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Indiana National Guard names new strategic initiatives director

INDIANAPOLIS – The Indiana National Guard’s Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. Courtney P. Carr, is pleased to announce a change in leaders for the organization’s director of strategic initiatives effective Feb. 1.

Col. Chris Pfaff, the current Atterbury-Muscatatuck Center for Complex Operations chief of staff, will replace Col. Brent Richards, who has been the strategic plans director since 2014.

“Being given the opportunity to help develop and synchronize the Indiana National Guard’s strategic initiatives is a tremendous honor and responsibility,” said Pfaff. “I am eager to join this outstanding team of professionals who work tirelessly to move our organization forward.”

Prior to becoming the chief of staff, Pfaff was the director of business development at Atterbury-Muscatatuck, which provides the nation the most realistic, fiscally responsible, contemporary operating environment possible for training service members and civilians for deployments overseas.

Pfaff, who served in the active-duty Army for eight years, has held many positions throughout the Indiana National Guard and deployed to Kuwait in 2013 as the director of U.S. Central Command Gateway. Pfaff has served in the military for more than 29 years, joining in 1986 and commissioning as a second lieutenant in 1988 from the Indiana University ROTC program.

Pfaff also has rich civilian history in economic development having been a project manager for the Indiana Department of Commerce. He saw its transformation into the Indiana Economic Development Corporation and was promoted to the director of business development.

Richards, who has been with strategic plans directorate since December 2014, will become the Indiana National Guard’s intelligence director also effective Feb. 1.

“I appreciate the opportunity to serve with the professional Airmen, Soldiers, and civilians of the strategic plans directorate. They exemplify the innovative spirit of our organization,” said Richards. “The team was always ready to respond to the needs of the organization, as evidenced by having a record year of international program engagements.”

Richards, who also obtained his commission through the Indiana University ROTC program, has more than 25 years of military service. He's served in the active-duty Army for five years and has held many positions throughout the Indiana National Guard. He's a combat veteran who's deployed twice to Afghanistan, in 2004 and 2009, in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

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