



ILLINOIS NATIONAL GUARD
PRAIRIE SENTINEL

VOLUME 6

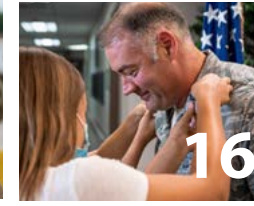
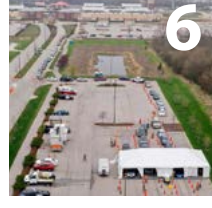
**BEST OF THE BEST:
ILLINOIS SOLDIERS COMPETE FOR
BEST WARRIOR**

**THE ILLINOIS NATIONAL GUARD WRAPS UP COVID-19
OPERATIONS**

**ILLINOIS NATIONAL GUARD PROVIDES LAW
ENFORCEMENT SUPPORT**

SUMMER 2020

ILLINOIS NATIONAL GUARD PRAIRIE SENTINEL



For more, click a photo or the title of the story.

Highlighting Diversity: Gen. CQ Brown Confirmed as AF Chief of Staff 4

Gen. Charles Q. Brown has made history by being confirmed as the first African American Chief of Staff of a U.S. military Service. Courtesy of www.af.mil

BEST 24 Returns home from Afghanistan 5

Bilateral Embedded Staff Team (BEST) 24 returns home after a nine-month deployment with the Polish in Afghanistan. By Barb Wilson, Illinois National Guard Public Affairs.

End of Mission: The ILNG Ends its COVID testing site mission 6

The Illinois National Guard ends its COVID testing site mission, handing operations over to civilian contractors. By Barb Wilson, Illinois National Guard Public Affairs.

Money Moves: Hicks promoted to lieutenant colonel 8

A photo spread highlighting the promotion of Jeffrey Hicks to lieutenant colonel. By Barb Wilson, Illinois National Guard Public Affairs

130th Infantry takes over Mission in Jordan 9

Illinois' 130th Infantry takes mission command in Jordan. By Capt. Earnest Wang, Area Support Group, Jordan

333rd MP Battalion returns from deployment 10

Approximately 120 MPs return after a year-long deployment. By Barb Wilson, Illinois National Guard Public Affairs

On Guard: Law Enforcement support to Chicago 11

A photo spread highlighting Illinois' law enforcement support to Chicago. By Sgt. Christopher Garibay, 139th MPAD

Best of the Best: Soldiers compete in state Best Warrior Competition 12

Soldiers compete to earn the title of Illinois' Best Warrior. By Sgt. Stephen Gifford, 139th MPAD

Where there's smoke: Soldier Firefighters complete EXEVAL 14

A photo spread highlighting Illinois Army National Guard firefighting training. By Sgt. Stephen Gifford, 139th MPAD

Silver Leaf: 182nd's Boyer promoted to lieutenant colonel 16

A photo spread highlighting the promotion of Aaron Boyer. By Tech. Sgt. Lealan Beuhrer, 182nd Airlift Wing Public Affairs

1544th Completes IED training at Northern Strike 17

Illinois' 1544th TC conducts counter-IED training at Northern Strike. By Capt. Doria Rogers, 272nd Regional Support Group

Shot Out: 122 FA conducts live fire at McCoy 18

A photo spread highlighting the 122 Field Artillery's live-fire at annual training. By Sgt. Stephen Gifford, 139th MPAD

Task Force Illini takes command in Ukraine 19

The 33rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team takes command of operations in Ukraine. By Sgt. Shaylin Quaid, 33rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team

Infantry Soldiers in Jordan get Combat Patch 20

Soldiers of the 130th Infantry get their combat patches in Jordan. By Barb Wilson, Illinois National Guard Public Affairs

Illinois' OCS Hall of Fame welcomes six officers 21

Six officers are the newest inductees into the Illinois OCS Hall of Fame. By Barb Wilson, Illinois National Guard Public Affairs

Battlefield Circulation 22

A photo spread highlighting Brig. Gen. Neely and Command Sgt. Maj. Ballowe's visit to Ft. McCoy, Wisconsin. By Sgt. 1st Class Bryan Spreitzer, Illinois National Guard Public Affairs

Going to California... 24

Company B, 238th Aviation travels to California to assist with wildfires. By Sgt. LeAnne Withrow, 139th MPAD

Regional Champions 26

A photo spread highlighting the Region IV Best Warrior Competition, hosted by the Illinois National Guard at Marseilles Training Center. By Sgt. 1st Class Bryan Spreitzer, Illinois National Guard Public Affairs and Sgt. Stephen Gifford, 139th MPAD

Take it From the Top:

Senior Leader's Corner

Shaping Our Future: In an uncertain year, you've led the way

To the Airmen, our Families and the civilian employees of the Illinois National Guard:

As we celebrated the 73rd Birthday of the U.S Air Force on September 18th, we welcome, embrace, and are encouraged by our new leadership not only within the senior levels of the AF, MAJCOMs and numbered AF, but our very own CNGB, DANG and throughout the ANGRC. With our new leadership, brings new ideas, priorities, and focus toward their vision of emerging missions and technologies to counter new threats. With those visions in mind, we must continue to examine and shape all our current mission sets within the 126th ARW, 182nd AW, and 183rd Wing. They are and will remain the premier refueling, tactical airlift, and warfighter wings amongst the 54 states and territories. But the fiscal realities our AF leadership face against the nationwide response to COVID, the establishment of the Space Force, and the growing threats from our near peer adversaries to name a few, will surely limit the ability to modernize at any pace we're accustomed too. Posturing the 183rd Wing with a new flying or enhanced combat support mission remains our top priority. The Wing is well positioned with the rapidly changing global combat environment shaping tomorrow's fight. Ensuring the 182nd Airlift Wing's C-130s are modernized and replaced with the C-130J and the 126th Air Refueling Wing's transitioning to the KC-46 Pegasus remain top priorities as well.

These are all pretty big asks against the many challenges the Air Force faces. However, we have one big advantage working in our favor: You! The Airmen of the Illinois Air National Guard, their families and our civilian employees have made our organization tops in the nation.

When I talk to the Air Force leadership or am questioned by a member of Congress about our readiness, I can say we lead the pack and your documented performance across the wings makes it a pleasing conversation. When the

discussion turns to support of the war fight, I can talk extensively about our dozens of successful global deployments. In fact, your stories and achievements are so well documented and reinforced, senior Air Force leadership often beat me to the punch.

When the conversation turns to support of the homeland and our communities, your performance during recent floods, Covid-19, election support, and civil disturbance response takes center stage and require little explanation. From your historic build out of McCormick Place into a temporary health care facility, contributions to the state testing sites, delivery of equipment and supplies when and where they were needed, Joint Task Force and the Force Protection Team, the support of law

enforcement, and cyber-security, your abilities and resourcefulness to rapidly pivot on the battlefield presents the ideal team to support our communities in need. And all while continuing to maintain 100% mission readiness demonstrating to the world why you are the best and admired. Don't think that's not noticed!

You worked side-by-side with our brothers and sisters in the Army National Guard and those from dozens of other local, county, state and federal agencies to make 2020 a little less....well, 2020.

While we work to tell your stories and posture your wings for the relevant missions of the future, those realities mentioned at the beginning will shape us to a better force to meet those global threats yet to be fully realized.

You have the gratitude of your leadership and, more importantly, your communities, your state, and the United States of America.

God Bless,

Brig. Gen. Pete Nezamis

Commander of the Illinois Air National Guard
and Assistant Adjutant General-Air of the Illinois
National Guard



Brig. Gen. Pete Nezamis
Assistant Adjutant
General - Air, Illinois
National Guard

Gen. Charles Q. Brown installed as 1st Black Chief Of A U.S. Military Service

Courtesy of www.af.mil



JOINT BASE ANDREWS, Md. (AFNS) - Proclaiming himself "proud, yet humbled," Gen. Charles Q. Brown, Jr. was officially installed Aug. 6 as the Air Force's 22nd Chief of Staff, becoming the first African American in history to lead a military service as its highest ranking officer.

In remarks following the formal "Change of Responsibility" ceremony in which he took over from retiring Gen. David L. Goldfein, the 21st Chief of Staff, Brown acknowledged an array of people who influenced his life. Among them were his wife, Sharene, and his parents, as well as a list of Air Force colleagues, including Goldfein and other "extraordinary leaders."

Yet, cognizant of the moment in history, Brown also noted, "Today is possible due to the perseverance of those who went before me serving as an inspiration to me and many others.

"Those like the Tuskegee Airmen, Benjamin O. Davis Jr., Chappie James, African American leaders across our Air Force and military, past and present, to include today's special guest, Ed Dwight, America's first African American astronaut candidate," he said.

"It is due to their trials and tribulations in breaking barriers that I can address you today as the Air Force Chief of Staff."

Brown, who previously served as commander of Pacific Air Forces, was elevated to his new assignment during a solemn, socially distanced, 90-minute ceremony that focused on his achievements while also honoring Goldfein's 37-year service in the Air Force and his four years as chief of staff.

Among those paying tribute were Defense Secretary Mark Esper, Department of the Air Force Secretary Barbara Barrett, and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. Mark A. Milley. The ceremony also honored Goldfein as Esper presented him with the Defense Distinguished Service Medal.

Esper honored Dawn Goldfein as well, presenting her with the Department of Defense Distinguished Public Service Award.

"Gen. Goldfein, Dave, our Airmen thrive in today's environment because of your strong leadership and your steadfast commitment to upholding the core values of the Air Force - integrity, service, and excellence, each and every day," Esper said. "The United States of America is safer because of you. Thank you for your lifetime of service to our great nation."

Moments later in remarks to the new Chief of Staff, Esper said, "In returning to the Pentagon, Gen. Brown brings with

him more than 35 years of service distinguished by a depth of expertise and experience that makes him exceptionally qualified to be our nation's next Air Force Chief of Staff.

"I am confident you will take the Air Force to greater heights and I'm excited to watch you lead."

In her remarks, Barrett offered similar praise for Goldfein's service and accomplishments. Like others she expressed confidence that Brown has the correct mix of experience and temperament to lead the Air Force to a bright and dominant future.

Brown, she said, "brings a wealth of joint leadership experiences and global perspectives to his new role as 22nd chief of staff of the Air Force. Embodying the Air Force core values of integrity, service before self, and excellence in all we do, General Brown has the right character, experience, and perspective to lead the United States Air Force."

Like Goldfein and those who came before, Brown as chief of staff is responsible for ensuring the Air Force is trained, ready and equipped to accomplish any mission at any time.

Yet he's also taking the reins of an Air Force in transition, one moving from a decades-long priority on combating and containing terrorism to a new era of Great Power Competition. As part of that new focus, the Air Force and entire U.S. military must be trained, ready and properly equipped to confront, deter and if necessary, defeat, challenges from Russia and China. It also comes at a time of heightened challenges from North Korea and other geopolitical shifts across Asia.

In his remarks, Brown said he would work to build on Goldfein's accomplishments while also adding his own imprint to assure that the Air Force remains the most advanced, professional and lethal in the world.

"I am committed to addressing today's challenges while preparing for the future so we can better compete, deter, and win," he said, surrounded by an unmistakable lineage of historic aircraft, including a gleaming chrome-plated P-51 Mustang, a fifth-generation F-35 Lightning II and a HH-60G Pave Hawk helicopter.

"To do so, we must no longer defer, but must accelerate the needed change and tough choices we've often discussed. We must develop and empower leaders and provide the quality service and quality of life where our Airmen and families can reach their full potential," he said.

Adding a dose of realism, Brown said, "No doubt there are challenges ahead that will be difficult, but not impossible. I look forward to working with the Joint Chiefs, providing our best military advice to address challenges the joint force faces today and will face in the future."

As he noted in March when he was nominated to be chief of staff, Brown said again that he will continue to be guided by what he described as his "four tenets" of leadership - execute at a high standard; be disciplined in execution; pay attention to the details; and have fun.

BEST 24 Returns from Afghanistan

By Barb Wilson, Illinois National Guard Public Affairs

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. – Six Soldiers who deployed in November as part of Bilateral Embedded Staff Team (BEST) A24 returned home earlier this past month.

BEST A24 deployed to the U.S. Central Command area in support of Operation Freedom’s Sentinel, arriving in theater days prior to Thanksgiving 2019.

The Soldiers are from various communities in Illinois, including Springfield, Plainfield, Dunlap and North Aurora, Illinois. One Illinois Army National Guard Soldier with the team resides in Davenport, Iowa. The Soldiers were selected for the mission based on their training and skills.

“These Soldiers demonstrated the excellence and professionalism of the Illinois National Guard and helped strengthen our already close ties with the Polish military,” said Brig. Gen. Richard Neely, the Adjutant General of the Illinois National Guard. “I could not be more proud of the great work of our Soldiers and Airmen both here in Illinois and overseas.”

As part of the deployment, the team assisted approximately 400 Soldiers with the Polish Military Contingent (PMC) dispersed to 12 military bases in the region. In partnership with allied and coalition forces, BEST A24’s mission was to train and advise Afghan forces and support the PMC.

BEST A24 supported the Polish military with planning and executing countless missions, reducing the capabilities of enemy forces.

Lt. Col. Eric Smith of Springfield, Illinois, BEST A24 Commander, said one of the more important accomplishments of his team was nurturing relationships with



our allies.

“We continued to build upon our strong relationship with the Polish military,” said Smith. “Just as important, though, were the relationships we built and helped maintain with other U.S. and Coalition forces in the region, along with contractors working in our area of responsibility. Some of the plans and policies we established will have impacts

across the country for years to come.”

During their seven-month deployment, BEST A24 members assisted Polish Soldiers in successful completion of more than 200 combat and security missions as well as numerous Train, Advise and Assist operations throughout the U.S. Central Command area.

The Illinois National Guard has had a State Partnership Program with the Polish military since in 1993. The State Partnership Program between the Illinois National Guard and Poland has been the most successful State Partnership in the nation, helping Poland emerge from the Warsaw Pact to become a member of NATO and one of the United States’ staunchest allies. In addition, Illinois Army National Guard troops have co-deployed with Poland on every Polish rotation to Iraq and Afghanistan since 2003. 🇺🇸



End of Mission



The ILNG ends its COVID-19 Testing Mission

By Barb Wilson, Illinois National Guard Public Affairs

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. – More than 500 Illinois National Guard members will be returned to their families and civilian jobs in July after Governor J.B. Pritzker ordered the National Guard to turn over the operation of the State of Illinois' Community Based COVID-19 Testing Sites (CBTS) to contractors this week.

"I couldn't be more proud of the Illinois National Guard and its historic response to the world-wide pandemic" said Governor Pritzker. "These men and women have selflessly sacrificed time with their families and put their civilian occupations on hold to save the lives of their fellow Illinoisans and serve on the front lines of our response to COVID-19."

The Illinois National Guard performed dozens of missions to save lives during the pandemic ranging from supporting health professionals in prisons and developmental centers to flying in critical equipment to running warehouses to providing mortuary affairs support. At the height of its support, more than 1,400 Illinois National Guard women and men were on the frontlines of COVID-19

response in Illinois.

"The Illinois National Guard was an invaluable asset during our state's emergency response to COVID-19," said Alicia Tate-Nadeau, director of the Illinois Emergency Management Agency. "These men and women have shown dedication, compassion and excelled at every task. I want to express my gratitude to the brave soldiers and airmen, as well as their families, for their sacrifice during these trying times."

"The hard work and dedication of our troops during this historic mission makes me proud to be a member of the Illinois National Guard and to lead this world-class organization,"

Dr. Ngozi Ezike, the director of the Illinois Department of Public Health, said the National Guard's

help during the pandemic was vital in the state's response and she greatly values the partnership with the Illinois National Guard. However, she warned that the pandemic is not over.

"Conditions here in Illinois have improved, but we need to remain vigilant," said Dr. Ezike. "The virus that causes COVID-19 has not gone away. Hundreds of people are still being diagnosed with COVID-19 each day in Illinois. Please continue to follow the safety

guidelines for the sake of your communities and your families. Wash your hands. Wear a face covering. Watch your distance.”

The Illinois National Guard set up, manned and operated 11 sites across the state over a period of three months in partnership with IDPH and IEMA. These test sites are in Harwood Heights, South Holland, Bloomington, Aurora, Rockford, Peoria, Waukegan, East St. Louis, Chatham, Champaign and Rolling Meadows, Illinois. The test sites, mostly drive-thru, with three walk-ups, were set up in emission testing facilities and parking lots across the state. IDPH and IEMA coordinated the required manning, supplies and logistics with members of the Illinois National Guard. Certain sites are capable of administering up to 750 tests per day. Throughout the pandemic response, these sites were constantly monitored, adjusted and even moved to best accommodate the needs of Illinoisans.



Approximately 100 Illinois National Guard members will remain on duty through July to assist with the transition or completion of COVID-19 response missions as well as to ensure the safe return of Illinois National Guard members to civilian life.

With the transition of the testing sites, the Illinois National Guard will stand down Joint Task Force Illinois (JTF-IL). The JTF-IL is a command and control element comprised of some 30 service members from the Army National Guard and Air National Guard here



in Illinois. JTF-IL, based at the 183rd Wing in Springfield, contains highly trained subject matter experts in a wide variety of jobs needed to support a large domestic operation such as the pandemic response.

“The hard work and dedication of our troops during this historic mission makes me proud to be a member of the Illinois National Guard and to lead this world-class organization,” said Brig. Gen. Richard Neely, the adjutant general of the Illinois National Guard. “At the same time we were responding to this unprecedented pandemic, we also helped protect the state’s citizens from flooding, had about 925 troops on duty supporting our law enforcement professionals and our citizens’ right to peaceably protest and had more than 1,000 troops overseas protecting our nation. I couldn’t be more proud to wear this uniform and to command the 13,000 members of the Illinois National Guard.”

The Illinois National Guard has operated the community-based testing sites since March 23 and has administered over 200,000 tests in that time. They began transferring operations of the test sites to contractors on July 6 and will completed the testing site mission July 10. After turn-over of the testing sites, the service members quarantined for two weeks to ensure their health as well as the health of their families and communities. 🌸



Money Moves

Hicks becomes USPFO's newest Lt. Col.
By Barb Wilson, Illinois National Guard Public Affairs



The Illinois Army National Guard's Jeffrey Hicks, financial manager for the United States Property and Fiscal Office, was promoted to lieutenant colonel on June 23. Lt. Col. Hicks had his new rank pinned on by his grandfather, Noel Hicks, a U.S. Army veteran of the Korean War. Also present were his spouse, Kasia Hicks, and their son, Elias, along with his parents, Steve and Deb Hicks. Maj. Gen. Michael Zerbonia, the Assistant Adjutant General - Army, Illinois National Guard and the Commander of the Illinois Army National Guard, promoted Hicks.



Washington Army National Guard completes Jordan rotation, transfers mission to the Illinois Guard

By Capt. Earnest Wang, Area Support Group, Jordan

JOINT TRAINING CENTER, JORDAN - The 1st Squadron, 303rd Cavalry Regiment (1-303 CAV), Washington Army National Guard, completed their partnership mission with the Jordan Armed Forces (JAF) this Thursday.

In a transfer of authority ceremony, the 1-303 CAV turned over the Jordan Operational Engagement Program (JOEP) to the 2nd Battalion, 130th Infantry Regiment (2-130 IN), Illinois Army National Guard.

"We gather today to close out one chapter of JOEP and open the next," said Lt. Col. Timothy Ozmer, Squadron Commander of the 1-303 CAV. "As with all stories, we know that the next chapter will be even better than the last."

The JOEP is one of the largest training programs funded by Title 10, U.S. Code Section 333, and consists of 14-week training cycles between the U.S. Army and the JAF.

The 1-303 CAV began their JOEP mission in November of last year.



Though the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic led to a temporary pause in training, JOEP has since resumed with safety measures in place to protect both U.S. and Jordanian Soldiers.

Lt. Col. Ozmer and Cmd. Sgt. Maj. John Hurt, the senior enlisted member of the 1-303 CAV, cased their colors during the ceremony, while the 2-130 IN leadership, Lt. Col. Gregory Settle and Cmd. Sgt. Maj. Jeffrey Sowash, unfurled theirs, as is customary in U.S. Army transfers of authority.

In his farewell remarks, Ozmer congratulated the 1-303 CAV Troopers for their mission's success.

"Return home knowing you have taken part in something bigger than yourself [that is] representative of what our two governments stand for: strength through unity, and inclusion."

Ozmer also thanked the JAF for their hospitality and collaboration.

"The sergeant major and I feel that 'partner' is not a strong enough word for how

we feel toward our Jordanian counterparts. What JOEP created for our squadron was not just a partnership, nor merely a multinational cooperation effort, but something far more meaningful and uncommon: a true friendship."

Lt. Col. Settle thanked the 1-303 CAV for their accomplishments and the smooth transition.

"You have set the conditions for our unit to take the reins and build upon your tremendous foundation. You have left very large shoes to fill, but I can confidently say that we are ready to take on the mission."

JOEP was founded in 2014, and has since seen thousands of U.S. and Jordanian Soldiers train together to enhance U.S.-Jordan interoperability.

The U.S. and Jordan have partnered closely for decades to meet common security challenges in the region, including the defeat of terrorist organizations.

"When we stood up JOEP, the Islamic State was standing on the border of Jordan," said Col. David Kobs, the Senior Defense Official and Defense Attaché at the U.S. Embassy in Amman, Jordan. "It was a national priority of the United States to reinforce our close allies in this region."

Jordan remains a pillar of stability in the Middle East, and has made critical contributions to increasing the prospects for sustainable peace. 🇯🇴



Freeport's 333rd MP Company returns from deployment

By Barb Wilson, Illinois National Guard Public Affairs

FREEPORT, Ill. - Approximately 120 Illinois Army National Guard Soldiers who served overseas for the past year returned home over the weekend.

“You performed your mission with a great deal of professionalism. Each of you should be proud on the completion of a successful mission.”

The 333rd Military Police Company, headquartered in Freeport, Illinois, mobilized in June 2019, but their return had been delayed by two months due to COVID-19.

The unit arrived at Fort Bliss, Texas, on July 1, where, after two weeks of quarantine, the Soldiers conducted two days of administrative out processing and received airline tickets to return home. Upon arrival at the various airports, the Soldiers were released to their families.



Maj. Gen. Michael R. Zerbonia, of Chatham, Illinois, Illinois Army National Guard Commander and Assistant Adjutant General – Army expressed his gratitude to the 333rd. “You had a challenging mission,” Zerbonia told the returning Soldiers. “You performed your

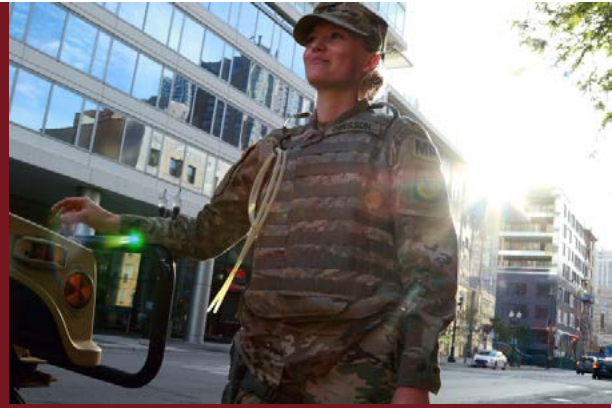
mission with a great deal of professionalism. Each of you should be proud on the completion of a successful mission.”

While deployed, the 333rd conducted several

key military police law enforcement missions in support of the local U.S. Navy commander.



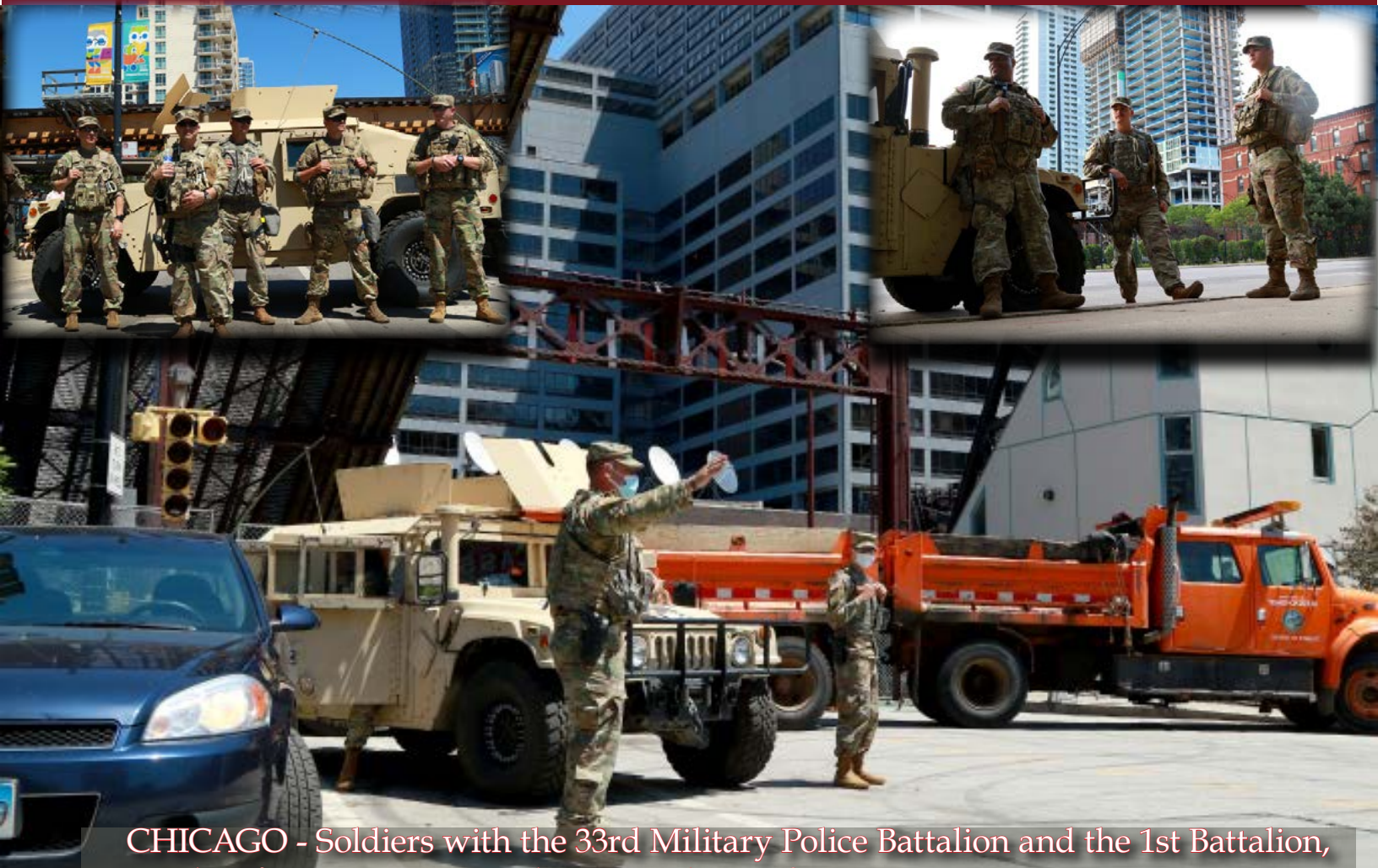
The company worked in three concurrent shifts conducting the three MP missions. Details including the location of the 333rd Military Police Company's overseas mission is being withheld for the security and safety of the Soldiers and their families. The company, commanded by Capt. Nicholas Klinke, of Elburn, Illinois, will not be conducting a traditional welcome home ceremony due to COVID-19 gathering restrictions. 🇺🇸



On Guard

Law Enforcement Support to Chicago

by, Sgt. Christopher Garibay, 139th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment



CHICAGO - Soldiers with the 33rd Military Police Battalion and the 1st Battalion, 178th Infantry Regiment take part in law enforcement support operations, May 31-June 9. More than 625 Illinois National Guardsmen were activated by Gov. J.B. Pritzker following days of civil unrest across several communities in the state.



Best of the Best

Illinois Soldiers compete in Best Warrior Competition

By Sgt. Stephen Gifford, 139th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

MARSEILLES, Ill. – Illinois Army National Guard Soldiers from across the state gathered at the Marseilles Training Center, Marseilles, Illinois, July 9-12 to compete against each other for the title of 'Illinois Army National Guard's Best Warrior'.

The competition tested the Soldiers' knowledge, skills and ability to be proficient as a modern Soldier.

Competitors reached the state level competition held at Marseilles by winning their brigade competitions around the state. Each of the

brigades in the Illinois Army National Guard selected two competitors, one enlisted Soldier in the ranks of private through specialist, and one non-commissioned officer (NCO), either a sergeant or staff sergeant.

The Soldiers faced two full days of events and one final event on Sunday morning. The 12-mile ruck march served as the final opportunity for the competitors to move up the rankings and claim each title.

Staff Sgt. Anthony Miller,





of Glen Carbon, Illinois, an Infantryman with Company C, 2nd Battalion, 130th Infantry Regiment, based in Litchfield, Illinois, finished as the best NCO and won the overall competition.

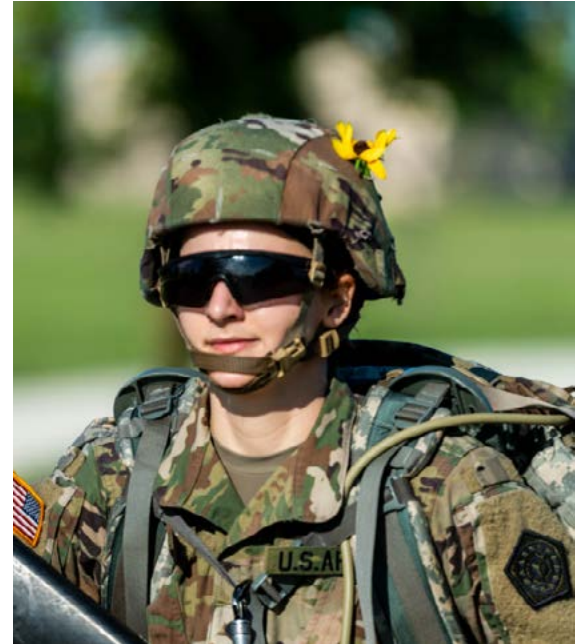
“From a personal standpoint, I believe opportunities like this provide some of the greatest training environments and networking opportunities one can obtain within the military organization as whole,” said Miller. “It was great getting to know and competing with the other participants at the event and I hope to have the opportunity to work with them again in the near future. It gives me great pride to represent my fellow peers of the 2/130 Infantry



Battalion and the state of Illinois at the regional level.”
 Spc. Carlye Clehouse, of Elburn, Illinois, a combat medic with the 708th Medical Detachment, based in North Riverside, Illinois, finished as the best Soldier.
 In finishing as

the state’s best warrior, Clehouse became the first woman to win the title in the state-level competition’s history.

The Best Warrior Competition is organized by the Illinois Army National Guard Command Sergeant Major, and staffed by senior NCOs from around the state. Illinois Army National Guard Command Sgt. Maj. Michael Behary, of Sherman, Illinois, said this competition was unique, but the work ethic of the troops was still top notch.



“I know things are going to be different this year because of COVID-19, but I am proud of all the hard work you put in getting here as competitors and I am proud of everyone that has made it this far,” said Behary.

Both Miller and Clehouse will move on to represent Illinois at the Regional Best Warrior Competition held in August. Illinois will host the regional competition this year at the Marseilles Training Center, Marseilles, Illinois, Aug. 20-23.

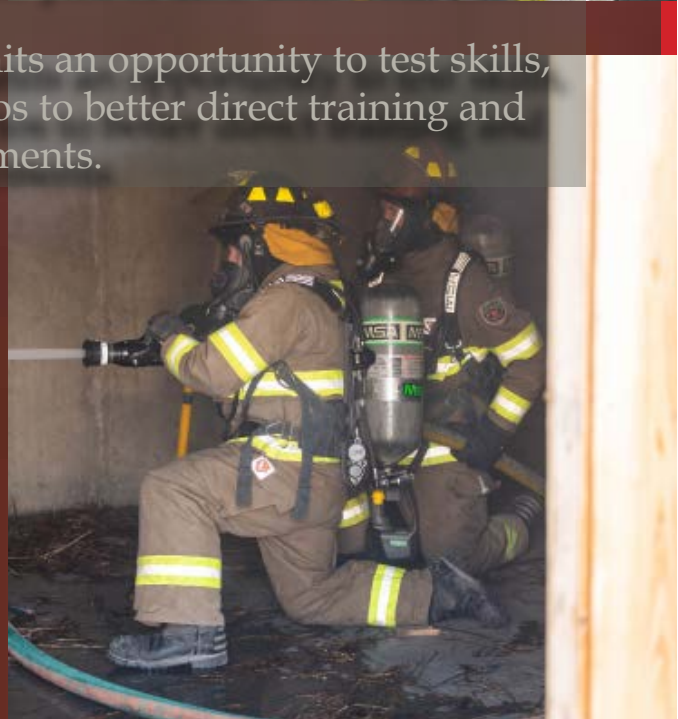
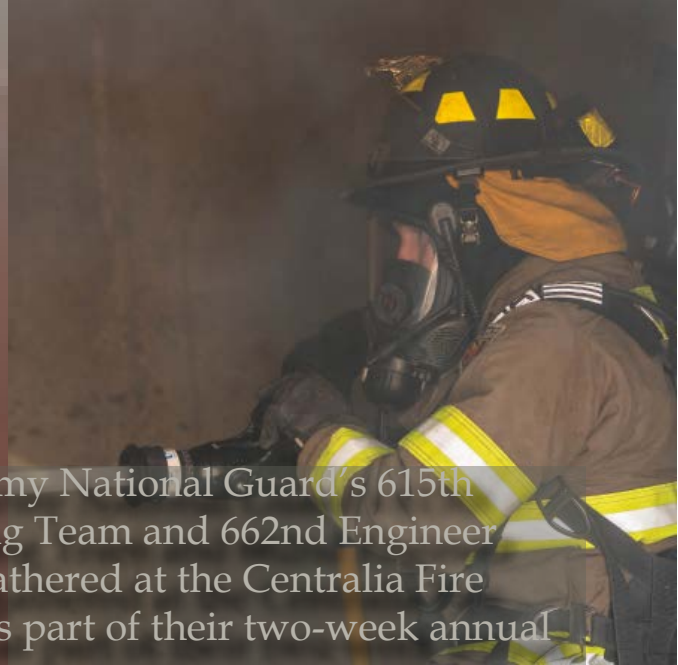
The U.S. Army Best Warrior Competition, which dates back to 2002, serves as the culminating event for the series, where competitors from Active Duty, the Army Reserves, and National Guard compete for the title of U.S. Army Best Warrior. 🇺🇸

Where there's smoke

ILARNG Firefighters train with civilian partners

by Sgt. Steve Gifford, 139th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment





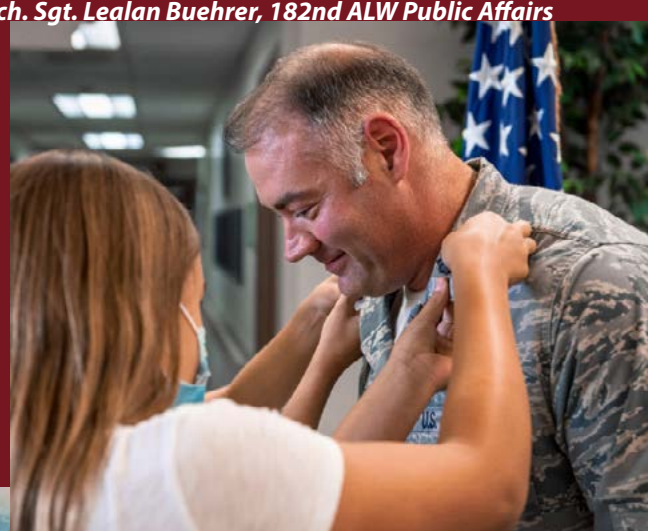
CENTRALIA, Ill. – Soldiers from the Illinois Army National Guard's 615th Engineer Detachment, 661st Engineer Firefighting Team and 662nd Engineer Firefighting Team, all based in Sparta, Illinois, gathered at the Centralia Fire Protection District facility in Centralia, Illinois, as part of their two-week annual training July 15-16.

An external evaluation (EXEVAL) offered the units an opportunity to test skills, knowledge and experience in real world scenarios to better direct training and guide the units in preparation for future deployments.

Silver Leaf

182nd Promotes New Lt. Col.

By Tech. Sgt. Lealan Buehrer, 182nd ALW Public Affairs



Lt. Col. Aaron Boyer, right, a physician of aviation medicine with the 182nd Medical Group, Illinois Air National Guard, commissions and promotes in Peoria, Ill., July 9, 2020. Boyer's children pinned him with his new rank. Boyer also serves as a Title 5 civilian physician with the unit.



1544th Transportation Co. conducts C-IED training at Northern Strike

By Capt. Doria Rogers, 272nd Regional Support Group

CAMP GRAYLING, Mich. - At Northern Strike, on July 22, 2020, the Illinois National Guard's 1544th Transportation Company based in Paris, Illinois, with a detachment based in Danville, Illinois, conducted Counter-Improvised Explosive Devices (C-IED) training at Camp Grayling, Michigan, a part of Michigan's National All Domain Warfighting Center.

Northern Strike is designed to train ARNG and ANG units on joint live fire proficiency at the company/troop level and multi-compo units from battalion to division level on joint fire integration.

Replicating future operating environments, the C-IED training goals were to provide Soldiers with the knowledge and skills to effectively respond to IED threats and other explosive devices they may encounter on the battlefield.



encouraged the unit's senior E-4s to take the lead.

Sgt. Stephen Key, a squad leader with the detachment, said his best experience at Camp Grayling has been the hands-on IED training exercises.

"The best aspect of being in the Illinois National Guard is learning from other people and being able to pass that knowledge on to younger Soldiers," said Staff Sgt. Gregory Decker, a squad leader with the detachment. "I think that makes us all better as people and Soldiers, especially with the situation we are in right now with Covid-19. It forces us to learn and build off each other and come together and train as one."

Decker said Camp Grayling's C-IED training provided an awesome set-up, with a great deal of resources for the unit to display the skills it has learned and the opportunity to pick up a few new ones.

Northern Strike is the premier exercise to train joint fires integration. It is a tailorable, scalable, and cost-effective readiness producer. Northern Strike fuses Michigan's unique capabilities to maximize unit readiness through the National All Domain Warfighting Center. 🇺🇸



"Camp Grayling provided realistic IED training and a hands-on opportunity that junior Soldiers can apply to their Warrior skills tasks, said Staff Sgt. Michael Holmes a squad leader with the 1544th.

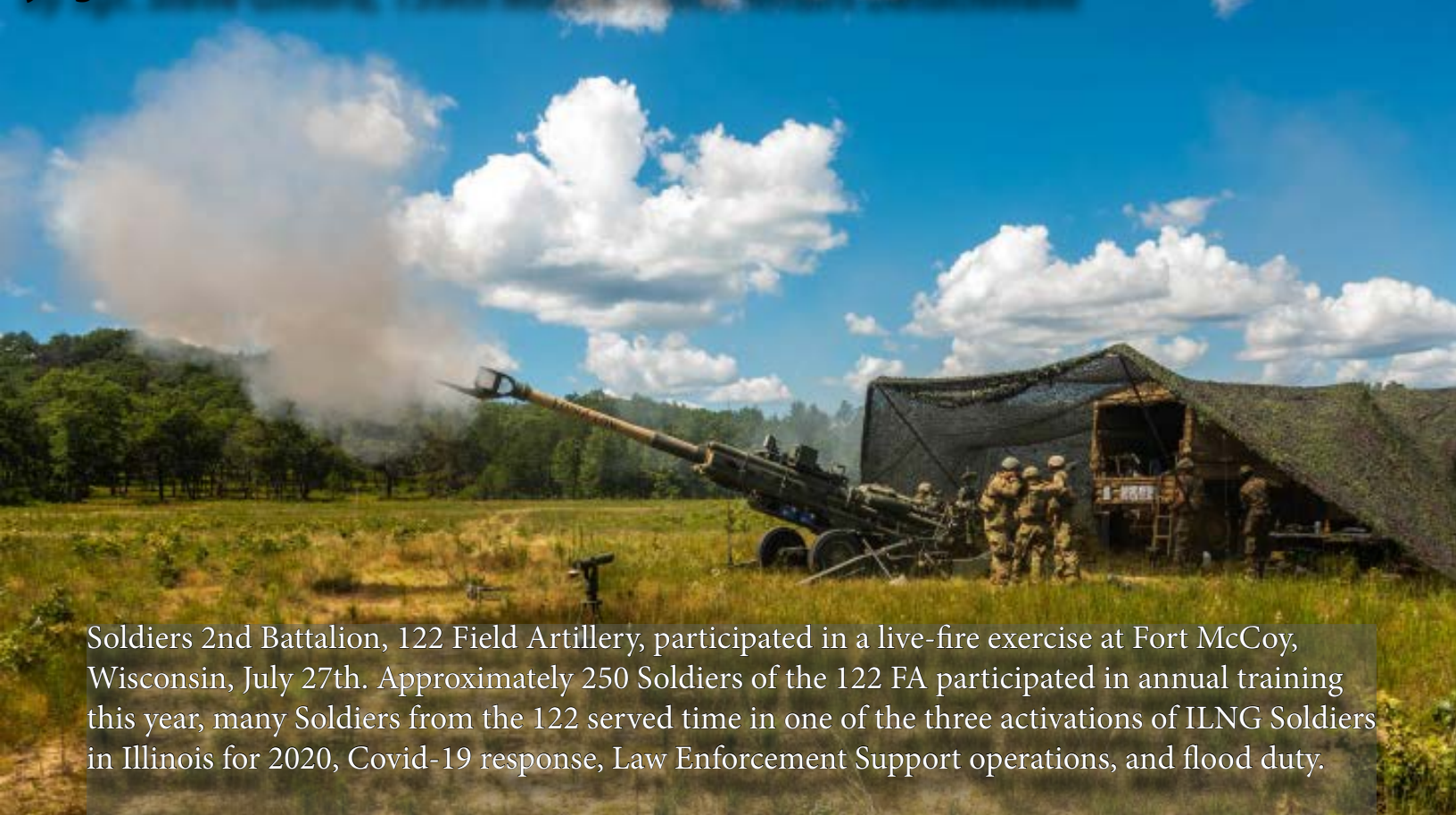
Staff Sgt. Ethan Cochran, a team leader with the detachment, agreed with Holmes and said the instructors were knowledgeable and



Shot out!

122 Field Artillery Live Fire at McCoy

by Sgt. Steve Gifford, 139th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment



Soldiers 2nd Battalion, 122 Field Artillery, participated in a live-fire exercise at Fort McCoy, Wisconsin, July 27th. Approximately 250 Soldiers of the 122 FA participated in annual training this year, many Soldiers from the 122 served time in one of the three activations of ILNG Soldiers in Illinois for 2020, Covid-19 response, Law Enforcement Support operations, and flood duty.



Task Force Illini Takes Command of Joint Multinational Training Group-Ukraine

By Cpl. Shaylin Quaid, 33rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team

LVIV, Ukraine - Task Force Illini, 33rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team, Illinois Army National Guard assumed command of the Joint Multinational Training Group-Ukraine

(JMTG-U) mission at Collective Training Center - Yavoriv (CTC-Y), Ukraine, during a Transfer of Authority ceremony July 30.

The Joint Multinational Training Group mission provides sustainable training and advisement to Ukrainian military forces. United States military units support CTC-Y as part of a long-running defense cooperation program designed to strengthen relationships and affirm the United States' commitment to the success of a stable and free Ukraine.

Since November 2019, Task Force Juvigny, 32nd IBCT, Wisconsin Army National Guard has led the JMTG-U mission.

"I'm very proud of what these Wisconsin Soldiers accomplished the past nine months, including during the onset of a global pandemic," said Col. John Oakley, Task Force Juvigny commander, 32nd Infantry Brigade Combat Team, Wisconsin Army National Guard. "Task Force Illini, I know you will continue this mission as professionals. Your support, assistance, advice and friendship will help bring

Ukraine one step closer to true independence."

Task Force Juvigny spent the last two weeks training Task Force Illini to take over the mission.

"We are honored to assume this mission from Task Force Juvigny, who have been fabulous

mentors for us in understanding the JMTG-U role," said Col. Clayton Kuetemeyer, of Chatham, Illinois, Task Force Illini Commander. "Our team brings significant experience in military advising missions and we are ready to build relationships with our multinational partners here in Yavoriv."

Soldiers from Task Force Illini were chosen from units across Illinois for their military and civilian expertise. Many Task Force Illini personnel also bring experience working with the Polish Armed

Forces through Illinois' state partnership program.

During the Transfer of Authority ceremony, Ukrainian Lt. Gen. Pavlo Tkachuk, the Chief of the Armed Forces Ukraine National Army Academy, which oversees training at CTC-Y, presented Ukrainian awards to several Task Force Juvigny Soldiers. He also welcomed Task Force Illini.

Tkachuk said the nine months Task Force Juvigny led the JMTG-U mission felt like nine days.

"There was a high level of professionalism and cooperation achieved during the training here, for this I want to say 'thank you,'" said Tkachuk.

He welcomed Task Force Illini and promised his full support.

"I am confident the defined tasks will be fulfilled with the same level of professionalism and high quality," said Tkachuk.

Task Force Illini personnel deployed in mid-June and spent two weeks quarantined at Fort Bliss, Texas, before conducting its mobilization training validation. The Task Force arrived in Ukraine July 14 and expects to return home in Spring of 2021.

Seven rotations of United States Army personnel from the active and reserve components have supported the JMTG-U mission since 2015 as part of a long-running defense cooperation program designed to strengthen relationships and affirm U.S. commitment to the success of a stable and free Ukraine.

Other nations supporting the JMTG-U mission include Canada, Lithuania, Denmark, Poland, Sweden, and the United Kingdom. 🇺🇸



130th Infantry Soldiers get awarded combat patch for service in Jordan

By Barb Wilson, Illinois National Guard Public Affairs

JORDAN - In a time-honored tradition, Soldiers from 2nd Battalion, 130th Infantry Regiment, based in Marion, Illinois, with units in West Frankfort, Mount Vernon, Litchfield and Effingham, Illinois, received combat patches for their overseas deployment during recent ceremonies in the U.S. Army Central Command area of responsibility.

“The awarding of the shoulder sleeve insignia for wartime service, better known as the combat patch, is a tradition that first began during the Revolutionary War under General George Washington,” Lt. Col. Gregory P. Settle, of Effingham, Illinois, Commander of the 2-130th, told the nearly 400 Illinois Army National Guard Soldiers taking part in the ceremony. “It is an honor to receive a combat patch and your work here has earned you that honor.”

According to guidelines published by the U.S. Army, the Army combat patch, officially known as the ‘shoulder sleeve insignia-former wartime service,’ recognizes Soldiers’ participation in combat operations.



To be eligible for the combat patch, Soldiers must be serving in a theater or an area of operation designated as a hostile environment or serving during a war period as declared by Congress.

“The rituals of significant events

mark those important life moments and etch them into our collective memories,” said Settle. “Your actions have helped ensure stability in the region and the relationship between the United States and our hosts remains strong and infallible.”


Nearly 400 Illinois Army National Guard troops from the 2-130th mobilized Jan. 21. They trained at Fort Bliss, Texas, before departing for the U.S. Central Command area of responsibility.

Known as the ‘Blackhawk Battalion,’ the 2-130th’s military history dates back to

the early 1700s with the formation of the Militia Companies at the villages of Kaskaskia and Cahokia. The unit has served honorably in the Black Hawk War, Civil War, Spanish American War, Mexican Border War, World War I, World War II, Afghanistan and Iraq. Soldiers with the 2-130th Infantry Regiment served in Kuwait in support of Operation Desert Spring in 2000-2001.

In 2002, following the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks, the unit was deployed to Europe as part of Task Force Santa Fe, in

support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Soldiers with the 2-130th made history in the summer of 2004, becoming the first United States troops to train in Bulgaria after the previous Soviet Bloc nation was accepted into the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

The unit also deployed to Afghanistan from 2008 to 2009 as part of the 33rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team. 



Six Soldiers Inducted into Illinois National Guard OCS Hall of Fame

By Barb Wilson, Illinois National Guard Public Affairs

SPRINGFIELD, Illinois – In a COVID-19 modified ceremony, six Lieutenant Colonels who graduated from the Illinois Army National Guard Officer Candidate School were inducted as members of the Guard's OCS Hall of Fame Class of 2020 Aug. 25 at the Illinois Military Academy, Camp Lincoln, Springfield, Illinois.

"Great job to the Hall of Fame inductees for the Class of 2020. This has been a long time coming," said Maj. Gen. Michael Zerbonia, of Chatham, Illinois, Assistant Adjutant General-Army, Illinois National Guard, to ceremony attendees. "Don't forget your mentors and retirees, they are a wealth of knowledge and most importantly don't forget your family because they have your back."

Zerbonia also addressed the newest class of OCS cadets set to graduate and commission later in the day.

"Not everyone will be promoted to lieutenant colonel, but perhaps with hard work this can be you in 17-20 years," he said. "To our inductees whose career has taken a different path, you are and will always be part of the Illinois National Guard family. I challenge each of you to continue to mentor Soldiers. Families, thank you for always supporting your Soldier, because without your support we cannot perform our missions."

To be considered for induction into the Hall of Fame, each Soldier must be a graduate of the Illinois Army National Guard's 129th Regiment (RTI) OCS program, attain the rank of lieutenant colonel while serving on active duty and/or active National Guard or Reserve status, be recognized and recommended by the ILARNG OCS Hall of Fame Board, and confirmed by the Commander of the 129th RTI for outstanding service.

The Illinois Army National Guard OCS Hall of Fame Class of 2020 inductees include:

Lt. Col. Jason Carter, of Bloomington, Illinois, enlisted as a 13F. Carter has served for 21 years and is currently the Battalion Commander for 2nd Battalion, 123rd Field Artillery in the Field Artillery Branch. He was commissioned in 2003.

Lt. Col. Jason Celletti, of Springfield, Illinois, enlisted as a 67T, UH60 Blackhawk mechanic and crew chief on July 31, 2001. Celletti has served for 19 years and is currently the State Army Aviation Officer in the Aviation Branch. He was commissioned in 2002.



Lt. Col. Justin Kramer, of Lone Rock, Wisconsin, enlisted as a 13B, Cannon Crew Member, Feb. 28, 2002. Kramer has served for 18 years and is currently the Battalion Commander for 2-122 FA in the Field Artillery Branch. He was commissioned in 2004.

Lt. Col. David Malenfant, of Springfield, Illinois, enlisted Feb. 18, 1992. Malenfant has served for 28 years and is

currently the 65th Troop Command Brigade Officer in charge in the Logistics Branch. He was commissioned in 2003.


Lt. Col. Jessica McPherson, of Springfield, Illinois, enlisted May 1, 1997. McPherson has served for 23 years and is currently the Domestic Operations Branch Chief in the Chemical Branch. She was commissioned in 2003.

Lt. Col. Timothy Tyler, of Chatham, Illinois enlisted as a 95B, Military Police Soldier, Nov. 17, 1989. Tyler has served for 30 years and is currently the Battalion Commander for 327th Military Police Battalion (USAR) in the Military Police Branch. He was commissioned in 1992.

Col. Lenny Williams, of Dyer, Indiana, Commander, 129th Regiment (RTI), also addressed both the inductees and the OCS cadets.

"I urge the newest OCS graduates to savor every single moment you get to be around and lead Soldiers," Williams said. "Find someone who can be a mentor to you, and as you go up the ranks be a mentor to other Soldiers."

Williams said the Illinois National Guard's OCS program was federally recognized Sept. 29, 1957 and has been the commissioning source for thousands of Army leaders.

"Approximately 2,400 Soldiers have been commissioned through our OCS program," he said. "Of those, only 200 have been inducted into the Hall of Fame." 



Battlefield Circulation

Brig. Gen. Neely and Command Sgt. Maj. Ballowe visit Soldiers in the field



Brig. Gen. Richard Neely, the Adjutant General of the Illinois National Guard, and Command Sgt. Maj. Deanna Ballowe, Senior Enlisted Advisor of the Illinois National Guard, visited the 1844th Transportation Company and the 1976th Quartermasters in Fort McCoy, Wisconsin. Neely and Ballowe observed the units conducting weapons qualification, maintenance and warrior tasks. Ballowe took a ride in an





M915 truck and practiced her docking skills. The team also spoke to Soldiers and unit leadership about the importance of being a team before recognizing some enlisted soldiers for their exceptional performance with challenge coins. The team was also part of a reenlistment ceremony and promotion ceremony.



Going to California...



238th Aviation assists with California Wildfires ***by Sgt. LeAnne Withrow, 139th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment***

PEORIA, Illinois – The whine of aircraft engines drowns out all but the loudest of conversations as mechanics move back and forth across a wide aircraft hangar carrying instruments and equipment.

Soldiers with the Illinois Army National Guard's B Company, 2nd Battalion, 238th General Support Aviation, based out of Peoria, Illinois, hurry to make ready one of their helicopters, a CH-47 "Chinook," for the long journey out to California. Today, Aug. 31, that helicopter arrived safely in Mather, California, about 18 miles east of Sacramento, to help with the largest wildfires in California's history.

These experienced Soldiers, with their half-

dozen aircraft all lined up neatly on the tarmac, move with the well-oiled ease of years of practice. Many of them wear deployment patches, indicating their service overseas in Afghanistan, and most of them have participated in what the Guard refers to as domestic operations.

"This is what I joined the guard for," said Illinois Army National Guard Staff Sgt. Chad Brown, a Macomb, Illinois native, an aircraft mechanic and flight crew member with the 2-238th GSAB. "I've done a couple of deployments in Afghanistan, but I like helping out the public and helping out other states if we can."

Domestic operations is a broad, inclusive term used to denote the wide range of homeland activities that fall within the unique mission of the National Guard. Unlike the active duty military and the Reserves, the National Guard responds to floods, hurricanes, and other natural disasters here in the homeland on state active duty. As an aviation unit, the 2-238th is capable of rapidly supporting a wide variety of these difficult situations.

"A lot of times it's really hard work and long hours, but it's good to be able to help people out," said Brown. "In 2016 I went to the hurricane relief in Puerto Rico with the [Military Police], and we were lugging cases of water around, carrying food door to door. It was really nice to see that. They really appreciated us being





there and helping out.”

This time, their mission is to help with the massive, multistate wildland fire-fighting operations engulfing the Western United States.

“We’ll work with CAL FIRE the entire time we’re out there to support the firefighters on the ground,” said Chief Warrant Officer 4 Jason Rassi, of Mapleton, Illinois, a pilot with the 2-238th and one of the soldiers departing for the Western United States. “We’re not necessarily putting the fire out, but were protecting the firefighters so they can do their jobs.”

After two days of flying, they’ll be linking up with local authorities and first responders in California to provide both direct and indirect support to the firefighting mission. The CH-47 platform, which has been in service with the military since 1961, is capable of rapidly transporting personnel and equipment, as well as deploying water directly into the area of operations via a number of refit kits. The 2-238 flies the CH-47F, introduced in 2006, it can fly at speeds of approximately 200 miles an hour and carry more than 21,000 pounds.



This Illinois National Guard Chinook will be equipped with a Bambi Bucket, an articulated bladder capable of carrying 2,000 gallons of water that can be dispersed either directly onto fires, or deployed as a method of moving and shaping a developing fire.

“Once we get there and get on site, point us in the direction we need to drop the water that’s going to be the easier part,” said Rassi, explaining the different capabilities of the Bambi Bucket and its usefulness in firefighting operations.



The bucket, which has a variable valve that allows everything from a misting spray to a deluge, transports roughly the equivalent of an outdoor swimming pool and can be filled in either natural or man-made bodies of water before being lifted to the drop site.

The crew selected for this mission are among the most seasoned in the entire unit, and have a host of domestic and overseas missions under their belts.

“We’ve done hurricane relief in different states, flood relief in different states, but we haven’t done fire yet so this will be a new experience for us,” Rassi said. “Luckily my entire crew has at least one deployment if not multiple.” 🇺🇸

Regional Champions



Brig. Gen. Richard Neely, the Adjutant General of the Illinois National Guard, and Command Sgt. Maj. Deanna Ballowe, Senior Enlisted Advisor of the Illinois National Guard, paid a visit to Soldiers from Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Michigan, and Minnesota as they competed in the Region IV Best Warrior Competition at the Marseilles Training Center, Marseilles, Illinois, Aug. 20-23.

The team gave challenge coins to the Illinois Soldier of the year, Spc. Carlye Clehouse, and the Illinois NCO of the Year, SSG Anthony Miller and wished them good fortune in the rest





Illinois hosts Region IV Best Warrior Competition

of the competition.

Throughout the course of the event, Soldiers were tested their knowledge and skills in a total of 13 events.

Taking the top spot for region IV Soldier of the Year was Spc. Jakob Ellingson, from the 114th Transportation Company, Minnesota Army National Guard. The top spot for region IV Non-Commissioned Officer of the Year went to Staff Sgt. Anthony Miller, from the 2nd Battalion, 130th Infantry Regiment, Illinois Army National Guard.



THIS DAY IN HISTORY

July

June

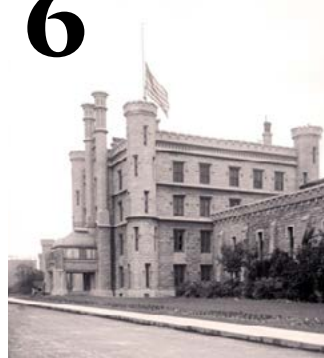
6

4



Roosevelt gives dedication speech in Springfield

1903: In what marked his third visit to Springfield, President Roosevelt dedicated the old state armory at Second and Monroe Streets in Springfield before 8,000 spectators. Roosevelt had previously been to Camp Lincoln in 1901, for a dinner as Vice President. Within fifteen days of this visit, President McKinley would be assassinated, and Roosevelt would assume the office of President of the United States. Fire destroyed the building in 1934.



Riot at Joliet Penitentiary

1917: Illinois National Guard Troops respond. On June 5 a riot began at the old prison in Joliet. The warden called for help from the 131st Infantry to retake control of the prison and restore order. Company G under the command of Major Clinnin responded to the call, and restored order without any loss of life.

6



Spc. Brian Romines

2005: Army Spc. Brian M. Romines, 20, of Simpson, Ill., died June 6 in Baghdad, Iraq, of wounds sustained when an improvised explosive device detonated near his HMMWV. Romines was assigned to the Army National Guard's 2nd Battalion, 123rd Field Artillery, Milan, Ill.

19



Staff Sgt. Charles Lamb and Sgt. Paul G. Smith

2009: Staff Sgt. Joshua A. Melton, 26, of Carlyle, Illinois, and Sgt. Paul G. Smith, 43, of East Peoria, Illinois both died of wounds sustained when their vehicle was hit by an improvised explosive device in Kandahar, Afghanistan. Melton was assigned to 2nd Battalion, 130th Infantry, Marion, Illinois and Smith was assigned to 2nd Squadron, 106th Cavalry, Aurora, Illinois.

4

Illinois sees first battle at Hamel

1918: For the first time in the war, American troops from the 33rd Division took part in an offensive



operation. Four companies from the 131st and 132nd Infantry Regiments advanced with Australian troops behind a 600-gun barrage. The well-coordinated attack led by Australian Lieutenant General John Monash included sixty tanks and a squadron of the Royal Air Corps. The battle lasted ninety minutes and cost the allied forces 1,314 in casualties. The Germans lost 3,600 in dead and captured. Corporal Thomas A. Pope of Company E, 131st Infantry received the Medal of Honor for actions during the battle.

6

Sgt Chester Hosford and 1st Lt. Derwin Williams

2009: Sgt.

Chester Hosford, 35, of Ottawa, Illinois, and 1st Lt. Derwin Williams, 41, of Glenwood, Illinois, died of wounds suffered



when the vehicle they were traveling in encountered an improvised explosive device in Khanabad, Afghanistan. Both Soldiers were assigned to Troop B, 2nd Squadron, 106th Cavalry Regiment, based in Dixon, Illinois.

7 Sgt. Christopher Talbert

2009: Sgt. Christopher M. Talbert, 24, of Galesburg, Ill., died July 7 in Shindad, Afghanistan of wounds sustained when his vehicle encountered an improvised explosive device. He was assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion, 130th Infantry based in Marion, Ill.



8 Spc. Brandon Ramsey

2003: Spc. Brandon Ramsey of Calumet City, Illinois, 21, died in Tallil, Iraq while performing convoy security operations in pursuit of a suspicious vehicle. Specialist Ramsey was assigned to the 933d Military Police Company of Chicago.



12 The 33rd Division arrived in Hawaii for training as part of their combat deployment

After deploying from San Francisco on July 1st, the bulk of the 33rd Infantry Division arrived in Hawaii for civil defense duties and jungle warfare training. The lush tropical Hawaiian climate offered a realistic jungle environment that the training camps in mainland America could not. Soldiers learned to adapt to the warm and unpredictable jungle weather, as well as how to fight offensively in inhospitable terrain. Within a year of their arrival in Hawaii, the 33rd had joined the New Guinea Campaign of General Douglas MacArthur. Their first battle against the Japanese occurred on the island of Morotai.

29 Sgt. Gerrick D. Smith
Sgt. Gerrick D. Smith, 19, of Sullivan, Ill., died July 29 in Herat, Afghanistan, of wounds sustained from a non-combat related incident. He was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 130th Infantry, Illinois Army National Guard, Marion, Ill.



23 Task Force Able Sentry

1997: As part of Task Force Able Sentry, the United Nations peacekeeping mission in Macedonia, twenty-one airmen of the 1st Battalion, 106th Aviation voluntarily deployed to the border of Macedonian and Serbia. During the 270-day deployment, the air crews flew numerous VIP missions, and continued their extensive flight training. The small contingent of the 106th returned to state control on February 27th, 1998.

29 Illinois National Guard troops deployed to the areas devastated by Hurricane Katrina to provide aid

2005: In the wake of Hurricane Katrina, one of the most destructive natural disasters in U.S. history, over 1,400 Illinois National



Guard Soldiers headed south to aid in the recovery efforts. The units included:

232nd Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, Springfield

33rd Area Support Group, Chicago

Headquarters and Headquarters Company 2nd Battalion, 122nd Field Artillery, Chicago

Battery A, 2nd Battalion, 122nd Field Artillery, Sycamore
Battery B, 2nd Battalion, 122nd Field Artillery, Robbins
Headquarters and Headquarters Company 634th Brigade Support Battalion, Sullivan

Company A, 634th Brigade Support Battalion, Mattoon
Company B, 634th Brigade Support Battalion, Champaign
Company C, 634th, Brigade Support Battalion, Springfield
3637th Maintenance Company, Springfield

August

6 Famous Guardsman: Albert D.J. Cashier (Jennie Hodgers)

1862: An 18 year-old Irish immigrant named Jennie Hodgers posed as a man and enlisted as a private named Albert D.J. Cashier in the 95th Illinois Volunteer Infantry. Cashier saw action in at least 40 engagements. In 1911, after being hit by a car, it was discovered that Cashier was a woman. Jennie Hodgers had successfully maintained the identity of a man so well that her fellow infantrymen never suspected it. Hodgers died in October 1915 in the Watertown Insane Asylum in East Moline, Illinois. Although the court declared her legally insane due to her former lifestyle, her comrades rallied by her side until the end. She had a burial with full military honors at Saunemin, Illinois.

**THE PRAIRIE SENTINEL
1301 NORTH MACARTHUR BOULEVARD
SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS 62702**

**DSN: 555-3569
PHONE: (217) 761-3569
FAX: (217) 761-2988**

**THE PRAIRIE SENTINEL IS THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE ILLINOIS NATIONAL
GUARD AUTHORIZED BY THE
ADJUTANT GENERAL.**

**DEADLINES:
STORY AND PHOTO SUBMISSIONS ARE DUE THE 1ST OF EACH MONTH TO
NG.IL.ILARNG.LIST.STAFF-PAO@MAIL.MIL**

CONNECT WITH THE ILLINOIS NATIONAL GUARD:



www.il.ngb.army.mil



https://twitter.com/IL_Natl_Guard



<https://www.facebook.com/illinoisnationalguard/>