

The

# RAILSPLITTER



Illinois National Guard

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## Illinois Guard prepares for potential disasters

Story by Sgt. Ryan Twist  
139th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

**RANTOUL**—Illinois National Guard (ILNG) Soldiers and Airmen searched a collapsed building, extracted victims and decontaminated mass casualties during the three-day Prairie North 2013 exercise in Rantoul, April 11 to 13. The ILNG Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and High Yield Explosive Enhanced Response Force Package (CERFP) team, along with approximately 15 local and state agencies, conducted a full-scale exercise to better communicate and enhance their training for a potential local manmade or natural disaster.

“There was a lot of hands-on training,” said Pvt. Kyle Eldridge of St. Louis, a medic with the 445th Chemical Company out of Shiloh, Ill.

During the exercise, Eldridge cleaned and decontaminated the simulated casualties after they were extracted from the collapsed building.

“(The training) could potentially save a lot of lives,” said Eldridge.



Photo by U.S. Army Sgt. Ryan Twist, 139th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

**Spc. Zach R. Hill of Stronghurst and 1st. Lt. Jesse Garcia of Fort Summit, both with the 444th Chemical Company in Galesburg, carry a simulated casualty during the Prairie North 2013 exercise April 13 in Rantoul.**

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### PHOTOS FROM THE FIELD

- **Illinois Guardsmen conduct overseas exercise**
- **American Raptors, SOAR visit Marseilles**
- **FA Soldier honored at Chicago Cubs game**
- **Senior NCO visits Illinois National Guardsmen**
- **444th Chemical Co. honored at Freedom Salute**
- **708th Medical Company returns home from Sinai**
- **244th ALT recognized at Freedom Salute Ceremony**

### Resource Fair educates military on sexual assault

Story by Staff Sgt. Michael Camacho  
Illinois National Guard Public Affairs Office

**SPRINGFIELD** – The Illinois National Guard’s Sexual Assault Prevention and Response (SAPR) office held a Sexual Assault Awareness Resource Fair April 24 at Camp Lincoln in Springfield.

The fair acknowledged sexual assault issues within the military community and supplementary practices that can be incorporated into military standards, said 1st Lt. Alanna Casey of Naperville, acting SAPR coordinator with the Illinois National Guard.

“Sexual assault is a crime and it will not be tolerated in any form in the Illinois National Guard,” said Brig. Gen. William Cobetto of Springfield, the Assistant Adjutant General – Air of the Illinois National Guard.

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**24-hour hotline  
SARC Cell: (217) 299-9407**

### Officer candidates march through Illinois history

Story by Staff Sgt. Michael Camacho  
Illinois National Guard Public Affairs Office



**SPRINGFIELD** – The Illinois National Guard’s 129th Regional Training Institute’s (RTI) Officer Candidate School (OCS) in Springfield has produced leaders for decades, taking and pushing enlisted Soldiers to their limits to hone their physical and mental strength.

One of the last tasks that test the Soldiers physical strength is the 10-mile road march.

OCS candidates completed a 10-mile march through winding roads of Oak Ridge Cemetery in Springfield, April 21. Wearing a pack weighing a minimum of 35 pounds, candidates had three hours to complete the march.

Officer Candidate Doreen Misiorek of Springfield said the terrain was steep and hilly, but the surroundings helped keep her focused.

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# Special Forces assessment held in Marseilles

Story by Staff Sgt. James McDonnough  
139th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

**MARSEILLES** - As 14 exhausted National Guard Soldiers struggled to carry loads weighing hundreds of pounds across hilly, muddy terrain late into the night, a constant stream of voices came at them from the darkness.

“You don’t have to be here. If you aren’t going to help your team, then just go home. You can accomplish anything, but only if you act as a team.”

Failing to perform as a team during this exercise meant setting the loads down and performing grueling exercises in the mud, all while wearing 55-pound rucksacks.

After less than 24 hours, these men were all who remained of the 34 Soldiers and Marines from across the country who participated in a Special Forces Readiness Assessment at the Marseilles Training Center (MTC) April 13 to 14. The event was hosted by the Illinois Army National Guard’s Company A, 2nd Battalion, 20th Special Forces Group (Airborne), based in Chicago.

The assessment, which is held twice a year at MTC, is the first step for servicemembers trying to join the Special Forces (SF). Next is the 24-day Special Forces Assessment and Selection Course, where they vie for the opportunity to attend the Special Forces Qualification Course.

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Photo by U.S. Army Staff Sgt. James McDonnough  
139th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

**Sgt. Matthew Daniel of Decatur, a medic with Company C, 634th Brigade Support Battalion in Springfield, navigates monkey bars in Marseilles, April 14 .**

# Sustain readiness with open approach

We are always ready to help our neighbors, protect our state, and defend our nation as an operational and strategic Army asset.

As we continue to support combat operations while simultaneously making the transition to a peace time Army, it is evident we have transformed to support an increase in joint operational missions. As we move forward the way ahead will require a more open and flexible approach to how we generate and support training functions that sustain readiness.

While we prepare for future operations, we need to reset the warrant officer cohort without regressing and losing what we have gained. Our focus will be on individual and unit readiness while continuing the professionalism and research within our technical specialty.

In the theme of readiness, I also want to take an opportunity to thank commanders and noncommissioned officers at all levels for collaborating and developing good NCO leaders to become warrant officers within our ranks.



**Chief Warrant Officer 5 David Hammon  
State Command Chief Warrant Officer**

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## Pre-Retirement Seminar

[Click here for more details](#)

Next seminar is November 2 at Camp Lincoln in Springfield

## Attention M-Day Soldiers

Update the MILCONNECT site for proper e-mail identification

[Click here for instructions](#)

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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](mailto:ng.il.ilarng.list.staff-pao@mail.mil)

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

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## Hanging up their boots after 20+ years of service

### ■ Col. Jonathan Payne

183rd Fighter Wing

### ■ Lt. Col. Christopher Dates

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### ■ Chief Warrant Officer 2 Angela Lantau

HHC, 108th Sustainment Brigade

### ■ Chief Master Sgt. Jonathan Wheeler

183rd Fighter Wing

### ■ 1st Sgt. Rodney Best

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183rd Fighter Wing

### ■ Senior Master Sgt. Michael Thorne

182nd Airlift Wing

### ■ Sgt. 1st Class Angela Cooper

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### ■ Sgt. 1st Class Elizabeth Hanson

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183rd Fighter Wing

### ■ Master Sgt. Samuel Kassis

183rd Fighter Wing

### ■ Sgt. 1st Class Dwayne Lee

HHC, 108th Sustainment Brigade

### ■ Master Sgt. Diane Liesen

183rd Fighter Wing

### ■ Master Sgt. Charles Russell

182nd Airlift Wing

### ■ Staff Sgt. Keith Jones

HHC, 1st Battalion, 178th Infantry Regiment

### ■ Staff Sgt. Thomas Roehm

126th Air Refueling Wing

### ■ Jack “Butch” Pascoe

Department of Military Affairs

## Flight Training Candidates Needed

[Click here for minimum requirements](#)

If you meet the requirements and are interested contact CW2 Norman Brooks at (217) 761-3870.

## CNO/CAO Training

Next class is May 22 & 23 at the Donnelly Building in Chicago

[Click here for more information](#)