

INDIANA GUARDSMAN

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The 122nd Fighter Wing's A-10 Thunderbolts, aka Warthogs, bask in the lunar glow of a partially eclipsed moon, Sunday, Sept. 27, 2015, at Baer Field in Fort Wayne, Ind. The eclipse coincided with a lunar event commonly known as the blood moon and will not be seen again until 2033. Photo by Staff Sgt. William Hopper

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Message from The Adjutant General ...

Being part of a worldwide community

In September I traveled to Slovakia for the first time as the adjutant general and met with our Slovak military partners to learn and witness first-hand their personnel, training and equipment capabilities.

My visit coincided with the Slovak Shield 2015 exercise, a multinational exercise, with one of its objectives being the ability of Slovak Armed Forces to respond to an emerging military threat to their country with the support of allied countries. This is an incredibly important goal of theirs based on the current environment in Europe.

Our part in the exercise included approximately 120 Indiana Guardsmen traveling to Slovakia while we hosted more than 70 Slovak soldiers here in Indiana. I was very proud of our Soldiers who participated in this exchange. We provided outstanding Hoosier hospitality our state is famous for while providing superb familiarization activities to our Slovak partners.

While in Slovakia, I discussed with their senior leaders additional opportunities for interaction such as participation in upcoming exercises and exchanges that would enhance mutual readiness.

In addition, my trip included a meeting with the political economic director and his staff at the U.S. Embassy in Bratislava.

We war-gamed ways that we can take our already strong partnership beyond the military and enhance it by looking at business development opportunities that would benefit both Slovakia and Indiana.

Our mission as Guardsmen goes beyond our homeland. The State Partnership Program provides us with the opportunities to interact globally.

The Hoosier-Slovak relationship is getting stronger every day, and I'm excited for the future opportunities that we are creating.

Editor's note: For more on Slovak Shield, see pages 10 and 11.



The Adjutant General of Indiana, Maj. Gen. Courtney P. Carr, signs a guest book under the watchful eye of Ministry of Defense Maj. Gen. Milan Maxim, chief of the general staff of the armed forces of the Slovak Republic, in Bratislava, Slovakia. Tuesday, Sept. 22, 2015.



Slovak Key Facts

Location: Central Europe
Area: **18K+** sq. miles
Population: **5.4+** million
Capital: Bratislava

Information from www.cia.gov

Looking good in Spaatz

Blacksnakes fly high, named outstanding unit

By Master Sgt. Darin Hubble
122nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs

In September, the 122nd Fighter Wing received the Carl S. Spaatz trophy.

The National Guard Association of the United States annually presents the award to the highest-rated Air National Guard flying unit. In 2015, it was the Blacksnakes of the 122nd who earned the major award.

“The outstanding contributions of the 122nd Fighter Wing make them the most deserving of this award,” said Lt. Gen. Stanley E. Clarke III, Air National Guard director. “Their selection for this prestigious award reflects great credit upon themselves, the state of Indiana, and the Air National Guard.”

Selection of the winner is based on overall combat readiness during the reporting year and the unit’s performance with respect to all other Air National Guard flying units.

Factors included in the evaluation are flying safety, aircraft operation readiness, weapons firing, unit alerts, unit manning, skill level qualifications, retention, drill attendance, operational readiness inspections, outstanding accomplishments, special missions and exercises.

“It took every Airman’s due diligence and concentrated effort to ensure that the 122nd was able to receive this award,” said Col. Patrick R. Renwick, 122nd Fighter Wing commander. “The 122nd has taken the fight to the enemy and placed iron on target in an appropriate and efficient manner. At both home and abroad, Blacksnakes have proven that they can accomplish the mission successfully, that they are the proven choice in combat firepower and the first choice at homeland defense.”

Some of the unit’s achievements that went into the selection of the award were mobilizations and exercises. More than 300 122nd Airmen deployed in support of Operations Inherent Resolve, Enduring Freedom and New Dawn. Exercises included Brave Freedom, Combat Shield, Red Flag – Alaska, Green Flag, Silver Flag and the 122nd Medical Group’s overseas training.

The notable accomplishments during the rated period included deploying more than 300 members, on-time, to multiple areas of responsibility with no discrepancies and performing more than 1,986 home-station sorties; totaling 3,509 flying hours. The unit expended 82,000 pieces of ordnance, 28,000 gallons of A-10 fuel; pilot’s performed 133 wartime sorties, 107 close-air support and combat search and rescue sorties culminated in 422 combat flying hours.

The 122nd’s high-visibility participation in American-led coalition operations also led to earning the Spaatz. While in direct



Photo by Master Sgt. Darin Hubble

The 122nd Fighter Wing received the Carl S. Spaatz trophy, Sept. 13, 2015. It is presented annually to the highest-rated Air National Guard flying unit.

OEF support 122nd Airmen successfully destroyed crucial enemy assets. They also made history when they assisted in the bare-base stand up, as the 122nd Fighter Wing Operations Group Commander, Col. Mike Stohler, assumed command of the reactivated 332nd Air Expeditionary Group.

The 122nd was the first A-10C squadron to support OIR and expended more than 272,000 pounds of air-to-ground munitions, 22,470 munitions in countermeasures, 47,000 30mm rounds and 110 rockets; supporting 12 A-10Cs on 718 combat sorties, racking up 3,575 flying hours while degrading enemy capabilities.

Also in overseas missions, the unit deployed 25 expertly-trained security forces Airmen with zero security incidents.

The 122nd accomplished all of this while taking care of families and maintaining their 15th consecutive year of outstanding manning records at 105 percent end-strength, of 100 percent manning with a 96 percent retention rate; the unit is truly a bedrock for Indiana.

KICK the ...



Hoosier Guardsmen stand together for suicide prevention

By Staff Sgt. Lorne W. Neff
Indiana National Guard Public Affairs

The Indiana National Guard’s crisis intervention team sponsored its first Kick the Stigma kickball tournament in September. The tournament featured more than 60 participants and was held at a sports complex in Indianapolis.

“We chose a team event because it reminds us that we need battle buddies in just about everything we do,” said Capt. Eric Bolin, the crisis team’s officer in charge. “No one can win this tournament by themselves nor can they overcome crises by themselves.”

Bolin said the tournament was a fun way of addressing a very serious subject with suicides in the National Guard.

As of mid-October, 74 Army National Guardsmen had committed suicide

nationally. Since the beginning of the year, six were in the Indiana National Guard.

For the U.S. military, the loss of even one service member is one too many. So the Indiana National Guard’s suicide prevention team sought a way to break the negative connotations associated with emotional crises.

“It’s a subject that’s not easily talked about and this is an effort to get everyone together and talk about it and maybe have some fun,” said Matthew Stevens, the prevention team’s program manager.

The Indiana National Guard wants service members to know that if they are having trouble, or know of somebody who is, that it’s OK to seek help.

“We had a good turnout, I’m thankful for everyone that came out, but I’m not satisfied, I want to reach more people and raise more

awareness,” said Bolin. “Suicide doesn’t just affect one person, it affects families and friends and the whole community.”

A team from the Indiana National Guard recruiting command won the Kick the Stigma tournament.

“My Soldiers are the first line that brings people into the military, but it doesn’t end there,” said Sgt. 1st Class Mike Shrake, a recruiter and the winning team’s captain. “We need to make sure that Soldiers are here to help and support any that are in need, not just when they are recruited, but throughout their career. That’s why we are here.”

For immediate help please call the 24-hour national suicide prevention hotline at 1-800-273-8255, check online at www.veteranscrisisline.net or call the Indiana National Guard crisis intervention team at 317-247-3155.

Soldiers make lifestyle changes

By Capt. Jessica Cates

Atterbury-Muscatatuck Public Affairs

Soldiers from the 38th Infantry Division gathered at Camp Atterbury in August and September to take on the Lifestyle and Fitness Education Course, a three-week pilot program with a concept to develop the individual Soldier in overall wellness with the intention to retain stronger, self-confident and resilient citizens.

“I wanted this course to encompass more than just military structure, physical fitness and eating right,” said Command Sgt. Maj. James Martin, the 38th Infantry Division’s top enlisted Soldier. “Yes, we are focused on healthier eating and physical fitness but also resilience, strong bonds and financial wellness. The goal is to make them very well-rounded Citizen-Soldiers,” said Martin.

To focus more on coping with the



Photo by Capt. Jessica Cates

Indiana National Guard Soldiers stretch during physical fitness training at Camp Atterbury, Aug. 20.

stresses of life, such as family life, home and work, the program included two Strong Bonds events. Strong Bonds is a unit-based, chaplain-led program that assists commanders in building individual

resiliency by strengthening the Army family.

The core mission to increase individual Soldier and family-member readiness through relationship education and skills training. During the second week of the course chaplains, with the Indiana National Guard, taught the “7 Habits of Highly Effective People for Soldiers” course.

“This course gives individuals insight and knowledge on how to become a more effective person in the military and in the civilian world. It is based around discussion and group activities that make it fun and interactive,” said Capt. Cliff Pappé, an Indiana Army National Guard chaplain.

During the third week, an offsite event for the Soldiers was offered as they wrapped up the course.

“This course has a strong emphasis on individual skills and insight on how to learn about one’s self and other people in order to work together as a team, despite differences they may have,” said Pappé. “Such topics as relationships, communication, hidden issues and personality differences were covered.”

Most of the Soldiers attending the course are combat trained providing experience to the unit.

“All are currently in their extension window and want to stay in the military

“We are focused on healthier eating and physical fitness but also resilience, strong bonds and financial wellness. The goal is to make them very well-rounded Citizen-Soldiers.”

— **Command Sgt. Maj. James Martin**
38th Infantry Division senior enlisted advisor



Photo by Capt. Jessica Cates

Indiana National Guardsmen discuss life issues during the Lifestyle and Fitness Education Course.



Courtesy photo

Airmen of the 122nd Civil Engineer Squadron, Fort Wayne, Ind., help construct one of four multipurpose training buildings in Israel.

Blacksnakes build foundational skills in Israel

By Staff Sgt. William Hopper
122nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs

Airmen with the 122nd Civil Engineer Squadron recently returned from a deployment to Israel where they took part in the Juniper Cobra Exercise, a large joint forces construction operation involving multiple Air National Guard civil engineering squadrons and U.S. Navy Seabee counterparts.

One of the construction projects completed during the deployment consisted of four separate 10,000-square-foot multipurpose training buildings. The state of the art facilities will serve as training sites for the Israel Defense Force and U.S. service members.

Despite hot weather and challenging working conditions, the 122nd CES Airmen used teamwork and determination to safely complete building projects in support of one of America’s closest allies.

“Work conditions were extreme, we had a tight schedule and the weather was

a challenge,” said Maj. Matthew Curtin, 122nd Fighter Wing CES commander. “We had to keep an eye on each other which really reinforced the wingman concept.”

The deployment was coordinated between the National Guard Bureau and the U.S. Army Europe for the purpose of constructing the four buildings, a communications pad and overall development of the site.

“I was most proud of the team effort,” said Curtin. “We were able to create a lot of camaraderie while overcoming obstacles and challenges that the building projects presented us. Every job is unique and has its own challenges, which provided my Airmen with excellent training opportunities.”

Whether training at home or overseas while deployed, the Blacksnares of the 122nd Fighter Wing have proven to be an effective workforce regardless of the task at hand.

“It’s important that we are able to accomplish things like this,” said Curtin. “It gave our squadron a unique opportunity to contribute to our allies.”



Courtesy photo

Airmen of the 122nd Civil Engineer Squadron cut planks while completing construction on one of four multipurpose training buildings in Israel in support of Juniper Cobra Exercise.

See Changes, page 16

Military research labs test robots for rescue missions

Muscatatuck Urban Training Center hosts Army, Navy, Air Force for an exercise testing unmanned vehicles



Photo by Master Sgt. Brad Staggs

Stuart Young, of the Army Research Lab, follows a PacBot unmanned ground vehicle as it traverses a rubble-covered road during a testing and evaluation exercise at Muscatatuck Urban Training Center.

By Master Sgt. Brad Staggs
Atterbury-Muscatatuck Public Affairs

A small, unmanned aerial vehicle, or UAV, circles overhead at more than 2,000 feet, looking for survivors following a natural disaster. That aircraft spots something moving and cues a lower flying multirotor aircraft, to get in for a closer view. After confirming that the movement is or could be a human being, the hovering aircraft cues a ground robot that can get under rubble and in places that the flying robots can't. The robots find the victim to let human rescuers know exactly where to go. All of this without human intervention or interaction.

Sound like the future?

At Muscatatuck Urban Training Center in southern Indiana, the Air Force, Army, and Naval Research Labs came together for a joint experimentation exercise with the Autonomy for Adaptive Collaborative Sensing program.

"Autonomy is simply allowing a piece of equipment to react to its environment without needing human intervention," said Todd Jenkins, the Small Unmanned Systems Exploitation program manager and a member of the Air Force Research Laboratory's sensors directorate. "Different platforms from different disciplines should be able to communicate and work together seamlessly to assist human operators during their missions, whether it be a rescue mission or searching for a single person."

The lofty goal, Jenkins said, is to have a single operator controlling all of the air and ground robotics platforms at once while crucial information is fed back to the operator to parse. For engineers, such as Tom Apker, an autonomy engineer with the Naval Research Laboratory, this brings on a whole new set of challenges.

"I think in terms of geospatial problems or questions that a commander in a disaster scenario might have about what's going on in his environment," Apker said. "The major challenge for this particular exercise is that we're trying to do geospatial reasoning tasks for both fixed wing air assets while also working with ground robots and, eventually, multirotor vehicles."

This means that Apker and his team have to figure out where a fixed-wing asset, such as a small UAV, has to be several minutes to hours ahead of getting them there while a slow-moving multirotor vehicle with a camera or a ground robot can be updated minute by minute. And all of this must happen while everything bad is happening around them.

All of these assets are owned by the different military



Photo by Master Sgt. Brad Staggs

Two of the Army Research Lab's unmanned ground vehicles, the larger Husky and the smaller PacBot, wait for their orders prior to setting out on a search mission during Autonomy for Adaptive Collaborative Sensing program's testing and evaluation exercise on Thursday, Sept. 24, 2015, at Muscatatuck Urban Training Center in Butleville, Ind.



Courtesy photo

U.S. Air Force Research Lab members prepare two UAVs for flight.

agencies and this is the first time that they have all been brought together for a single exercise, creating a hodgepodge of technologies, coding languages, and even differing service languages in one synchronized event.

"That has been the big focus of my work this week," Apker said. "Figuring out just what those interfaces have to be to support a common operating picture that allows air-to-ground and ground-to-air task cueing so that the ground vehicles can detect things where the air vehicle can't and the air vehicle can pick up targets and follow them where the ground vehicles can't go."

When these systems are used in a laboratory environment, results can be tweaked on the spot and engineers can make assumptions about what will happen to their robots. However, once they get to a field environment, a whole new level of assumptions are raised and engineers may find out that what they thought worked very well will not work in a real environment. For Research Scientist Jonathan Fink and the Army Research Lab, this is a welcome change for their ground robots.

"We're always interested in getting our systems into new environments," Fink said while watching two ground robots go through their testing phase just outside the window. "We're looking at how we can use multiple ground robots to autonomously collect imagery, signal strength data from radio beacons, things like this, in a complicated post-disaster environment and this exercise presents new challenges."

The technology only represents a fraction of what this testing and

evaluation exercise will accomplish. The other end of the testing revolves around what this technology can be used for and Raj Maholtra, program manager of AACCS, believes that this is a technology that can be used for the benefit of mankind.

"This is a really positive story about how robots can collaborate to help survivors in disasters," Maholtra said. "We think that with these assets in the immediate aftermath of a disaster, we'll be able to give situational awareness to the forward air controllers and the folks responding to the disaster, including the NGOs [non-governmental organizations] and the nonmilitary people."

Maholtra said that earlier situational awareness can translate to saved lives and that this kind of autonomous system can detect the secondary incidents that can occur after a disaster, such as chemical and biological spills. Following the initial disaster response, they can be used to monitor the situation or perform follow-on missions where it might be hazardous for humans to go.

The general consensus among the scientists and engineers is that they are about a decade away from having an autonomous system between the air and ground assets. They all agree that there are many hurdles to get over before it is ready and a lot more research, testing, and evaluation needs to be done, but bringing the three service labs together for the first time allowed for a jump in progress. The next step is simply more testing and Muscatatuck provided the disaster scenario for exactly what is needed.

"I call Muscatatuck the DisneyWorld for first responders and disaster relief," Jenkins said. "There was a lot of appeal for all three teams to come here knowing what an exciting urban environment this would be. We had imagined that a hurricane had come through, a tornado, or an earthquake, of sorts, and that we would have our system helping in that type of scenario. This was just ideal for that."

"I call Muscatatuck the Disney World for first responders and disaster relief."

— Todd Jenkins

Small Unmanned Systems Exploitation program manager



Slovak Cpl. Peter Mihalcin, top, gives a tour of his Russian-based infantry fighting vehicle to Indiana Army National Guard Sgt. John Ferguson during Slovak Shield, Tuesday, Sept. 15, 2015. Photo by Sgt. Daniel Dyer

Slovak Shield



Hoosiers, Slovaks exchange troops

Staff Report

Indiana National Guard Public Affairs

Indiana and Slovakia continued their 21-year military and enduring strategic partnership as part of the National Guard's State Partnership program.

In September, approximately 120 Hoosier Guardsmen traveled to Slovakia to participate in Slovak Shield, a multinational training exercise, which helped contribute to NATO's European Reassurance Initiative. In return more than 70 Slovakian soldiers arrived here in the Hoosier state.

Coinciding with this exercise, Maj. Gen. Courtney P. Carr visited Slovakia for the first time as the Indiana National Guard leader.

The adjutant general also visited the U.S. Embassy in Bratislava, where he met with the economic section staff to discuss strategic communication, financial synchronization and initiatives for the way ahead for enhancing the partnership outside military operations.

"I'm excited to expand our relationship to explore opportunities to provide business development between our two countries" said Carr.

Indiana Army National Guard Maj. Kent Anderson joined the general on his trip. Anderson also works with the Indiana Economic Development Corporation as the vice president of business development.

"My goal is to support the development and growth of our relationships. To see it beyond just military-to-military relations, but to include areas such as economic development," said Anderson. He said the future relationship between the European country and Midwestern state is boundless and will help stabilize the Eastern European region and enrich the Hoosier State.

During the exercise, Slovak Armed Forces worked with allied forces while



Photo by Staff Sgt. Lorne W. Neff

Sgt. 1st Class Michael J. Rossiter Jr. shows Slovak troops a detonation cord at Camp Atterbury.



Photo by Sgt. Daniel Dyer

A Slovak Mi-17 pilot gives Indiana Army National Guardsmen a safety brief during Slovak Shield.

analyzing their capabilities and level of readiness to respond to emerging threats that U.S. Army Europe anticipates for the region.

"European Command wants to see a more persistence presence, and they have identified 13 countries they want to have a higher visibility in and Slovakia is one of them," said Maj. James Claghorn, the Indiana National Guard's State Partnership Program director.

In Indiana, Slovak soldiers were matched with Hoosier National Guardsmen who shared the same skill sets.

"They are very engaged and interested in what's going on," said Indiana Army National Guard Maj. Harmonie Foster, 113th Company C Medical Support commander. "It's very interesting and enlightening to

know that there are a lot of similarities and differences between the two cultures and operations."

Slovak troops also participated in several events from grenade throwing, M4 and AT-4 firing, to setting up explosives for heavy demolition exercises.

"We had the chance to work with C-4 for, which we don't use in Slovakia, we use different explosives," said 1st Lt. Lubomir Muran, deputy commander of a Slovak Armed Forces engineer company.

Muran also said that it has been a great opportunity to see how Americans work. He said Slovaks may have experience with some of the equipment, but he said they were excited to see the way American service members work.

Smoke Out!

Indiana National Guardsmen help light 'em up

A U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration officer pulls a marijuana plant from a cornfield in southern Indiana. The Indiana National Guard Counter Drug Task Force joined other state and federal agencies to locate and remove marijuana being grown illegally. Photo by Staff Sgt. Lorne W. Neff



Courtesy photo

By Staff Sgt. Lorne W. Neff
Indiana National Guard Public Affairs

The Indiana National Guard continued its support of the Indiana State Police and federal agencies to conduct Operation Smoke Out, a blitz to eradicate marijuana in publicly owned lands.

“We’ve found very large plots grown by Mexican cartels in the Hoosier National Forest that endanger hunters, hikers and the general populous,” said Staff Sgt. Andrew Lohmiller, Indiana National Guard Counterdrug Task Force. “We’ve taken the public grounds back and eliminated the flow of funds across the boarder and overseas that help fund our enemies.”

The operations, led by the Indiana State Police, included the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration, U.S. Forest Service, Civil Air Patrol, the Indiana Department of Natural Resources and local law enforcement agencies.

The operations lead to the arrest of 16 people. Officers seized more than four pounds of processed marijuana, six weapons

and a meth lab. Officials found less than 5,000 plants this year at 146 marijuana plots.

“The fact that the numbers are down are a great thing,” said Indiana State Police Sgt. Lou Perras, domestic cannabis eradication program coordinator. “Five years ago, we found over 20,000 plants. That indicated that we had an issue. As the number decreased, we’ve suppressed those organizations (drug cartels), which tells me we are doing our job and making public lands safer.”

“These growers are on notice that they are not welcome in Indiana, and we are still here,” said Maj. Gen. Courtney P. Carr, Indiana’s adjutant general.

“Anytime you can bring all these assets together, which is complicated, safely and successfully, is an asset that should be utilized whenever possible, said Sgt. 1st Class Josh Harveth, Indiana National Guard counterdrug operations.

The training and cooperation with other agencies has been ongoing for several years.

“Conducting a joint mission with different agencies further solidifies our partnerships, SOPs, and operability in future operations

and state wide emergencies,” said Capt. Adam Barlow, Indiana National Guard counterdrug coordinator. “We are laying and solidifying the relationships that are needed within our state to respond to any threats or emergencies that could arise at any time.”

“I can envision these agencies working together in a natural disaster, any type of crisis response that will allow these folks to work together,” said Carr.

“We can be the conduit that provides training, operational support, intelligence, cooperation and in a variety of ways,” said Harveth.

“The cooperation is important and that allows us to access very remote areas we would not otherwise be able to access,” said Perras. “The relationship is critical to make for safer operations and allows us to exchange information to be more efficient.”

“We can now provide aerial platforms that the state police are comfortable working in for crisis response, natural disasters and from instate terrorism, there’s a lot that can come from the collaboration we have built,” said Lohmiller.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Lorne W. Neff

A National Guard Counterdrug Task Force member briefs Indiana’s Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. Courtney P. Carr, far left, and Col. Tim Thombleson, center, about Operation Smoke Out.

Hoosier Airman remembers a Gulf Coast Thanksgiving

Some of the hardest hit areas following Hurricane Katrina were cities and towns along Mississippi's Gulf Coast – Bay St. Louis, Gulfport, Biloxi and D'Iberville. Those towns experienced 135 mph winds for six hours and a 30-foot storm surge.

The devastation looked like a small tactical nuke detonated. Trees were bent and broken facing north for almost three miles inland. To me the devastation looked similar to photos I have seen of the Mount St. Helens eruption.

The storm didn't discriminate; shanties to mansions were all leveled. All that was left was concrete foundations with sidewalks leading to nowhere. There was a sports car wrapped around a tree 15 feet in the air. Skeleton like pylons were all that was left of million-dollar homes.

The devastation was massive, but as I learned, the heart and resilience of the people of the Gulf Coast of Mississippi was truly inspiring.

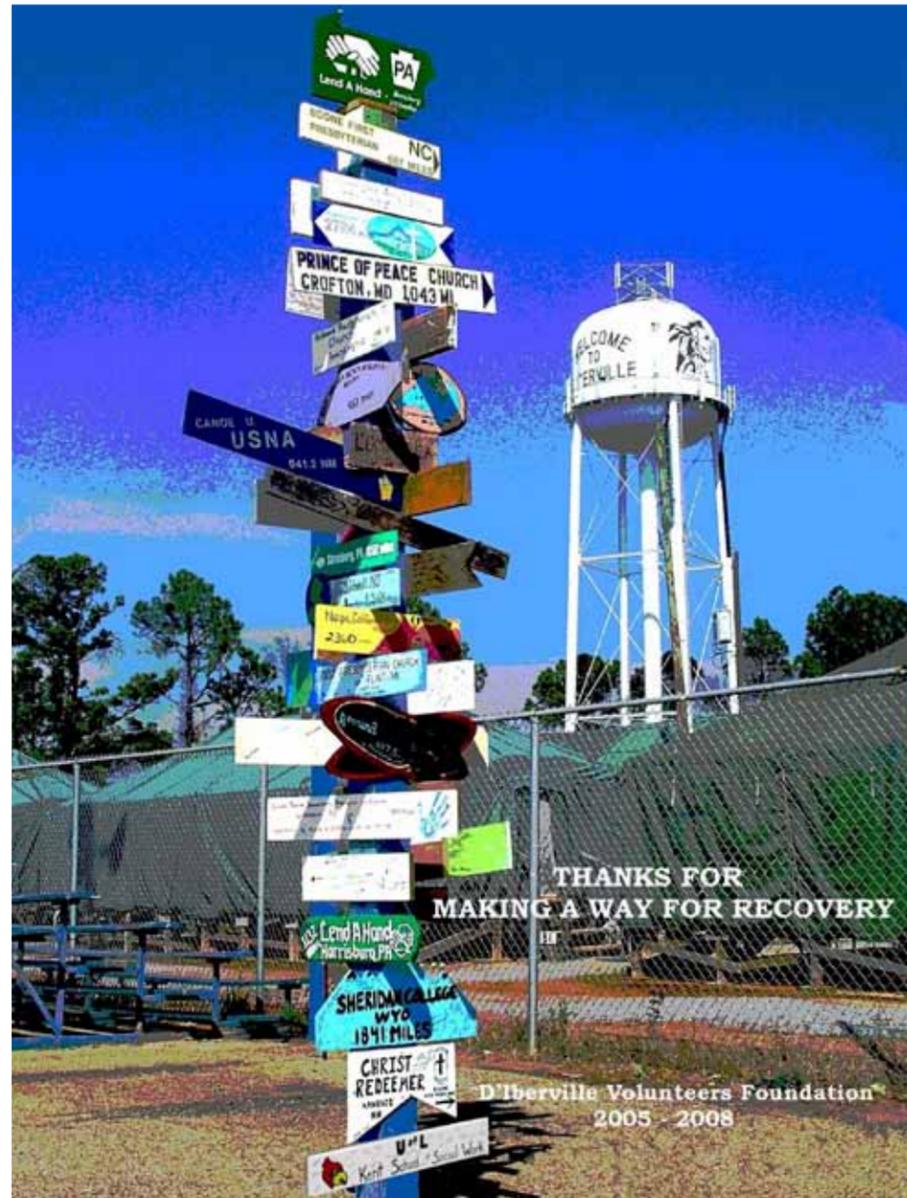
The Indiana National Guard sent more than 3,000 Soldiers and Airmen to the Gulf Coast, and there were boots on the ground in 72 hours as part of the federal response.

The city of D'Iberville became the command center for the response. The people of the Gulf Coast did not wait for federal help to arrive. Instead, they rolled up their sleeves and got to work immediately.

What happened next was a perfect storm of support in response to the huge catastrophe that Katrina left in its wake. Yet tragic events can bring out the best of the American spirit, and the outpouring of support to the Gulf Coast victims was truly amazing.

Lt. Col. Terry Mullins from the Indiana Air National Guard was on the ground in D'Iberville at one of the distribution centers and called me when I was at the 181st Fighter Wing. He told me exactly what was needed in the way of donations.

What happened next is a tribute to the heart of Indiana. I made an announcement at my church calling for donations and



A painting of a signpost outside of a tent city and below the D'Iberville water tower. The signpost shows the volunteer organizations that supported D'Iberville during the Hurricane Katrina relief efforts. A lithograph of this painting was presented to the Indiana Air National Guard in 2011.

help. Fellow churchgoer Anne Engleheart, an Avon city councilor, then made an announcement during a council meeting. Bottom line, Avon adopted D'Iberville.

The ripple effect continued. Jeff Ritorto, the Avon police chief, and I, as a civilian and volunteer, flew to D'Iberville thanks to MJ Aircraft, owned by my mother and who donated the flight and a volunteer pilot.

By November, Thanksgiving time, there were many mouths to feed. Relief efforts

were strong in the area, but thousands were still homeless

The outpouring of support to feed thousands, especially at a time when we're supposed to remember to be thankful, from all over the nation was nothing short of miraculous. The connections and reconnections made were also nothing short of miraculous.

I reconnected with an Airman who I'd met 10 years earlier. She was now the

Outpouring of Support = 1,250 ...

City of Avon

Brought electric knives to carve turkeys, **600** fruit pies, rolls, other needed utensils, and **40** volunteers.

Kappa Delta Pi Honor Society, Indianapolis

Brought paper and plastic products, money, aprons, and **11** volunteers including the executive director, Dr. Michael P. Wolfe, who had the idea for this Thanksgiving dinner in September.

Indiana National Guard

Facilitated the use of the Air Guard Base kitchen in Gulfport, Miss., to prepare the vegetables, gravy, and bread for the Thanksgiving meal.

Mississippi Air National Guard

Made the kitchen available for meal preparation.

Boy Scout Troop 566, Warner Robbins, Ga.

Brought full propane cylinders, gravy mix, canned sweet potatoes, stuffing mix.

Hope Presbyterian Church, Memphis, Tenn.

Brought **20** turkey fryers, pallet of peanut oil, **2,000** homemade brownies, and **20** volunteers to fry the turkeys and help serve the meals.

Spanish Fort Methodist Church, Spanish Fort, Ala.

Brought about **100** homemade desserts, turkey breasts, and **40** volunteers.

Shipshewana, Ind.

Sent **\$2,500** in gift cards that were used to purchase **98** turkeys for the Thanksgiving meal – arrived on Tuesday morning when turkeys from Pennsylvania were declared missing, and we scrambled to find replacements.

noncommissioned officer in charge of the Gulfport Combat Readiness Center. Master Sgt. Jeannie Chambliss helped overcome one of the biggest challenges: finding a facility to prepare 5,000 meals. She was surprised to see me again. I explained our feeding conundrum. Chambliss' response was "what do you need and how can I help." Chambliss not only allowed us to use the kitchen, but she also offered thermal containers for transport of the meals to three satellite locations.

It's all about resiliency, connections, community and support.

Ten years later, we look back and see we have much to be thankful for and are reminded that life is not about what happens to you but rather how you react to what happens. The little town of D'Iberville taught us what it really means to be resilient.

The residents showed that when everyone comes together sharing whatever they have to

offer, the sum is bigger than the parts. A thousand homes were rebuilt. Lives were restored and the spirit of D'Iberville has become the epicenter of the economic engine of the Gulf Coast today. The Indiana National Guard and the Hoosier hospitality of our Soldiers and Airmen truly made a difference and our spirit lives on in D'Iberville.

My family was there, Thanksgiving 2005 in the Gulf Coast. I took my wife, daughter and son. I wanted them to see firsthand how Indiana and the Indiana National Guard had made an impact. They were thankful for what they had, and I am thankful for them each and every day.

Editor's note: Lt. Col. J.R. Newman is the director of the Indiana National Guard's Strategic Initiatives and Business Transformation. In 2005, he was the wing executive support officer for the 181st Fighter Wing. Newman has more than 28 years in the Indiana Air National Guard.

1,250 ...

Meals served to citizens and their families at three sites at three different setting times. There was enough leftover meal components to feed citizens and volunteers one meal a week for the next six weeks.



Changes

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while continuing to serve, but need the additional guidance and training to be eligible for extension,” said Martin.

Indiana National Guard Sgt. 1st Class Gabe Morgan, 38th Sustainment Brigade, said the run portion was the most beneficial portion of the class.

“In the Army they teach you how to do sit-ups and push-ups, but no one ever teaches you how to run,” said Morgan.

Cadre taught classes on running tips, injury prevention to even wearing the correct shoe.

During the final Army Physical Fitness Test, Morgan shed three minutes off his run time giving him a passing score, something he had struggled with in years past.

“This is a life style course and that’s what we are getting out of it, a new life style,” said Sgt. Charles Leavell, 38th Infantry Division. “A new way to run properly, eat properly and watch calories,” Leavell said.

The lifestyle change will not stop when these Soldiers go home. Leaders of the 38th Infantry Division are making sure they keep these Soldiers motivated and continued down their new path by providing each Soldier with a personal fitness tracker.

The device tracks different statistics in real-time, including steps taken, distance traveled, calories burned, stairs climbed and active minutes throughout the day.

“We have to focus on retaining the Soldiers that are trained and combat hardened so we don’t lose experience. And if they decide to ETS (expiration term of service), then we have trained Soldiers to handle the stressors of life and provided valuable skills,” said Martin.

Even though none of the Soldiers knew each other going into the three-week program, most admitted they felt comfortable with contacting each other after the program was complete.

For more information about Strong Bonds, call 317-247-3300 ext. 75221.



Indiana Army National Guard Staff Sgt. Kenneth N. Forsythe poses for a photo with Kellie Bittorf, right, the Indiana Criminal Justice Association president, and Mark Murphey, the association’s awards chairperson, during the ICJA’s awards luncheon in Merrillville, Ind., Wednesday, Oct. 7.

Guardisman wins ICJA award

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

An Indiana National Guardsman won the Indiana Criminal Justice Association’s Law Enforcement Officer of the Year for his work with police agencies in northwestern Indiana during a ceremony in October.

Staff Sgt. Kenneth N. Forsythe, a criminal analyst with the Indiana National Guard’s counterdrug team, expanded an intelligence network that links agents, officers and analysts who combat gang activity.

“To even be nominated for something like this is humbling,” said Forsythe “It’s nice to know that the guys who are out there putting their lives on the line every day, appreciate what we do for them and show that we work hand-in-hand together.”

Forsythe is a 38th Sustainment Brigade platoon sergeant and human resources specialist with a criminal analyst special skill identifier.

Agent Erik Kruper, the Gary Parole Office supervisor with the Indiana Department of Corrections, nominated Forsythe for the

award. Kruper explained why Forsythe was deserving of the award.

“All he does for law enforcement in the northwest Indiana area and submitting information related to gang activity, he’s very knowledgeable, and he does whatever task is put before him,” said Kruper.

Forsythe, who has been with the counterdrug team since 2008, oversaw and maintained the Regional Gang Intelligence Database that tracked and shared gang intelligence information between agencies in Lake County, Ind.

Forsythe then pushed to expand the RGID that now includes information from 16 different states. He said that the majority of the intelligence in the database comes from Indiana, Illinois, and Wisconsin, and ties law enforcement agencies in the major cities in areas of Milwaukee, Chicago, South Bend, Lafayette and Indianapolis

As a community-based service member, Forsythe said he sees honor in supporting community organizations.

“I’m proud to be in the National Guard; I’m proud to support the law enforcement officers,” said Forsythe.



An Indiana National Guard Soldier with the 38th Infantry Division helps display a U.S. flag at the Indianapolis Colts game, Sunday, Oct. 25, 2015. Photo by Staff Sgt. Lorne W. Neff



Slovak soldiers rappel at Camp Atterbury, Sept. 18, 2015, as part of an exchange of troops between the the Indiana National Guard and the Slovak Defense Forces. For more information, see pages 10 and 11. Photo by Sgt. Daniel Dyar