

# INDIANA GUARDSMAN

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An Indiana National Guard Publication



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Front cover: Composite illustration of Indiana National Guardmen with their families during different welcome home ceremonies.

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## Guest Editorial

# Month of the Military Family

By Lt. Col. Lisa Kopczynski



It is always fitting to recognize our military members and their families not only for what they do each day as a sacrifice for the freedoms we all enjoy, but for the service to this nation beyond the norm. To commend these courageous people we celebrate one month, this eleventh month of November, especially in their honor.

November is the Department of Defense's "Month of the Military Family".

We all have similar understandings or beliefs of what a family is and honestly a military family is no different, except for one thing. That is the fortitude to stand up and defend this country through all its strife and glory and with the understanding of what may become or what may be lost.

As the Indiana National Guard's State Family Program Director for nearly three years, I am of the belief that a family is in your heart, mind and soul. It is blood and it is not. It is a feeling of complete commitment and everlasting unity of one's own promise to another. That's my definition of family.

So why do or should we celebrate our military families and why November? I will say it is simple.

We do it because it is right to take this time during the month that dawns the word thanks: Thanksgiving.

We do it because of the celebration to our Veterans on the eleventh month of the eleventh day at the eleventh hour. We do it because it is the right and thoughtful thing to do.

For without the sacrifices of military and families what would this nation be? The fact is, thankfully, we don't know and it's because of brave men and women, their family and their willingness to serve.

It is true. A Soldier is recruited, but the family is retained. To be a ready defender you must have the strength, commitment and challenge to know it is your mind, body and soul that will enable you to persevere. For without family our military can be vulnerable and without unity our families are defenseless, but together we are strong.



I challenge each of you to look beyond this as another month of observance, but to truly understand what and why we celebrate our military families. I ask that throughout this month you show appreciation to not only the Soldier, Airmen, Sailor or Marine, but also the son, daughter, wife, husband, mother or father. For it is this month we celebrate the Military Family together as one.

For more information on the Indiana National Guard's Family Program: <https://www.in.ng.mil/FamilyResources.aspx> ❖



Photo courtesy of Mapes family

*Editor's Note: Lt. Col. Lisa Kopczynski is a 28-year veteran, serving as the Director of Family Programs since March, 2014. In 2008 she deployed to Iraq with the 76th Infantry Brigade Combat Team as part of the largest deployment of Indiana National Guard troops since World War II.*

# History of Veterans day - November 11

## Staff Report

National Guard Bureau Public Affairs

World War I – known at the time as “The Great War” - officially ended when the Treaty of Versailles was signed on June 28, 1919, in the Palace of Versailles outside the town of Versailles, France. However, fighting ceased seven months earlier when an armistice, a temporary cessation of hostilities, between the Allied nations and Germany went into effect on the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month. For that reason, November 11, 1918, is generally regarded as the end of “the war to end all wars.”

In November 1919, President Wilson proclaimed November 11 as the first commemoration of Armistice Day with the following words: "To us in America, the reflections of Armistice Day will be filled with solemn pride in the heroism of those

who died in the country's service and with gratitude for the victory, both because of the thing from which it has freed us and because of the opportunity it has given America to show her sympathy with peace and justice in the councils of the nations..."

The original concept for the celebration was for a day observed with parades and public meetings and a brief suspension of business beginning at 11:00 a.m.

The United States Congress officially recognized the end of World War I when it passed a concurrent resolution on June 4, 1926, with these words:

*Whereas* the 11th of November 1918, marked the cessation of the most destructive, sanguinary, and far reaching

war in human annals and the resumption by the people of the United States of peaceful relations with other nations, which we hope may never again be severed, and

*Whereas* it is fitting that the recurring anniversary of this date should be commemorated with thanksgiving and prayer and exercises designed to perpetuate peace through good will and mutual

the 11th of November in each year a legal holiday—a day to be dedicated to the cause of world peace and to be thereafter celebrated and known as "Armistice Day."

Armistice Day was primarily a day set aside to honor veterans of World War I, but in 1954, after World War II had required the greatest mobilization of soldiers, sailors, Marines and airmen in the Nation's

history; after American forces had fought aggression in Korea, the 83rd Congress, at the urging of the veterans service organizations, amended the Act of 1938 by striking out the word "Armistice" and inserting in its place the word "Veterans." With the approval of this legislation (Public Law 380) on June 1, 1954, November 11th became a day to honor American veterans of all wars.

Later that same year, on October 8th, President Dwight D. Eisenhower issued the first "Veterans Day Proclamation" which

stated: "In order to insure proper and widespread observance of this anniversary, all veterans, all veterans' organizations, and the entire citizenry will wish to join hands in the common purpose. Toward this end, I am designating the Administrator of Veterans' Affairs as Chairman of a Veterans Day National Committee, which shall include such other persons as the Chairman may select, and which will coordinate at the national level necessary planning for the observance. I am also requesting the heads of all departments and agencies of the Executive branch of the Government to assist the National Committee in every way possible."

See Veterans, page 9



President Eisenhower signing HR7786, changing Armistice Day to Veterans Day. From left: Alvin J. King, Wayne Richards, Arthur J. Connell, John T. Nation, Edward Rees, Richard L. Trombla, Howard W. Watts

understanding between nations; and

*Whereas* the legislatures of twenty-seven of our States have already declared November 11 to be a legal holiday: Therefore be it Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), that the President of the United States is requested to issue a proclamation calling upon the officials to display the flag of the United States on all Government buildings on November 11 and inviting the people of the United States to observe the day in schools and churches, or other suitable places, with appropriate ceremonies of friendly relations with all other peoples.

An Act (52 Stat. 351; 5 U. S. Code, Sec. 87a) approved May 13, 1938, made

# Aviators provide aircraft support to Tobruq Legacy 16

## By Maj. Catalina Carrasco

Indiana National Guard Public Affairs

INDIANAPOLIS - Aviators with Indiana's 38th Combat Aviation Brigade took part in Tobruq Legacy 16, a multinational exercise in Slovakia focused on interoperability and joint operational procedures among the eight participating countries.

The 35 soldiers with Company C, 1st Battalion 137th regiment, known as the assault helicopter company, brought four UH-60 helicopters to the two-week NATO led exercise in September.

"Our mission here was to support Slovak Shield and Tobruq Legacy, a first for the Indiana National Guard," said 1st Sgt. Derick Kuhns, senior noncommissioned officer for the unit out of Shelbyville, Indiana.

Kuhns said that the unit used a wide range of their job specialties to support the exercise.

The contingency representing the unit was comprised of pilots, aircraft mechanics, technical inspectors, logistics personnel, a flight medic, an operation specialist and an air traffic control operator.

Tobruq Legacy 16 consisted of two main training objectives, first, interoperability testing between eight NATO defense allies, utilizing different air defense systems and second, training against live aircraft and simulations in order to test the ability to process engagements and conduct NATO reporting procedures in preparation of follow on exercises.

Approximately 1,200 troops representing the Czech Republic, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Slovakia, Slovenia, and the Combined Air Operations Centre Uedem, Germany participated in the exercise. That number also included more than 200 U.S. Army soldiers from both active duty units and National Guard.

Maj John Peterson with the 10th Army Air & Missile Defense Command said that having both Guardsmen and active duty personnel in this exercise not only supports one of the U.S. Army Europe commander's priorities of using the total Army force, but it allows to fill gaps where the active duty component might not have certain capabilities in theater.

"Here in Europe is crucial that we are utilizing the full capabilities of the U.S. Army inventory," said Peterson who served as the main planner officer for U.S. air defense portion of the exercise.

The Indiana soldiers and aircraft supported the exercise by conducting aerial medical and casualty evacuation training, along with assault training inter-operability.

"We did our own exercise called Medix" said Lt. Col. Ivana Gutzelmig, Slovakia Air Force chief of medical service. She said, the objective of Medix was to train on troop response to incidents, medical response to incidents, MASCAL Training, medical evacuation especially with air assets and command and control in medical field.

The host nation's Air force medical personnel utilized the 38th CAB's Black Hawks to transport patients to a hospital after a simulated mass casualty scenario. This is the first time this type of hands-on training has been done between the two partner nations.

Gutzelmig explained that the medical unit practiced loading litters in and out, practiced loading ambulatory patients into the Black Hawks and also got to experience how it feels inside a helicopter of that size. Additionally, they practiced training with a multinational ambulance crew and multinational cooperation in medical teams, a first for the Slovak forces.

"We trained with approximately 50 to 60 NATO medics," said CPT Evan Edwards, Company C, 1-137th commander. "We flew around and picked up their patients in real time. It was an outstanding training opportunity."

The Indiana, Slovak partnership is part of a National Guard Bureau and U.S. Europe initiative that links states and territories with military members of other countries around the world for the purpose of supporting the security cooperation objectives of the geographic Combatant Commands.

Tobruk Legacy demonstrates the ability to integrate the National Guard into Army Europe operations and directly contributes to the collective defense by providing assurance through presence while sustaining the defensive deterrent capability with NATO allies and partners.

The Indiana unit will also participate in the Slovak Shield exercise following the culmination of Trobruq Legacy 16. ♦



Multinational forces medical personnel carry casualties to a 38th CAB Black Hawk helicopter that will air lift them to a hospital during a mass casualty exercise as part of Tobruq Legacy 16 in Slovakia. Sep. 28, 2016



Casualties are brought in to a triage area and examined to determine whether they need to be airlifted to a hospital during a multinational mass casualty simulation as part of Tobruq Legacy 16 in Slovakia. Sep. 28, 2016

# 38TH CAB FLIGHTS TO SLOVAKIA FOR TOBRUQ LEGACY

“The Indiana National Guard’s partnership with Slovakia plays a vital role in the European theater’s security cooperation efforts. The multiple events and exercises conducted in fiscal year 2016 helps build interoperability amongst our forces, provides assurance to our partners and continues to deter our aggressors.”

— Maj. Shawn Eaken International Programs Director



Photo by Maj. Catalina Carrasco

Multinational forces medical personnel prepare casualties to board a 38th CAB Black Hawk helicopter that will air lift them to a hospital during a mass casualty exercise as part of Tobruq Legacy 16 in Slovakia. Sep. 28, 2016



Photo by 1st Lt. Brandon Rex

A Company C, 1st Battalion 137th regiment communicates with the pilot of a Black Hawk during Tobruq Legacy in Slovakia. Sep. 29, 2016

# Guardsmen switch patches, align with active-duty division

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

INDIANAPOLIS – More than 500 Indiana National Guard soldiers with the 38th Infantry Division's 1st Battalion, 151st Infantry Regiment, 76th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, now wear the 25th Infantry Division patch.

The Hoosier soldiers based in Jasper, Indiana, will call the 25th ID's 2nd Infantry Brigade Combat Team, aka the Warrior Brigade, their higher headquarters as part of the U.S. Army's associated units program.

"The Army must be globally responsive and balance readiness, the Indiana National Guard is an integral part of this and supports the One Army concept," said Maj. Gen. Courtney P. Carr, the leader of the Indiana National Guard. "This program helps posture our military to respond for contingency surge demands. It improves readiness, it leverages National Guard and active-duty strengths, and it builds camaraderie between components."

The Army program pairs National Guard and Army Reserve units with active-duty Army counterparts. The Indiana Guardsmen will train alongside active-duty soldiers with the 25th Infantry Division, headquartered at Schofield Barracks in Hawaii.

"As we move forward, I am confident that our association will set the standard for the Army," said Col. Tony Lugo, the commander of 2nd IBCT, which has units from the east coast to Hawaii. "Our relationship will ensure that all soldiers in the Warrior Brigade, whether at your home station, here at Camp Atterbury

or at Schofield Barracks, regardless of component, are prepared to decisively fight and win."

These associated formations will allow soldiers of all components to train and build readiness together that will enable the Army to provide more combat-ready formations to combatant commanders.

Indiana Army National Guard Lt. Col. Chris Mabis, the commander of 1st Battalion, encouraged his soldiers to be proud of the history of the unit and proud of what the future brings.

"Be proud of the 25th ID patch you're wearing," said Mabis to his soldiers in formation. "This is history we are making and that you are a part of. We are here because of the leaders, noncommissioned officers and soldiers of 1st Battalion, 151st Infantry Regiment. We are consistently in the top three of National Guard infantry battalions in the nation."

Lugo praised the Hoosier soldiers for the unit's rich tradition – from the Pacific Theater island-hopping campaign in World War II to Vietnam to Operation Iraqi Freedom – and welcomed them to the 25th Infantry Division.

"The sons and daughters of Indiana have fought valiantly in support of our great nation," said Lugo "The entire Warrior Brigade Team and Tropic Lighting Division are excited to have you as part of the Warrior Brigade and Tropic Lightning Ohana."

For more information on the associated units program, see the Army's press release at this link: [www.army.mil/article/164629/department\\_of\\_the\\_army\\_announces\\_associated\\_units\\_pilots](http://www.army.mil/article/164629/department_of_the_army_announces_associated_units_pilots) ❖



Indiana National Guard's Director of the Joint Staff, Brig. Gen. Ronald Wesfall stands with the winners of the chili cook-off competition, Oct. 13, 2106. From left, Maj. Megan Porter, third place; Staff Sgt. Ashley Wesfall, first place and Matthew Devaney, second place.

## The National Guard 'Shows Some Love' For Charity

By 1s. Lt. Brandon Rex  
*Indiana National Guard Public Affairs*

The soldiers, airmen and civilian employees of the Indiana National Guard stepped up their game in giving back to the community.

Through the Combined Federal Campaign, the Indiana National Guard members chose charities that they wanted part of their income donated to and in six weeks they surpassed their \$60,000 goal.



"Last year's goal was \$35,000," said Maj. Charles Wimp, the Indiana National Guard's CFC coordinator. "We reached \$60,000 in the end. So this year we made that our goal, and we've reached it already."

This year's slogan for the CFC was "Show Some Love," and the Hoosier Guard members embraced it entirely with

an average of over \$200 per donation, said Wimp. The donations come from a combination of allotted payroll donations or fundraising activities.

Employees at the Indiana National Guard headquarters held one recent fundraising event, a chili cook-off competition.

More than 20 employees entered their own chili recipes and baked goods. For just \$5 a person, National Guard members got a bowl of their favorite chili. Baked goods were also available.

Judges tasted and selected their favorite recipes in the cook-off. This year's winner was Staff Sgt. Ashley Westfall.

"The fall season is the best time for chili cook-offs, so what better way to bring us all together and support the Combined Federal Campaign," Westfall said. "You could tell everyone really wanted to "show some love" to CFC with their best spices and recipes this year."

While no one is pressured to donate, there is an incentive for those who choose to participate. As the campaign runs through the fall into the winter and spring, participants are permitted to wear apparel of their favorite sports teams one day a week.

"Sports Fridays' are very successful,"

Wimp said. "It's an incentive to raise awareness. They see each other dressed casually on Fridays and see how supported the program is among their peers."

The different contributing organizations have fostered a sense of friendly competition as well. Army organizations competing with Air Force, and military competing with their civilian counterparts, such as the Defense Finance and Accounting Service, encourages esprit de corps among the federal employees where the winners include the federal employees and the organizations they help along the way.

The Combined Federal Campaign represents more than 22,000 charitable organizations and serves as the middle ground between the federal employees and the charities. Prior to this, employees were solicited in the workplace without limitations and were therefore less willing to participate.

The CFC runs only one campaign per year where it collects donations and host fundraising activities.

As a result, federal employees are less pressured by solicitors and are more comfortable donating to a cause of their choosing. ❖

## History of Veterans day - November 11

Continued from page 4

On that same day, President Eisenhower sent a letter to the Honorable Harvey V. Higley, Administrator of Veterans' Affairs (VA), designating him as Chairman of the Veterans Day National Committee.

In 1958, the White House advised VA's General Counsel that the 1954 designation of the VA Administrator as Chairman of the Veterans Day National Committee applied to all subsequent VA Administrators. Since March 1989 when VA was elevated to a cabinet level department, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs has served as the committee's chairman.

The Uniform Holiday Bill (Public Law 90-363 (82 Stat. 250)) was signed on June 28, 1968, and was intended to

ensure three-day weekends for Federal employees by celebrating four national holidays on Mondays: Washington's Birthday, Memorial Day, Veterans Day, and Columbus Day. It was thought that these extended weekends would encourage travel, recreational and cultural activities and stimulate greater industrial and commercial production. Many states did not agree with this decision and continued to celebrate the holidays on their original dates.

The first Veterans Day under the new law was observed with much confusion on October 25, 1971. It was quite apparent that the commemoration of this day was a matter of historic and patriotic significance to a great number of our citizens, and so on September 20th, 1975, President Gerald R. Ford signed Public

Law 94-97 (89 Stat. 479), which returned the annual observance of Veterans Day to its original date of November 11, beginning in 1978. This action supported the desires of the overwhelming majority of state legislatures, all major veterans service organizations and the American people.

Veterans Day continues to be observed on November 11, regardless of what day of the week on which it falls. The restoration of the observance of Veterans Day to November 11 not only preserves the historical significance of the date, but helps focus attention on the important purpose of Veterans Day: A celebration to honor America's veterans for their patriotism, love of country, and willingness to serve and sacrifice for the common good. ❖



# The U.S. Uniformed Services Blended Retirement System

## At a Glance

### Saving with the New Blended Retirement System

The Fiscal Year 2016 National Defense Authorization Act provides our military force with a modernized retirement plan built for retirement savings. Beginning in 2018, our service members can get **automatic and matching Thrift Savings Plan contributions** as well as mid-career **compensation incentives** in addition to a monthly **annuity for life**. All service members under the current system are grandfathered into today's retirement system.

#### Today's Retirement System:



$$2.5\% \times \text{Years Served} \times \text{Retired Pay Base}$$

after completing 20 years of service

#### 1 Automatic and Matching Contributions

Automatic contributions are seen immediately



You Contribute	DoD Auto Contribution	DoD Matches	Total
0%	1%	0%	1%
1%	1%	1%	3%
2%	1%	2%	5%
3%	1%	3%	7%
4%	1%	3.5%	8.5%
5%	1%	4%	10%

The DoD automatically contributes **1%** of your basic pay to your **Thrift Savings Plan** after **60 days of service**.

You'll see matching contributions at the start of 3 through the completion 26 years of service, and...

**You're fully vested—it's yours to keep—as of the beginning of 3 years of service and goes with you when you leave.**

#### 2 Continuation Pay

Received at the mid-career point



You may receive a **cash payment** in exchange for additional service.

#### 3 Full Retired Pay Annuity

Received after completing 20 years of service

$$2\% \times \text{Years Served} \times \text{Retired Pay Base}$$

Calculate your **retired pay base** by **averaging the highest 36 months of basic pay**. You'll gain this monthly annuity for life after completing 20 years of service.

## In case you missed it...



Maj. Gen. Courtney P. Carr presents Army Veteran, 1st Lt. Robert Gast the Silver Star, Bronze Star, Combat Infantry Badge, World War II Victory Medal and European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal. Oct. 7, 2016



The 38th Infantry Division commemorated their 100 years with a Centennial Ball. Retired Maj. Gen. Richard Chastain, left, a former Cyclone commander and 2nd Lt. Luke Smith represented the oldest and youngest members of the division during the event. Oct. 15, 2016



Jim Zieba, 38th Infantry Division's judge advocate general, is promoted to the rank of colonel by Division Commander, Maj. Gen. David Wood. Oct. 14, 2016



Indiana National Guard Alumni stand together with the Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. Courtney P. Carr, during the annual reunion at Camp Atterbury, Indiana. Oct. 1, 2016

### Options for Collecting Your Retired Pay

#### Active Component

Full retired pay annuity

#### Reserve Component

Full retired pay annuity beginning at age 60\*



#### Lump sum with reduced retired pay

50% or 25% of monthly retired pay annuity bumps back up to 100% at full retirement age (67 in most cases).

\* Could be earlier based on credited active/inactive service



### Effective Date of the New System

#### Your Retirement System

If you joined the service...

- ▶ **After January 1, 2018**  
You'll be automatically enrolled in the Blended Retirement System.
- ▶ **After January 1, 2006 but before January 1, 2018**  
You'll have the choice to enroll in the Blended Retirement System or remain in today's current retirement system.
- ▶ **Before January 1, 2006**  
You'll be grandfathered and remain in today's current retirement system.



Brig. Gen. Jeffery Hauser, Indiana Air Guard commander and Brig. Gen. Wayne Black, Assistant Adjutant General joined a ribbon cutting ceremony the Indianapolis Chapter of the Tuskegee Airmen, Inc. at Columbus Municipal Airport, in honor of renaming a section of Highway 65 to, "The Tuskegee Airmen Highway." Oct. 21, 2016



The graduating class of Starbase, South Bend, join Brig. Gen. Ronald Westfall, teachers and other service members for a group photo in front of an Indiana National Guard's Black Hawk, Indiana. Oct. 21, 2016

Additional information coming soon.

Sources: Sections 631, 632, 633, 634, and 635 of the Fiscal Year 2016 National Defense Authorization Act.

## ...October happenings

Gen. Milan Maxim, Chief of the General Staff of the Armed Forces of the Slovak Republic, watches as Maj. Gen. Courtney P. Carr, Adjutant General of Indiana, sign a guest book following a meeting during Slovak Shield 2016 in Slovakia. Oct. 10, 2016

