

# INDIANA GUARDSMAN

WINTER 2012

An Indiana National Guard Publication



**Recruits compete in 8th  
annual Warrior Challenge**



***Honoring the Fallen, pages 12 - 13***

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after a nearly yearlong deployment



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Front cover caption: Sgt. 1st Class David Jimenez, North Manchester, Ind., kneeling, huddles with Team Fort Wayne Soldiers during the 8th annual Warrior Challenge. For the third year in a row, Team Fort Wayne took first place and the traveling trophy. See page 14. Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Jeff Lowry

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Visit the Indiana National Guard at [www.in.ng.mil](http://www.in.ng.mil) and search "Indiana Guardsman" on Facebook and Twitter.

## Message from The Adjutant General ...

# Welcome the Families, they serve too



Photo by Staff Sgt. Les Newport

Congratulations on yet another year of outstanding service to state and country. The efforts of our Airmen and Soldiers, their Families and our civilian force continue to uphold the reputation of the Indiana National Guard by meeting, and as is custom, exceeding standards on every front. My thanks, as always.

I also want to send a special message of welcome to all who have joined the Indiana National Guard family in this last year. Your state and country called, and you answered. I commend your bravery and commitment but ask that you always remember your Families did not join. They were drafted.

Please welcome them for me. Let them know they too are members of the Indiana National Guard family, a family with nearly 70 homes across the great Hoosier state whose members number in the tens of thousands.

Service in the National Guard provides challenges, requires attention to readiness: physical, spiritual, emotional and intellectual. Immerse yourself in the opportunities available to you, and keep your families in the loop as much as possible. The reasons are sound and too numerous to count.

Look to you leaders for guidance and example as you continue to develop your personal capabilities to meet the challenges of becoming a professional, a responder, a warrior and leader. Open yourself to the ideals and principles of serving your fellow American citizens, and I promise you will reap a lifetime of rewards.

Maj. Gen. R. Martin Umbarger talks to Indiana National Guard Soldiers with Company C, 1st Battalion, 151st Infantry in Indianapolis.

## Maj. Gen. Umbarger continues service

On Dec. 13, I was asked by Gov. Mike Pence to serve as his adjutant general. I told him I would be honored to serve as his adjutant general.

I want to express my heartfelt pride and deepest respect I have for each and every one of you in your service to our state and nation. My selection to remain on as the Adjutant General of Indiana for a third governor is a direct result of your dedicated, loyal and professional service during one of the most challenging and demanding times in our Indiana National Guard history.

I again thank all of you, and I will work each day to lead you with the same loyalty, dedication and deep respect that you have shown me.

Rowana and I feel so very fortunate, humbled and privileged to be able to walk in your ranks.

Very Respectfully,  
Maj. Gen. R. Martin Umbarger



Photo by Sgt. John Crosby



# Sapper

Indiana National Guard Soldiers of the 713th Engineer Company return from a yearlong tour in Afghanistan at the Gary, Ind., Armory hangar. Photo by Sgt. John Crosby

## 713th Engineers return to Hoosier state

By Sgt. John Crosby  
Indiana National Guard Public Affairs

Indiana Army National Guard combat engineers, aka sappers, of the 713th Engineer Company, returned in September from a nearly yearlong deployment to Afghanistan.

The Soldiers performed route clearance operations. They also patrolled Kandahar Province combat and supply routes scanning for roadside bombs allowing Afghan citizens and international forces to operate safely.

The engineers conducted 371 missions, cleared approximately 14,000 miles of routes in less than a year on ground.

This deadly mission cost the 713th six Soldiers who were killed-in-action.

"Their sacrifice saved the lives of countless more," said Capt. Cecil Pendleton III, unit commander. "They died ensuring the safety of their comrades."

"My Soldiers were phenomenal on the battlefield," said Pendleton. "They worked and fought as hard as they could the entire deployment. It's like a burden relieved knowing that we are home safe."

The Soldiers carried out their mission daily in spite of the imminent danger that faced them with each mile of road.

"I made it. We made it. ... And I think that was a big question that a lot of us had, if we would make it all the

way through," said Sgt. Clinton Jordan, combat engineer from North Judson, Ind. Jordan was responsible for investigating possible roadside bombs, detonating them and collecting evidence.

"It's an awesome feeling to be here, to spend time with our families again, to meet our buddies' families, it's amazing."

This was Jordan's second deployment. He conducted the same route clearance mission in Iraq in 2004.

"They are two different worlds," Jordan said, describing the ground fight in Iraq in comparison to Afghanistan. "The enemy in Afghanistan is much more determined ... much more determined. You have to bring a whole new strategy, a whole new ball game."

Jordan said the day was bittersweet. As the engineers reunited with their families, the memories of their fallen brothers were strong.

"This is their day," Jordan said of the fallen. "They definitely strengthened us throughout our tour. They gave us lots of courage. They were watching over us. They were our overwatch."

Jordan's lifelong friend, brother-in-arms, and now brother-in-law, Spc. Douglas Rachowicz of Hammond, Ind., was also there to greet him.

Rachowicz was wounded Jan. 6. He was the sole survivor after his vehicle struck a roadside bomb and killed four other Soldiers inside.



Photo by Sgt. John Crosby  
Kylee Leonard, daughter of Indiana National Guard Sgt. 1st Class Kyle Leonard, holds up a welcome home sign.

### Sapper Info ...

More than 370 missions  
Approx. 14,000 miles cleared  
Approx. 100 Soldiers  
Headquartered in Valparaiso, Ind.  
Left Indiana Sept. 30, 2011  
Returned to Indiana Sept. 26, 2012

### Sapper Origins ...

Sapper originates from the French word "sape" meaning undermine and the Middle French word "sap" that was a spade or a hoe. In the French Army, men who dug trenches under fire were known as "sapeurs." Thus the term sapper became associated engineers.\*

\*Canadian Engineers Military Museum website

# Homecoming

Jordan was on a team of first responders who initially came to Rachowicz's aid.

While recovering from a shattered pelvis, two collapsed lungs and a fractured jaw, Rachowicz married Jordan's sister, Amanda, in May and had a child, Brayden, in August.

It was all smiles and tears as Jordan reunited with Rachowicz for the first time since he was evacuated from the battlefield in January. Rachowicz introduced Jordan to his nephew Brayden for the first time.

"It was very surreal," said Rachowicz. "We dealt with a lot over there. It's been a long time coming. It's like I was disconnected from my brother. Having the family reunited has made me happier that I can actually say."



Photo by Sgt. John Crosby  
Kylee Leonard reunites with her father, Sgt. 1st Class Kyle Leonard, after he returned home from a yearlong tour in Afghanistan at the Gary, Ind., Armory hangar.



Photo by Sgt. John Crosby  
Indiana National Guard Spc. David Michael Davies, Dillsboro, Ind., hugs 1st Lt. Stephen Otten, Crown Point, Ind., at the return ceremony.



Photo by Sgt. John Crosby  
From left, Spc. Douglas Rachowicz, wife Amanda Rachowicz, their son Brayden and her brother Sgt. Clinton Jordan reunite after Jordan returned home from in Afghanistan. Jordan and Rachowicz reunited at the ceremony. In January, Rachowicz was evacuated home when his vehicle struck a roadside bomb. Jordan plans to spend time with his wife and four kids, enjoy a cold beer and eat some good old-fashioned American fast food.

# In Command, In Kuwait



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Tina Eichenour

Indiana Army National Guard Col. Deedra Thombleson and Command Sgt. Maj. Karolyn Peeler, commander and top enlisted Soldier for the 38th Sustainment Brigade, unfurl the brigade's flag during a transfer of authority ceremony, Thursday, Oct. 18, 2012, at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait. The unit's Soldiers uncased their colors and assumed command of sustainment operations in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

## 38th Sustainment Brigade takes reins from NC unit

By Sgt. William E. Henry  
38th Sustainment Brigade Public Affairs

CAMP ARIFJAN, Kuwait – The Indiana Army National Guard's 38th Sustainment Brigade uncased its colors and assumed command of sustainment operations at a transfer of authority ceremony held Oct. 18.

The 113th Sustainment Brigade, North Carolina Army National Guard, relinquished command to the 38th. The 38th's mission will be to oversee supply and support operations across the southwest Asian theater in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

The 113th has spent nearly a year sustaining forces for Operation Enduring Freedom and retrograding equipment from Iraq during the drawdown and closeout of Operation New Dawn. The commander, Col. David Jones said, he is proud of the work his Soldiers have accomplished during their deployment.

"It is overwhelming to witness what a team effort can accomplish," said Jones. "Let there be no question that the accomplishments of the brigade cannot be highlighted by any one officer, NCO, staff section or groups of Soldiers; it must

be a team effort from start to finish, top to bottom."

Brig. Gen. Bud Jameson, 316th Expeditionary Sustainment Command leader, spoke during the ceremony and praised the 113th Soldiers for their work and spoke encouraging and defining words to those in attendance.

"The Soldiers of the Steel Brigade will not be known for doing what they were trained to do, but for accomplishing everything they were asked to do," said Jameson. "By your hard work, sweat and sacrifice, you've enhanced the reputation of citizen-Soldiers and proven beyond a doubt, by any measure, by anyone, that as National Guard Soldiers you can perform as well, or better, than any U.S. Soldier in any component of the Army."

Indiana Army National Guard Col. Deedra Thombleson, 38th commander, said her team may be smaller, but they're ready for the task at hand.

"The sustainment brigade is coming in lean and strong. The motto of the 113th is 'One team, twice as strong,' we like to joke at being half the team, but four times as strong," said Thombleson. "We remain ready and focused to take on the ever-changing mission."



Photo by Staff Sgt. Stephen Bush

Indiana National Guard Airmen with the 122nd Fighter Wing pose for a photo at their headquarters in Fort Wayne, Ind.

## 122nd completes Thunderbolt conversion

Capt. Rebecca Metzger  
122nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs

The 122nd Fighter Wing declared the end of their conversion into the A-10C Thunderbolt II fighter aircraft in June.

After being approved in the fiscal year 2010 budget, the 122nd Fighter Wing began preparing to convert from the F-16C to the A-10C in the winter of 2009. The conversion was due to the projected life-span of the F-16 as well as budget restraints. Although the base was converting aircraft, hundreds of 122nd Airmen, aka Blacksnakes, have been deployed around the globe the past three years.

The unit was able to employ all 122nd Airmen for support the A-10 mission.

"With the hard work and dedication of our unit members, we are able to come out of conversion ahead of schedule," said Col. David Augustine, 122nd Fighter Wing commander. "I couldn't be prouder of the work our Airmen have accomplished. This is yet another example of why we are one of the finest fighter wings in the country and need to remain in fighters."

This past year, the 122nd Fighter Wing received its fifth Outstanding Unit Award, and it was selected as one of the top five Air National Guard Wings in the country. One member was selected as one of the top 12 Airmen in the Air National Guard, out of more than 106,000 Airmen.

"These awards show the true character of the wing," said Indiana's Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. R. Martin Umbarger. "This wing is about values, patriotism and always putting your best foot forward. Even in conversion, while surrounded by future uncertainty, the 122nd always strives for excellence in everything they do," he said.



Contributed photo

Airmen perform maintenance on an A-10. The 122nd Fighter Wing replaced its F-16s with A-10s.

## Thunderbolt II aka Warthog by the Numbers

<b>Primary Function:</b> Close air support, forward air control, combat search and rescue.	
<b>Contractor:</b> Fairchild Republic Co.	
<b>Power Plant:</b> Two General Electric TF34-GE-100 turbofans	
<b>Armament:</b> One 30 mm GAU-8/A seven-barrel Gatling gun; up to 16,000 pounds of mixed ordnance on eight under-wing and three under-fuselage pylon stations, including 500 pound Mk-82 and 2,000 pounds Mk-84 series low/high drag bombs, incendiary cluster bombs, combined effects munitions, mine dispensing munitions, AGM-65 Maverick missiles and laser-guided/electro-optically guided bombs; infrared countermeasure flares; electronic countermeasure chaff; jammer pods; 2.75-inch rockets; illumination flares and AIM-9 Sidewinder missiles.	
<b>Inventory:</b> Air National Guard, 107; active Air Force, 187; Air Force Reserve, 49	
<b>Indiana National Guard Inventory:</b> 20	
<b>Thrust:</b> 9,065 pounds each engine	<b>Fuel Capacity:</b> 11,000 pounds
<b>Wingspan:</b> 57 feet, 6 inches	<b>Payload:</b> 16,000 pounds
<b>Length:</b> 53 feet, 4 inches	<b>Speed:</b> 518 mph
<b>Height:</b> 14 feet, 8 inches	<b>Range:</b> 2,580 miles
<b>Weight:</b> 29,000 pounds	<b>Ceiling:</b> 45,000 feet
<b>Maximum Takeoff Weight:</b> 51,000 pounds	<b>Crew:</b> One

– Information from [www.af.mil](http://www.af.mil) A-10 factsheet

# Jersey Wars



Photo by Sgt. William Watson

Western High School Panthers take the field in Indiana National Guard inspired jerseys against the Eastern High School Comets, Sept. 28, 2012, in Russiaville, Ind.

## Hoosier high school football teams don 'Indiana's fighting-force fashion'

By Staff Sgt. Les Newport  
Indiana National Guard Public Affairs

A simple idea to reach out to communities across the state has turned into a boon for Indiana's National Guard Recruiting Command this football season.

Sixteen high school football teams swapped their school colors to wear the digital camouflage football jerseys of the Indiana Army National Guard. The Indiana National Guard provided the teams the jerseys to wear during home games throughout the season. The response from the schools and their communities far exceeded the expectations.

Maj. Mike Daake, a recruiting officer, said the concept started with a discussion when Indiana hosted the national

7-on-7 football tournament in June.

"We were looking for a good way to brand the Indiana National Guard and football jerseys seemed like a logical approach," said Daake. "The local high schools and the athletic directors and coaches jumped on board quickly. From there, we designed a jersey that teams are proud to wear, tells our story and gives our recruiters face time with centers of influence."

National Guard pep rallies, military appreciation nights and ghillie-suit tailgating are just a few of the unexpected surprises that emerged from the National Guard jersey games. At least one game featuring Indiana's fighting-force fashion was broadcasted live in central Indiana. The camo-clad Bulldogs of

Brownsburg battled the Avon Orioles in a much anticipated rivalry match.

The jerseys had even more meaning for one family. Sgt. William Watson a squad leader with Company B, 2nd Battalion, 151st Infantry, said seeing his son Trevor in the Indiana National Guard jersey made him prouder than anything he had done in his life.

"Seeing him out there in National Guard camouflage... well my chest was out there," said Watson of Russiaville, Ind.

Trevor said that the whole team and school were excited about the jerseys, but for him it was something a little more.

"It felt great," said Trevor. "I was honoring the National Guard and my dad."

The jerseys also caused a stir in social media around the state said Sgt. 1st Class Jeff Lowry. He handles the Indiana National Guard Twitter account and helps supervise the Facebook account.

"We were able to track photos, posts and mentions of the jerseys on social media accounts of schools, the players, their fans and local media," said Lowry. "Just a lot more than we normally see and for a longer stretch."

The recruiting command leader, Maj. Shawn Gardner, said the jerseys have had an impact that far outpaces the modest investment the Indiana National Guard made in the jerseys and the manpower to support the program.

"These games mean something to the players, something to the students and their parents," said Gardner. "They are going to watch the videos, share the photographs and stories for a long time. And I think they're going to remember these games as the ones they wore the colors of the Indiana National Guard."

With nearly 400 high schools in the state, opportunities abound. It would take 25 years to outfit every school at the current rate, just in time for Watson to see his grandson play in camouflage.



### Participating High Schools

- Eastbrook
- Danville @ Lucas Oil
- Homestead
- New Haven
- Center Grove
- Bloomington South
- Western
- Rochester
- Tippecanoe Valley
- Fort Wayne North Side
- Heritage Christian
- Princeton Community
- Lebanon
- Brownsburg
- Delta
- Hagerstown



Photo by Sgt. John Crosby

Conner Stapleton, Center Grove High School varsity football player, stiff arms the opposition during a home game in Greenwood, Ind., Friday, Sept. 14, 2012. Center Grove won, 55-28.

An Indiana National Guard Soldier and Center Grove High School cheerleader fire T-shirts into the crowd during the game.



Photo by Sgt. John Crosby

# 38th ID accepts new mission: protecting U.S. citizens

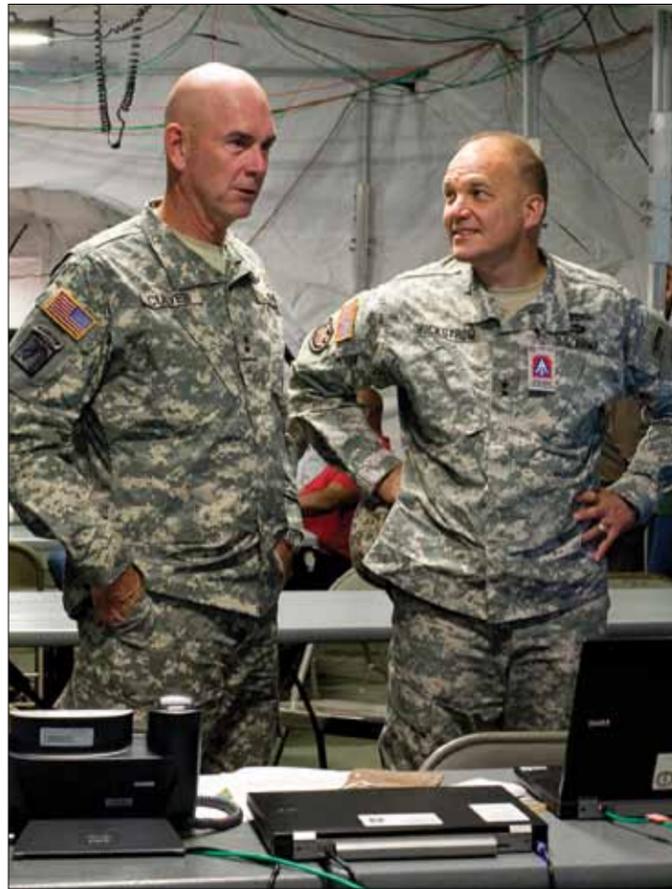


Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Brad Staggs

Maj. Gen. Lonnie Culver, 38th Infantry Division commander, talks to Maj. Gen. Steven Wickstrom, 42nd Infantry Division commander, about taking responsibility of the domestic all-hazard response mission, Thursday, July 26, 2012, at Camp Atterbury, Ind. The 38th assumed responsibility from the 42nd on Oct. 1, 2012, the beginning of the fiscal year. "I have no doubt that we can roll into any state and help during this mission," said Culver. "We just have to get as efficient as we can and respond as quickly as we can."

## Lowdown on the DARM

DARM = Domestic All-hazard Response Mission

Forward Element = more than 180 Soldiers

Main Element = more than 400 Soldiers

38th ID takes over for New York's 42nd ID.

Will respond to natural, man-made disasters.

Will assume control of military forces only.

Will assist civilian authorities if called upon.

Troops use self-sustaining equipment.

By Sgt. 1st Class Brad Staggs  
38th Infantry Division Public Affairs

During annual training at Camp Atterbury, Ind., 38th Infantry Division Soldiers prepared for what could be their most important mission to date – saving fellow citizens here at home.

Over the next year starting in October, the division will accept responsibility of the domestic all-hazard response mission, from New York's 42nd Infantry Division.

This mission is like nothing the division has ever been tasked with before, said Brig. Gen. David Wood, a deputy commanding general for the 38th.

"That mission is to respond, if called upon, to provide a robust command and control headquarters, to assist any state in need following a natural disaster or other serious event here in the homeland," said Wood. "Something like a 9/11 or Hurricane Katrina type event, we could be called to assist that state and act as a joint task force."

As part of the preparation, division Soldiers set up a tactical command post at Camp Atterbury during their annual training to rehearse running the mission. A larger homeland emergency response exercise, U.S. Army North's Vibrant Response 13, going on at the same time allowed the 38th to act as the National Guard response to a hypothetical nuclear explosion in a major Midwestern city.

The command post Soldiers conducted 24-hour operations during the exercise, and they worked closely with U.S. Northern Command, the Ohio Homeland Response Force, and other government agencies to prepare for civil support operations, said Wood.

If the call should come to respond to a homeland emergency, the 38th would assume control over military forces only, working in conjunction with, but not superseding, local first responders. The troops would augment first responders with with personnel and equipment.

From July 26 to 30, the 38th Headquarters and Headquarters Company pushed forward nearly 100 Soldiers to the deployable rapid assembly shelter, a tent system which was set up as the command post.

Everything had to be self-sustaining, from electricity to communications and Internet systems necessary for keeping contact with the disparate units and agencies.

"My guys came in three days early to run well over two miles of cable to get these systems working," said Maj. David Skalon, an information technology officer. "The technology being used for the DARM is massive. From the command post of the future to simple telephones, we have over 175 forms of communication we can use."

The hardest part of his job, said Skalon, has not been hooking everything up, but ensuring the end-user becomes an expert in the use of the technology.

"We train one weekend a month and two weeks during the summer," Skalon said. "If you don't use these systems, you forget them. This exercise is 100 percent tech enabled because

if we can't share information quickly, things fall apart."

The exercise is only the first step toward taking over the domestic response mission. Monthly mini-exercises will follow with larger exercise setups interspersed throughout the year in order to be ready to respond to any event. The tent system, along with all communications infrastructure, must be able to be set up in 12 hours or less.

"It's very daunting from the comms stand-point," Skalon said. "But that's our mission, and we'll get it done."

At the conclusion of the exercise, Soldiers gathered information and conducted an after-action review to determine what worked well and what didn't.

"I have no doubt that we can roll into any state and help during this mission," said Maj. Gen. Lonnie Culver, the 38th Infantry Division commander, summing up his thoughts at the end of the review. "We just have to get as efficient as we can and respond as quickly as we can."

Wood, who was the commanding general on the ground at the command post, agreed.

"This exercise was an outstanding event," Wood concluded. "It allowed us to improve and refine our staff functions and command and control capabilities."

The division Soldiers are scheduled to assume disaster response mission responsibilities in fiscal year 2013.



Photo by Spc. David Bonnell

Division Soldiers pack a shelter tent system following the exercise at Camp Atterbury.



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Brad Staggs

Col. Michael Sarver, 38th Infantry Division operations officer conducts a DARM exercise briefing.

*"I have no doubt that we can roll into any state and help during this mission."*

– Maj. Gen. Lonnie Culver, 38th Infantry Division commander



Contributed photo

The 38th Infantry Division's shelter tent system set up outside the division armory in Indianapolis during drill weekend in September.

# Honoring the Fallen



## **Spc. Arronn D. Fields**

From: Knightsville, Ind.  
Born: Brazil, Ind., Nov. 27, 1984  
Joined the Guard: 2006  
Promoted to specialist: October 2007

Succumbed to injuries suffered during a rocket-propelled grenade attack, May 21, 2012, in Afghanistan, while conducting a mounted patrol.

## **Spc. Sergio E. Perez**

From: Crown Point, Ind.  
Born: Crown Point, Ind., May 10, 1991  
Joined the Guard: 2010  
Promoted to specialist: April 2012

Killed during a complex attack that included rocket-propelled grenade fire and small arms fire in the Kandahar Province during a mounted route clearance patrol, July 16, 2012.



## **Spc. Nicholas A. Taylor**

From: Berne, Ind.  
Born: Decatur, Ind., Oct. 10, 1991  
Joined the Guard: 2010  
Promoted to specialist: April 2012

Killed during a complex attack that included rocket-propelled grenade fire and small arms fire in the Kandahar Province during a mounted route clearance patrol, July 16, 2012.

*“I am so fiercely proud of the service and sacrifice of these Fallen Heroes and so very grateful for their families who loved and supported them.”*

**Maj. Gen. R. Martin Umbarger**



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Jeff Lowry  
Staff Sgt. Jacob Cash, facing, listens to an honor guard Soldier during the honorable transfer of Spc. Sergio E. Perez in Gary, Ind., July 25, 2012.

## *Respect, Honor, Tribute*

“It’s an honor, ma’am.” I have said those words too often after providing military honors at a funeral for a fellow Soldier. Each time I utter those words, it means the same. True respect for the family, honor for the Soldier, and tribute to their service is embedded in that statement. We have a saying, “We give them nothing, they have earned every honor we provide.”

As a member of the Military Department of Indiana Ceremonial Unit, I have an obligation to ensure that the respect, honor, and tribute are given to the same level and exacting standard at each funeral. It is not easy. It takes strong will and character for those of us who do this duty.

Providing military funeral honors starts long before the day of the service. I have to be prepared. During each funeral, I represent the Indiana National Guard, the United States Army, our great country and the people who love it. I must conduct myself to fulfill that representation. My uniform is prepared. I steam press and iron my uniform. I clean and polish my low quarters. I measure to the 32nd of an inch all my ribbons and badges. I do it, and every member on my team does it. I represent the Army through my appearance.

The next stage of my preparation is rehearsals. I first rehearse alone. I make sure I know every step and every command. I have to be ready for when I rehearse with

the team. The team rehearsals can be long and hard. As a team we want each step, each movement to be precise and together. We also have to prepare for the “what ifs”. We have contingencies in place so the unexpected can be handled. We want to perform at the same standard as the 3rd U.S. Infantry, the Old Guard. It takes a lot of practice and deep commitment to get to that level.

At the gravesite we rehearse more and prepare for the procession to arrive. This helps eliminate unknowns. We know exactly where everyone will be. The firing detail is over there, the bugler here, the pall bearers will move from here to there. We take every moment prior to the funeral service to do last minute checks and inspections. We are ready.

When the funeral procession arrives, it begins to feel that I am on stage. I am being watched, critiqued, evaluated. And I should be. I represent so much more than myself. We all do. I have to stay focused. If I don’t, mistakes happen. I listen to words that the minister speaks. Just as the family needs comfort, so do I sometimes. Most of the time I do not know the Soldier personally, but I have lost an Army family member. I have compassion for the family. I know tears will be shed during Taps, sometimes I know I may shed one as well.

The standard funeral service is the

committal by the minister, then military honors. The first part is the rifle volleys. I have to be ready for the first rounds. I don’t want to jump or flinch while holding the flag. After the volleys, is Taps. Those notes really sink in. After Taps, it is my team’s time to fold the flag. Each fold needs to be precise. The flag has to be folded perfectly. The spouse or mother is going to hold on to that flag. They are going to display that flag. Every time they look at it, they will see their loved one and the respect we show to the family, the honor we show to the fallen, and the tribute we show of the fallen’s service.

Sometimes after the service, the family will seek us out to thank us. We all say the same thing because we truly mean it, “It’s an honor, ma’am.” It is a task that is not easy to do. It is a task humbly done to honor those who have gone before us and who have sacrificed so much for our country.

Staff Sgt. Jacob Cash  
*Editor’s Note: Staff Sgt. Jacob Cash is the operations noncommissioned officer of the Military Department of Indiana Ceremonial Unit. He has served with the 3rd U.S. Infantry the Old Guard as a full honor casket team member with Company B, Battlehard. He has been a member of the Ceremonial Unit for more than six years.*

*This article originally appeared in the USO magazine, On Patrol.*

# Indiana Guard recruits compete in statewide Warrior Challenge



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Jeff Lowry

Master Sgt. Travis Holcomb, Lagrange, Ind., issues guidance to recruits for the paintball tournament.



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Jeff Lowry

Pvt. Brian Aker, Newburgh, Ind., performs a functions check as Pvt. Jason Rhodes, Haubstadt, Ind., watches.



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Jeff Lowry

X65 marks the spot for the start of the land navigation course portion of the challenge.



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Jeff Lowry

Pvt. Khari Daniel, Gary, Ind., plots points on a map as his Team Gary teammates watch.



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Jeff Lowry

Indiana National Guard recruits get ready for a match in a paintball tournament for the 8th annual Warrior Challenge.



Photo Illustration by Sgt. 1st Class Jeff Lowry

Indiana National Guard recruits fight in a paintball tournament as part of the 8th annual Warrior Challenge in Knightstown, Ind., Saturday, Oct. 13, 2012. Team Muncie won the paintball tournament. Team Fort Wayne won the challenge for the third straight year.

By Sgt. 1st Class Jeff Lowry  
Indiana National Guard Public Affairs

Approximately 60 Indiana National Guard recruits from around the state competed in a 48-hour event called the Warrior Challenge, Oct. 12 through Oct. 14, 2012, in Knightstown, Ind.

The state's Recruit Sustainment Program held the 8th annual competition that tested the warriors' physical and mental abilities.

It's a culmination of all the training that the Indiana National Guard provides for Soldiers preparing for basic and advanced training, said Master Sgt. Travis Holcomb, noncommissioned officer in charge of the competition.

The competition consisted of warrior skills from the routine to the extraordinary. The recruits had to have their paperwork in order, their dog tags and their identification cards. Yet they were challenged with an annual physical fitness test, an obstacle course, first aid knowledge, weapons assembly, a water crossing, a road march and a 50-question, written exam.

The recruits, or warriors as they are called, came from around the state, and they formed teams based on where they drill; Fort Wayne, Muncie, Evansville, Scottsburg, Lafayette, Indianapolis, Brazil, South Bend and Gary.

The recruiters selected the warriors, based on previous regional competitions, for the state-level challenge.

"It's the best of the best. It takes our best, our brightest, our future that are going to be going in the ranks of the National Guard," said Holcomb of the warriors in the challenge. "It

tests their skills really in all aspects: mentally, physically and, by the end of it, emotionally as well."

Holcomb, who has had a hand in all eight Warrior Challenges, said they get bigger and better every year.

The Warrior Challenge tests the full parameter of a Soldier's skill set, said Holcomb.

"Within the ranks of the RSP, this is a serious, serious event right here," said Holcomb. "That traveling trophy means a lot to the RSP sites. They take a lot of pride in that."

The challenge brought out the best in the recruits, and they saw it as a way to not only hone their skills individually, but also the Army's as a whole.

"I think more importantly it shows, as a whole Army, not just a detachment or state, that we stay sharp," said Pvt. Geoffrey Strelec, a member of the Fort Wayne team. "Yeah it's a competition, we compete against each other, but it's really a training tool. It shows the strength of the Army. It's an all-around good event."

This year, for the third year in row, the Fort Wayne team took home the traveling trophy.

A recruiter who helped select the winning Fort Wayne teams and mentor them throughout the challenges also saw value in the recruit program and challenge.

"We are training these Soldiers to be the next best leaders of this organization," said Staff Sgt. David Grimm. "These are the people who live and serve in our communities, and we're showing the leaders of Indiana that their money, time and effort are well worth it."

# Kenya hear the music

## 38th ID Band bassist keeps the beat

By Sgt. 1st Class Jeff Lowry  
Indiana National Guard Public Affairs

*“Music is the universal language of mankind.”*  
Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

For two Kenyan police musicians, who visited Indiana for two weeks in October, language didn't matter when they met a fellow countryman, Spc. Alan Mbathi, who plays and serves in the Indiana National Guard's 38th Infantry Division Band.

Mbathi, 32, originally hails from Kenya and came to the United States approximately five years ago.

“It's awesome having them here,” said Mbathi of his fellow Kenyan musicians. “I can't wait to hang out and exchange stories and hear about everything that's going on.”

While it was important for Mbathi to reconnect with his roots, it was just as important for Charles Njoka and Samson Gikunda, who play with Kenya's Administration Police Band.

They said it was a great privilege to visit the Hoosier state. While in Indiana, Njoka and Gikunda visited not only the 38th Band, but also elementary, middle school and high school bands of central Indiana.

Mbathi, who's been playing bass guitar since he was 17, admired the skills and professionalism of the Kenyan musicians.

“One thing that Kenyan military police forces are renowned for in Africa is their discipline. The way their performances are done, it's very, very well orchestrated,” said Mbathi.

Mbathi joined the Indiana National Guard and the 38th ID Band two years ago. After basic and advanced training, he's been playing with the band for about a year. Mbathi said he likes the 38th's busy schedule because it allows him to hone his bass playing and music reading skills.

Mbathi appreciates his African heritage and the structured nature of playing with the 38th band. The two



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Jeff Lowry  
Charles Njoka, right, a clarinetist with Kenya's Administration Police Band, joins in the 38th Infantry Division Band's rehearsal in Lawrence, Ind., Sunday, Sept. 23, 2012.



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Jeff Lowry  
Spc. Alan Mbathi prepares a xylophone for a rehearsal in Lawrence, Ind., Sunday, Sept. 23.

bring unique influences to his musical development.

“I'm living in two worlds, coming from an African setting and coming from this setting,” said Mbathi. In

Africa he learned by memorization and in the states he learned by reading music.

“Even in concert band, if you come see me playing, you'll see me kind of trying to get my bearings,” Mbathi said.

“Coming from Africa, learning music the way I did, it was definitely memorizing. You hear something; you pick it up and go with it. Coming here it's all laid out on a sheet, each and every nuance and note,” he said.

Mbathi, from Noblesville, Ind., is studying communications with a minor in music at Anderson University. While he continues his studies, on the military side he will be melding his musical backgrounds for the universal language of mankind.

*“Coming from Africa ... You hear something; you pick it up and go with it. Coming here it's all laid out on a sheet, each and every nuance and note.”*

– Spc. Alan Mbathi



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Jeff Lowry  
Indiana National Guard Lt. Col. Jeff Hackett, 1st Battalion, 293rd Infantry Regiment commander, points out a Humvee turret to Riley Boyle.

## Student inspires 76th Soldiers

By Staff Sgt. Les Newport  
Indiana National Guard Public Affairs

A theme emerged during a gathering of 76th Infantry Brigade Combat Team Soldiers and a group of some of their strongest supporters in their local community known as the Guardian Angels of Hill Crest Country Club.

There is plenty angelic about the group, but most would say guardian is the more accurate nom de guerre.

Diane Spaulding is the chief Guardian Angel and the walls of the Hill Crest are a testament to their work. Letters of appreciation and other military tokens of thanks decorate the walls. The theme of the day was simple: “That's just what Riley Boyle does.”

Riley Boyle is a 7th grader at St. Simon School in Oaklandon, Ind., and a juggernaut when it comes to supporting the troops. As General Washington had Lafayette, Spaulding has Riley.

“Whatever it is we need done, he does it” said Spaulding.

Spaulding said the Guardian Angels began a partnership with St. Simon School some years ago to collect donations to send in care packages. The

students also decorate cards, bags and boxes for the donations. When shipping costs began to rise, the school used blue jeans days to raise funds for that.

Spaulding learned she could count on Mike and Becky Boyle's shy, quiet son always working behind the scenes.

Schools, churches and non-profit organizations across the country have similar stories. Any deployed postal unit could attest to that.

But Riley's story goes a little further. Last year he was diagnosed with a serious illness, one that landed him in Riley's Children Hospital in Indianapolis. Everyone thought Riley's efforts to support the troops would have to wait, everyone except for Riley, and perhaps Spaulding. She wasn't surprised when Riley told her he wanted to soldier on while he was in the hospital.

Riley began collecting donations from the staff and parents of other patients. He continued to decorate packages to send and focused as much on his troops overseas as he did on his own welfare.

Riley has had a break from the hospital but will return next month. Before he continues his own personal

battle, the 76th wanted to show their gratitude and support for their biggest backer at a reception for him. When they arrived, they did so in an Armored Security Vehicle and a Humvee. Riley learned what it was like to sit at the wheel of the famous American fighting vehicles and man the turrets.

Indiana National Guard Lt. Col. Jeff Hackett presented Riley with the Indiana Commendation Medal.

“When we speak of Army Values, I think of Riley Boyle,” said Hackett. “We wanted to let him know how much we appreciate him and his mission. His selfless service epitomizes what being a Soldier is all about.”

Hackett also made Riley an honorary Nighthawk, the name 76th Brigade Soldiers carry into battle. Riley accepted the honors with his quiet smile and promised to keep working hard. He also has a new project.

“Some of the kids at the hospital don't get to see many people very often,” said Riley. “So I'm going to get the Soldiers of the 76th to visit them. They'll like that.”

Because that's what Riley Boyle does.

# Atterbury hosts sim site visit

By Staff Sgt. David Bruce  
Atterbury-Muscatatuck Public Affairs

Camp Atterbury Joint Maneuver Training Center, near Edinburgh, Ind. hosted a site visit of the Army's Simulation Operations Course from Nov. 5 to Nov. 9. The Simulation Operations Course is a 6-week course conducted at Fort Belvoir, Va. On the fourth week of the class, the students conduct a site visit at a training center to learn of the capabilities that that site has to offer.

Lt. Col. Joe Nolan, simulation operations proponent officer, said the course is designed to certify functional area simulation officers for duty in the Army. Nolan said there are approximately 500 officers Army-wide, 250 active duty and 250 reserve component, these officers provide the commanders the capability of simulation support for training. In addition, they also provide support to mission command systems integration and knowledge management.

"Simulations as the Army defines it, runs into four categories; constructive simulation, which provides a digital representation on a map, much like you see with a GPS; virtual, which is much like the flight simulators you see on television and all that, and our Soldiers use similar tools for driving and operating combat vehicles; the newest domain to come out

is gaming, military gaming, we're leveraging the best of the commercial market and using it for military applications; and finally live simulation which is one reason we're here at the Camp Atterbury-Muscatatuck Center for Complex Operations."

During the site visit, the students visited the Muscatatuck Training Range, an enhanced urban training facility that is part of Camp Atterbury.

"Our school at Fort Belvoir we have the capability of training Soldiers on gaming, constructive and virtual



Photo by Staff Sgt. Matt Scotten

Indiana National Guard Pfc. Kevin Hadley, right, Elkhart, Ind., a forward observer with Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion, 151st Infantry Regiment, trains with a human immersion combat simulator that uses stress inoculation to improve performance in stressful environments.

simulation," said Nolan. "We don't have the robust capability of showing our students what a live training center looks like. That's one of the reasons Muscatatuck is so unique mission for the Army and for a number of different defense organizations; it provides an opportunity for our students to see what they do here and incorporate those lessons learned here back at their home stations for training."

**"Muscatatuck provides an opportunity for our students to see what they do here and incorporate those lessons learned here back at their home stations for training."**

**— Lt. Col. Joe Nolan**

Nolan said the use of simulations is an effective tool to meet the training objectives and challenges facing the Army in the coming years.

"Right now the Army is facing a number of different challenges, not limited to cost

reduction, re-deploying our Soldiers back to home station and competition for those resources back at home station. Modeling simulation will be that enabler for units to maintain readiness levels in a resource-constrained environment. Simulation can provide the commander a cost effective way to provide training.

Nolan said the Army is in a state of

transition from 10 years of irregular operation to returning to its traditional war-time mission. To accomplish this, he said the Soldiers will need training for those complex tasks.

"All those require resources and unfortunately, to be able to those things live is not cost-effective. By using simulations, and having smart military officers and Department of the Army civilians who know how to use simulations nested together to create a robust training environment, I can meet all the commanders training objectives and still save the government dollars."

Royal Downs, lead instructor for the Army's modeling and simulation division, responsible for training the Army's modeling and simulation workforce, said in simulations you can do things that you can't do in the real world. Processes, facilities and course of action analysis can be performed without actually going out live and doing it. This can save money, enable safer training and do repetitions get a quick after actions review to prepare for live training or combat. The students are taught how to use simulations to

See **SIMULATION**, page 24



Photo by Spc. Nevada Jack Smith

Staff Sgt. Samuel LaCorte and Spc. Nathanael, 76th Infantry Brigade Combat Team Soldiers, brothers, pose for a photo at their base camp in Afghanistan.

## LaCorte family represents

By Spc. Nevada Jack Smith  
117th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

TIRIN KOT, Afghanistan – Serving in the military can be a brotherhood of sorts. Troops forge bonds in the fire of war that can be as strong as those of blood family.

For two Indiana National Guard Soldiers, the bond of brotherhood is more than a metaphor.

Spc. Nathanael LaCorte and Staff Sgt. Samuel LaCorte are brothers serving with the 76th Infantry Brigade Combat Team in Afghanistan, where they provide battlefield awareness and knowledge of the operating environment to their fellow Soldiers.

The LaCorte brothers have a large family with many members claiming military service, including a grandfather who fought in World War II.

"My family has always been really patriotic so that was a big part of why I wanted to join the military," said Nathanael, 21, who joined the ranks a little more than a year ago. "Another major reason was that I have four other siblings in the military."

Nathanael and Samuel's oldest brother serves in the Navy Reserve.

Their oldest sister serves in the Army Reserve. Another brother serves in the Air National Guard.

"And then obviously, I have my brother who is here with me," said Nathanael, Chesterton, Ind.

Samuel, 28, said it was a huge plus having his younger brother on a deployment with him, and the shared experiences of serving overseas have strengthened their bond.

"It's always good to have someone there from home that you can talk to," said Samuel, Danville, Ind. "We are closer now than we have ever been. I have always looked at Nate as my kid brother, but now I see him more as a Soldier and a man."

The younger sibling shared his older brother's sentiments.

"He is very good at his job and a good mentor. I am learning a lot from him," said Nathanael. "He is always there to support me and helps me not miss the rest of my family so much."

Samuel, who sets the example for his younger brother, has been in the Army National Guard for just more than five years. He's long felt the drive and desire to serve his nation.

"After 9/11 happened, I was 17 at

the time, I remember looking at my older brother and saying, 'I need to do something about this someday,'" said Samuel. "That feeling of duty stayed with me, and several years later I enlisted in the National Guard."

"It is a huge deal to me to be able to serve. I feel like we have a really great country so I feel good to give something back," said Samuel, whose civilian work as well where he works to support law enforcement.

Together the brothers support and learn from each other, and serving overseas brought the two brothers and Soldiers closer together. Yet, it also gave them a perspective that those who don't serve will never see.

"It's been a great learning experience, and I think being deployed gives you a good view on the world and what's going on in it," Nathanael said.

Serving together has already brought them closer and that bond will continue to shape them for the duration of their tour and the rest of their lives.

Together the two brothers are gaining valuable experiences that will serve them both personally and professionally as they continue to dedicate themselves to a service that goes beyond self.



Master Sgt. John Day

A 181st Intelligence Wing Civil Engineer Squadron Airmen helps spread concrete.

## Engineers buildup Calif. SEAL camp

By Master Sgt. Bradley M. Butrum  
181st Intelligence Wing,  
Civil Engineer Squadron

Indiana Air National Guard troops with the 181st Intelligence Wing's Civil Engineer Squadron deployed to California this summer. But it wasn't to sun kissed beaches or a plush hotel with cable TV, it was to the Navy's austere Camp Morena where the SEALs train.

In two weeks at the camp and neighboring La Posta Mountain Warfare Training Facility, squadron engineers built walls and roofs, strung electrical wire, poured concrete and repaired heating and cooling systems.

"I've never seen a group of people pull together and accomplish so much in such a short amount of time," said Lt. Col. Wayne Booker, mission support group commander, who visited the Airmen along with Vice Wing Commander, Col. Patrick Renwick.

In addition to the Airmen's engineer duties, the squadron members also qualified with their weapons, the M4 carbine and M9 pistol.

## 181st Airmen instruct future nurses

By Maj. Frank Howard  
181st Intelligence Wing Executive Staff

It was a scene of carnage and chaos as emergency responders reacted to a mass casualty exercise. Simulated dead and injured littered the ground. Screams, emergency sirens, and cries of pain resonated in the air at the Terre Haute International Airport - Hulman Field.

Seem horrifying? It's supposed to. The exercise simulated an aircraft crash with multiple casualties.

During the exercise the 181st Intelligence Wing Medical Group Airmen evaluated nursing students on triage and introduced them to disaster community involvement.

Indiana Air National Guard 1st Lt. Nicole S. Hall, an instructor for the drill, and a clinical instructor for the Community Health Course at Indiana State University, said the mock exercise

helped military medics and nurses go through casualty procedures.

"This exercise helps the medics determine who they have to deal with first and get them used to the anxiety and how they deal with it," said Hall. "So when a real world situation comes they will have a little bit more knowledge to draw on."

The exercise included about 80 participants, including 181st Airmen, students in Indiana State University nursing program, students from Ivy Tech Community College paramedic program, participants from Rural Health Innovation Collaborative Simulation Center, Indiana Homeland Security's Task Force 7 Mass Casualty Unit, and the Terre Haute International Airport.

The event marked the first time multiple Terre Haute medical and disaster response organizations participated in a mass casualty exercise.



Master Sgt. John Day

Student nurses attend to mock casualties during an exercise at the Terre Haute International Airport.



Master Sgt. John Day

Firefighters respond to a simulated plane crash the Terre Haute International Airport - Hulman Field.



Photo by Master Sgt. John Day

Indiana Air National Guard 2nd Lt. Kelli Marietta, right, and Tech. Sgt. Michael A. McAtee, 181st Intelligence Wing Medical Group, treat a wounded citizen.

## Racers train for disaster preparedness

By Lt. Col. John R. Puckett  
181st Intelligence Wing Public Affairs

When simulated earthquakes struck Wisconsin this summer, 1,100 personnel from 24 states responded to the disaster.

The 181st Intelligence Wing provided Airmen, nicknamed Racers, for the 19th Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and high-yield Explosive Enhanced Response Force Package and the Fatality and Services Recovery Response Team.

The earthquakes closed roads, closed bridges and collapsed buildings as part of the exercise known as Patriot 2012. Along with the 181st, the exercise involved government agencies ranging from the FBI to the Civilian Air Patrol.

Patriot 2012 at Volk Field, Wis., allowed for interagency training on domestic operations and promoted the integration of primary and secondary disaster response forces in a realistic, hands-on scenario.

"This exercise presented a great training opportunity for the 19th CERFP," said Lt. Col. Robert Abbinett Jr., who was in charge of the 19th's medical element. "Patriot 2012 allowed our members to accomplish mission-

essential training for CERFP that was not available locally."

The 19th's medical team treated casualties who suffered wounds ranging from cuts and bruises to deep lacerations and to patients who were unconscious.

Abbinett said the training was realistic and honed the team's techniques.

"It sharpened our skills and helped to refine our goal of responding to a local disaster within three hours and being able to process 300 people an hour," said Abbinett.

The FSRT augmented the CERFP's casualty and extraction teams, and the 181st deployed 11 FSRT members to participate in the recovery.

During the exercise, the Airmen experienced the sights and smells of decayed animal carcasses as they searched through wreckage clouded by billowing smoke.

"This was very realistic training," said Capt. Randi Brown, the FSRT officer-in-charge. "The Patriot 2012 exercise was the first time the Fatality and Services Recovery Response Team has participated in a disaster scenario. I think we did an outstanding job."

Agencies participating in Patriot 2012 exercise provided unit-specific



Photo by Master Sgt. John Day

Capt. Steven Martin, 181st Intelligence Wing Medical Group, provides advanced care to an injured victim during the Patriot 2012 exercise at Volk Field, Wis., July 18, 2012.

objectives and goals.

"Thirty-seven members deployed here via a C-5," said Col. Patti Mook, the 181st Medical Group's commander. "The entire process validated our ability to respond to disasters anywhere in the United States."

# Arrivals

## Nighthawks return

By Sgt. 1st Class Jeff Lowry  
Indiana National Guard Public Affairs

Approximately 70 Indiana National Guard Soldiers with Headquarters Company, 76th Infantry Brigade Combat Team touched down at the Indianapolis International Airport, Tuesday, Nov. 27, 2012, after a 9-month deployment to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

The brigade Soldiers, nicknamed Nighthawks, were in charge of Combined Team Uruzgan that controlled more than 5,000 multinational force members who worked with Afghanistan forces to help stabilize the war-torn country.

Before the Soldiers arrived at Stout Field for a homecoming ceremony, Indiana's Adjutant General Maj. Gen. R. Martin Umbarger spoke to the awaiting family members.

"Your fathers, brothers, husbands, wives, sisters and daughters, they performed magnificently over there," said Umbarger, who visited the troops overseas. "They are great Americans; super Hoosiers."

The general also thanked the families for their support.

"You don't wear the uniform, but you serve too," he said.

Michelle Gustafson with her twin 2.5-year-old son and daughter came to show her support for her husband, Master Sgt. Christopher Gustafson, the unit's senior personnel staff noncommissioned officer.

He also commented on his mission overseas and working with myriad countries.

"It was an outstanding deployment, but we had to break down the communication barriers," said Gustafson. He said the Afghans are working toward independence. "They want to defend their own country, and soon they'll be able to stand on their own."



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Jeff Lowry

Indiana Army National Guard Master Sgt. Christopher Gustafson with Headquarters Company, 76th Infantry Brigade Combat Team poses for a photo with his wife, Michelle, and their two children, Ericson and Jillian, at a welcome home ceremony at Stout Field in Indianapolis.



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Jeremy T. Vise

Task Force Guardian Soldiers march into Building 9 on Stout Field.

## TF Guardian Returns 2 MP units joined for deployment

By Sgt. 1st Class Jeremy T. Vise  
120th Public Affairs Detachment

More than 110 Soldiers with Task Force Guardian returned to the Hoosier state Thursday, Nov. 29, 2012 from a yearlong deployment to Afghanistan.

The Soldiers were responsible for area security and partnered with Afghan police while overseas.

The unit, led by 1st Lt. Christopher Ford from Portage, Ind., and Master Sgt. Wayne Kannapel from English Ind., was a combined task force of Soldiers from the 381st Military Police Company headquartered in Plymouth, Ind., and the 387th Military Police Company in New Albany, Ind.

The Soldiers were originally tasked with security patrols in the Bagram area, but were reassigned to mentor the Afghan uniform police.

After the change in mission, the unit helped Afghan police develop a system of training on their own so they would be able to sustain their force through training, mentorship and logistics, said Ford

"We saw the Afghans develop a lot; progress from what we taught them on training and acquiring supplies for their force," said Ford.

The mission involved Soldiers riding along with the Afghans and instructing them on how to do day-to-day patrols, this allowed them to build upon what they were taught and develop their own techniques, said Kannapel.

The Soldiers morale was pretty high during most of the deployment. When Spc. Arronn D. Fields from Knightsville, Ind., was killed in action in May, it hurt everyone, and it took some time to bounce back, said Kannapel.

"We kept Fields in our hearts and minds everyday and remembered what a great Soldier he was and kept his memory as a part of our team," he said.

Despite the loss of their comrade, the Soldiers persevered and set the example for the Afghan forces.

"I believe our mission showed the Afghan people that we are there to help them on making their country more stable and self-sufficient," said Ford.

# ... Departures



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Jeff Lowry

Spc. Eric Pugh, crew chief, shows his family a UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter.

## MEDEVAC troops fly to Kuwait

By Sgt. 1st Class Jeff Lowry  
Indiana National Guard Public Affairs

Indiana National Guard Soldiers with Company C, 2-238th General Support Aviation Battalion said goodbye to loved ones and friends in a ceremony at the Army Aviation Support Facility, Wednesday, Nov. 7, 2012.

Approximately 50 troops left for Fort Hood, Texas, where they will continue their training for nearly a month. Afterwards, they'll deploy to Kuwait to provide medical response and evacuation capabilities throughout the region in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

"We have trained very hard for this mission, and we will continue to do so," said Maj. Bryon Blohm, company commander, during his ceremony speech to his troops. "We will be prepared every day to provide medical care."

Indiana's Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. R. Martin Umbarger, also spoke at the departure ceremony. He started off thanking the Soldiers' Families.

"You don't wear the uniform, but you too serve," said Umbarger in his speech noting that they, in addition to missing their troops, will also have to contend with daily life at home.

Yet the general also commented on Hoosier, Indiana National Guard patriotism.

"We're proud of being Hoosiers. We're proud to wear the uniform," said Umbarger. "Only three other states have deployed more troops since 9/11."

The medical evacuation company most recently deployed in 2008 in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom where its Soldiers received the Valorous Unit Award, which is the second highest unit decoration bestowed by the U.S. Army. Prior to that, the unit deployed to southern states in support of Operation Jump Start in 2007 for border patrol, Hurricane Katrina relief efforts in 2005, and to Bosnia in 2004 in support of Operation Joint Forge.

## Battery E leaves for OEF support

By Staff Sgt. Les Newport  
Indiana National Guard Public Affairs

Indiana National Guardsmen and their family members joined together for a departure ceremony as Battery E, 139th Field Artillery prepared for a yearlong deployment to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

The unit will provide support to target acquisition operations, an important part of force protection Capt. Dan Rector told family members. Rector will command the battery and 1st Sgt. James Papay will serve as the senior enlisted noncommissioned officer.

"We protect those who protect all of us," said Rector, who acknowledged family members have the toughest military job.

Rector also recognized concern family members have for his Soldiers.

"This is not a huge movement, but I know it's important to you to know that your Soldier is being taken care of," he said. "I want to thank the Indiana National Guard command group for making sure each of us has had the support we need to be prepared to deploy."

The unit's family readiness group's co-chair, Liz Grant, is the mother of Spc. Joseph Grant. Although new to the FRG program, she served as a team mother and been active with other organizations. She said her son volunteered her for the position and believes her experience in volunteer work earned her son's confidence.

"We've had a wonderful response (from families)," said Liz. "I think they've learned they can call us first if they need anything. They can call us anytime."



Photo by Staff Sgt. David Bruce

Capt. Dan Rector, plays with his son, Caleb, after the departure ceremony in Indianapolis.

enhance a units training program. The only limit to the training that can be accomplished is their imagination; if they can conceive it, the training can occur through the use of simulations.

“It’s important for the students to understand that their only limited by their imaginations. You can come here, and these guys will work with you to get any type of training program to accomplish any kind of training objectives you want in this type of environment where it’s not canned, it’s not imagining; it’s an actual functioning city.”

Downs said in 28 years of being associated with the Army he has never seen facilities like the Muscatatuck Training Range.

“Most urban training environments are cinder block buildings and conexes where you have to do a lot of imagining,” said Downs. “This is real; it’s a fully functioning city that you can come and train. You’re only limited by your imagination. So, I thought it was important to bring them here so that when they go back to their units they know of this facility and use it.

Maj. Brent Foghleman, mission command systems officer, U.S. Army 1st Corps at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, one of the students in the simulation operations officer course, said the course is intended to give you an overview of all the modeling and simulation tools available.

“It by no means makes us an expert, but gives us the knowledge to branch out and become experts in our field. It focuses on live, constructive and virtual as well as the gaming aspect of simulations to train commanders and their staff and the units,” said Foghleman.

Foghleman said one of the challenges, but also opportunities as a simulation operations officer is to be able to combine those training realms to facilitate an exercise to train the commander and his staff and those units, whether it be in the field or a mission training complex situation where you’re using more of the constructive simulations.

“Simulations add that extra layer of training available to us,” he said. “And as we all know, we’re facing budget constraints as units start redeploying from theater, the reduced maneuver space to train units, simulations offer another venue to achieve the same training objectives we’ve had all along in terms of going to the field. So, it gives us more venues and training opportunities as opposed to gassing up and going to the field.”

Foghleman said the visit was a source of inspiration and a realization of possibilities to training and ensuring mission readiness for his unit and subordinate units.

“The trip to Camp Atterbury opened my eyes and my peers to another venue that is open and available that many of us were not aware of. I’m already conjuring in my head some exercise scenarios to support the Corps commander and his staff.”

The idea behind the site visit to Atterbury didn’t stop at what a live simulation training venue had to offer but encompassed other aspects to the events and approaches to training.

“One of the things I like about this, and I want our students to take away, is not just the live simulation portion, but how this installation leverages other agencies and the whole joint, intergovernmental agency team to be able to conduct government operations, not just military operations,” said



Photo by Staff Sgt. David Bruce

An Indiana National Guard Soldier with the 76th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, headquartered in Lawrence, Ind., performs a needle chest decompression during combat lifesaver training in the Medical Simulation Training Center at Camp Atterbury Joint Maneuver Training Center, Ind., Monday, Feb. 6, 2012. Simulations and simulators are cost-saving measures used for training and can create situations that otherwise are not possible outside of an actual wartime mission.

Nolan. “This site is unique to be able to do that.”

Nolan said they should broaden their horizons as to what is possible outside of the active duty training venues.

“When they look at a training event, don’t look myopically at an active duty unit focus; take a look at the active duty, the Guard, Reserve, all the elements of national power. This installation is unique to be able to bring all that together, provide a complex environment and do it right. I want our students understand, this is a way you can do it and this is what right looks

*“Simulations offer another venue to achieve the same training objectives we’ve had all along in terms of going to the field.”*

– Maj. Brent Foghleman



Photo by Staff Sgt. David Bruce

Indiana Army National Guard Sgt. Justin Carpenter, with the 38th Sustainment Brigade, crosses under a post and lintel arch symbolizing his ascension into the Corps of the Noncommissioned Officers during a ceremony held in Indianapolis, June 10, 2012. He was among 60 Soldiers inducted.

## Sergeants inducted into NCO Corps

By Sgt. 1st Class Jeff Lowry  
38th Infantry Division Public Affairs

Approximately 65 newly-promoted, Indiana Army National Guard sergeants with the 38th Sustainment Brigade were inducted into the Noncommissioned Officer Corps during a ceremony at Stout Field, Sunday, June 10.

According to the NCO Creed, NCOs, from corporal to the sergeant major of the Army, have two basic responsibilities – mission accomplishment and Soldier welfare. Those tasks are responsibilities the new sergeants said they will take to heart.

“I feel like everything is starting over again,” said Sgt. Chris Young, a 1438th Transportation Company truck driver from Indianapolis. “Because it’s a whole new set of responsibilities – taking care of Soldiers and making sure the mission is accomplished with all the tools available to each Soldier.”

During the ceremony, Command Sgt. Maj. Karolyn Peeler, the brigade’s

senior enlisted Soldier, commented on the dual nature inherent in the sergeants’ new roles.

“Don’t be single-minded; you are now dual-hatted,” said Peeler, warning the sergeants that not only do they have their job to do but also the added responsibilities of noncommissioned leaders.

Peeler said the induction ceremony was special to her.

“It’s a rite of passage from a junior Soldier to a leader,” she said. “It’s the first stage of taking ownership and learning responsibility.”

During the ceremony, the new sergeants recited the NCO Creed, repeated the Charge of the Noncommissioned Officer, signed a ledger, and walked under a wooden, post-and-lintel structure adorned with the Army ranks of noncommissioned officers.

Besides the dual nature of their jobs, another sergeant looked to the NCO Creed as a guide on how to do her job.

“It’s a good explanation of our job,” said Sgt. Sarah Rushing, a 1438th Transportation Company truck driver from Bloomington, Ind.

Rushing said the number one aspect of the creed she likes is from the line, “Officers of my unit will have the maximum time to accomplish their duties; they will not have to accomplish mine.”

“No one will have to do my duty for me,” said Rushing. She said she is scheduled to be a team leader of five Soldiers and said she’d take care of her Soldiers too.

Another newly-promoted sergeant, and future team leader, said he will see his Soldiers as a family.

“It’s similar to family; they are your family in a sense and you put their needs before your needs,” said Sgt. Andrew Rodriguez, a 1538th Transportation Company truck driver from North Vernon, Ind. “If you keep that in the forefront of your thinking, you’re bound to do the right thing for your Soldiers.”

# USO salutes military women

By Sgt. Cassandra Monroe  
120th Public Affairs Detachment

Those who attended the Indiana Fever game Saturday, June 2, may have noticed that the players' uniforms weren't the only outfits worn. Throughout the audience many women in uniform attended the game to be recognized in USO Indiana's Salute to Women in the Military.

"Today is a salute to women in the military, and what we and what the USO of Indiana recognize is that women are a vital force and are what it takes today for this country to deliver its mission," said Ron Sukenick, a retired Vietnam veteran and a partner in MCP Productions.

Approximately 45 women in uniform represented the Army, Air Force, Marines and Navy, and were paired with sponsors for a meet-and-greet before the game. Each sponsor bought two tickets, one for themselves and one for their assigned woman in uniform. It allowed sponsors and service members to get to know each other.

"This was a nice event, it's great that women sponsors were matched with women in uniform," said Karen Caprino-Burg, owner of Indy Metro Woman Magazine and Women Changing Lives. "Both women in business and women in the military have challenges. This event shows that two different worlds can be very similar."

After the meet-and-greet, the service members and sponsors were able to attend the game until the halftime period, when they lined up near courtside. The sponsors, who were all women, and female service members, walked onto the court in a line to face the Fever audience. The pairs then turned to each other, many smiling wide, and saluted each other, as the audience showed their appreciation by clapping for those in uniform.

"There were about 8,000 people in the audience who just loved the moment and what the military presents, and to see the women in their combat uniforms is exciting at a Fever game," said Sukenick.

For Indiana Army National Guard Staff Sgt. Brandi Lanning, a signal support systems specialist with Company C, 2nd Battalion, 238th General Support Aviation Battalion, the event was a great morale booster and one that she greatly appreciated.

"Being a Soldier in the U.S. Army, we work so hard all the time, and it just gives us an incentive for all of the hard work we've accomplished," said Lanning, a Crothersville, Ind., native

Military women wave to Indiana Fever basketball fans as they walk the court during a halftime ceremony, Saturday, June 2, 2012. The Fever organization and USO held a Salute to Women in the Military event where approximately 45 service members were saluted by their sponsors. The game honored women in uniform and gave local businesses and sponsors a chance to link up with women and learn about their history in the military.



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Jeff Lowry



Indiana National Guard Soldiers with the 38th Infantry Division Band march northward on Meridian Street in Indianapolis for the Veterans Day Parade Saturday, Nov. 10, 2012. Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Matt Scotten



Soldiers from the Indiana National Guard and Republic of Slovakia with Military Advisory Team 4, formerly known as Operational Mentor and Liaison Team 4, train for medical evacuations in Slovakia, Thursday, Sept. 6, 2012. Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Michael Bacon