A Quarterly Newsletter
Published by Indiana Guardsmen
for Retired Guardsmen
Issue Number 69

4th Quarter 2012

INDIANA JOINT FORCE HEADQUARTERS
INDIANAPOLIS

RETIRED GUARDIAN

Silver Star awarded after 44 years

see page 3

Indiana Air National Guard Headquarters 122nd Fighter Wing

FORT WAYNE, Ind – The 122nd Fighter Wing declared the end of their conversion into the A-10C Thunderbolt II fighter aircraft Sunday, June 10th.

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

Operational Capability means that the unit is able to employ the entire Wing in the A-10C mission. "With the hard work and dedication of our unit members, we are able to come out of conversion ahead of schedule," said Col. David Augustine, 122nd Fighter Wing Commander. "I couldn't be prouder of the work our Airmen have accomplished. This is yet another example of why we are one of the finest fighter wings in the country and need to remain in fighters."

This past year, the 122nd Fighter Wing received its 5th Outstanding Unit Award, was selected as one of the top five Air National Guard Wings in the country and had one member selected as one of the top 12 Airmen in the Air National Guard (out of over 106,000 members). "These awards show the true character of the Wing," said Maj. Gen. R. Martin Umbarger, adjutant general for Indiana. "This Wing is about values, patriotism and always putting your best foot forward! Even in conversion while surrounded by future uncertainty, the 122nd always strives for excellence in everything they do," he said.

If you would like to visit the 122nd Fighter Wing, place the upcoming air show on your calendars. It will take place September 1-2, 2012. "This will be the first air show in over 13 years the base will host for the community," said Capt. Rebecca Metzger, 122nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs Officer. "This will, without a doubt, be the thrill of a lifetime for many."

CHECK US OUT ON

facebook

WWW.facebook.com/TheRetiredGuardian

Like US

THE RETIRED GUARDIAN

THE ADJUTANT GENERAL
MAJ. GEN. R. MARTIN UMBARGER

News gathering, layout and design by Indiana National Guard Protocol Officer Christy Ruzga

Tel: 317-247-3300 ext. 79956
email: christy.l.ruzga@us.army.mil

The Indiana National Guard Public Affairs Office appreciates any and all feedback from the Guard community; comments, suggestions, critiques. Please direct this input via email to:

retiredguardian@gmail.com

Indiana Joint Force Headquarters
ATTN: Retired Guardian
2002 South Holt Road
Indianapolis, IN 46241-4839

On the Cover: Hoosier Vietnam veteran Frank Spink, 66, Plainfield, Ind., speaks with the media after receiving the nation's third-highest award for valor, the Silver Star Medal.

Hoosier Vietnam vet awarded Silver Star after 44 years

Hoosier Vietnam veteran Frank Spink, 66, Plainfield, Ind., receives the nation's third-highest award for valor, the Silver Star Medal from Indiana National Guard Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. R. Martin Umbarger, and Indiana Congressman Todd Rokita.

Story and Photos by Sgt. John Crosby
Indiana National Guard Public Affairs

INDIANAPOLIS – Gray, balding, proudly wearing his American Flag polo shirt, the right sleeve dangling loosely off his right shoulder, Frank Spink, 66, Plainfield, Ind., sat modestly with his family awaiting his presentation of the Department of Defense's third-highest award for gallantry, the Silver Star Medal.

More than four decades earlier, at roughly 3 a.m., June 13, 1968, Sgt. Spink scanning his sector for Viet Cong, pulling guard duty at an under-strength Special Forces camp in Dak Pek, South Vietnam.

His fellow Soldiers knew him for his coolness under fire. He adapted quick as a combat infantryman. As a draftee with less than 11 months of service he was promoted to the rank of sergeant and was a well respected squad leader in Company B, 1st Battalion, 22nd Infantry Regiment, 4th Infantry Division.

Vigilantly watching the perimeters of his post, Spink realized the enemy was silently moving in around him. Spink immediately alerted his comrades of the imminent attack waking many Soldiers from their bunks, scrambling to fighting positions.

In less than a minute, the enemy engaged the perimeter and fired flares over the U.S. command post, it was obvious the attack was well planned and coordinated.

Spink engaged the enemy. Men fell around him. He emptied his magazine at the approaching enemy and went to load another.

"I reached up to grab another magazine, and that's when a rocket hit my bunker. My bunker blew up," said Spink. His right arm was shredded in the blast. Despite this devastating blow, he again engaged the enemy and rally his troops until loosing conciseness.

The fight intensified. Spink's company was assaulted by two, heavily-armed companies of Viet Cong. Much of the fighting was hand-to-hand, said Spink's platoon leader, 1st Lt. John McHenry applied pressure to his wounds.

"I call him lieutenant Dan," Spink said chuckling, using his best Forest Gump accent. His face grew more serious. "He saved me from bleeding to death. He helped saved my life that night."

McHenry put Spink in for the Silver Star, scrawling what he witnessed that night onto plain notebook paper and gathering accounts of those present.

"He saved a lot of lives that night," McHenry said of Spink. "If he hadn't woke us up, if we didn't have those extra few seconds to prepare, who knows where we'd be today."

The Silver Star was approved. However, due to an incorrect serial number, Spink was never awarded the medal.

Forty years later, as combat veterans often do, McHenry began reconnecting with the comrades he served with so long ago. He researched his unit at the National Archives in College Park, Md., and learned that Spink had never received the medal he'd put him in for. McHenry made it his personal mission to see Spink receive this long-overdue honor.

Finally, after working with Indiana Congressman Todd Rokita, the award was ready to be pinned. Spink would finally see the honor he deserved.

"All of us here today salute you for your service," said Rokita. "As Americans, we all express our sadness that you haven't received this honor until now.

Indiana Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. R. Martin Umbarger, officially pinned the award to Spink.

"Our nation did you and all of our Vietnam vets wrong," said Umbarger. "But, thank God we learned from it. A lot of what we have today, of what we do for these brave men and women who are serving our country, is because of what we did not do for you. Welcome home. Your nation thanks you for your service."

A humble Spink returned the thank you.

"I truly appreciate this day. If somebody told me a year ago this day was gonna happen, I wouldn't believe 'em. But it's here and I'm kinda glad it's over with now," Spink said smiling to a laughing audience, Silver Star pinned to his star-spangled shirt.

Spink also thanked his old platoon leader who saved his life so many years earlier. "This guy right here made this day possible. He's sure been a friend for 44 years."

"I think I can settle down now. Maybe go home and have a glass of wine."

Hoosier Vietnam veteran Frank Spink, 66, Plainfield, Ind., hugs his daughter Deanna after receiving the nation's third-highest award for valor, the Silver Star Medal at Indiana Joint Force Headquarters.

Doing What They Can For the Troops

Spc. Kyla Randall, of Lafayette, Ind., with 638th Aviation Support Battalion, receives a serving of potato chips from Rhonda Weltrick, of North Vernon, Ind., an employee of Wal-Mart, during the Feed 'Em for Freedom event held at Camp Atterbury Joint Maneuver Training Center.

Story and Photos by Staff Sgt. David Bruce, Atterbury-Muscatatuck Public Affairs

EDINBURGH, Ind. — It's the little things that count. Sometimes, the little things aren't so little; all it takes to make a difference is to just do something.

Employees of Wal-Mart volunteered their time on June 22 to cook lunch for Soldiers and civilians working at Camp Atterbury Joint Maneuver Training Center, Ind. Also in attendance were over 300 children of military families from the Kids Annual Training summer camp. In addition to Wal-Mart, other sponsors provided entertainment or other overt signs of support; Panther Racing brought an Indycar racing simulator, Indiana Pacers cheerleaders, Pacemates, were on hand signing autographs, and Indianapolis radio station 97.1 Hank FM arranged for live entertainment.

The event known as Feed 'Em for Freedom, is going on its third year and has become larger in scope with each consecutive year, said Greg Carter, of Comminsky, Ind., with Wal-Mart's transportation division and one of the chief architects of the event.

"This just keeps getting bigger every year," said Carter. "This gives us a real opportunity to thank Soldiers personally and there is no better place to do that than Camp Atterbury."

Carter said the event started because he and his fellow employees wanted to do something to show their appreciation to those that put their lives on the line. The volunteers served hamburgers, hot dogs, and barbecued pork, donated by Wal-Mart, to over 2,000 Soldiers and civilians on Camp Atterbury.

Live music was provided by national recording act; The Farm, brought to Camp Atterbury by Indianapolis-area country radio station 97.1 Hank FM.

According to Bob Richards, of Indianapolis, program director at Hank FM, the radio station wanted to get involved with showing appreciation for the troops.

"Three months ago, we had a meeting with (Maj. Gen. R. Martin Umbarger, Indiana National Guard Adjutant General) about things we could do to help the Indiana National Guard," said Richards, "this event immediately came up. We jumped at the opportunity to do something, and that something was to provide the entertainment by helping to bring in the band The Farm. We wanted to get involved with the people; that's what brings us here."

"It's great to see how much fun all the kids are having," said Dave O'Brian, of Indianapolis, morning show host at Hank FM, "I know they have to put with a lot being children of Guard members whom are deployed, so it's good seeing them have some relaxation and relief."

The community support of the military is what pulls the whole event together, according to Lt. Col. David Ellis, of Martinsville, Ind., director of human resources at Camp Atterbury.

"We couldn't do this without the corporate partnership; they provided the food, staff and all the workers to get this done," said Ellis. "Last year, they fed about 2,200 people, which I've decided, since I'm the director of human resources, I should probably be doing my accountability rosters at Feed 'Em for Freedom, because I know everybody comes out of the woodwork for a nice quality meal and an opportunity to take an hour break from the daily work pace. So it's a tremendous opportunity for us. We enjoy the opportunity to see one another, sit down and break bread and share some good stories, jokes and cut-up a little bit."

Ellis said that without the support of the community, the mission of protecting the country would be made more difficult.

"When the community demonstrates their support, it allows the members of the military to realize that we're not just in this by ourselves," said Ellis. "For many of the Soldiers here at Camp Atterbury, who have been deployed, it's that local community support that allowed their families to continue their day-to-day life; it allows the Soldiers not to worry about the home front. That's the most important part of the civilian-military role; it is a partnership that allowed the nation's defense for the last 10 years."

Soldiers, civilian employees and family members attend the annual Feed 'Em for Freedom event held at Camp Atterbury Joint Maneuver Training Center

Historic Groundbreaking

Story and Photo By Staff Sgt. David Bruce,
Atterbury-Muscatatuck Public Affairs

EDINBURGH, Ind. — A groundbreaking ceremony was held at Camp Atterbury Joint Maneuver Training Center, Ind., to begin new construction north of Hospital Rd., July 3. A 57 million dollar project that will again revitalize portions of the original cantonment area built between 1942 and 1943.

Indiana Governor Mitch Daniels, the Indiana National Guard, the Indiana Department of Natural Resources and the Indiana Department of Correction signed an agreement releasing more than 1,200 acres of DNR land north of Camp Atterbury in exchange for approximately 2,000 acres at Putnamville Correctional Facility in October 2010. The land was part of the original Camp Atterbury built in 1942 and sold to U.S. Fish and Wildlife when to post was deactivated in 1969.

The expansion will be used for additional support facilities, increased bed space and dining facility for Soldiers training at Camp Atterbury. In addition, plans still remain in place to expand the railroad capability of Camp Atterbury to meet its mission requirements in the near future. Headquarters Camp Atterbury Joint Maneuver Training CenterEdinburgh, Indiana 46124-5000.

The official ground breaking marks the beginning of a two-phase construction project and building of two battalion-level Operational Readiness Training Complexes as part of the agreement made in late 2010. Construction will begin this July and completed by summer of 2014.

Maj. Gen. R. Martin Umbarger, Adjutant General for the Indiana National Guard, said the new facilities would increase Camp Atterbury's ability to meet its mission.

"This is an historic day for Camp Atterbury, once again to have the property north of Hospital Road. We just broke ground to build about 1,160-man barracks, a dining facility and the beginning of what used to be the cantonment area for Camp Atterbury in World War II." In addition to the ground breaking, the section of Eggleston Street, which runs north-south in front of where the new buildings are to be constructed was renamed Steven Chancellor Street, in honor of the man who was instrumental in the land exchange, Stephen Chancellor, CEO of the American Patriot Group and chairman of AmeriQual Group.

Chancellor insists that his role was a minor part of the process.

"The Indiana National Guard, the U.S. Army and the State of Indiana had been in a process for about six years to get U.S. Fish and Wildlife to release this property back to the military, which is where it came from originally," said Chancellor.

Chancellor said Indiana Governor Mitch Daniels approached him to ask his advice in the land exchange because of his work with conservation groups and relationship with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife service.

"I knew those people (at U.S. Fish and Wildlife) quite well; I've helped them many times," he said. "My role was not that big; I just kept nudging people along and in about six month's time, they had it done. They got a new 2,000 acre Fish and Wildlife area in Putnam County as a result of it. They got new jobs here; they're going to have more training here. It was always a win-win for everyone. I do what I can to try and help. It's an honor to work with the U.S. military and it's a greater honor to help." While Chancellor said his contribution was modest, Umbarger said.

"He served as a catalyst to move the land exchange between state and federal agencies forward to conclusion," said Umbarger. "It was with this vision and in keeping with his long history of giving back to the community and Indiana; that Stephen Chancellor stepped forward and offered his help."

Ivan Denton, garrison commander at Camp Atterbury, said the new facilities will allow for increased capacity and capability at Camp Atterbury as it fulfills a variety of missions.

"It's a very important day," said Denton. "It's an installation that continues to be a world-class installation. In order for an installation to continue to be world-class, it has to have two things: bed space and maneuver space. This is key as we go from 5,100 beds to 6,300 beds, overall."

"It's just a great day for Camp Atterbury, Indiana and our nation," said Umbarger.

The ceremony signifies the beginning of new construction for Operational Readiness Training Complex that will increase bed space for Soldiers training on Camp Atterbury.

Christmas in July; a Conversation, a Good Idea and Toys

Story by Staff Sgt. Tommi Meyer, Indiana National Guard

INDIANAPOLIS - Like many good ideas, this one started with a simple conversation between two friends, one with a heart for Indiana and one with a toy company and a desire to be generous.

Herb Simon, owner of the Indiana Pacers and Fever was visiting with a good friend, Stephen Berman, owner of JAKKS Pacific Inc., when the conversation led them to consider how they could partner and impact families and communities through their businesses.

"Through my friendship with Stephen Berman, I have come to know he is a very generous and giving person who cares deeply about people," said Simon.

The idea? Get the toys made by JAKKS, into the hands of children in need through the Pacers organization and their partners here in Indiana. And who better to partner with when you need to move from an idea to a mission than the Indiana National Guard.

Berman's generosity coupled with Pacers spirit and Indiana National Guard muscle will reach hundreds of families in Indiana communities by distributing more than 14,000 toys this summer. Toys will be gifted to kids who lost much or all of what they had when devastating tornadoes swept through southern Indiana in March. This donation, just the first of several planned this year, has been appropriately titled, Christmas in July.

"It's hard to think of Christmas in the heat of July but thanks to our good friends at the Pacers and JAAKS, that's what we have," said Maj. Gen. R. Martin Umbarger, Indiana National Guard adjutant general.

More than 14,000 toys were donated to the children affected by the Henryville, Ind., tornadoes that devastated southern Indiana in early March 2012, during a ceremony held at Indiana Joint Force Headquarters, Indianapolis Thursday, July 26, 2012. U.S. Army photo by Sgt. John Crosby

"It has been an emotional time for Hoosier families and for us to partner with the National Guard and be able to bring smiles to not only kids, but whole families is just an honor," said Rick Fusion, chief operation officer with Pacers Sports and Entertainment.

It was hard not to smile for those in attendance when Pacers cheerleaders, mascots and coaches delivered the toys to the first recipients. "Who doesn't smile when you think about toys?" commented Mary Sullivan, yet another partner and vice chair of March2Recovery, an assistance group in Southern Indiana established to help communities impacted by the tornadoes.

According to Sullivan more than 10,500 volunteers have funneled through the volunteer reception center run by March2Recovery in the four months since the tornadoes. "It really is a testament to the loving nature of our communities here in Indiana and around the nation," she said.

The rest of the story? Many of those children will receive the toys from Indiana's Hoosier Youth Challenge Academy Cadets. Seems when a good idea takes hold, everyone wants to be a part of it. Youth helping youth, now that's a good idea…

"Our friends once again, hit the game-winning shot by providing our cadets the resources needed to help the children of Henryville, Marysville and other towns devastated by the tornadoes," said Umbarger.

According to recent graduates of the program, the cadets are happy to help. Cole Davis recently enlisted in the Indiana National Guard after completing the five month Challenge program. The soon to be Pfc. Davis said that before Hoosier Youth Challenge he had never done any sort of community service. Now, he recognizes the importance of serving. "It has taught me to appreciate the things I have because I see that so many families out there don't have a lot," he said.

The Hoosier Youth Challenge Academy is a community-based residential program for at-risk youth of Indiana between the ages of 16-19, who are struggling academically. Cadets in the program take part in academic classes working toward their general education diploma in addition to physical fitness and life skills training. They are also required to complete 40 hours of community service.

"This program was probably one of the hardest things I have gone through but it set me up for the next thing in my life," said Ariel Gonya, recent graduate of the Hoosier Youth Challenge Academy. Gonya who enlisted in the Indiana National Guard this summer as well plans to continue to volunteer for other community service projects in the future. "It's good, fun and I like to help wherever I can."

For more information on the Christmas in July project or Hoosier Youth Challenge Academy visit www.in.ng.mil or for information on how you can volunteer to assist with tornado recovery efforts around Indiana visit www.march2recovery.org.

Cpl. Robert Jackson directs civilian contractors through the health screening process at Camp Atterbury.

Sgt. 1st Class David Moore assists contractors as they receive their equipment during the mobilization process at Camp Atterbury.

Indiana Guard Reserve embraces new role at Camp Atterbury

Story and Photos by Capt. Terry Heifetz, Indiana Guard Reserve

The clock reads 7 a.m. and dozens of men and women are streaming into the Soldier Readiness Center at Camp Atterbury Joint Maneuver Training Center. They have arrived for a medical briefing as part of five days of orientation and training before they deploy to Afghanistan, Iraq or other parts of the world. But something looks different about these trainees. They aren't Soldiers wearing camouflage or combat boots. Instead, they are dressed in khakis, polo shirts or t-shirts. They are civilian contractors or Department of Defense workers taking part in Individual Replacement Deployment Operations, or IRDO.

Many of the tens of thousands of trainees have never been to any Army post. But they are getting help from Soldiers who are quite familiar with Camp Atterbury, members of the Indiana Guard Reserve. The IGR is Indiana's state defense force, an all-volunteer subordinate unit of the Indiana National Guard. After a decade of assisting the National Guard with mobilizing and demobilizing troops, the IGR has expanded its role to help Camp Atterbury's team members process civilians who are heading overseas.

Capt. Dale Andrews is one of the officers in charge of the Civilian Escort Mission. "Our purpose is to assist them in any way we can to accomplish the mission," Andrews said. "Whatever they want us to do, we do."

The Guard Reservists are doing a lot; they maintain roster integrity and make sure the civilians go to each station and get the proper materials. But they say the biggest thing that helps the most – they answer questions.

"We are there to help; If we don't have the answers, we'll find someone who does," according to Sgt. Don Claxton, Lafayette, Ind. "It runs pretty smoothly and that's the whole idea."

Keeping things running smoothly can be challenging and rewarding, according to Sgt. 1st Class David Moore, who has been volunteering in the IRDO mission since October 2011. His favorite task is tracking trainees in the medical area.

"It's very fast, things go really quick," Moore, who is also the police chief of Greenville, Ind., said. "You have multiple things to monitor. It seems to be the place where you have the most impact."

The IGR Soldiers are making an impact. Staff Sgt. Joseph O'Neal says they fill the gaps, allowing other staff members at Camp Atterbury to handle other situations.

"They guide civilians through the process without a team member being there constantly all the time," O'Neal said. "It's good to have that Soldier face there that civilians could ask questions to while we are off taking care of somebody else."

The extra manpower appears to be paying off. The Guard Reservists can handle whatever needs to be done, according to Maj. James Garlits, the IRDO program manager.

"The IGR has been a full partner; we call them partners," Garlits said. "Even though it's a volunteer organization, they've had workers jump right in and they just know where to go and what to do."

Capt. Andrews says there is no shortage of volunteers because the mission is so rewarding.

"The same people want to volunteer every month; they really enjoy it," Andrews said.

The desire to volunteer is at the center of the IGR. Guard Reservists do not expect pay for helping mobilize civilians or for their other responsibilities such as search and rescue missions and security and logistical support at the Indianapolis Air Show and Indianapolis 500 Festival Mini-Marathon.

Most agree there will be more room for volunteers in the future as the IRDO mission is expected to continue for months to come. That means thousands more civilians will be able to use the expertise and guidance from Soldiers of the Indiana Guard Reserve during the short stay at Camp Atterbury.

For more information about the Indiana Guard Reserve, visit the IGR at indianaguardreserve.us.

38th ID Rehearses for New Mission

Story By Sgt. 1st Class Brad Staggs, 38th ID Public Affairs

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

"We train one weekend a month and two weeks during the summer," Skalon said. "If you don't use these systems, you forget them. This exercise is 100 percent tech enabled because if we can't share information quickly, things fall apart."

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Flipped semi accedent on Interstate 39, Sunday, July 15, 2012. Contributed photo.

Indiana Guardsmen medically assist wounded drivers

Story by Sgt. Cassandra Monroe, 120th Public Affairs Detachment

ROCHELLE, Ill. - The training for seven Indiana National Guard Soldiers with Headquarters Detachment, 81st Troop Command, had barely started when they suddenly found themselves in a traumatic situation along Interstate 39, Sunday, July 15.

The unit's 15-vehicle convoy was on its way Volk Field, Wis., when a Soldier's voice broke over the convoy's internal radio system. The Soldier claimed to have witnessed an accident; a semitrailer had flipped.

"We were driving when suddenly we see this semi flip over, just like what you see in a movie," said Sgt. 1st Class Sunshine Para-Butt, a human resources noncommissioned officer with the detachment, and a Peru, Ind., native. She said they saw flames and thought, "somebody's hurt."

Para-Butt, along with other Soldiers from the last two vehicles in the convoy, stopped their vehicles and ran to assist the drivers of the two tractor-trailers that had crashed. One of the drivers had climbed out by the time the team reached him. The Soldiers saw a large exposed wound across one of the driver's legs, and they saw other wounds to his head and neck. The team grabbed water and a T-shirt from their vehicles. The tools they used to help stop the bleeding.

Master Sgt. Michelle Carney, a military trained medic, assisted with initial aid procedures.

While talking to the injured driver, Carney and her team made sure he kept his eyes open and made sure to get his information so he would stay alert and conscious.

"We're trained to talk to them; so they know they're not alone," said Carney, a Hammond, Ind., native. "Even if we can't save their lives, we're trained to emotionally stabilize them to let them believe that they're in the absolute best care that they can be in. I love that the Army teaches us compassionate, emotional and mental stability along with the necessary medical interventions. I think that's important for the patients to know that they're safe."

When Illinois State Troopers arrived at the scene, the Soldiers had stabilized the wounded men and kept the situation under control until paramedics and fire fighters could arrive.

The injured men were transported to nearby medical facilities and were in stable condition, said Illinois State Trooper Heath Bryan.

Bryan said that seeing the Soldiers work in stressful conditions solidified his respect for the National Guard.

It was comforting knowing the law enforcement had help on the scene, said Bryan. It seemed that the Guard Soldiers were confident in what they were doing, and the triage was already set up when the authorities came. The Indiana National Guardsmen were very professional.

Capt. Stacy Kennedy-Barker took pride in seeing her team work together to save the lives of the civilian truck drivers.

"It was really incredible to see the team working out there. And all of those people, they got an opportunity to see Soldiers do something other than going to war," said Kennedy-Barker, the personel officer for 81st Troop Command and Green Castle, Ind., native.

The unit was scheduled to train at Volk Field in support of the National Guard's Patriot 2012 exercise, a large-scale emergency response exercise that brings communities, state and federal agencies together with military organizations to identify the strength and weaknesses in their current response plans.

For being the second day of the unit's annual training period, Carney felt that their presence had purpose.

"I feel that, honestly, God placed us exactly where we needed to be, exactly when we needed to be there," she said. "After having gone through the experience today, I feel that it was divine intervention. We were exactly where we needed to be."

Indy student motivates peers for troop care packages

Story by Staff Sgt. Les Newport
Indiana National Guard Public Affairs

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

To be sure there is plenty angelic about the group, but most would say guardian is the more accurate "nom de guerre."

Diane Spaulding is the chief Guardian Angel and the walls of the Hillcrest are a testament to their work. Letters of appreciation and other military tokens of thanks decorate the walls. Many come from Fort Hood units, a relationship that began when a club member's son was stationed there.

The theme of the day was simple: "That's just what Riley Boyle does."

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

"Whatever it is we need done, he does it" said Spaulding. Spaulding said the Guardian Angels began a partnership with St. Simon School to collect donations to send in care packages. The students also decorate cards, bags and boxes for the donations. When shipping costs began to rise, the school used blue jeans days to raise funds for that.

Spaulding learned she could count on Mike and Becky Boyle's shy son always working quietly behind the scenes. Schools, churches and nonprofit organizations across the country have similar stories. If tolled, there is undoubtedly a division, maybe 10, of Riley Boyles working to send something of home to the troops. Any deployed postal unit could attest to that.

Riley Boyle, left, shakes hands with Indiana National Guard Lt. Col. Jeff Hackett, 1st Battalion, 293rd Infantry Regiment commander and the 76th Infantry Brigade Combat Team's full-time representative, during a ceremony in Indianapolis, Tuesday, July 17, 2012. U.S. Army photo by Sgt. 1st Class Jeff Lowry

Indiana National Guard Lt. Col. Jeff Hackett, 1st Battalion, 293rd Infantry Regiment commander, points out a Humvee turret to Riley Boyle in Indianapolis, Tuesday, July 17, 2012. U.S. Army photo by Sgt. 1st Class Jeff Lowry

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

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

Riley has had a break from the hospital but will return next month. Before he continues his own personal battle, the 76th wanted to show their gratitude and support for their biggest backer at a reception for him. When they arrived, they did so in an Armored Security Vehicle and a Humvee. Riley learned what it was like to sit at the wheel of the famous American fighting vehicles and man the turrets.

Indiana National Guard Lt. Col. Jeff Hackett presented Riley with the Indiana Commendation Medal and a Minute Man statue from Maj. Gen. Umbarger, adjutant general of the Indiana Guard.

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

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

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

Because that's just what Riley Boyle does.

Indiana hosts 7th annual Blue Star Salute

Story and Photos by Sgt. John Crosby

Indiana Gov. Mitch Daniels shows off his National Guard hat after riding his motorcycle to the Blue Star Salute celebration at Indiana Joint Force Headquarters.

INDIANAPOLIS – Indiana's Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. R. Martin Umbarger, Governor Mitch Daniels and Secretary of State Connie Lawson hosted the seventh annual Blue Star Salute to families of deployed and deceased service members at Indiana Joint Forces Headquarters, Indianapolis, Saturday, June 16, 2012.

The event also saluted Umbarger and wife Rowana for their dedication in service as the Indiana National Guard's first family for the past eight years.

The Blue Star Service Banner was designed and patented in 1917 by World War I. The blue star represents a family member serving in the U.S. Armed Forces. If the family loses the service member, the blue star turns to gold. This tradition has carried on during the Global War on Terrorism with help from the American Legion.

"The Blue Star speaks for itself," said Daniels. "There will never be a way to fully thank these families for their sacrifices they've made, but days like today give a chance to do it partially. I'm so grateful to the legion for putting this event together."

A motorcycle procession of more than 400 bikes was led by Indianapolis Colts mascot, Blue, from Plainfield, Ind., to the headquarters to kick off the celebration.

Following the ride, the Gold Star flag, embroidered with the names of the 197 Indiana service members deceased as result of the GWOT, was presented to families of the fallen followed by a moment of silence, and Taps.

Festivities included military vehicle displays, skydivers, flyovers by a refurbished Navy T-28 Trojan and UH-1 Huey Helicopter. Indiana Pacers players, Indianapolis Colts cheerleaders, and both team's mascots also showed support.

Vendors provided food, face painting for children, Elmo from Sesame Street, games, and live performance by Indianapolis band Jayne Bond and the Pink Martinis.

Umbarger and his wife were presented the Blue Star Salute Award for their participation over in the program over the years.

"For the last 43 years it's been a privilege to wear the uniform of this nation," said Umbarger. "I'm so thankful to those blue star families, and those I've come to know so well when sometimes those blue stars turn to gold. I'm so thankful for this award you've bestowed upon me today. I'm not worthy, but I'll accept it on behalf of the 15,000 Soldiers and Airman that I command, and their families."

An Indiana National Guard UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter lands at Indiana Joint Force Headquarters, Indianapolis for the seventh annual Blue Star Salute held there.

More than 400 motorcycle riders show their support at the Blue Star Salute celebration at Indiana Joint Force Headquarters, Indianapolis, Saturday, June 16, 2012.

Tiger Cruise on the USS Makin Island

Story by retired Lt. Col. Kevin Bucy, INARNG

For several years the U.S. Navy has conducted cruises for family of Sailors and Marines stationed on-board ships, they call them Tiger Cruises. It is open to immediate family except husbands or wives. I was lucky enough to be able to participate in a Tiger Cruise this summer. I was approved to be a Tiger after I completed an application packet that included a health assessment and sent it to the ship months before the event.

On June 12, 2012, I flew to Hawaii. On the 13th, I joined several Makin Island family members at a Pearl Harbor pier where the massive USS Makin Island was docked. I was met there by my oldest son, Marine Sgt. Nicholas Bucy, whom I had not seen since his deployment had started the previous fall. Nicholas is reconnaissance operator He and his platoon were attached to the Battalion Landing Team 3/1, of the 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit, which was embarked on the three ships of the Makin Island Amphibious Ready Group. The group included the USS New Orleans and the USS Pearl Harbor. The Makin Island is our Navy's first hybrid-electric propulsion ship. This was the conclusion of its first deployment and supported the 5th Fleet in the Persian Gulf. I sailed with them on the last leg their return voyage from Pearl to the coast of California.

After meeting at the pier, Nicholas grabbed my bag and led me aboard after suggesting I watch my head. I had trouble keeping up with him as we climbed up and down ladders, walked through crowded passage ways and stepped through bulkhead doors. We passed what seemed like hundreds of Sailors and Marines, and they all appeared in a hurry to go somewhere. We finally arrived at our berthing area, and I was sure that I would never be able to find my way back to the outside of the ship. Although only one officer on the ship out-ranked me, I was berthed according to Nick's rank which was as austere as it got. The berthing area had bunks 28 inches by 74 inches by 18 inches high, each with an eight-inch locker under the mattress. The Marines lived out of these small lockers, and their duffle bags for nine months. The bunks were stacked three high, in rows of five deep with 15 rows of bunks in our berthing area, thus holding 225 Marines. Every bunk was filled, and one was mine for the next eight nights.

We finally arrived in California near Camp Pendleton where the ship dropped anchor about a mile off shore. At around 5 a.m., the Landing Craft Air Cushion, and helicopters started moving equipment and Marines to shore. Most of the Marines moved to Pendleton by helicopter, usually CH-46 Sea Knights. The ship had 32 aircraft aboard including AV-8B Harrier Jump Jets, and five types. The LCACs are big but can move only one M-1Abrams tanks at a time. At about 3 p.m., we Tigers moved ashore by LCAC, which was a wet but quick 10-minute ride. We were the last to leave the ship for Camp Pendleton. The Sailors and a Marine security detachment remained on board for the short trip down to port in San Diego.

The following day, my wife Lori, son Alexander and daughter, Katelyn, arrived in San Diego. We all went to the pier where I guided them on a tour of the Makin Island at her dock at the Navy base in San Diego. The ship looked a lot different to me without all the equipment and personnel aboard. My family and I stayed on Pendleton for another week and enjoyed southern California. Everything but the traffic.

Unemployed Veterans Requesting Retraining Program to Enhance Job Skills

WASHINGTON – The Department of Veterans Affairs has approved more than 36,000 applications for the Veterans Retraining Assistance Program, a new training and education program for unemployed Veterans to upgrade their skills for in-demand jobs.

"The tremendous response illustrates how important this program is in providing Veterans the opportunity to find employment in a high-demand field," said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki.

At the current approval rate, VA expects to fill all 45,000 available slots for the fiscal year 2012 phase of the program before the Sept. 30 deadline, and will continue processing new applications for the 54,000 slots available in fiscal year 2013.

The program, a provision of the Veterans Opportunity to Work to Hire Heroes Act of 2011, which was passed by Congress and signed by the President in November 2011, is managed by VA and the Department of Labor and allows qualifying Veterans to receive up to 12 months of education assistance equal to the full-time Montgomery GI Bill – Active Duty rate, currently $1,473 per month.

The goal of VRAP is to train a total of 99,000 Veterans over the next two years in more than 200 job skills that DOL has determined are the most sought-after by employers.

To be eligible for the program, a Veteran must:

- Be 35-60 years old, unemployed on the day of application, and not dishonorably discharged;
- Not be eligible for any other VA education benefit program such as the Post-9/11 GI Bill, Montgomery GI Bill, or Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment;
- Not be enrolled in a federal or state job-training program within the last 180 days; and
- Not receive VA compensation at the 100% rate due to individual unemployability.

Veterans who have been approved for VRAP are encouraged to enroll as soon as possible to start training full-time in a VA-approved program of study offered by a community college or technical school. The program of study must lead to an associate degree, non-college degree, or certificate for a high-demand occupation as defined by DOL.

Applicants approved for the 2013 phase should enroll full-time in an approved program and start training by April 2013 in order to take full advantage of this benefit before its termination March 31, 2014.

"I'm thrilled that the response to the program has been so strong," said VA Under Secretary for Benefits Allison A. Hickey. "But we need to keep getting the word out to maintain the momentum."

VA Deputy Under Secretary for Economic Opportunity Curtis Coy acknowledged the program applies to a small segment of the Veteran population that may not have regular interaction with VA or stay informed about Veterans' benefits and opportunities.

"We ask anyone who knows an unemployed Veteran to tell them about VRAP," said Coy. "We are counting on the continued help of Veterans Service Organizations and the Department of Labor, as well as the American public, to reach as many eligible Veterans as possible."

Potential applicants can learn more about VRAP and apply online at www.benefits.va.gov/VOW, or call VA toll-free at 1-800-827-1000. Information about the Department of Labor's programs for Veterans is available at www.dol.gov/vets. Veterans can also visit the nearly 3,000 One-Stop Career Centers across the nation, listed at www.servicelocator.org, for in-person assistance.

For more information: http://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=2374

Children of Army and Air Create the Thank You Indiana Sign

Photos by Staff Sgt. Les Newport

Children of Indiana Army and Air National Guardsmen placed thousands of name tapes on a banner to send the world's largest thank you message to the citizens of Indiana. The banner was displayed at the Indiana State Fair.

National Guard Association of Indiana

2013 NGAI Membership Application

Dues are for a calendar year. Dues are collected from October 1st through September 30th for the current membership drive. Dues submitted to us as of October 1st are applied to the next calendar year.

NAME: _____ **SSN:** _____

ADDRESS: _____ **CITY:** _____

STATE: _____ **ZIP:** _____ **PHONE:** _____

E-MAIL: _____

GRADE: _____ **RANK:** _____ ☐ **ARMY GUARD** ☐ **AIR GUARD**

CURRENT UNIT: _____ **PRN:** _____ **DOB:** _____

MACOM-PLEASE CHECK ☐ **JFHQ** ☐ **181 IW** ☐ **122 FW** ☐ **38TH CAB**

☐ **38TH SUST** ☐ **76TH IBCT** ☐ **81ST TC** ☐ **219TH BfsB** ☐ **CAMCCO**

Annual & life membership dues for state (NGAI) and national (NGAUS-officer or EANGUS-enlisted) levels:

Grade	NGAI	NGAUS	Total	Grade	NGAI	EANGUS	Total
01	$15.00	$30.00	$45.00	E1-E2	FREE	$11.00	$11.00
02	15.00	45.00	60.00	E3	FREE	11.00	11.00
03	15.00	59.00	74.00	E4	FREE	11.00	11.00
04	20.00	72.00	92.00	E5	8.00	11.00	19.00
05	20.00	85.00	105.00	E6	8.00	11.00	19.00
06	20.00	108.00	128.00	E7	12.00	11.00	23.00
07	25.00	123.00	148.00	E8	12.00	11.00	23.00
08	25.00	139.00	164.00	E9	12.00	11.00	23.00

Annual memberships are based on calendar year 1 JAN – 31 DEC

WO1	$15.00	$26.00	$41.00	**NGAI Life Membership**	
CW2	15.00	35.00	50.00	Enlisted	$75.00
CW3	20.00	46.00	66.00	Officer	$150.00
CW4	20.00	59.00	79.00	Warrant Officer	$150.00
CW5	25.00	73.00	98.00		

NGAI inactive (retired) annual membership: Officer/Warrant Officer $20.00, Enlisted $10.00

Patriot Associate Annual	**$25.00**	**NGAUS Life Membership (Payable in four (4) biannual installments of $250)**	
Patriot Benefactor Life	**$500.00**	Officer	$1000.00
Patriot Membership is available to anyone recommended to the Board of Directors who is not otherwise eligible for membership.		Warrant Officer	$1000.00
		EANGUS Life Membership	
		Enlisted over age 50: ---------- Under 50 – Add $11/yr under + $250 base	$250.00 ---------- Cost is by age. (Ex. 40yr old = $360.00)

Type of Payment enclosed: **Cash $:** _____ **Check #:** _____ **Check Amount $:** _____

Master Card/Visa/Discover ONLY **CC#:** _____ **Exp. Date#:** _____

For NGAI Office Use Only

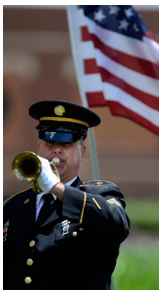
Signature: _____

Form Revised 8.7.12

Please notify NGAI if your address or unit changes so we can keep you up to date on all events!

2002 South Holt Road, Building 8, Indianapolis, IN 46241
317-247-3196 - 1-800-219-2173 - Fax 317-247-3575 Web: www.ngai.net; E-mail: membership@ngai.net

TAPS



SGT John D. Graham

John D. Graham, 85, of Bradenton, Fla., formerly of Indianapolis, died Nov. 25, 2011.

He was born in Franklin on March 4, 1926, to Joseph J. and Grace T. (McNair) Graham.

He married Shirley Jeanne Walker of Indianapolis on Nov. 14, 1953.

He enlisted in the U.S. Navy in 1944 and served in the Asiatic-Pacific campaign until the end of World War II.

He retired in 1982 from Stout Field, Indianapolis, where he served as a full-time U.S. Army National Guard technician for 32 years.

He retired as a first sergeant from Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, Indiana Army National Guard, in 1986.

In 1974, he had the honor of being with the only Reserve unit in the United States to be trained by the 3rd U.S. Infantry, "The Old Guard," in Arlington Cemetery, Fort Myer, Va., and to become the first Military Department of Indiana Ceremonial Unit.

He served a total of 37 years in military service.

After retirement, he retired with his wife to Florida's Longboat Key/Bradenton area.

MAJ Lawrence Ubelhor

Lawrence A. Ubelhor, 83, of Evansville, passed away Monday, July 02, 2012, at Deaconess Hospital.

He was born, March 30, 1929, in Evansville and attended Memorial High School, graduating in 1947.

He was a member of St. Joseph Catholic Church in Vanderburgh County, where he was the choir director and co-chair of the annual church picnic for many years and a member of the Men's Club. He received the Brute Award from the Diocese of Evansville for his service to the church. Larry was a masonry contractor, served in the United States Army National Guard for 25 years and operated Ubelhor"s Christmas Tree Farm on #6 School Road from 1957 to 2011. He was a member of the Indiana Christmas Tree Growers Association and volunteered at St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry.

CW4 Orlie Barker

Orlie Leo Barker, 81, died Sunday, June 17, 2012, at Covenant Hospice Center in Pensacola, Fla. He was a resident of Pensacola.

He was born Feb. 21, 1931, in Columbia, Ky., to the late Arthur L. and Ollie (Burton) Barker.

He married Bertha Barker, and she preceded him in death in 1988. He married Dolores (Belcher) Barker, and she survives.

Orlie served his country in both the U.S. Navy and U.S. Army, retiring from the Indiana National Guard as a chief warrant officer.

SFC Merrill Satterfield

Merrill L. Satterfield, 77, of East Karlsway, died at 4:40 a.m.
Tuesday, July 3, 2012, at Hospice of South Central Indiana Inpatient Facility.

Born in Tell City, Indiana, February 10, 1935, Merrill was the son of Arthur F. Satterfield and Volma (Mosby) Satterfield. He married Dianne S. Goffinet Nov. 24, 1960. She survives.

Merrill was a veteran of both the Air Force and the Army. After 34 years of service, he retired in March 1990 from the Military Department of Indiana as a technician and member of the Indiana National Guard.

He enjoyed fishing, hunting and playing cards. He loved his family, especially his grandchildren.

CSM Troy Clapp

Troy L. Clapp, 81, of Shelbyville, died Thursday, July 12, 2012, at his residence.

He was born April 27, 1931, in Union County, Tenn., to John and Mary Ada (Meltabarger) Clapp. He married Anne (Flaitz) Clapp on April 16, 1973, and she survives in Shelbyville.

Mr. Clapp had been a resident of the area since 1933. He graduated from Waldron High School in 1950.

He served in the U.S. Army during the Korean War,retiring as a command sergeant major of the 38th Infantry Division. He also served in the Indiana National Guard for 39 years, retiring in 1991.

Mr. Clapp worked as a clerk and rural letter carrier at the Shelbyville Post Office for 30 years, retiring in 1987.

He was a member of Waldron Masonic Lodge, Scottish Rite and Murat Shrine, as well as the American Legion and other military organizations. His many awards include the Legion of Merit and the Sagamore of the Wabash.

Mr. Clapp enjoyed spending time with his family and friends, traveling, playing golf and working on the computer.

SFC Thomas Morrison

Thomas Morrison, 57, Peru, passed away at 9:26 a.m. Tuesday, Aug. 7, 2012, at Blair Ridge Nursing Home after a long and courageous battle with liver disease.

Tom was born Oct. 18, 1954, in Washington, D.C., the son of Clyde and Suzanne Morrison.

Tom was a retired First Sergeant from the U.S. Army and Indiana Army National Guard, serving his country from 1972 until December 2003. He was a case manager and ran an after-school program for troubled youth through Four County Counseling Center.

Tom loved to hunt, fish, play cards and spend time with his family and friends. Tom was an avid listener to 70's classic rock. He was a devout friend and loving father. Tom loved to travel, especially to Hawaii to visit his granddaughter. He was a member of the VFW, American Legion and Kokomo Elks. Tom was a handyman, a jack of all trades with a passion for listening to others' problems, giving sound advice and mentoring those in need.

COL Earl Williams

Earl W. Williams, 72, Greenwood, IN, died on Wednesday, Aug. 8, 2012, in his residence. He was the president of Williams/Townsend Associates, serving the Indianapolis area and was a Full Bird Colonel with the Indiana National Guard. He was the husband of Vicki (Bush) Williams, who survives along with 2 sons and 4 sisters.

NEVER FORGET

Joint Force Headquarters - Indiana
ATTN: Public Affairs/Retired Guardian
2002 South Holt Road
Indianapolis, IN 46241-4839

The Retired Guardian

4th Quarter 2012