

The

## RAILSPLITTER



Illinois National Guard

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# Illinois Guardsmen step up in wake of tornado

## ■ 182nd Firefighters respond to devastation

Story by Staff Sgt. Lealan C. Buehrer  
182nd Airlift Wing Public Affairs

**PEORIA, Ill.** – Firefighters from the Illinois Air National Guard's 182nd Airlift Wing responded to Washington, Ill., Nov. 17 to provide mass assistance when a tornado struck the city and caused wide-spread destruction.

There was obviously an overwhelming need for help when the firefighters arrived, said Master Sgt. Shawn Penninger, the on-duty shift supervisor.

Ten firefighters were dispatched in three vehicles at approximately 12:58 p.m. to help with immediate urban search and rescue operations. As soon as the scene began to stabilize with outside emergency response capabilities, the firefighters withdrew. The firefighters searched 36 collapsed structures, shut off six residential gas lines and conducted debris removal.

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## ■ 5th Civil Support Team members help victims



Photo submitted by U.S. Army National Guard Capt. Matthew Dodson, 5th CST

(Left to right) Sgt. Kevin Engelken of Mapleton, Ill., Senior Master Sgt. Matt Miller of Morton, Ill., and Officer Candidate Martin Anderson of East Peoria, Ill., all assigned to the Illinois National Guard's 5th Civil Support Team in Bartonville, Ill., took leave Nov. 19 to 20 to help residents recover personal effects from the debris field.

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## ■ Illinois infantrymen rescue trapped residents

Story by Sgt. Robert R. Adams  
Illinois National Guard Public Affairs

**SPRINGFIELD, Ill.** – A retired Marine credits two Illinois National Guardsmen as heroes for their immediate actions to help victims of a tornado that ripped through Washington, Ill., Nov. 17.

Retired Marine Staff Sgt. Karl Newman of Washington, Ill., said Spc. Justin Brackeen of Washington, Ill., and Staff Sgt. Joshua Slocum of Roscoe, Ill., both with Company A, 1st Battalion, 178th Infantry Regiment used their military training to evaluate the situation and responded by administering first aid and getting victims to safety.

Both Soldiers were released from drill to check on Brackeen's property because of the storm and drove to Brackeen's neighborhood. When they arrived at Brackeen's apartment complex they discovered it was no longer standing.

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## Soldier's dog recovered with help of community



Courtesy photo

**Dexter, a six-month-old pit bull, and his owner, Spc. Jacob Montgomery of the 333rd Military Police Company of Freeport were re-united nine days after their apartment was destroyed by the devastating tornado that ripped through Washington, Ill., Nov. 17.**

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## 126th civil engineers train in Australia

Story by Airman 1st Class Elise Stout  
126th Air Refueling Wing Public Affairs

**EXMOUTH, Western Australia** – After a three-day flight, the Illinois Air National Guard's 126th Air Refueling Wing Civil Engineer Squadron (CES) based at Scott Air Force Base, landed in Australia Aug. 24, ready to unload tools for the deployment for training (DFT).

The entire team of 35 civil engineers, ranging from electricians to operation managers, demolished a 5,000-square-foot building and surveyed the ground before a new pedestal was installed.

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## Reichen assumes command of Recruiting, Retention



U.S. Army National Guard photo by Sgt. Robert R. Adams  
Illinois National Guard Public Affairs

**Lt. Col. Daniel A. Reichen passes the battalion flag to Command Sgt. Maj. Stephen M. Donaldson at Camp Lincoln in Springfield, Ill., Nov. 14**

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## 182nd loadmaster receives award

Story by Staff Sgt. Lealan C. Buehrer  
182nd Airlift Wing Public Affairs

**PEORIA, Ill.** – A C-130 Hercules aircraft loadmaster with the 169th Airlift Squadron was awarded the Staff Sgt. Henry E. "Red" Erwin Outstanding Enlisted Aircrew Member Airman of the Year Award.

"It's pretty much a major surprise. I didn't believe it," said Air Force Senior Airman Ryan J. Lane on receiving the honor.

Lane was presented the award by the National Guard Bureau career enlisted aviator career field manager.

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## New Illinois National Guard aircraft introduced



U.S. Army National Guard photo by Capt. Dutch Grove, Illinois National Guard Public Affairs

The Illinois National Guard held a fielding ceremony and capabilities brief for the UH-72A Lakota at the Army Aviation Support Facility #1 in Decatur, Ill., Nov. 21. The Soldiers of Detachment 1, Company B, 1st Battalion, 376th Aviation in Decatur will operate and maintain the UH-72A Lakota fleet.

## Are you like Mike?

I was recently going through my emails and noticed an alert that came in because the Illinois National Guard was mentioned somewhere on the internet. Not exactly NSA technology, but this one was a little different than most. I clicked on the link and was surprised to be directed to a Yahoo question and answer site. It was a question posted by 20-year-old "Mike," one of our Soldiers who "doesn't feel like living anymore."



**Brig. Gen. James Schroeder**  
Commander, Illinois  
Air National Guard

He mentioned for the past few months he hasn't been happy. After a car accident, supervisors at his unit didn't take his medical documentation seriously and denied him the light duty he needed. Mike also works in his father's industrial business where his relatives want to keep him in a menial job. That has led him into to a huge guilt complex for wanting to move on to something better. Without saying it, he was describing a trapped feeling with no apparent way out.

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## OCS staff ride provides lessons learned from 152 years ago

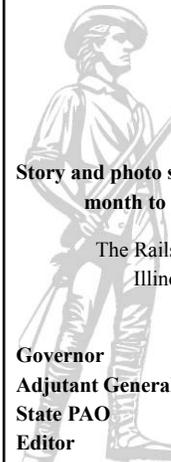
Story by Adriana Schroeder, command historian

Confederate forces under Gen. Albert Johnston and Union forces under Maj. Gens. Ulysses Grant and Don Buell clashed among the thick oak trees in Shiloh, Tenn., more than 150 years ago.

In November, candidates from the 129th Regional Training Institute's Officer Candidate School (OCS) stood on the same ground.

**READ MORE**

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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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## Illinois State Military Museum's Christmas at the Front

December 17, 2013 from 6 to 9 p.m.

Experience a Soldier's Christmas in the trenches of WWI  
Meet re-enactors and hear stories from the Soldiers

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

- **Brig. Gen. James Schroeder**  
Commander, Illinois Air National Guard
- **Lt. Col. Daniel Bergbower**  
126th Air Refueling Wing
- **Lt. Col. Steven Taylor**  
183rd Fighter Wing
- **Maj. Suzanne Smith**  
Joint Force Headquarters - Air
- **Chief Master Sgt. Timothy Penwell**  
182nd Airlift Wing
- **Senior Master Sgt. Rolando Paloma**  
183rd Fighter Wing
- **Master Sgt. Raymond Rau Jr.**  
Det. 3, HQ, 2nd Battalion, 20th SFG (AB)
- **Master Sgt. Ronald Stover Jr.**  
129th Regiment, Regional Training Institute
- **Command Sgt. Maj. Howard Robinson**  
State Command Sergeant Major
- **Sgt. 1st Class James Mayes**  
233rd Military Police Company
- **Master Sgt. Jill Niesman**  
126th Air Refueling Wing
- **Master Sgt. Robert Wagner**  
182nd Airlift Wing
- **Tech. Sgt. Steven Duncan**  
182nd Airlift Wing
- **Tech. Sgt. Ted Lyons**  
183rd Fighter Wing
- **Tech. Sgt. Nicholas Masters**  
182nd Airlift Wing
- **Staff Sgt. Isaak Tolekidis**  
108th Medical Battalion

## PHOTOS FROM THE FIELD

- **126th ARW recognized at St. Louis Blues game**
- **TAG joins Governor, Gold Star Family at Lincoln's tomb**
- **Chicago Bears tight end, Illinois Guard visit students**
- **Soldiers attend Chicago Tree Lighting Ceremony**
- **Great War Encampment draws more than 500 visitors**
- **Col. Allen receives Staff Eagle, inducted into U of I Hall of Fame**