

INDIANA GUARDSMAN

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Front cover: Airman 1st Class Deanna Lomow, left, and Master Sgt. John Ryan, right, 122nd Fighter Wing, take part in a mission oriented protective posture gear exercise to practice decontaminating pilots as they return from operating in a contaminated environment, Saturday, May 14, 2016, at the Indiana Air National Guard Base, Fort Wayne, Ind. Photo by Staff Sgt. William Hopper

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Leadership message ... Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. Courtney P. Carr

Past efforts ensure future endeavors

This is a great time in history for the warrant officer cohort within the Indiana National Guard, and I am honored to be a part of it.

As I embark on this chapter of my career and take over the duties of command chief warrant officer, I find myself surrounded by leaders with great vision, and Soldiers and Airmen with great skills. As a team we have what it takes to adapt to the changes we will face in the future in our state, our nation and throughout the world.

What I want to focus on though, is the past, what got us to the point we are today.

What got the warrant officer cohort to what it is today was the vision and hard work of the previous command chief warrant officers — from the first to the most recent — Chief Warrant Officer 5s Larry Massey, Frank Vaughn and Elizabeth Keene. They have all worked tirelessly to ensure warrant officers were trained and ready to support commanders across Indiana for any mission assigned. They worked diligently with commanders and warrant officers alike to provide the best solutions for the Indiana National Guard while still taking care of people.

Another key thing that makes the warrant officer cohort in Indiana stand out are the warrant officers themselves.

Over the years I have witnessed the cohort evolving as more and more warrant officers get involved in guiding the future of our organization. Warrant officers are taking pride in their heritage and

are realizing that we are all responsible for leaving a legacy that future generations will remember.

Lastly, the culture of our organization has shaped the Indiana warrant officer cohort into what it is today. Since I joined the military in 1982 I have seen a steady shift towards a solid core of empathy, discipline, Army values, and warrior ethos. This is true not only of warrant officers, but also of officers, noncommissioned officers, enlisted Soldiers and Airmen and civilian employees.

The Indiana National Guard as a whole is only successful because of the ethics and character of our leaders and members.

As the warrant officer cohort approaches its 100th birthday in 2018, I look forward to working with everyone to build on the efforts of the past in order to ensure a great future.

Editor's Note: Chief Warrant Officer 4 Chris Jennings officially took over for Chief Warrant Officer 5 Elizabeth Keene as the command chief warrant officer in June. Warrant officers use cohort to distinguish themselves as a subset of the officer corps.

Adjutant general signs diversity proclamation



Indiana's Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. Courtney P. Carr, displays a proclamation stating Wednesday, July 13, 2016, as the 3rd Annual Cultural Diversity Day, a day to focus on and recognize different cultures, races, ethnic backgrounds, religions and heritages that make up the Indiana National Guard, state and nation.

Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Lasima O. Packett



Indiana Army National Guard Sgt. Stephen Strebinger crosses the Jeffersonville Riverfront Bridge, Saturday, May 21, 2016 during the 22 Challenge Run.

Troops march for suicide awareness

By Sgt. Angela Denmark
381st Military Police Company
Public Affairs Representative

JEFFERSONVILLE, Ind. – Indiana National Guardsmen along with fellow Hoosiers, first responders, veterans and other military service members ran or marched in a 10-kilometer route to raise awareness for veteran suicides on Armed Forces Day, May 21.

One of those Guardsmen, Sgt. Stephen Strebinger, a 381st Military Police Company citizen-soldier, signed up for personal reasons: to honor a fellow Indiana National Guardsman, to prepare for his own deployment and to raise awareness for veteran suicides.

Strebinger said he signed on the dotted line to honor his friend and fellow military police soldier, Spc. Arronn D. Fields.

Strebinger and Fields became acquainted through working and training together at Camp Atterbury in 2010. A couple of years later they deployed together to Afghanistan as part of Task Force Guardian. Their friendship was cut short on May 21, 2012.

Terrorists struck a mounted patrol, which Fields was a part of. Fields died when he succumbed to injuries from a rocket-propelled grenade attack.

“With it being the anniversary of him being killed in action, I did what I could in memory of Fields,” said Strebinger. “The day of the ruck, it all fit together.”

Approximately a dozen other citizen-soldiers with the 381st Military Police Company, headquartered in Plymouth, Indiana, more than 230 miles away, participated in the event.

The veteran suicide awareness event, titled 22 Challenge Run, took place along the Jeffersonville Riverfront, and it garnered support among the Hoosiers who gathered along the route.

“This was an absolutely, fantastic event! The community came out and lined the roads, the local and state police did all the road patrols to keep all the participants safe and the actual turn out of participants was impressive,” said Strebinger.

He also praised his fellow Hoosier Guardsmen and local first responders who participated.



Spc. Garrison E. Kopp carries the 387th Military Police Company guidon during the 22 Challenge.

“They carried a 45-pound filled ruck sack and wore their full Army combat uniforms with boots,” said Strebinger. “A local fire department also put together a small team. We had a beautiful course along the Jeffersonville Riverfront, and most of us were able to finish within two hours.”

Trading search & rescue techniques

Guardsmen, Marines, Israelis learn from one another

By Sgt. Evan Myers
120th Public Affairs Detachment



Indiana National Guardsmen and Israeli soldiers use power tools to extricate simulated victims from a rubble pile in Lod, Israel, Tuesday, June 21, 2016. Hoosiers and Israelis trained alongside Marines, members of Indiana Task Force 1 and the Bloomington Fire Department during the United Front Exercise.

American and Israeli troops participated in a mass casualty, disaster-response exercise in Lod, Israel, in June.

The troops, assisted by Indiana Task Force 1 and Bloomington Fire Department personnel, conducted a 36-hour search and extraction exercise.

Three reinforced concrete buildings were demolished prior to the training event to provide the most realistic training environment possible to participants. Living role-players and mannequins were then placed in voids throughout the rubble pile to simulate trapped victims.

Hoosier Guardsmen and soldiers of the Israeli National Rescue Unit, a specialized branch of the Home Front Command of the Israeli Defense Forces, then combined operational efforts to search, find, extract and provide medical care to the faux victims. Rescue teams used power saws, jackhammers, cranes and specialized military equipment to cut, break, brace and remove rubble and then extract the simulated victims.

“This training exercise is an opportunity for the Home Front Command and National Guard to learn one from another and strengthen our operational coordination,” said Israel Col. Dudi Mizrahi. “Together we improve our skills to respond to crises which may arise in Israel, the U.S. and around the world.”

Participants improved their technical and operational skills to respond if or when disaster strikes. The training allows participants to share response techniques and enhance their current knowledge base.

“The reason we’re here is because the Israelis have 30 years of experience in an international search and rescue environment,” said Lt. Col. Greg Motz, battalion commander of the Indiana National Guard’s disaster-response team.

“Their philosophy is based on learning the techniques, tactics and procedures to deal with an emergency.”

Israeli Home Front Command’s rescue unit has deployed to assist in rescue operations and to provide relief efforts in countries all around the world. Many Israel soldiers who trained with U.S. forces at United Front have used their skills in real-world situations while deploying to areas like Nepal, Haiti and Kenya.

“We’re making international bonds here,” said Sgt. Keith Harris, an Indiana National Guardsman with the disaster-response team, which is comprised of soldiers and airmen, who train to respond to chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear attacks. “You never know when we’ll need to go on call for an earthquake, terrorist attack or any other disaster.”

American and Israeli officials oversaw the training to assess the effectiveness of the event and to evaluate how they can strengthen the partnership between the Indiana National Guard and the Israeli National Rescue Unit in the future.

This is the fifth training exercise between the countries in as many years. Maj. Gen. Courtney P. Carr, adjutant general of Indiana, said United Front Exercise participants continue to learn from one other on a tactical level.

“We’re making international bonds here. You never know when we’ll need to go on call for an earthquake, terrorist attack or any other disaster.”

— Sgt. Keith Harris
Indiana National Guard soldier with the disaster-response team

122nd Fighter Wing prepares for CBRN attacks



Photo by Staff Sgt. William Hopper

Indiana National Guard Airman 1st Class Deanna Lomow takes part in an exercise to practice decontaminating pilots as they return from a contaminated environment.



Photo by Staff Sgt. William Hopper

Airman 1st Class Alex Seibert, left, and Master Sgt. John Ryan, right, with the 122nd Fighter Wing equipment shop, take part in an exercise preparing pilots to operate in a contaminated environment. Pilots must be equipped with oxygen pumps to fly an aircraft in a chemical, biological, radiological or nuclear attack.



Photo by Staff Sgt. William Hopper

An A-10C Thunderbolt II from the 122nd Fighter Wing performs a sharp banking maneuver, May 13, 2016, above Indiana Air National Guard Base, Fort Wayne, Ind.



Photo by Staff Sgt. William Hopper

Staff Sgt. Trent White, 122nd Fighter Wing crew chief, checks a wing mounted pitot tube sensor for proper heating element operation.



Photo by Staff Sgt. William Hopper

Indiana Air National Guard Master Sgt. Mike Bollenbacher, a 122nd Fighter Wing flight chief, signals to an aircraft crew chief to have the pilot close wing flaps on an A-10C Thunderbolt II, Friday, May 13, 2016.

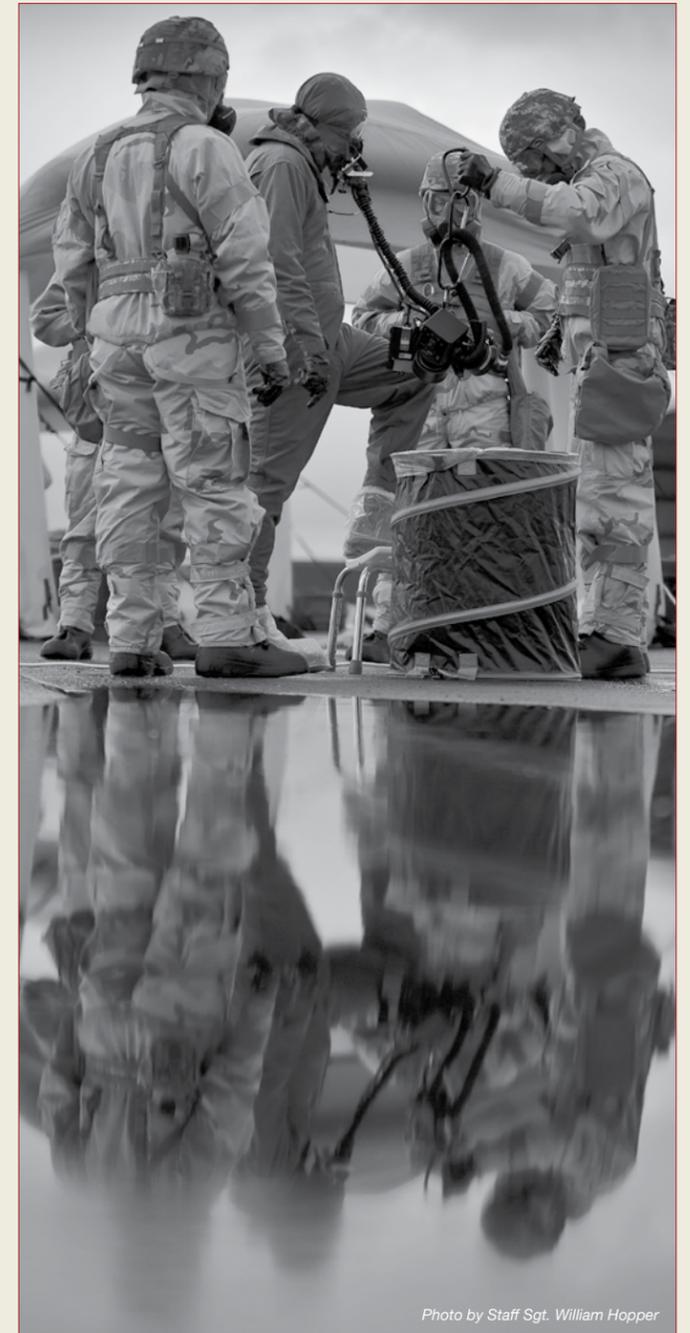


Photo by Staff Sgt. William Hopper

Indiana National Guard airmen with the 122nd Fighter Wing, take part in a mission oriented protective posture gear exercise to practice decontaminating pilots as they return from operating in a contaminated environment, Saturday, May 14, 2016, at the Indiana Air National Guard Base, Fort Wayne, Ind. The 122nd airmen took part in the four-day training exercise to ensure readiness for operating in the event of a chemical, biological, radiological or nuclear attack.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Jeremiah Runser

Indiana National Guard soldiers fire a ceremonial howitzer prior to the Fourth of July celebration at Conner Prairie in Fishers, Indiana.

Fireworks & Fourth

Hoosiers help celebrate America's independence



Photo by Staff Sgt. Daniel Bolinger



Photo by Staff Sgt. Jeremiah Runser

Indiana National Guardsmen and children watch Conner Prairie fireworks Monday, July 4, 2016. The United States celebrated its 240th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence, when the 13 colonies declared their independence from the British Empire.

The Vietnam Traveling Memorial Wall visited Kokomo over the Fourth of July weekend. Indiana Army National Guard Brig. Gen. David N. Vesper, 81st Troop Command commander, was the guest speaker for the opening ceremonies. "This wall is meant to memorialize people, the men and women. It's about the people," said Vesper during his speech.

Anakonda shows NATO strength

By Staff Sgt. Jeremiah Runser
Indiana National Guard Public Affairs

ZLOCENIEC, Poland – Six members of the Indiana National Guard worked shoulder to shoulder with their Slovak armed forces counterparts while participating in Operation Anakonda 2016.

Anakonda was the U.S. Army Europe's premier training events for the year. It was an exercise designed to strengthen military cooperation, cohesion and interoperability among participating nations.

Lt. Gen. Ben Hodges, U.S. Army Europe commander, said the exercise demonstrates American commitment to the region.

"There should be no doubt in anybody's mind about the commitment of the United States in the security and stability in Europe," said Hodges. "We have committed a large number of Soldiers and capabilities to include a significant number of our reserve-component soldiers and our National Guard soldiers from the states to participate in this exercise."

Soldiers of the Indiana National Guard's 38th Infantry Division staff represented elements of the fires, intelligence, mission command, maneuver and sustainment warfighting functions.

Lt. Col. Jens Pedersen, 38th Infantry Division logistics management officer, commented on the strategic value of the State Partnership Program.

"By being integrated into the Slovak 2nd Mechanized Infantry Brigade staff, we were able to learn from each other and share experiences and expertise," he said.

They worked in unison with the Slovak Armed Forces, through the State Partnership Program, to test and evaluate a headquarters reaction, and methods of battle pertaining to its management and execution abilities, through a virtual battlefield.

Brig. Gen. Martin Stoklasa, commander of the Slovak 2nd Mechanized Infantry Brigade, highlighted the significance of Anakonda '16 and what it means for the Indiana-Slovak partnership.

"I am very happy with how well we

combined our skills together and focused on each section. There are many moving parts throughout the exercise, and we all integrated seamlessly to accomplish one mission," said Stoklasa.

Anakonda '16 hosted more than 31,000 troops from more than 20 nations. This further validates American, allied and partner defense capabilities to deploy, mass and sustain combat power.

The State Partnership Program has successfully built relationships for 20-plus years that includes 70 unique security partnerships involving 76 nations around the globe. The program links a unique component of the Department of Defense, a state's National Guard, with the armed forces of a partner country in a cooperative, mutually beneficial relationship.

Indiana and Slovakia have had a long and enduring partnership going back well over 20 years to the early 1990s. Operation Anakonda offered a unique opportunity for both partners to work closely together in a decisive-action, training environment.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Jeremiah Runser

Indiana National Guard Lt. Col. Michael Palmgreen, left, 38th Infantry Division space support element chief, reviews the operations plan from his Slovak counterpart after the morning brief from the commander while participating in Operation Anakonda in Zlocieniec, Poland, June 15, 2016.

Keene retires as state command chief

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

Indiana Army National Guard Brig. Gen. David N. Vesper, a combat veteran with more than 30 years of military service, assumed command of 81st Troop Command in a ceremony June 18 at Hulman Field in Terre Haute, Indiana.

The unit is Indiana's response force geared to assist local, state and federal agencies in consequent management efforts while still fulfilling federal deployment requirements.

"There is no perceivable end to the need for a trained and ready Army National Guard and for you the trained and ready Soldier," Vesper told the assembled formation during the ceremony. "We are dedicated to making sure these units are ready."

Maj. Gen. Courtney P. Carr, the adjutant general for Indiana, participated in the passing of the unit's colors and welcomed Vesper to his new command.

Carr praised the troops during his ceremonial speech.

"Your presence and your responsiveness in the state is what makes our ability to successfully execute the support to civil authorities what it is," said Carr. You're there when our neighbors need you immediately and you've done it and you've showed it time and time again."

Vesper entered the Indiana National Guard in 1984 as an enlisted Soldier and was commissioned as an officer in 1988. He has deployed to Afghanistan twice and to Iraq.

Vesper took the 81st reins from Brig. Gen. Michael J. Osburn, who had commanded the brigade since 2012.

Brig. Gen. David N. Vesper, right, receives the 81st Troop Command flag from Maj. Gen. Courtney P. Carr, Indiana's adjutant general, during a ceremony, June 18.

Indiana National Guard celebrates diversity



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Lasima O. Packett

April Morgan, right, Indiana National Guard state personnel human resource generalist, talks to an attendee at the Indiana National Guard's diversity day celebration at the Cyclone Division Armory in Indianapolis, Wednesday, July 13, 2016. Several units and departments throughout the state came together to represent diversity in the Indiana National Guard.

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Tech. Sgt. Andy Seibert, a 122nd Fighter Wing crew chief, moves wheel chocks into place under an A-10C Thunderbolt II aircraft while wearing mission oriented protective posture gear, Friday, May 13, 2016, at the Indiana Air National Guard Base, Fort Wayne, Ind. Airmen of the 122nd were taking part in a four-day training exercise to ensure readiness for operating in the event of a chemical, biological, radiological or nuclear attack. Photo by Staff Sgt. William Hopper