

INDIANA GUARDSMAN

SUMMER 2013

An Indiana National Guard Publication

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Front cover caption: Indiana National Guardsmen and Isreal Homefront Command members move a light display during United Front Exercise II that tested U.S. and Israel first responders in Bloomington, Ind., Wednesday, June 12, 2013. Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Jeff Lowry

About the Guardsman

The Adjutant General

Maj. Gen. R. Martin Umbarger

Public Affairs Officer

Lt. Col. Cathy Van Bree

Editor

Sgt. 1st Class Jeff Lowry

Layout and Design

Sgt. 1st Class Jeff Lowry

Print Officer

Lt. Col. Robert W. Zeigler

Journalists

Sgt. 1st Class Tien Do

Sgt. 1st Class Jeff Lowry

Sgt. 1st Class Matt Scotten

Sgt. 1st Class Aaron Tinsley

Staff Sgt. Les Newport

Contributing Writers and Staff

State Public Affairs Office

120th Public Affairs Detachment

Camp Atterbury Joint Maneuver Training Center

Muscatatuck Urban Training Center

122nd Fighter Wing

181st Intelligence Wing

38th Infantry Division

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If you have information to contribute to the *Indiana Guardsman*, please contact the editor by calling 1-800-237-2850 ext 3222 or emailing Sgt. 1st Class Jeff Lowry at jeffrey.m.lowry.mil@mail.mil

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Message from The Adjutant General ...

Diversity and Change

The Indiana National Guard continues to be in transition from wartime to peacetime. Our missions are changing, but, we have a renewed focus in readiness at the individual and collective levels.

I want to thank all Soldiers and Airmen for their tremendous efforts in improving our readiness across the board. This is a difficult task and one that is not as exciting as preparing to deploy half a world away, but is critical to our future force structure.

Another change in the Indiana National Guard that I am very proud of is our continued emphasis on diversity. We have reached new milestones in the last few months, as we've promoted Brig. Gen. Wayne Black and Chief Warrant Officer 5 Elizabeth Keene. I am proud of them, their years of dedicated service and what they have individually accomplished. But, being a diverse organiza-

tion goes far beyond promotions.

The Indiana National Guard is comprised of traditional Guardsmen, active Guard and Reserve Soldiers and Airmen, state employees, federal technicians and volunteers. We are also an ethnically diverse organization: Caucasians, African-Americans, Asian-Americans, Hispanics and many others. With the repeal of "don't ask, don't tell," we can now be diverse in regards to sexual orientation.

This diversity is a necessity and makes us stronger. The sum is greater than our individual parts. Our mission success depends on the diversity of the Indiana National Guard throughout our ranks and our employees.

In January, Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta removed the nearly 20-year ban on women serving in combat arms. This gender diversity will strengthen our mission capability by

providing more resources to achieve the best readiness possible while providing more opportunities to more Soldiers. I expect all leaders, at all levels, to encourage and implement diversity. This diversity will allow us to maximize our capabilities as an organization.

I am so very pleased that the furloughs have been ultimately reduced from 11 to six days. My thoughts and prayers go out our technician employees and their families for all the stressors they endured during this challenging time. I apologize for what our nation has put you through. Technicians are critical to our mission success and readiness. I continue to take every opportunity I can to ensure our senior leaders of the Army and Air Force, as well as our elected officials, understand the impact this has caused. Again, my sincerest apologies for what you have had to endure.



Photo by Staff Sgt. James Bowie

Indiana's Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. R. Martin Umbarger, speaks to 76th Infantry Brigade Combat Team staff at Camp Atterbury, Ind., June 10, 2013. Umbarger reminded 76th Soldiers of the great work they were doing, the challenges ahead and how to address those challenges.

Guardsmen Get Swoll



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Matt Scotten

Trainer Abi Grove helps Indiana National Guard Staff Sgt. Kyle Leonard, left, 713th Engineer Company, perform an air squat with correct form.

Soldiers, Airmen stay physically fit

By Sgt. 1st Class Matt Scotten
Indiana National Guard Public Affairs

Eleven Soldiers from various units within the Indiana National Guard gathered at the CrossFit Gym in Carmel, Ind., in March to receive Level One certification from CrossFit trainers.

The certification, offered free of charge to the Indiana National Guard, will give the Soldiers new skills and knowledge to bring back to their units in order to help raise the level of physical readiness.

“The type of fitness that military people are looking for is general physical preparedness. They’re not specialized athletes that have one goal in mind,” said Joe Westerlin, a CrossFit Level One Head Trainer.

“The athlete in any given sport knows exactly what they have to be ready for, but the Soldier doesn’t,” said Westerlin. “Our program prepares you for the

unknown. That’s the premise, and that’s why it has been so popular in the military across the board.”

Staff Sgt. Michael Miller, training noncommissioned officer with Company C, 2nd Battalion, 152nd Cavalry, Long Range Surveillance in Seymour, Ind., has been practicing CrossFit with his fellow Soldiers, and he said he was excited to be able to get his certification as a CrossFit trainer so he can bring more knowledge about the program to his unit.

“This is actually really important to me. I’ve been trying to stay in good shape for the better part of the last 15 years,” said Miller. “I just want to learn as much as

“The type of fitness that military people are looking for is general physical preparedness.”

— Joe Westerlin

I can so I can take it home and pass this knowledge on to my guys.”

Staff Sgt. Johnathan England, training noncommissioned officer with the 38th Infantry Division, had never participated in CrossFit training and was excited to have the opportunity to come and learn.

“The ultimate goal is to help Soldiers improve their state of physical readiness, and I’m excited to come here and learn things that are not only new to me, but that can be passed on to benefit other Soldiers as well,” said England.

CrossFit holds seminars for military members worldwide, and works with branches of the military to help U.S. fighting forces find new ways to achieve fitness and physical readiness.

“We are strong, strong supporters of the U.S. armed forces and all of our allies,” said Westerlin. “We really believe this program can benefit anyone in uniform so we work hand-in-hand and do as much as possible for service members.”

Soldiers compete to be Indiana's best

By Sgt. Cassandra Monroe
120th Public Affairs Detachment

Sixteen Indiana National Guard Soldiers braved the winter-like weather in March while competing in the Indiana Soldier and Noncommissioned Officer of the Year competition.

The competition consisted of eight junior enlisted Soldiers and eight noncommissioned officers fighting for the title of Soldier and NCO of the year.

"Each brigade-level unit in the state provides their own Soldier and NCO of the year competition, and they send their best and brightest," said Sgt. Maj. Tyson Johnston, Mooresville, Ind., 81st Troop Command operations sergeant major.

Soldiers competed in various tasks graded by sergeants major from around the state. The Soldiers kicked off the competition by taking the Army Physical Fitness Test, which led straight into the M9 pistol and M4 carbine qualifications. After a lunch break, the Soldiers faced an afternoon of boards, oral questions that tested the Soldiers' military knowledge.

The second day of the competition started with the obstacle course and Army warrior tasks, followed by an afternoon and evening of land navigation. The final day of the competition consisted of a written exam and a 10-mile march, which had to be completed in two and a half hours or less.

The competition is an evaluation of Soldiers and NCOs to gauge their intelligence, their physical strength, their adaptability and their intestinal fortitude, said Johnston. The graders test them in many ways to see how far they can go under stress and under pressure, to see how they react and respond, because that relates to how they respond in combat.

The winners of the competition were announced during an awards ceremony after the final exams.

Spc. Justin McCloskey, an infantryman with Company B, 2nd Battalion, 151st Infantry Regiment and a Logansport, Ind. native, won the title of Indiana's Soldier of the Year. Staff Sgt. Adam Sanford, a forward observer with the battalion's headquarters company, and a Battle Ground, Ind. native, won the title of Indiana's NCO of the Year.

Sanford said he felt the expectation



to put his battalion on top, and the competition is about reactions and adjustments.

"I'm a competition-minded person, and I like competing in all levels. It's all on how your body reacts to certain things, you just have to adjust," said Sanford, who's competed in other events like Best Ranger Competition and Tough Mudder, a 10- to 12-mile obstacle course designed by British Special Forces.

McCloskey said his goal for the competition was to see himself improve as a Soldier.

"I came in this not necessarily wanting to win but to be able to represent my company well," he said.

"This is the first time I've competed against the best in the state, so it was exciting to compete against extremely talented Soldiers. My first and foremost goal was to grow as a Soldier, both physically and mentally. I believe that I accomplished that."

Photo by Sgt. Cassandra Monroe

Staff Sgt. Eric Mikaska, an infantry instructor at the 138th Regional Training Institute, walks a plank with a 55-gallon drum on his back at a Camp Atterbury during Indiana's Soldier, NCO of the Year competition.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Les Newport

Sustainers honored on IndyCar

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

Soldiers of the Indiana National Guard's 38th Sustainment Brigade were represented during the 2013 Indianapolis 500, known as "the greatest spectacle in racing."

A decal of their unit patch was placed onto the National Guard sponsored car in the Panther Racing team garage at Indianapolis Motor Speedway, May 23. Indiana's Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. R. Martin Umbarger, and the number 4 IndyCar owner, John Barnes, joined together to attach the patch to the vehicle.

Annually, since the National Guard has sponsored the Panther Racing team, the team has placed a decal of a deployed unit onto their vehicle as a tribute to those serving overseas during the Indianapolis 500 race.

For some Hoosiers, like Staff Sgt. Camille Clay, from Gary, Ind., the weekend is also more than just a race. For her, Memorial Day weekend is a solemn time, in remembrance of loved ones and embracing her own military traditions.

"I've always honored my grandfather, who served in Vietnam and my father who served in Desert Storm," said Clay. "Now, as I have gotten older and more mature in my military career, I have had friends that gave their lives to grant our



Courtesy photo

The 2008 Panther Racing car sporting the 76th Infantry Brigade Combat Team patch.

freedom. And that means so much more to me as a veteran."

"I take pride in serving with the 38th Sustainment Brigade and representing the state of Indiana," said Clay. "The decal will portray to the world that even though we are busy with our mission in Kuwait, the unit is still supported back home."

Spc. Benjamin Wood, from South Bend, Ind., said this symbolism is important to him as a Soldier and veteran during the Memorial Day holiday.

"There's a great deal of pride that goes along being represented on the car in the world's most watched race," said Wood. "As a Soldier, Memorial Day means to honor my brothers and sisters in arms that have died fighting for freedom. As a veteran, it means to honor those soldiers who have died fighting for the same cause that I fight for. The month of May makes me proud to say I'm a Soldier in the greatest state with so much history."

Patches

Indiana organizations honored by Panther Racing during Indy 500s.

2008 – 76th Infantry Brigade



2009 – 38th Infantry Division



2010 – 38th Infantry Division



2011 – 81st Troop Command



2012 – Fallen Hoosier Mem.



2013 – 38th Sust. Brigade



939th hones MP skills

By Spc. Andrew S. Johnson
939th Military Police Detachment
Unit Public Affairs Representative

Soldiers from the 939th Military Police Detachment received training on non-traditional, less-than-lethal weapons and crowd-control operations during the unit's annual training at Camp Atterbury, Ind., in April.

"The course was fun, effective and it was great getting familiarized with new weapon systems. I appreciate First Army's dedication in training us on the use of these weapons and taking time out of their schedule to work with us on our annual training," said Spc. Andrew Westberry, a military police investigator from Merrillville, Ind.

Along with less-than-lethal weapons training, the 939th Soldiers also trained in more traditional military police areas: handcuffing techniques, M9 pistol qualifications, collapsible baton and pepper spray introduction.

Capt. Justin Roman, 939th MP Detachment commander, from South Whitley, Ind., said the goal of this training period was "to be familiar with the operation and employment of the weapon systems and receive training on the levels of escalation of force that all military policeman must employ within an instant."

The military police Soldiers also refined their unarmed self-defense techniques in a classroom environment at 25 percent speed. The Soldiers learned throws, joint manipulation and pressure point strikes.

"I learned that I don't have to be the strongest to gain the upper hand in a fight. The instructors did a great job of explaining each technique. I really enjoyed this class and feel more confident I can defend myself now," said Pfc. Megan Moore, a military police investigator from



Soldiers with the 939th Military Police Detachment form a phalanx during riot control training.

Nashville, Ind.

During another annual training day, the MPs honed their skills in the areas of traffic stops and field sobriety tests. Some of the Soldiers had never worked the road before and therefore had never completed a real traffic stop.

"It's a good experience to be able to get our skill set down here under a controlled environment, because I'd rather make mistakes here than during a real traffic stop where it could turn deadly," said Pfc. Allison Cook, a traffic accident investigator from Lafayette, Ind.

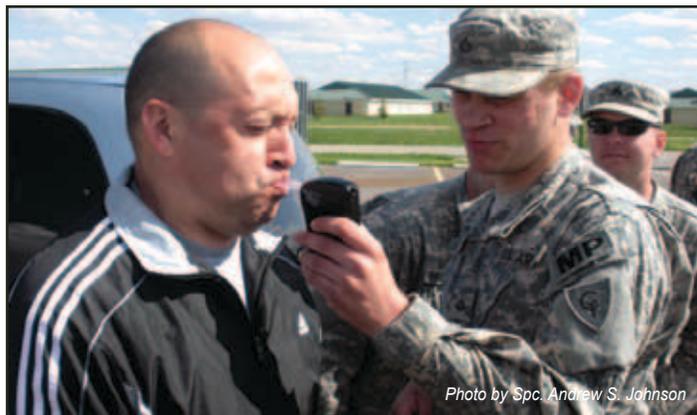
Aided by Staff Sgt. Robert Garcia, a desk operations sergeant from Versailles, Ind., who is also an Indiana State Trooper, the MPs took part in field sobriety test training. Garcia, using his

civilian acquired skills, taught his fellow Guardsmen.

Garcia used his son Alex as a controlled sober test subject. Alex was able to pass the sobriety test with little problems. Garcia consumed four beers over the course of an hour and fifteen minutes, and then several 939th Soldiers administered the test to him so they could see the affect alcohol has over time on a body.

After 30 minutes from the time Garcia quit drinking, he barely registered on a breath analyzer, showing only a .05, which is below the Indiana state limit of .08. But after 30 more minutes the alcohol took hold, and he began having more difficulties performing the tasks asked of him and then registered a .065 showing that over time alcohol continues to work.

It's scenario-based training such as this that makes the soldiers of the 939th Military Police Detachment stronger and ready to perform, said Roman, the unit's commander. With competent instructors, willing students and the understanding of the mission at hand the 939th can continue to look forward to producing some of the best Soldiers in the Indiana National Guard.



Pfc Christopher Galliher, right, administers a portable breath test to State Trooper and Indiana Army National Guard Staff Sgt. Robert Garcia.

Double DUTY



Indiana State Police officers form a stack at a doorway during training to clear

National Guard Soldiers train to

By Sgt. 1st Class Brad Staggs,
Atterbury-Muscatatuck Public Affairs

Only one percent of Americans choose a life in the military. There are only 1,300 Indiana State Police officers.

For three new trooper recruits, leading that double life puts them in a very elite club.

Dustin Zehnder, Walter Butt, and Tyson Waldron are all members of the Indiana National Guard who are attending the Indiana State Police Academy for a total of 24 weeks in order to become part of that elite group - Indiana State Police Troopers who also wear a military uniform. At Muscatatuck Urban Training Center, near Butlerville, Ind., the class took part in the Quickening, a 72-hour, field-training exercise that serves as a capstone event for state police recruits.

"It puts all of their training into practical use in a field environment as if they were actually out working in a solo patrol aspect," said Indiana State Police Capt. Bob Burke, Area V commander. "They ride with a field training officer during this exercise, are evaluated on their performance and basically provided feedback on how they performed."

Burke is familiar with the feeling

of leading the double life. He is also known as Col. Robert Burke, 76th Infantry Brigade Combat Team deputy commander. And it was Burke who planted the patrolman seed when he and Zehnder deployed with the 76th Brigade in 2008. They talked a lot then about the state police.

"He had nothing but great things to say about it, said it is a great organization and that it very closely resembled the military in rank structure," Zehnder said.

Zehnder, a staff sergeant with the 138th Regional Training Institute at Camp Atterbury, was also drawn in by the chance to work with the state police's specialty teams. He said the opportunities for advancement really appealed to him as well.

The reoccurring theme among all three recruits, however, was discipline. All attributed it to their military training and lifestyle. Butt, the oldest of the three at 38, called it one of the reasons he decided to become a state policeman.

"The discipline is the big thing. I like discipline and order," said Butt, a sergeant first class and platoon leader with the brigade's Company C, 1st Battalion 293rd Infantry Regiment in Fort Wayne, Ind. "When you look at a state trooper on the side of the road, his demeanor and the way he carries

himself just exudes confidence and professionalism."

Burke agrees with the trooper recruits and said discipline is an important characteristic the state police look for in new troopers.

"The primary reason is that when they graduate and complete their 15-week field training program, they are going to be on solo patrol," Burke said. "This will be a huge adjustment for them after a lengthy academy and field-training experience. Now they have to go out and perform on their own. Having a strong self-discipline will help them accomplish their day-to-day tasks and assignments with more ease than someone who is not disciplined."

Waldron, 29, will be a trooper in District 16, Peru, Ind., after he graduates from the academy. Being a trooper is something he's dreamed about since seeing his oldest brother in a police uniform.

"Ever since I saw him walk through that door when I was younger with his police uniform on, I said that's something I want to do," Waldron said. "I'm not trying to say I'm going above and beyond him, but I feel like I joined an elite group."

Waldron knows something about being part of an elite group. The Ohio



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Brad Staggs

r a room at Muscatutuck Urban Training Center.



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Brad Staggs

Indiana State Police officers form a phalanx during riot control training at Muscatutuck Urban Training Center.

be state troopers

native from Defiance became a sniper with the 293rd Infantry Regiment and has now become part of a very small number of people who wear both uniforms.

“The primary thing that a Soldier brings to ISP is experience,” Burke said about Soldiers joining the state police ranks. “They bring discipline, maturity and an overall dedication to serving the public and citizens of this state.”

During the Quickening, that maturity and discipline was put to the test. Trooper recruits were put to the test with a never-ending series of law enforcement events that ranged from a routine traffic stop to domestic calls to chasing suspects. Zehnder said breaks were few and far between.

“You might have a 2-hour break, tops, in between calls, if you’re lucky,” Zehnder explained. “It’s a lot of doing reports and making sure your stuff’s ready for the next call. It was fast-paced, good, scenario-based training.”

Zehnder’s fellow recruits agreed. “The Quickening was an experience, a lot of tough, realistic training,” said Butt. “It lets you know real quick what’s out there

and how easily you could screw up just by overlooking something small and minute that could get you killed.”

Waldron credited his military training and experience with making it just a little easier than it otherwise might have been.

“There were certain scenarios when you walk in and you say ‘I’ve handled this,’” Waldron said. “Maybe it’s instilled in your brain, and I never really thought ‘hey, I learned this in the military.’ It just clicked in my head that I’ve done this before, I know what to do. It’s like a natural instinct.”

Burke said he is happy with what he sees in military veterans who become Indiana State Troopers. He believes service members have the necessary characteristics that they are looking for in ISP Troopers.

“Their prior military experience significantly helps them adjust to the rigorous requirements placed upon them in this type of career with our agency,” Burke said.

“All three of these guys have performed very well during their time in the academy and represent the Indiana National Guard extremely well,” said Burke.

76th, 181st partner in



Photo by Ashley Roy

Spc. Benjamin Germaine, 76th Special Troops Battalion, grounds an RQ-7 Shadow unmanned aerial system during Exercise Checkered Flag at Camp Atterbury, Ind. Exercise Checkered Flag is a joint training effort between the 76th STB and the 181st Intelligence Wing.



Photo by Ashley Roy

Soldiers with 76th Special Troops Battalion load an RQ-7 Shadow unmanned aerial system for launch during Exercise Checkered Flag, a joint Indiana Army and Air National Guard exercise at Camp Atterbury Ind. The RQ-7 Shadow uses a live video feed that can be used to aid in disaster response efforts.

Exercise Checkered Flag

By Ashley Roy

Atterbury-Muscatatuck Public Affairs

A lost hiker, a terrorist threat, a natural disaster destroys a small town. These scenarios can and do happen, and reducing response time while increasing effectiveness is a critical factor in many cases.

Soldiers with the 76th Special Troops Battalion, and Airmen with the 181st Intelligence Wing partnered for the first time in a joint-training effort named Exercise Checkered Flag, in March at Camp Atterbury Joint Maneuver Training Center, to do just that.

The exercise combines video feeds from RQ-7 Shadows, unmanned aerial systems, with the Air National Guard's Remote Operated Video Enhanced Receiver and Geospatial Information Interoperability Exploitation-Portable systems, which are capable of pulling live video from the unmanned aircraft and uploading it to websites accessible by first responders.

Indiana Air National Guard Capt. Christopher Brownell, weapons officer with the 181st, and Indiana Army National Guard Capt. Chris Silbaugh, the battalion's Company B commander, conceptualized the training event, which emulated Guardsmen being called up for state active duty or Title 32.

"The hope at the end of this is a collaborative effort between us and the Army Guard. A joint venture which allows us to view their video, coming through streaming live so if we have a disaster relief to where we get called out as far as the Guardsmen go, the Title 32 role, we have proven the concept that we're comfortable with each other and we know what each other brings to that scenario or situation," said Brownell.

Exercise Checkered Flag is a proof of concept training event to show that the RQ-7 Shadows can be linked to other emergency response systems in time of

need, providing real time video, a plan of action and a reduction in reaction time, said Brownell.

The 76th STB and RQ-7 Shadows are an asset to Atterbury, as demonstrated by this exercise.

The battalion's Staff Sgt. Warren Sherman said the exercise provides the benefit of working with another element and maintaining proficiency in their training, while opening the opportunity for more combined training events.

The collaboration during Checkered Flag showcases the 76th STB's ability to use the RQ-7 Shadows in partnership with other organizations and training events.

In an effort to improve these capabilities, the 181st Intelligence Wing plans on returning to Atterbury to partner with the 76th STB and the RQ-7 Shadows.



Photo by Ashley Roy

Indiana National Guard Airmen and Soldiers check for fuel leaks on an RQ-7 UAS during Checkered Flag.

The Indiana National Guard and its Shadow

Type: low- to medium-altitude, short-endurance aircraft
Cargo: electro-optical, infrared and laser designation systems
Missions: intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance

Length: 11 feet
Wingspan: 13 feet
Height: 3 feet
Weight: 308 pounds
Endurance: 5 hours
Payload: 60 pounds

The Shadow provides a brigade commander with enhanced enemy situational awareness, target acquisition capability, battle damage assessment and communications data relay.*

*all information from fmsweb.fms.army.mil website



Video still by Sgt. 1st Class Brad Staggs

Soldier reflects on weapons qualification

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

My cellphone alarm rang at 0330. That's in the morning. Zero dark thirty but pretty bright as it was the morning of the supermoon.

I had range detail. The G.I. Joes and Janes of the 38th Infantry Division needed to put steel on target, individual weapons qualification.

"Place your selector switch from safe to semi and scan your lane." That's the command from range tower for Soldiers to get ready to fire.

Besides wearing the uniform, weapons qualification is another soldiering

commonality for all Soldiers, except chaplains and K-9s. Nearly all Soldiers wear the uniform, and it doesn't matter if you're a Guardsman, reservist or active-duty Soldier. We're pretty much indistinguishable to the general public. To them we're all Soldiers. The nametape on our uniform: U.S. Army.

We are all Soldiers.

And we're all Soldiers first. Before we learn our military job specialty, we learn our basic soldiering skills at basic training. A big part of that training is rifle marksmanship.

Whether you're an administration specialist, a truck driver, a mechanic or a medic, we're all Soldiers first.

Weapons qualification is our basic skill set, and that's why it's so important. We defend our nation.

I'm no expert, nor sharpshooter, but I qualified as a marksman, 26 of 40.



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Jeff Lowry



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Jeff Lowry

Indiana Army National Guard Staff Sgt. Adam Jarrett, left, clears Sgt. Alisha Gustin's M4 carbine before her qualification attempt, Sunday, June 23, 2013. The Soldiers serve with the 38th Infantry Division's Headquarters Battalion.

Pfc. Tanner Williams, left, coaches Sgt. Leandre Harrington during individual weapons qualification at Camp Atterbury, Ind., Sunday, June 23, 2013. The Soldiers serve as drivers with Headquarters Company, 38th Infantry Division.

38th prepares for New Madrid quake

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

In October 2012, 38th Infantry Division Soldiers assumed their role for the disaster area response mission, which requires Soldiers rapidly deploying to a natural or man-made disaster.

During last year's annual training scenario, the Indiana National Guard troops responded to a nuclear explosion in Chicago. This year's scenario involves helping Indiana's southern neighbor, Kentucky, respond to a New Madrid seismic zone earthquake.

"This is for real. This could happen," said Maj. Gen. Lonnie Culver, 38th Infantry Division commander. Culver, who also hails from Kentucky, said a New Madrid fault earthquake hits about every 100 years.

According to the U.S. Geological Survey website, three New Madrid zone earthquakes hit from Dec. 16, 1811, to Feb. 7, 1812, ranging in magnitude 7.5 to 7.7. And according to the University of Memphis' Center for Earthquake Research and Information website, magnitude earthquakes from 6.0 to 6.5 will occur "within the lifetime of our children." Two occurred since 1812, one in 1845 and one in 1895.

"We're overdue. Scientists say that a major earthquake will strike within the next 20 years," said Culver.

After a seismic event, 38th Infantry Division Soldiers will support the Kentucky National Guard to protect the lives and property of the citizens of the state. The plan for the Soldiers: secure

infrastructure, provide humanitarian assistance, support local authorities, conduct base camp operations and clear key routes.

During the four-day, command-post exercise the 38th Soldiers tested their command and control techniques as well as interoperability with law enforcement and first-response organizations following a magnitude-7.7 earthquake in the New Madrid seismic zone.

"I think the biggest thing the Soldiers learned was using the technology at hand to be a better division main," said Lt. Col. Dave Vesper, who was the chief of operations for the division's main element. "It was a lot of long hours, and I appreciate the hard work they did."

During the exercise the main element Soldiers simulated basing their operation in Indianapolis while the forward element Soldiers simulated basing their operations at Wendell H. Ford Regional Training Center in western Kentucky.

The technology at hand included a computer-based command and control system known as command post of the future. That collaborative system trickled down to even the lowest ranking Soldiers.

"It was a little rocky working with it at first, now it's running smoothly," said Spc. Joshua Lyerla, a personnel CPOF operator for the division. "Now all the information is coming in a timely matter, so now we can update more quickly and keep track of personnel status reports and significant acts. We can mirror our forward element and work hand-in-hand."



Photo illustration by Master Sgt. David Elmore

Soldiers with the division's forward element conduct a shift-change brief during a command post exercise at Camp Atterbury, Ind., Thursday, June 20, 2013. The exercise tested the Soldiers' ability to respond and coordinate a disaster response mission, in this case a magnitude-7.7 earthquake.



Indiana National Guard members, Israel Home Front Command members and other local, national and international first responders conduct round-robin training in

First responders train

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

UFX II Info

Organizations

Indiana National Guard
National Guard Bureau
U.S. Marines
Israel Home Front Command
ZAKA International Rescue Unit
Indiana Task Force 1
Bloomington Fire Department
IU Emergency Management

Locations

Camp Atterbury, Ind.
Bloomington, Ind.

Buildings

Bloomington Post Office
Wrubel Computing Center
Phi Kappa Psi fraternity

American and Israeli first responders, approximately 200, descended onto Camp Atterbury, Ind., and then Bloomington's Indiana University campus to refine their search, rescue, extraction and teamwork skills during a four-day exercise at three collapsed buildings.

The United Front Exercise II brought together eight different organizations: National Guard Bureau, U.S. Marines, Israel Home Front Command, ZAKA International Rescue Unit, Indiana National Guard, Indiana Task Force 1, Bloomington Fire Department, and Indiana University Emergency Management.

"Our Soldiers and Airmen learn so much from the Israelis, who are among the best of the best in the world at search and extraction," said Maj. Gen. R. Martin Umbarger, the Indiana National Guard adjutant general. "The citizens of our state expect a quick response. This gives us an opportunity to scrimmage."

Indiana National Guard members honed their search and extraction techniques as they also tested their interoperability alongside the international, national, state, local, and university emergency response teams.

The exercise allowed all groups to learn from one another.

"We learn from this exercise a lot, about American techniques and systems," said Israel Home Front Command leader, Maj. Gen. Eyal Eizenberg. Israel's Home Front Command is similar to the U.S. National Guard.

The Indiana National Guard and the Home Front Command also worked together in 2010 for the Haiti earthquake relief efforts, and in Israel in 2012 for United Front Exercise I.

"Everybody wants to be here, it's the right attitude," said Lt. Col. Pat Thibodeau, the operations officer for the Indiana National Guard's 81st Troop Command. "It's a demanding exercise, it's hard work being in these buildings - long hours, long days. But they're engaged, they want to do it, they want to learn and they want to grow."

One of those Soldiers who saw growth and learning was Sgt. Crystal Stultz, a reconnaissance squad leader for the Indiana's National Guard's disaster response team.

"I love the community, the feeling of teamwork that we can all grow together and gain this experience," said Stultz. "So that when we're actually out there doing this for a real disaster we will feel comfortable with one another and we can rely on each other."

As the Indiana general said, scrimmaging. Getting ready to get ready.



Indiana National Guard's 81st Troop Command



Indiana National Guard's 81st Troop Command



Photo illustration by Sgt. 1st Class Jeff Lowry

Rescue and extraction techniques at Camp Atterbury, Ind., Monday, June 10, 2013. The training was part of United Front Exercise II.

for homeland defense



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Jeff Lowry

An Army National Guard Sgt. Marcus Bradley and Israel Home Front Command Sgt. 1st Class Tommy Shamir cut a piece of lumber for shoring operations at Camp Atterbury, Ind.



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Jeff Lowry

Indiana National Guardsmen and Israel Home Front Command members remove debris from a collapsed building during the United Front Exercise in Bloomington, Ind., June 11, 2013.



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Jeff Lowry

Israel Home Front Command Master Sgt. Guy Manzur rappels into a 15-foot hole to train on rope extraction techniques during the United Front Exercise, Monday, June 10, 2013, at Camp Atterbury, Ind.



Photo by Staff Sgt. James Bowie

Indiana National Guard Sgt. Logan Gehlhausen, a 1st Battalion, 151st Infantry Regiment sniper, aims at his target.

Ready, Aim, Fire!



Photo by Spc. Kory Hoke

Staff Sgt. William Doll, the Troop C, 1st Squadron, 152nd Cavalry Regiment, sniper squad leader, focuses on his target using the XM2010 sniper rifle at Camp Atterbury in June. The cavalry troops practiced with the M107, XM2010 and .50-caliber sniper rifle during annual training.



Photo by Staff Sgt. James Bowie

The powerful recoil of the M107A1 sniper rifle enshrouds Sgt. Logan Gehlhausen in a cloud of dirt and grass.

76th Soldiers sharpen sniper skills



Photo by Staff Sgt. James Bowie

The 1st Battalion, 151 Infantry Regiment's Command Sgt. Major Michael Mullins looks down range at targets. The M107A1 sniper rifle has a maximum effective range of 1,830 meters, more than a mile, but has registered a kill from 2,540 meters, approximately 1.6 miles. Snipers zero the weapon from 500 meters.



Photo by Staff Sgt. James Bowie

Sgt. Logan Gehlhausen and his spotter, Sgt. Corey Trammel, engage a target.



Photo by Staff Sgt. James Bowie

Sgt. Logan Gehlhausen spots for Command Sgt. Major Michael Mullins. Gehlhausen said spotters do most of the work, as they put shooters on target. Snipers switch between shooting and spotting.



Photo by Spc. Kory Hoke

Indiana National Guard Spc. Jonathon Starkey, Troop B, 1st Squadron, 152 Cavalry Regiment, throws a practice M67 grenade at Camp Atterbury, Ind.

76th sets sights on annual training

By Staff Sgt. James Bowie

*76th Infantry Brigade Combat Team
Public Affairs*

Annual training fell in June for many of the 76th Infantry Brigade Combat Team Soldiers this year, with next year bringing the entire brigade together at one time.

Soldiers with brigade headquarters, along with 1st Battalion, 151st Infantry Regiment, trained during the first half of June at Camp Atterbury, Ind., where they were immediately replaced by 1st Squadron, 152nd Cavalry Regiment Soldiers.

Also, during the first half of June, 1st Battalion, 163rd Field Artillery Regiment Soldiers conducted annual training at Fort Campbell, Ky, where they received a visit from Col. Ronald A. Westfall, the brigade's commander, and Command Sgt. Major James H. Martin.

The 76th Brigade Special Troops Battalion performed annual training along with brigade headquarters. The BSTB Soldiers brought their drones, known as tactical unmanned aerial systems, and set a record for flying time. They also hosted dignitaries, who came to learn more about the capabilities of the unmanned aircraft.

Troops focused on their core jobs: infantrymen honed their infantry skills, artillerymen their artillery skills. Such training was not always possible over the past 10 years, as Soldiers focused on specific missions required by overseas contingencies.

Westfall and Martin, with notebook ready, conducted "town hall meetings" with the battalions, traveling to their locations and speaking with their Soldiers.

Annual Training 2014 will see the entire brigade together, training at the same place and same time.

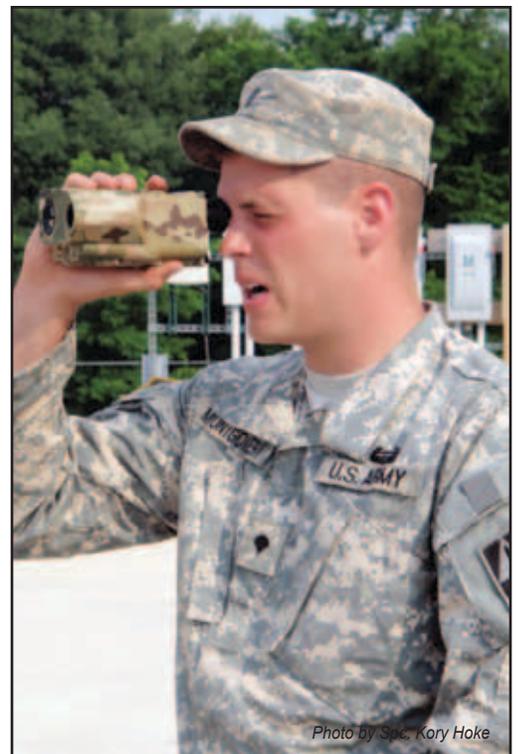


Photo by Spc. Kory Hoke

Indiana National Guard Spc. Nathan Montgomery, a Troop C, 1st Squadron, 152 Cavalry Regiment, sniper, checks out the coded spot tracker at Camp Atterbury, Ind., during the unit's annual training, June 25, 2013.

Indiana National Guard promotes Col. Wayne Black to brigadier general

By Sgt. 1st Class Aaron Tinsley
Indiana National Guard Public Affairs

The Indiana National Guard promoted Col. Wayne Black to the rank of brigadier general at the Indiana War Memorial July 13, in Indianapolis.

Black provides the Indiana National Guard with nearly 30 combined years of active and National Guard leader experience. He accepted the position of Indiana's Army assistant adjutant general. Black is Indiana's first African-American brigadier general.

"I am proud and honored to earn the rank of general," said Black. "I hope to assist and encourage other minorities and all of the Indiana National Guard Soldiers and Airmen."

Black will assist Maj. Gen. R. Martin Umbarger to lead Indiana's National Guard of almost 14,000 service members.

"While Black represents the seven



Brig. Gen. Wayne Black has his epaulets attached by Indiana's Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. R. Martin Umbarger, left, and Black's wife, Symea, during a promotion ceremony, July 13, in Indianapolis.

core Army Values; his sense of duty, loyalty and selfless service helped him achieve promotion to a general officer ... one of only seven others in the Indiana National Guard," said Umbarger.

Black's family and friends celebrated

the historic event with him.

"I am proud to be a part of it, he is a special kind of guy," said Alonzo Jefferson, Black's brother-in-law of over 20 years who flew in from Florida to attend. "I wouldn't miss it for the world."

State promotes command chief warrant officer



Chief Warrant Officer 5 Elizabeth Keene has her epaulets attached by Indiana's Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. R. Martin Umbarger, left, and a family friend, Patricia Delk, during a promotion ceremony, Friday, July 12, 2013, in Indianapolis. Keene, a Gary, Ind.-native, accepted the senior warrant officer role in January, and she joined the warrant officer corps in 1996. In 2009, Keene deployed with the Shelbyville, Ind.-based, 38th Combat Aviation Brigade to Iraq. She's garnered more than 20 awards and medals including the Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Indiana Distinguished Service Medal, and the Indiana Commendation Medal. Umbarger said the state command warrant officer's office had developed into an integral asset since its inception in 2003 and that Keene's promotion is a historic event. "Today, we're going to promote our first female to command chief warrant officer in the state of Indiana, and that's why it's a historic day," said Umbarger.

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

The Indiana National Guard promoted its state command chief to chief warrant officer 5 during a ceremony Friday, July 12, in Indianapolis.

Amid friends, family and fellow Hoosier Guardsman, Chief Warrant Officer 5 Elizabeth Keene, Indiana's first command chief warrant officer, commented on what it means to be a leader in her nearly 40-year military career.

"Be a mentor, guide your soldiers. Be a role model, someone they can look up to. Show them their potential and help them reach it," said Keene in her speech.

As the senior warrant officer in the Indiana National Guard, Keene advises the adjutant general, Maj. Gen. R. Martin Umbarger, on Army and warrant officer related issues.

Keene accepted the senior warrant officer role in January. She started her military career in 1977.



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Jeff Lowry

Sgt. Maj. Mike Lucas marshals 38th Sustainment Brigade Soldiers into formation.



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Jeff Lowry

Maj. Gen. Lonnie Culver, 38th Infantry Division commander, speaks to friends and family of 38th Sustainment Brigade Soldiers at their homecoming ceremony June 27 in Indianapolis.

Sustainers return to Hoosier state



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Jeff Lowry

Master Sgt. James Thomas, the 38th Sustainment Brigade operations sergeant, enjoys time with his family again at the unit's homecoming ceremony, Thursday, June 27, 2013, in Indianapolis.

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

Approximately 200 Indiana National Guard Soldiers with the 38th Infantry Division's sustainment brigade returned to the Hoosier state June 27 amid cheers and tears of joy at Decatur Central High School in Indianapolis.

The first wave of Soldiers deployed to Kuwait in August and a second wave joined them in January in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

During the deployment, the Soldiers assisted with the planning, development and execution of reducing the sustainment footprint for OEF by consolidating logistical activity sites, managing port and vessel operations, assisting in the process of incoming and outgoing U.S. Army forces and reducing civilian contracts.

After serving overseas the Hoosier troops were glad to be back home again in Indiana.

"I'm joyful. I'm back with my kids and we can enjoy each other's company again," said Master Sgt. James Thomas, Muncie, Ind., the brigade's operation sergeant.

The brigade Soldiers will spend the next year transitioning to their civilian lives and preparing the unit for future mobilizations.



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Jeff Lowry

Friends and family of 38th Sustainment Brigade Soldiers cheer as the troops are dismissed at the unit's homecoming ceremony, Thursday, June 27, 2013, at Decatur Central High School.



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Tina Eichenour

Staff Sgt. James Mosier, a supply noncommissioned officer, inspects rations that were secured with netting by Soldiers with the 38th Sustainment Brigade.

Crucial delivery for combat troops

By Sgt. 1st Class Tina Eichenour
38th Sustainment Brigade
Public Affairs

Throughout the night Soldiers from the 38th Sustainment Brigade at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, worked to ensure operational supplies were properly loaded for combat troops in Afghanistan.

The Soldiers who participated said the operational rations load was crucial for troops' well-being and time sensitive because of the size of the delivery.

"About 40 pallets of operational rations were packaged to be delivered to the ground forces stationed at Bagram and Kandahar, Afghanistan," said Warrant Officer Aysu Cesmebasi, food service warrant officer from Lyndhurst, N.J., assigned to the 316th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary).

Operational supplies and food items, such as crab legs packaged in dry ice and meals ready to eat, were loaded onto pallets for delivery.

Staff Sgt. James Mosier, general supply noncommissioned officer in charge of the mission, said the process can take several hours.

"We have a 48-hour window to get the packaged supplies to our fellow troops in Afghanistan," said Mosier.

Delivery trucks arrived at the supply yard, the supplies were quickly unloaded by with forklifts. The forklift operators maneuvered the pallets of supplies onto aluminum air-cargo pallets.

As the pallets were placed in a staging area, the soldiers wrapped the pallets in protective plastic and strapped down with nets to hold down the cargo. Soldiers ensured the pallets were secure enough for air travel.

"It feels good to support our battle buddies in Afghanistan and make them more comfortable in their jobs while performing our support roles," said Spc. Robert Reidenbach, 38th Special Troops Battalion operations specialist, from South Bend, Ind.



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Tina Eichenour

Soldiers with the 38th Sustainment Brigade, place protective plastic on pallets of operational supplies at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, March 8, 2013. The operational supplies pallets were packaged to be flown to ground troops in Afghanistan.

Medal of Honor

Color bearer charges enemy, wounded four times

By Maj. Allen Skinner

*Assistant Professor of Military Science
at Indiana University*

During the Civil War, the national and regimental colors were considered the rallying point of a unit, and the loss of the colors was considered a shameful act. Selection as a color bearer was a mark of distinction, but also served to make oneself the target. Also, color bearers were expected to not take cover when fired upon, and were to follow the regimental commander in attacks.

Six of Indiana's Medal of Honor recipients were color bearers, or Soldiers who risked their lives to safeguard the colors. Twelve more Hoosier Soldiers earned Medals of Honor for the capture of enemy colors in combat.

The story of Sgt. Abram J. Buckles, Muncie, Ind., serves as a good example of the hazards associated with the job of color bearer. Buckles mustered with Company E, 19th Indiana Infantry, July 29, 1861, enlisting for three years.

Once mustered, 19th Indiana left for Washington to eventually join the new Army of the Potomac. In October 1861, the 19th Indiana was grouped with the 2nd, 6th and 7th Wisconsin regiments into an infantry brigade. Gen. John Gibbon assumed command of the brigade, and he instituted a tough regimen of training backed by strict discipline in order to prepare his Soldiers for the upcoming campaigns.

After several smaller battles during the summer, Gainesville, or Brawner's Farm, served to truly expose the Hoosiers to a ghastly bloodletting. The battle opened Aug. 28, 1862, as Maj. Gen. Stonewall Jackson attempted to destroy an isolated Union troop column led by Gibbon's brigade.

After an opening exchange of artillery fire, Gibbon deployed his brigade into formation and engaged Jackson's men in a stand-up fight with regiments exchanging volleys at close range.

Despite their relative greenness, the Hoosier Soldiers stood their ground against Jackson's veteran soldiers until sundown.

Casualties on both sides were heavy, with more than 1,000 killed and wounded on each side. Pvt. Abram J. Buckles, while fighting as a rifleman, received a painful wound to his thigh. After his wounding, Buckles was briefly taken prisoner when Gibbon withdrew, but Buckles escaped and was evacuated to Washington for medical treatment.

In early September, Gibbon's brigade, with the 19th Indiana, fought credibly at South Mountain, earning the nickname of the Iron Brigade.

In mid September the 19th Indiana fought with the Iron Brigade at Antietam, taking part in the battle around Dunker Church and the Cornfield. The 19th Indiana started the battle with 200 effectives and finished the battle with 37 officers and men.

After Antietam, the Rebels withdrew to Virginia, and both sides spent the winter largely in preparing for the next round of battles.

After suffering from a series of poor commanders and disastrous battles in the spring of 1863, culminating in the Chancellorsville debacle, the Army of the Potomac was forced to pursue Gen. Robert E. Lee's army into Pennsylvania.

After a series of exhausting marches in sweltering heat, elements of both armies collided near Gettysburg, Pa.

On July 1, the Soldiers of the Iron Brigade woke before dawn and were soon marching toward Gettysburg to reinforce Federal cavalry fighting a delaying action to hold the key terrain south of town.

By then Buckles, recovered from his wounds, had wiggled his way into the color guard with the hope of eventually carrying the colors in battle: "I had always had a great anxiety to carry the flag of my regiment, and did not know how I could get the place of the color-bearer, unless by serving in the guard until I could see a proper chance to pick the flag up, should the color bearer be killed or wounded."

Buckles soon had his chance when the first Rebel volley brought down the color bearer with a wound to the hip. Buckles picked up the flag, and led the regiment in an advance that cleared the Rebels from McPherson's Ridge. In doing so the Iron Brigade overlapped the flank of Archer's Brigade, which left the Rebel colors unprotected.

Led by Buckles, the 19th Indiana spearheaded a wild charge into the Rebel flank, which not only captured most of Archer's command, including several stands of colors, but delayed the Rebel advance.

Success was only temporary, as a



A U.S. Army Civil War Medal of Honor

See **BUCKLES**, page 26

Indiana National Guard to help exceptional families

What Lt. Col. Marcus Thomas knows, is that at any given time, some Indiana National Guard Families have a member with special needs. What he does not know, is the number of those family members, who they are and the nature of their needs. As director of the Indiana National Guard Family Programs, he is on a mission to discover the answers with the help of the Family Programs staff.

“The Department of Defense identifies family members with special needs as Exceptional Family Members,” said Thomas. “And we want to be in the business of making sure they are included in our State Family Program’s plans.”

The U.S. Army estimates the number of Exceptional Family members, a dependent in need of special services, to average at approximately 16 percent. Thomas thinks the percentage is easily that high in the National Guard, or even higher.

“National Guard members tend to have larger families, and thus more

responsibilities. The responsibility of caring for a dependent parent, or brother or sister may rest with a Soldier or Airman, simply because they are close to home,” said Thomas.

Active-duty Soldiers, including active-duty National Guard Soldiers, have a mandatory obligation to identify and enroll dependents with special needs in the Exceptional Family Member Program.

The process for full-timers: provide a qualified health-care provider with form DD Form 2792, have the form filled out by the health-care provider, then submit the form to the appropriate personnel office.

The information will enable military personnel to match the special medical needs of family members against the availability of medical services.

The identify and enroll process has been mandatory since the early 1980s for active-duty personnel, but now the National Guard would like to make enrollment into a similar program avail-

able to traditional reserve-component families as well. The purpose is not to provide appropriately serviced duty stations, but to build a community of families with Exceptional Family members within the National Guard to facilitate a process to determine what services are needed and can be provided.

“We don’t know what to provide, or how to provide it, if we don’t know the need,” said Thomas. “So this is a start.

Indiana National Guard Family Programs has hosted EFMP forums and resource fairs this spring, and two more are planned for August in Fort Wayne, Ind., and September in Evansville, Ind. But families do not have to wait to identify Exceptional Family Members and enroll them in the program. Interested families can contact a family assistance coordinator at any of the 16 family assistance center located around the state, or visit the Indiana State Family Programs page on the Indiana National Guard website at www.in.ng.mil.

Reflecting: Two years after the repeal of DADT

By Sgt. 1st Class Matt Scotten
Indiana National Guard Public Affairs

According to a study published by the University of California, Los Angeles on Sept. 20, 2012, “The repeal of [Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell] has had no overall negative impact on military readiness or its component dimensions, including cohesion, recruitment, retention, assaults, harassment or morale.”

Anyone surprised? I’m not. Don’t Ask Don’t Tell never meant that gays could not serve in the military. It just meant we weren’t allowed to ask them if they were gay and they weren’t allowed to tell us. In retrospect, the previous policy was a little bit ridiculous. The policy had the U.S. military acting much like an ostrich with its head in the sand, believing that if we don’t specifically know of any gays in their units, then they must not exist.

One could speculate there have been gays in the military for as long as there have been military organizations. I was

unconcerned about it before, and I am just as unconcerned about gays in the military now.

My observations are that if a Soldier can do the job, then their sexual orientation doesn’t matter anymore than their zodiac sign. Soldiers need to be able to perform their duties efficiently. They need to maintain a state of mental, emotional and physical readiness so they can go out and perform the missions assigned to their unit. They need to stay physically fit so that if needed, they can carry me out of trouble if I am injured.

They need only to be good Soldiers. None of these requirements have anything to do with being gay or straight. It just doesn’t matter.

Since the repeal, I have not heard of any harassment issues involving gay Soldiers. I have not witnessed a single cohesion issue involving gay Soldiers since the repeal, either. My conclusion can only be that gays openly serving in the military just isn’t that big a deal.

There are 30 other countries, to include almost all NATO countries, which already allow gays to openly serve within their ranks.

A few of the more notable countries that still do not allow gays in the military are Cuba, Mexico, Iran, North Korea, Pakistan and Syria.

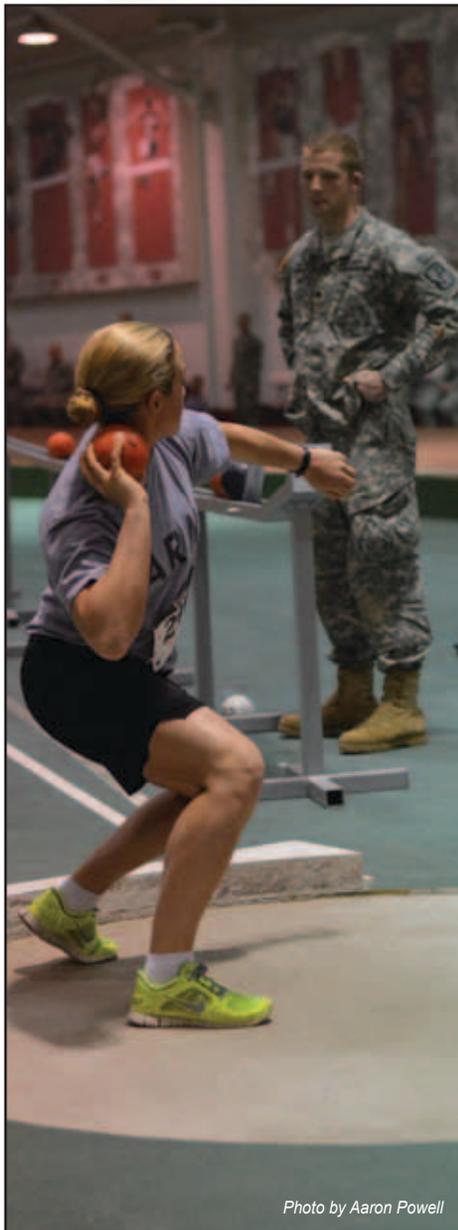
Now that American military social culture is catching up with our European counterparts, the fact that gay service members can now serve openly in the American military has had so little impact on our military operations that UCLA wrote a whole research paper on how much it just doesn’t matter, a copy of which can be found at http://www.palmcenter.org/files/One%20Year%20Out_0.pdf.

It has been nearly two years since DADT was repealed. I would venture a guess the majority of America’s service members have forgotten about it completely, illustrating how little it really matters.



Sgt. Maj. Frank Zindel, German Army liaison staff, awards Central State University Reserve Officers' Training Corps cadets with the German Armed Forces Badge for Military Proficiency.

Soldiers compete for German military proficiency badge



A Reserve Officers' Training Corps cadet takes aim in the shot put, part of the German Armed Forces Badge for Military Proficiency Competition, Feb. 23, 2013 at Indiana University Gladstein Fieldhouse, Bloomington, Ind.

By Ashley Roy

Atterbury-Muscatatuck Public Affairs

Overhead lights gleam off bronze, silver and gold badges as Sgt. Maj. Frank Zindel, German Army liaison staff, Fort Benning, Ga., firmly pins Reserve Officers' Training Corps cadets and National Guardsmen with the highly sought after German Armed Forces Badge for Military Proficiency in February at Camp Atterbury Joint Maneuver Training Center.

Given by the Bundeswehr, the armed forces of the Federal Republic of Germany, the badge is one of the few foreign awards a U.S. Soldier can earn.

More than 315 ROTC cadets and National Guardsmen from more than 20 universities and five states converged on Atterbury and Indiana University to compete for the right to wear the badge.

The German Army began awarding the badge in 1971 to test all soldiers from the German armed forces in their military proficiency.

"It's an event to show the physical and mental strength, and it's open to all foreign armies," said Zindel.

Soldiers underwent a 200-meter swim, sprint, 3k or 5k run, first aid test, pistol competition, shot put, stone throw, high jump, long jump and road march to qualify.

Lt. Col. Michael Ogden, professor of military science and director of the Army ROTC at Indiana University, believes the road march is the most difficult event because it comes at the end of the third day, and requires walking a

long distance with a lot of weight.

"I imagine that it's quite a challenge to hang in there because if you fail any event along the way, you can't proceed and progress to the subsequent events," said Ogden.

This was Indiana University ROTC's seventh year hosting the event for the Midwest area.

Cadet Milo Justin Estrello, University of Southern Indiana ROTC, said his team trained hard for the competition.

"As soon as the semester started our command sergeant major at the University of Southern Indiana brought our team together, and every morning we'd start off with a 5k run and after that we'd do the 200-meter sprint."

The team underwent training for track and field events as well.

The competition benefits Soldiers by giving them something to do besides their usual physical training and it is very complex, said Zindel.

The badge is about seeing how Soldiers measure up to a NATO ally, and recognizing that they have the scholastic, athletic and leadership abilities that the American people expect Army officers to possess, said Ogden.

"The German Armed Forces Proficiency Badge tryout is definitely one of the most challenging things that I've ever undertaken," said Estrello. "The competition helped me as a Soldier because it forces you to pay attention to detail and it inspires you to want to be successful in whatever endeavor that you undertake."

Veterans courts convene in Indiana

By Staff Sgt. Les Newport

Indiana National Guard Public Affairs

Despite the lack of federal funding, many local court systems have taken on the financial expense of developing local veterans courts.

The courts would task parole offices with supervising mandated treatment and provide mentors to offenders.

Judges, from local to state supreme justices, have advocated for the special courts. Judge Maria Granger of Floyd County presides over the veterans court in New Albany, Ind. Her stepson was killed in action, and she has professional connections to the military. She has been working for more than a year with local veteran service organizations to staunch the steady flow of veterans cycling through the criminal legal system.

"It's not easy; it's strict and intense. They have to want that assistance," said Granger.

To keep participants focused, Granger recruited a corps of volunteer mentors, who are veterans themselves.

"They are a critical piece, a friend, a coach, someone to bring things into perspective. They are very dedicated, the epitome of no veteran left behind," said Granger.

Steve Mennemeyer, a family programs specialist for the Indiana National Guard, is one of seven mentors volunteering for the court. He said the mentors act as guides, sometimes translators for the participants, who often exhibit unexpected behaviors.

"They're embarrassed and don't respond," said Mennemeyer. "Other veterans can understand that. They want to quietly take their punishment and move on. But that doesn't fix anything."

The National Association of Drug Court Professionals provides training for judges and court personnel so they have a better understanding of some of the issues that land veterans in court, and resources available to help them recover.

Christopher Deutsch, director of communications for the association, said although available evidence is primarily



Judge David Certo of the Indianapolis Community Court plans to establish a veterans court by the end of 2013. Local municipalities across the country are establishing the courts to leverage resources to help deal with veteran offenders and reduce recidivism rates.

anecdotal; there is reason to believe veterans courts can replicate the successes of other treatment courts.

"The nation's first veterans court in Buffalo, N.Y., has had 81 participants without a single case of a repeat offender," said Deutsch. "The biggest challenge we face is not knowing how many veterans appear in courts. It's not something anyone has been following."

Marion County Judge David Certo plans to establish a veterans court in Indianapolis. Along with other agencies, he secured a grant for an 11-member team to visit Buffalo for training.

"This does two things," said Certo. "We will all get the same training, and we not only find out what's possible, but also what will work so we can build on it from there."

The team will consist of professionals from Veterans Affairs, the prosecuting attorney's office, the public defender's office, mental health field as well as a coordinator for volunteer mentors.

Certo envisions the mentors as an important key to a successful program.

"They will likely have experience with military, experience with things going wrong in their lives and experience get-

ting things back on track," said Certo.

The prevailing shared opinion of most everyone involved with veterans courts is the significance of volunteer mentors and the need for more of them.

Mennemeyer said veterans with even a slight interest in volunteering should attend a veterans court to see for themselves.

"The small time they may spend pays beyond measure," said Granger.

Other counties have committed to providing extended services to veterans.

A U.S. congressional bill to provide federal funding for veterans courts across the country was sent back to committee in December 2012. Approximately \$150 million would support special courts for veterans over the next six years. An additional \$60 million would establish a judicial task force and resource center for drug courts.

The proposed legislation is another in a line of unsuccessful bills authored to keep veterans out of over-crowded prisons with the expectation that rehabilitation is a viable option for offenders.

For now, local and state courts will determine, by way of local funding, if veterans receive deferential treatment.

Indiana National Guard gets ACOE gold

The Indiana National Guard won third place gold, finishing top four in the nation, after 10 years of participation in the Army Communities of Excellence program.

“This achievement represents a huge paradigm shift in way the Indiana National Guard does business,” said Indiana Air National Guard Lt. Col. J.R. Newman, with Indiana’s office for strategic initiatives and business transformation. “For almost eight years the Indiana National Guard wrote a strategic plan and put it on a shelf. There was no ‘buy in’ to the program because no one could see the value. That is not the case anymore.”

The ACOE program uses the Malcolm Baldrige Criteria for Performance Excellence. The Baldrige criterion asks all the right questions for an organization to assess their performance and begin its journey towards excellence. Admitting an organization is not perfect and looking for improvement opportunities is the beginning of process improvement.

Newman said another paradigm shift was in strategic planning, which has now become a part of the Indiana National Guard’s day-to-day operations.

“After 10 years of strategic planning the Indiana National Guard finally achieve organizational maturity,” said Newman. “The strategic plan is a living, breathing document with objective action plans and performance metrics. The performance metrics were a critical short fall in the previous year’s ACOE submissions.”

Brig. Gen. Brian Copes, director of the joint staff, saw the value of tracking performance metrics.

“We have to track the right metrics and must understand the science and the art of metrics. The metrics show a data point and that is the science, but the art is asking why and looking for the root cause.”

Copes also saw value in the ACOE program.

“ACOE is not about winning but rather about organizational improvement with a focus on increased readiness, reduced cycle times, and saving taxpayer’s dollars,” said Copes. “In an era of fiscal cliffs, sequestration, dwindling resources, and potential force reductions, solid strategic planning, process improvement and participation in ACOE is more important now than ever.”

Buckles from page 22

Rebel counterattack flanked the Federal position, exposing the 19th Indiana to enfilade fire. Outnumbered, the Federals conducted a fighting withdrawal, repeatedly reforming and firing into the advancing Rebel mass. During the withdrawal, a Minié bullet shattered Buckles’ arm. Despite his wound, Buckle’s held the colors until the 19th Indiana withdrew to a defensible position.

In May 1864, the Federals crossed the Rapidan River that began the Wilderness campaign, which caused more than 28,000 casualties. During that bloody May in Virginia, more than 23 Union soldiers earned the Medal of Honor, including Buckles, who was now a sergeant.

Buckles, even after his wounding at Gettysburg, insisted on carrying the regimental colors – despite the fact that he was still pulling bone fragments from his

scarred arm.

On May 5, contact between skirmishers near the Orange Turnpike turned into a pitched battle. The 19th Indiana easily pushed a Rebel skirmish line back only to collide with a much stronger Rebel brigade. Rather than retreat, color sergeant Abram Buckles charged the Rebel line, which precipitated a wild assault that crashed through one enemy brigade, then drove the renowned Stonewall Brigade back more than a mile. Eventually the Rebels recovered and drove the 19th Indiana back to their jumping off point.

Despite their heavy losses, the 19th Indiana spoiled a Rebel attack on the vulnerable Federal flank. For his impetuous rush at the enemy, Buckles suffered a bullet shot clean through his chest. Despite the wound, Buckles was able to keep the colors from falling until another

Soldier took the flag, and managed to withdraw with his regiment back to friendly lines.

Buckles recovered from the bullet wound and re-joined the regiment in time to re-enlist. In August 1864, Soldiers who elected not to re-enlist left the regiment for home, with the remainder of the 19th Indiana, including Buckles, consolidated with the under strength 20th Indiana.

Buckles received a second lieutenant’s commission in recognition of his battlefield bravery, and he was attached to Company F.

In February 1865, Lt. Gen. Ulysses S. Grant launched a cavalry raid on the Rebel supply trains, supported by a diversionary infantry assault – during which 2nd Lt. Buckles took a bullet to the thigh, which required the amputation of a leg.

After his discharge, Buck-



les returned to Indiana and briefly taught while studying for the bar exam. Buckles was admitted to the bar in 1875, and moved to California where he served as a district attorney and judge until his death in 1915.

After the war, Buckles received the Medal of Honor for his actions at the Wilderness, May 5, 1864: “Though suffering from an open wound, carried the regimental colors until again wounded.”

Indiana National Guard Soldiers overcome an obstacle as they compete in the state's 2013 Soldier and Noncommissioned Officer of the Year competition at Camp Atterbury, Ind., March 20, 2013. See story, page 5. Photo by Staff Sgt. Andrew Schnieders





Indiana National Guard Pfc. Tarence White, an infantryman with the 76th Infantry Brigade Combat Team's Company C, 1st Battalion, 151st Infantry Regiment, stays focused on the objective during a buddy team live-fire exercise at Camp Atterbury, Ind., June 2, 2013. For more on the 76th, see pages 16 - 18. Photo by Staff Sgt. James Bowie