

# INDIANA GUARDSMAN

AUG 2016

An Indiana National Guard Publication



***Blacksnakes brace for CBRN attacks , page 6***

# In this Guardsman ...

Troops march for cause, page 4

22 Challenge for suicide awareness



United Front Exercise, page 5

Hoosiers, Israelis trade techniques

CBRN preparation, page 6

122nd Fighter Wing braces for attacks



Anakonda shows strength, page 9

Hoosiers, Slovaks train in NATO exercise



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

## About the Guardsman

**The Adjutant General**  
Maj. Gen. Courtney P. Carr

**Public Affairs Officer**  
Maj. Benjamin Tooley

**Editor**  
Sgt. 1st Class Jeff Lowry

**Layout and Design**  
Sgt. 1st Class Jeff Lowry

**Journalists**  
Sgt. 1st Class Jeff Lowry  
Sgt. 1st Class Lasima O. Packett  
Staff Sgt. Daniel Bolinger  
Staff Sgt. Jeremiah Runser

**Contributing Writers and Staff**  
Atterbury Muscatatuck Public Affairs  
122nd Fighter Wing  
181st Intelligence Wing  
38th Infantry Division  
120th Public Affairs Detachment

The *Indiana Guardsman* is an unofficial publication authorized under the provisions of AR 360-1, and is published by the Headquarters, Indiana National Guard. It is distributed without charge to the members of the Indiana Army and Air National Guard. All material submitted for publication should be addressed to:

Indiana National Guard Headquarters  
Public Affairs Office  
ATTN: Guardsman Magazine  
2002 South Holt Road  
Indianapolis, IN 46241-4839

Opinions expressed herein do not necessarily reflect the views of the Indiana National Guard, the Department of the Army and the Department of the Air Force.

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 [ng.in.inarnng.list.pao@mail.mil](mailto:ng.in.inarnng.list.pao@mail.mil)

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

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

## Adjutant general signs diversity proclamation



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Lasima O. Packett

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 Jeff Lowry

Retired Chief Warrant Officer 5 Elizabeth A. Keene, center, talks to Command Sgt. Maj. James R. Gordon, left, and Maj. Gen. Courtney P. Carr, prior to her retirement ceremony, Saturday, July 16, 2016. The three served together as the Indiana National Guard's command team from Carr's appointment as adjutant general in May 2015 to Keene's retirement in June 2016. For more on Keene's retirement, see page 10.



Photo by Art Geahr

Indiana Army National Guard Sgt. Stephen Strebinger crosses the Jeffersonville Riverfront Bridge, Saturday, May 21, 2016 during the 22 Challenge Run. See [in.ng.mil/TroopResources/CrisisInterventionTeam/SuicidePrevention.aspx](http://in.ng.mil/TroopResources/CrisisInterventionTeam/SuicidePrevention.aspx) for more information or call the national military crisis at 1-800-273-8255.

## 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.



Photo by Art Geahr

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



Photo by Sgt. Evan Myers

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.

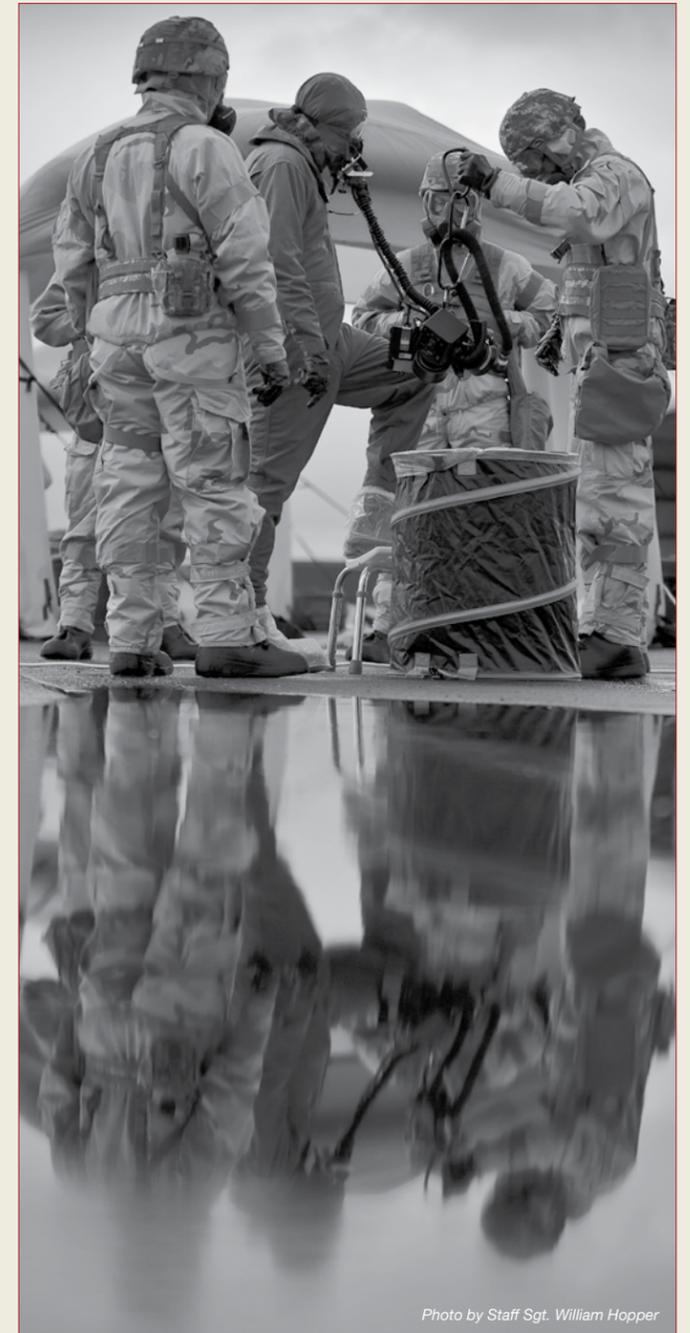


Photo by Staff Sgt. William Hopper

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.

For community relations support see [in.ng.mil/AboutUs/CommunityRelations.aspx](http://in.ng.mil/AboutUs/CommunityRelations.aspx)

# Anakonda shows NATO strength

By Staff Sgt. Jeremiah Runser  
*Indiana National Guard Public Affairs*

ZLOCZENIEC, 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 National Guard Chief Warrant Officer 5, Elizabeth A. Keene, Indiana's former command chief warrant officer, officially retired from military service during a ceremony in Indianapolis at the Combined Surface Maintenance Shop #1 Saturday, July 16.

Keene joined the National Guard 1977, became a warrant officer in 1996, and in 2013 became Indiana's first female command chief warrant officer, the state's senior warrant officer.

"Liz epitomizes our Army values," said Indiana's Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. Courtney P. Carr. "Somebody who serves for 39 years, has done a hard job and provides leadership for the organization as Liz has, in some regards you have to pat them on the back and say 'congratulations.' But from a soldier's standpoint, you're saying 'Liz, you sure you want to do that? I mean you got a lot to offer this organization.'"

Keene, as command chief, advised Carr and his predecessor, now retired Maj. Gen. R. Martin Umbarger, during her more than three-year run serving on the adjutant general's staff.

"Liz's contributions to our team as command chief, you've been a great guider and mentor," said Carr. "So thank you, thank your for your service but most of all serving by my side."

In 2009 Keene deployed with the Shelbyville-based 38th Combat Aviation Brigade to Iraq and served as that unit's property book officer during the nearly yearlong mobilization.

During the July 16 ceremony, Keene received many gifts and awards including the Legion of Merit for her "meritorious service to the the Indiana Army National Guard."

The medal certificate noted that her career was characterized by more than 39 year of professionalism, selfless service and devotion to the profession of arms and warrant officer cohort. It also stated that Keene left a legacy of the leadership for others to follow and positively impacted soldiers at all levels.

## Indiana National Guard celebrates diversity



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Lasima O. Packett

Native Americans perform a ceremonial dance at the Indiana National Guard's diversity day celebration at the Cyclone Division Army in Indianapolis in July. Several units and departments and their members throughout the state came together to represent diversity.

# Subscribe to our eNewsletter



Get the latest Indiana National Guard News, Info about Job Postings, Family Programs, Morale and Welfare via text or email

<http://www.in.ng.mil/AboutUs/ContactUs.aspx>

Also connect with our social media sites



@INGuardsman



Indiana Guardsman



INNationalGuard



Indiana National Guard



**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**