

# INDIANA GUARDSMAN

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Front cover: An Indiana National Guard soldier clears his throat after exiting a gas chamber filled with CS gas during the chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear response training at Camp Atterbury, Saturday, April 7, 2018. Photo by Sgt. Alejandro Smith-Antuna

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# National Guard troops, kids learn, share cookies



Photo by Spc. Tackora Hand

Children of Indiana National Guard service members construct robots of plastic blocks and other materials at the 38th Infantry Division Armory, Saturday, April 28. In April, the month of the military child, the Indiana National Guard child and youth program hosted a robotics educational workshop that increased critical thinking, encouraged teamwork and supported science, technology, engineering and mathematics curricula.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Ashley Westfall

The Adjutant General of the Indiana National Guard, Maj. Gen. Courtney P. Carr, presents a Girl Scout with a backpack at the Girl Scouts' Operation Cookie Drop at Stout Field in Indianapolis, Friday, April 13, 2018. The Girl Scouts delivered more than 60,000 packages of Girl Scout Cookies for service members with the Indiana National Guard, Army Reserve, Marine Corps Reserve, and Navy Reserve.



Photo by Spc. Tackora Hand

Indiana National Guardsmen flying a UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter retrieve water from a quarry to assist with firefighting duties in Mitchell.

## Hoosier National Guardsmen engage in fire fight

By Spc. Tackora Hand  
120th Public Affairs Detachment

Indiana National Guardsmen with the 38th Combat Aviation Brigade answered the call for help from Hoosiers after a fire broke out at a mulch company in Lawrence County, April 13.

The aggressive fire roared for more than 24 hours before the Indiana Department of Homeland Security requested the Indiana National Guard to begin assistance operations in the southern Indiana county.

“It’s nice knowing that the Indiana National Guard will come out and do what they can,” said Chief Paul Gillespie with the Marion Township Fire Department. “A partnership like this is not only useful here, but for situations in the future, and not with just water drops, but patient evacuations and other emergency situations.”

The aviation brigade activated a UH-60

Black Hawk crew with a helicopter bucket that Friday morning.

“The 30-mph winds made the fire difficult to contain,” said Luchauer. “Portions of Mitchell were evacuated and schools were closed due to heavy smoke; residents were asked to shelter in place.”

With eight fire departments already on scene, the citizen-soldiers flew into assist the firefighters and emergency services.

“The smoke was so thick, crews said there was zero visibility. Many firefighters were treated for smoke inhalation,” said Valerie Luchauer the Lawrence County Emergency Management director.

Throughout the day soldiers conducted fire suppression operations to help contain the blaze.

The Guardsmen collected water from a quarry more than four miles away, and dispersed it onto the fire for a total of seven drops, said Gillespie.



Photo by Spc. Tackora Hand

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*“It’s nice knowing that the Indiana National Guard will come out and do what they can.”*

— **Chief Paul Gillespie**  
**Marion Township Fire Department**

National Guard soldiers dump water on a mulch conflagration in Mitchell. The citizen-soldiers assisted local and state civilian authorities during the southern Indiana fire.

# Scouts tour largest Indiana armory

By Cadet Skyler J. Wilson  
*Unit Public Affairs Representative*

**FRANKLIN, Ind.** – Indiana National Guard soldiers with the 738th Signal Company hosted a site visit in March at the Johnson County Armory for Boy Scouts of America.

More than 60 scouts from Pack 132 in Carmel toured the largest armory in the state, sat in armored Humvees and trucks, saw the inner workings of an Army unit, explored a supply cage and weapons vault, and interviewed soldiers.

“It was very interesting, and they gave us a lot of facts. I like that they help people,” said Quinton, one of the Cub Scouts on the tour.

Scouts also received a demonstration of the 738th’s signature equipment -- a communications system that links federal, state and local first responders during a catastrophic event.

The equipment, known as Direct Incident Response Emergency

Communication Terminal, connects myriad computers, radios and antennas together.

“The DIRECT system is important because we’re using it to interact with local government agencies like the fire departments, police departments and EMS,” said Spc. Nick Gleason, a 738th signal support specialist. “Basically we can provide communications when no one else can.”

Guard soldiers with the 738th who led the tour, 1st Lt. Alex Fath and Sgt. 1st Class Andrew Schnieders, explained the National Guard’s dual mission to state and nation and how the unit’s capabilities serve both roles.

“Visiting the Indiana National Guard was a great opportunity for our Cub Scouts to understand how the soldiers serve their community,” said Jonathan Schalliol, the scouts’ committee chairman. “We all were impressed by the kindness of the friendly soldiers who took time out to help us engage.”

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*“Visiting the Indiana National Guard was a great opportunity for our Cub Scouts to understand how the soldiers serve their community. We all were impressed by the kindness of the friendly soldiers who took time out to help us engage.”*

— **Jonathan Schalliol**  
**Cub Scouts Committee Chairman**



Boy Scouts of America listen to a National Guard soldier at the Johnson County Armory during a tour of the facility, Saturday, March 3, 2018.

# Masks at the Ready

## *Maintaining gear for catastrophic disasters*

By Sgt. Alejandro Smith-Antuna  
*120th Public Affairs Detachment*

In the age of nonconventional warfare, the risk of chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear attacks bring a greater need for a proactive approach. Weaponized agents of this variety can be unseen killers.

Yet troops have an arsenal of protective gear – masks, suits, gloves and boots – that must be donned and taken care of properly to defend themselves.

“If you do not seal your suit properly, then you are dead. It sounds harsh but that is the reality of this,” said Spc. Shantae Buchanan, an instructor with the 438th Chemical Company. “People don’t always take this training seriously, because they’ve never had to deal with this stuff seriously. Being current with this training means ensuring your survival in the event of a nuclear or chemical incident.”

So to maintain currency, approximately 60 soldiers from the Indiana National Guard participated in a three-day event to then train others, because one missed step in the preparation process can be devastating.

“Our state adjutant general realized that the need for CBRN training was severely lacking amongst our Guardsmen,” said Maj. Ryan Core, the operations officer for Indiana’s emergency response force package. “These skills are ones that are in the basic warrior task list that they learn but soon forget from lack of use.”

The training consisted of a crawl-walk-run phases, separating training intensity as the days went on. So the first day included briefs and equipment familiarization.

“For many of them, this is their first time seeing this type of equipment and handling it,” said Core. “We are able to use ordinary household chemicals to fool the detectors on the equipment to show how our machines will act in the event of an incident. The plan is that after they complete their training, they will then be able to go back to their unit’s and train their own.”

The second day involved outdoor field training in round-robin scenarios. Each station consistently reinforced the need for precaution and safety. The Mission Oriented Protective Posture, or MOPP, suit is a type of safety gear used by military personnel while in toxic environments.

There are also different MOPP levels, ranging from zero to four, beginning with the equipment by your side then donning a mask up to a gas mask, over garment, gloves and boot covers.

By day three the soldiers were using what they learned in the days prior, including decontamination, identifying and reporting CBRN attacks, and setting up gas chamber training.

“[This training] gives us that next hands-on level of learning,



*Photo by Sgt. Alejandro Smith-Antuna*

**Spc. Katelynn Boener, a 438th Chemical Company soldier, explains the proper way to troubleshoot a gas mask if it fails to pass the mask-fit test at Camp Atterbury, Indiana, Saturday, April 7, 2018.**

where we saw it in the classroom now we get to see it in person and deepen our understanding,” said 2nd Lt. Daniel Reynolds, a 319th Forward Support Company maintenance platoon leader. “This way, when we are instructing our team, platoon or battalion, we have more subject matter experts to give the best training.”



Photo by Staff Sgt. Jeremiah Runser

Staff Sgt. Will Lowe, a 122nd Fighter Wing crew chief marshals an A-10C after a mission during Operation Guardian Blitz, in January at MacDill Air Force Base, Fla. Guardian Blitz is a two-week joint exercise to improve service interoperability for combat search and rescue

## Hoosiers, Nigeriens train together in Africa

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

**OUALLAM, Niger** — Indiana National Guard and Nigerien armed forces trained together during the multinational exercise Flintlock 18 during 12 days in April.

The commander of Special Operations Command Africa, Maj. Gen. Marcus Hicks, highlighted the significance of the training location and the partnership.

“Niger is a central player in most all of the violent extremist threats in northern Africa, so they are a natural partner. They are a very good partner, a very willing partner and capable as well,” Hicks said.

With growing threats from extremist groups in the Sahel and Lake Chad region, Flintlock allows the Indiana National Guard to train side-by-side with a partner force while developing skills in a multinational, joint training environment.

“Flintlock represents a new level of cooperation ... in a troubled region,” said

Hicks. “We do this as brothers in arms.”

The larger aim is to help service members assigned to this region and incoming partner forces be better prepared to fight groups such as al-Qaida, Islamic State affiliates and Boko Haram.

“I think the key word here is interoperability,” said a Hoosier National Guardsman with Company A, 2nd Battalion, 20th Special Forces Group, a detachment with the Indiana National Guard. “We need to understand how they operate, and they need to understand how we operate so that in the future we can work seamlessly together.”

Flintlock 18 served as an opportunity to work alongside other forces at a strategic and granular level to hone skills normally practiced at a unit level, thus allowing real-time communication and feedback.

“A lot of the joint training focused on reacting to an ambush, conducting a raid, taking information provided by locals and using that for future mission planning,” said

the 20th Group soldier.

The Indiana National Guard has a 20-plus year partnership with Slovakia, but only recently signed another State Partnership Program agreement with Niger in 2017.

The Flintlock exercise, which traditionally emphasizes tactical proficiency of small units, shifted its focus this year to the command and control of joint forces based on recent real-world threats of the violent extremist organizations currently threatening the area.

This Flintlock exercise took place just six months after the ambush in Niger that resulted in the deaths of four U.S. soldiers and one Nigerien soldier. The attack showed the inherent risks that Niger and the U.S. face in the region.

“Africa matters to us because it is a preventive-medicine theater versus an emergency-medicine theater,” said Hicks. “What I mean by that is these threats, as they exist in Africa, are at a level where they can be dealt with.”

# Vibrant Response

## Joint exercises take over Indiana

### Staff Report

*Indiana National Guard Public Affairs*

The Indiana National Guard hosted approximately 5,200 military and civilian personnel from across the country and different service branches to take part in annual, disaster response training exercises at Camp Atterbury and Muscatatuck Urban Training Center.

Vibrant Response and Guardian Response were sponsored by U.S. Army North and U.S. Forces Command, and they ran for nearly the entire month of April.

In the realistic training exercise terrorists detonated a 20-kiloton bomb in a metropolitan area.

“This training is critical because it is a nonstandard mission for us,” said South Carolina National Guard Col. Robert Carruthers, the 218th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade commander. “We have our main mission, which is our warfighting mission, but this is an additional mission we have as Guardsmen, to protect the homeland.”

The two exercises brought together command and control experts, medics, chemical specialists, engineers and other service members who are trained to respond to a variety of natural and man-made disasters.

The exercises differ a bit. Vibrant Response focuses on command and control and the managing of the assets. Guardian Response focuses on the troops who do the responding - the medics and search and rescue personnel on ground.

The exercises also received national-level attention with several dignitaries and VIPs including the Chief of National Guard Bureau, Gen. Joseph L. Lengyel.

“This is the homeland component of our strategic national defense priorities which includes building military readiness as we build a joint force,” Lengyel said. “This is a very important exercise, particularly for the National Guard, which is positioned around the country to come to the aid of first responders. To be able to come here and protect [maintain] skill sets from search and rescue to medical and chemical -- all that we do here helps us to be ready for that worst day.”



*Photo by Master Sgt. Anthony L Taylor*

**U.S. Army Reserve Sgt. Brian Cole, 468th Engineer Detachment, evaluates the situation during a trench-rescue mission, Thursday, April 12, 2018.**



*Photo by Master Sgt. Anthony L Taylor*

**Soldiers with the 414th Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Company, treat patients during Guardian Response 18 exercise, Wednesday, April 11, 2018.**

*“This is a very important exercise, particularly for the National Guard, which is positioned around the country to come to the aid of first responders.”*

**— Gen. Joseph L. Lengyel**  
Chief of the National Guard Bureau



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## National Guard training centers



Photo by Sgt. Brad Mincey

Indiana Army National Guardsman Sgt. Paul Reid, 251st Area Support Medical Company, provides medical aid to a casualty during Vibrant Response training exercise at Muscatatuck Urban Training Center near Butleville, Indiana, Thursday, April 12, 2018.



Photo by Spc. Taekora Hand

Spc. Jaaron Bentley, a 219th Engineer Brigade radio transmission operator, repairs a radio to ensure smooth lines of communication.



Photo by Sgt. Devon Bistarkey

Chief of the National Guard Bureau, Air Force Gen. Joseph L. Lengyel, walks through a decontamination site, Saturday, April 14, 2018.



Photo by Cpl. Elizabeth Scott

Soldiers with the 22nd Engineer Clearance Company walk to a scene with specialized tools they will be using to extract casualties, April 22.



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Indiana National Guard Spc. Samuel Thompson, a medic with the 38th Sustainment Brigade, practices IV stick techniques Spc. Dalton Vernon, right, a fellow medic, as Sgt. 1st Class Matthew Caras a medical noncommissioned officer in charge, supervises, at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, Wednesday, April 11, 2018. Photo by Master Sgt. Brad Staggs



Teachers and students with STARBASE Indiana, based at Indiana National Guard headquarters, launch a high-altitude balloon from Ben Davis High School, Tuesday, March 6, 2018. The balloon launch gave students an opportunity to research and prepare experiments with onboard cameras as they tracked the balloon's course at altitudes reaching 100,000 feet and traveling approximately 120 miles. Photo by Master Sgt. Jeff Lowry

