approximately 30 Soldiers with the 233rd Military Police Company were recognized during a mobilization ceremony Jan. 29 at the Illinois Military Academy on Camp Lincoln in Springfield, Illinois.

The Soldiers will train for a brief time at Fort Bliss, Texas, before deploying to Afghanistan. The MPs will be conducting a multitude of security missions in support of Operation Freedom's Sentinel, the new name for operations in Afghanistan.

The deploying Soldiers were joined by family members, friends, colleagues and a small group of distinguished visitors including Illinois Governor Bruce Rauner and U.S. Representatives Rodney Davis and Darin LaHood.

Brig. Gen. Michael Glisson of Festus, Missouri, Director of the Illinois National Guard's Joint Staff told the soldiers to communicate, not only with each other, but with their families back home to ensure successful completion of the mission.

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## Senior Leader's Corner Focusing on the future

Since becoming the Assistant Adjutant General - Army in October of 2015, I have verbalized my priorities for the Illinois Army National Guard several times to various audiences. However, I have not put them on paper and pushed them out to the widest audience possible. Here are my thoughts on priorities:



Brig. Gen. Michael R. Zerbonia, Assistant Adjutant General - Army, Illinois National Guard

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## 183rd AOG officially activates Jan. 10

Story by Master Sgt. Shaun Kerr, 183rd Fighter Wing Public Affairs

**SPRINGFIELD, Illinois** – The 183rd Air Operations Group was honored in a ceremony that recognized the group's official activation at the 183rd Fighter Wing, Springfield Capital Airport on Jan. 10.

Maj. Gen. Richard J. Hayes, the Adjutant General of the Illinois National Guard, presided over the ceremony that included nearly 400 military members, as well as members of the Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce Military Affairs Committee and many former members of the 183rd Fighter Wing.

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### 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

## 65th TC receives new commander

By Sgt. James Sims, 139th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

**SPRINGFIELD, Illinois** – Col. Rodney A. Thacker, a native of Sorento, Illinois, took command of the 65th Troop Command based in Springfield, Illinois from Brig. Gen. Michael J. Glisson, of Festus, Missouri, during a change of command ceremony, Jan. 9, at Camp Lincoln, in Springfield, Illinois.

“I’m humbled and excited for this opportunity to command the 65th Troop Command Brigade,” said Thacker.

Thacker thanked Glisson for handing off a hardworking brigade that is professional, with high morale and great esprit de corps. Thacker said congratulations to Glisson on his selection to brigadier general and as the next director of the joint staff.



**Brig. Gen. Michael Zerbonia of Chatham, Illinois, the Assistant Adjutant General-Army of the Illinois National Guard, passes the 65th Troop Command guidon to Col. Rodney A. Thacker, a native of Sorento, Illinois at the 65th’s change of command ceremony. Thacker took command of the 65th Troop Command based in Springfield, Illinois from Col. Michael J. Glisson, of Festus, Missouri, during a change of command ceremony, Jan. 9, at Camp Lincoln in Springfield, Illinois. (U.S. Army Photo by Spc. Dan LoGrasso, Illinois National Guard)**

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## HHC 404th MEB Receives Defense Reserve Family Readiness Award

By Staff Sgt. Robert R. Adams, Illinois National Guard Public Affairs

**SPRINGFIELD, Illinois.** – Headquarters and headquarters company of the 404th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade based in Normal, Illinois, was awarded the 2015 Department of Defense Reserve Family Readiness Award at the Pentagon Hall of Heroes on Feb. 26, 2016.

The RFR Program was established in 2000 to recognize the top unit in each Reserve Component that demonstrated outstanding family readiness while maintaining superior mission readiness. The Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs presents the award annually to one unit from each of the Reserve components, which includes the Army National Guard, the Army Reserve, the Marine Corps Reserve, the Navy Reserve, the Air National Guard, the Air Force Reserve and the Coast Guard Reserve.

“I am very pleased that one of our outstanding brigades is being recognized for their hard work to support the families of our Soldiers,” said Maj. Gen. Richard J. Hayes, the Adjutant General for the Illinois National Guard. “This is a testament to not only the FRG and the leadership of the 404th, but also the unwavering support of the surrounding communities.”

Col. Byron Lloyd of Springfield, Illinois, commander of the 404th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade (MEB) said this is an example of getting noticed by doing more than what’s expected of you.

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## Governor Rauner Opens Senior Leader Conference



**Illinois Governor Bruce Rauner, the Commander-in-Chief of the Illinois National Guard, addresses the Illinois Army National Guard Senior Leaders Conference on Friday, Feb. 26. The Governor told the more than 130 senior-ranking Soldiers about the importance of identifying leaders within their ranks and empowering them. (U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Robert Adams, Illinois National Guard Public Affairs.)**

**SPRINGFIELD, Illinois** – Illinois Governor Bruce Rauner, the Commander-in-Chief of the Illinois National Guard, opened up the Illinois Army National Guard’s Senior Leader Conference on Friday by telling the more than 130 senior-ranking Soldiers about the importance of identifying leaders within their ranks and empowering them.

“That’s what I did in business. I found talented innovative leaders who knew how to build teams and I backed them,” the Governor said. “Sometimes it didn’t work out, but far more often than not, it did.”

The Governor said he sees his role as a “servant” leader. “Yes, by title, I am the Commander-in-Chief of the Illinois National Guard. But, really, I see myself as working for you,” he told the military leadership assembled at Camp Lincoln for the conference.

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## East Peoria Soldier awarded Legion of Merit at SLC

By 1st Lt. Aaron Ritter, Illinois National Guard Public Affairs

**SRINGFIELD, Illinois** – Vernon Wilfinger, of East Peoria, Illinois, a retired sergeant major with the Illinois Army National Guard, was awarded the Legion of Merit during a ceremony at Camp Lincoln in Springfield, Illinois, Feb. 27. The award was presented by Maj. Gen. Richard Hayes Jr., The Adjutant General of the Illinois National Guard, during the Senior Leaders Conference Feb. 26-28 at the Illinois Military Academy.

Wilfinger enlisted in the Illinois Army National Guard in 1982 as an infantry Soldier with Company B, 1st Battalion, 123rd Infantry Regiment, then located in Delavan, Illinois.

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## Frankfurt Soldier awarded Legion of Merit at SLC

By 1st Lt. Aaron Ritter, Illinois National Guard Public Affairs

**SRINGFIELD, Illinois** – Col. Mark Jackson, of Frankfurt, Illinois, was awarded the Legion of Merit during a ceremony at Camp Lincoln in Springfield, Illinois, Feb. 27. The award was presented by Maj. Gen. Richard Hayes Jr., The Adjutant General of the Illinois National Guard, during the Senior Leaders Conference Feb. 26-28 at the Illinois Military Academy.

Jackson enlisted in the Illinois Army National Guard in June 1984 and commissioned as a second lieutenant in May 1987 after completing the Reserve Officer Training Corps at Illinois State University.

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## Litchfield Soldier promoted to colonel

By Sgt. 1st Class Bryan Spreitzer, Illinois National Guard Public Affairs

SPRINGFIELD, Illinois – Craig A. Holan of Litchfield, Illinois, was promoted to colonel during a ceremony at the Illinois Military Academy on Camp Lincoln in Springfield, Illinois, Feb. 5.

Holan is the full-time Construction and Facilities Management Officer for the Illinois Army National Guard and is responsible for all construction and maintenance of ILARNG real property as well as physical security and environmental protection.

During the ceremony, Holan thanked his family and his friends and mentors who helped guide his career and teach him along the way.

“I’ve learned a lot in my military career,” said Holan. “The one thing that remains the same after 30 years is that the military is about people and the connections you make with those people.”



Sharon Holan of Litchfield, Illinois, places colonel rank on her husband, Craig A. Holan, during a promotion ceremony Feb. 5 at Camp Lincoln in Springfield, Illinois. Holan was promoted to the rank of colonel after more than 30 years of service and will continue as the full-time Construction and Facilities Management Officer for the Illinois Army National Guard. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. 1st Class Bryan Spreitzer, Illinois National Guard Public Affairs Office)

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## 2/129 RTI welcomes new commander

By Sgt. 1st Class Bryan Spreitzer, Illinois National Guard Public Affairs

SPRINGFIELD, Illinois – Lt. Col. Michael Hough of Petersburg, Illinois, assumed command of the Illinois National Guard’s 2nd Battalion, 129th Regional Training Institute based in Springfield, Illinois, during an afternoon ceremony Jan. 23 at the Illinois Military Academy on Camp Lincoln, Springfield, Illinois.

The 2nd Battalion, 129th RTI is the main training battalion for the 129th, responsible for reclassification, certification and stand-up training for the Army National Guard, active Army, and the Army reserves.



Lt. Col. Michael Hough of Petersburg, Illinois, receives the 2nd Battalion, 129th Regional Training Institute’s colors from Col. Paul Fanning of Chestnut, Illinois, the 129th RTI’s commander during a ceremony Jan. 23 at the Illinois Military Academy in Springfield, Illinois. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. 1st Class Bryan Spreitzer, Illinois National Guard Public Affairs Office)

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## Seargent Major retires after 28 years of service

By 1st Lt. Aaron Ritter, Illinois National Guard Public Affairs

SPRINGFIELD, Illinois – Command Sgt. Maj. Stephen Donaldson of Chatham, Illinois retired Jan. 8 from the Illinois Army National Guard after 28 years of service.

Donaldson enlisted in the Illinois Army National Guard in 1987 as an infantryman with the Effingham-based Company B, 2nd Battalion, 130th Infantry Regiment. In 1993, Donaldson started his career as a recruiter in Effingham. He rose through the ranks to eventually become the Recruiting and Retention Battalion Command Sergeant Major, the senior enlisted advisor to the recruiting and retention commander.

Donaldson said serving in recruiting for more than 10 years has given him a different perspective that not all Soldiers get to have.

“I’ve served alongside Soldiers I have recruited, which allowed me to watch their development in becoming the Soldiers they are today,” Donaldson said. “One of those Soldiers I had the honor of serving with was killed while deployed in Afghanistan.”

Donaldson said his years in recruiting have been some of the most rewarding to him because he was able to work directly with the Soldiers.

“These new Soldiers are not just a number, they’re human beings,” Donaldson said. “I really enjoyed being able to help prepare them and get them on the right track as they joined the Illinois Army National Guard family.”

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## Hanging up their boots after more than 20 years:

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Joint Force Headquarters Recruiting and Retention

■ **Master Sgt. Peter Chyler**  
20th Special Forces Group

■ **Sgt. 1st Class Hardy Williams**  
HNB 2nd Battalion 122nd Field Artillery

■ **Senior Master Sgt. Matthew Hemann**  
183rd Fighter Wing

## Additional Headlines

**Chicago Soldier promoted to rank of major**

**Troy Soldier promoted to command sergeant major**

**Delevan Soldier Promoted to sergeant major**

**Blue Mound Soldier promoted to sergeant major**

**Springfield Soldier promoted to Chief Warrant Officer 4**

**Girard Soldier promoted to Chief Warrant Officer 3**

**ILNG Soldier receives Joint Commendation Medal**

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PHOTOS AND STORIES:



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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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