

The background image shows a military convoy of several trucks driving on a dirt road through a dry, grassy field. In the distance, there are rolling hills and some industrial or military structures under a blue sky with scattered clouds.

# ILLINOIS NATIONAL GUARD PRAIRIE SENTINEL

VOLUME 2

## ILLINOIS GOES TO YAKIMA: RISING THUNDER 2019

---

NATIONAL WOMEN'S VET CENTER  
HONORS ILLINOIS GUARD  
FALLEN SOLDIER

---

33RD IBCT WELCOMES A NEW  
COMMANDER

---

OCTOBER 2019

# ILLINOIS NATIONAL GUARD PRAIRIE SENTINEL



For more, click a photo or the title of the story.

## **Living On: Chicago Women's Vet Center Named for Fallen Soldier 4**

*A photo spread from Spc. Dan Lograsso, 139th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment highlighting Chicago's new Sgt. Simone A. Robinson Military Women Veteran's Center.*

## **Putting It All Together: ILNG Transporters Deliver Success at Rising Thunder 6**

*Spc. Shaylin Quaid of the 1844th Transportation Company explores the unit's success at Rising Thunder 2019 in Yakima, Washington.*

## **Illinois National Guardsmen Blow Away Rising Thunder 8**

*Sgt. Jeff Daniel, 211th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment, U.S. Army Reserves, tells the story of mortar Soldiers of the 2nd Battalion, 130th Infantry Regiment at Rising Thunder 2019 in Yakima, Washington.*

## **33rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team Welcomes New Commander 9**

*Maj. Dutch Grove, 33rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team Public Affairs, helps the 33rd welcome a new brigade commander.*

## **Gold Star Weekend: Honoring Illinois' Fallen Heroes 10**

*A photo spread from Lt. Col. Bradford Leighton, Illinois National Guard Public Affairs, highlighting Illinois' Gold Star Mother's Day, and a ceremony honoring our fallen servicemembers at the conclusion of the Gold Star 500 Memorial Bike Ride at Cantigny in Wheaton, Illinois.*

## **WWI Monument Rededication 12**

*Mr. Robert Adams, Illinois National Guard Public Affairs, tells the story of the moving and rededication of Springfield, Illinois' WWI Monument that honors more than 100 veterans from Sangamon County that lost their lives during WWI.*

## **Honoring a Legacy: Peoria Airman Awarded Legion of Honor 13**

*A photo spread from Tech. Sgt. Lelan Beuhrer, 182nd Airlift Wing Public Affairs, highlighting retired U.S. Air Force Master Sgt. Edwin "Gene" Neeley's Legion of Honor Award*

## **Illinois Bridge Named in Honor of Slain Army Guardsman 14**

*A photo spread from Ltc. Bradford Leighton, Illinois National Guard Public Affairs, highlighting the dedication of the Gudino Memorial Bridge in Elgin, Illinois.*

# Take it From the Top:

*Senior Leader's Corner*

## Gaining Strength Through Diversity

We are re-instituting the Joint Diversity Executive Council (JDEC) in the interest of making us a stronger, more resilient, force. The new JDEC will be a larger group that will have representation from each Wing and Brigade, along with senior minority representation from each service. Each of the Brigades and Wings will also form subordinate diversity councils to take a hard look at issues below Joint Forces Headquarters. To support this effort, I have appointed Col. Maurice Rochelle as the Director for Diversity and Inclusion to lead this effort in addition to his duties with the Illinois National Guard's Joint Staff.

You might ask why? Why this new push for diversity when our units, for the most part, reflect the communities where they are based. The data doesn't lie. Within the lower enlisted ranks, we are a diverse force reflecting our communities and Illinois as a whole. But something happens as we go up in rank – the Illinois National Guard becomes increasingly Caucasian and male. Just under 80 percent of our senior leaders are Caucasian and male.

That tells me that, for some reason, those that come from different backgrounds – those that can further strengthen our force by adding different viewpoints – are leaving the Illinois National Guard before they can develop into officers, senior warrants and senior NCOs. The mission of the JDEC, and the unit-level councils, is to do a deep dive into this issue and find out what is going on and then recommend steps to fix it.

This is going to take work and the benefit of that work will be an Illinois National Guard that is more welcoming and more growth enhancing for all our Soldiers and Airmen. Our Soldiers and Airmen of different colors and creeds, genders, sexual orientations, races, and cultural backgrounds will want to stay as part of the family and progress through the ranks.

Previous work in this area has focused on mentoring, encouraging leaders to expand their mentoring to include those that come from different backgrounds. We need to continue that effort – and do more. In many ways, it is natural for us to gravitate toward those that are like us – those that

come from similar backgrounds and have similar ideas. It is effortless to build rapport and a positive relationship with someone that is like us and agrees with us. We can see ourselves in that person.

As any psychologist will tell you, we do not grow without effort. We do not change for the better without being challenged.

That means considering and respecting different viewpoints and trying to see the world through the eyes of others. This doesn't mean you have to agree with everyone. Sometimes agreeing to respectfully disagree is growth enhancing too.

Just having a respectful conversation helps people grow, expand their horizons and makes the organization more efficient and effective. So let's start the conversation now. 🇺🇸



**Brig. Gen. Richard Neely - The Adjutant General, ILNG**



KINZ AUTO SERVICE

SLOW

SALUTE  
WOMEN  
VETERANS

R.I.P MOM  
LOVE U

R.I.P  
LOVE



# Living On: Chicago Women's Vet Center Named for Fallen Soldier

By Spc. Dan Lograsso, 139th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

CHICAGO - The National Women Veterans United opened the Sgt. Simone A. Robinson Military Women Veteran's Center, Sept. 7, in Chicago, Illinois.

The center's mission is to provide personalized services to women veterans, focusing on issues women can experience, including being homeless with children.

Robinson, a member of Illinois Army National Guard's 634th Brigade Support Battalion, headquartered in Sullivan, Illinois, died March 1, 2009 at Brooke Army Medical Center, San Antonio, Texas, of wounds sustained when an improvised explosive device detonated near her security post on Jan. 17, 2009 in Kabul, Afghanistan. She was a single mother from Chicago when she died.

Robinson's former commander, Maj. Elizabeth Roxworthy, was one of the keynote speakers at the event.

# PUTTING IT ALL TOGETHER:



## ILNG TRANSPORTERS DELIVER SUCCESS AT RISING THUNDER

*Story and photos by: Spc. Shaylin Quaid, 1844th Transportation Co.*

**YAKIMA, Wash.** – A common saying in the Army is that every Soldier is Infantry, no matter their primary duty position.

The truck drivers and maintenance personnel of the 1844th Transportation Company, based in East St. Louis, Illinois, take that to heart. While their primary duty is to ensure the prompt transport of troops and supplies, these Illinois Guardsmen have shown that they aren't afraid to get their hands dirty to protect their convoys and fellow Soldiers.

During the past week and a half, Soldiers from

**“I hope our Soldiers remember that they have to know more than just their job, they have to be willing to step up and do more than just their position at any given time.”**

the 1844th, which is part of the 232nd Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 108th Sustainment Brigade, have conducted improvised explosive device training, medical evacuation, vehicle recovery, and hostile environment lane training in preparation for the culminating event of their annual training at Rising Thunder 2019 at the

Yakima Training Center, Yakima, Washington, Aug. 28-Sept. 13.

The truck drivers came to Yakima Training Center

with the primary mission of transporting the 33rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team. However, the resources and equipment the training center provided enabled the transportation company to engage in several training scenarios they cannot replicate back home.

From Sept. 6-7, the Soldiers participated in a two-day field training exercise, where they conducted base defense and sent their platoons out on transportation missions for their final objectives.

“The culminating event was a combination of all of the training they received over the last week and a half, spun up into a fast-paced, two-day field training exercise,” said Sgt. 1st Class Gary Cunningham, of Camden, Illinois, a platoon sergeant with the 1844th.

Upon leaving the field, Soldiers faced a lane that,





unbeknownst to them, would push them to use all of the skills they had been sharpening since arriving at the central Washington training installation. The company employed basic and squad-level warrior tasks such as react to fire, care of casualties, use of radio communication, knowledge of how to send a situation or casualty report, and spotting IEDs.

“Our Soldiers are primarily vehicle operators with a small vehicle maintenance section,” said 1st Lt. Jamie Gunning, of Carlinville, Illinois, a platoon leader with the 1844th. “It isn’t often that we get the opportunity to work with other military specialties, but in this training environment we’ve been able

to. We worked side-by-side with medics from Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion, 130th Infantry Regiment and Infantry from 1st Battalion, 178th Infantry Regiment, and they’ve all taught us so much. This training has not only helped us learn how to operate in different tactical units, but also how to support them better.”

The 2-130th Inf. Reg. and 1-178th Inf. Reg. are both Illinois National Guard units participating in Rising Thunder 19, conducting annual training exercises. The 1844th has a long history supporting its combat arms units, whether from the National Guard, regular Army, or Army Reserve.

From medical evacuation helicopters to training alongside medics and infantrymen from the 178th Inf. Reg., the training at Rising Thunder brought a new level of realism to the 1844th’s training. Cunningham said he was especially proud of the Soldiers who jumped into action to fill the roles of their higher-ups when things got chaotic. His desired take-aways from Rising Thunder are teamwork and individual initiative.

“I hope our Soldiers remember that they have to know more than just their job,” said Cunningham. “They have to be willing to step up and do more than just their position at any given time.” 🇺🇸



# Illinois National Guardsmen Blow Away Rising Thunder 2019

By Sgt. Jeff Daniel, 211th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment, U.S. Army Reserves

YAKIMA, Wash. – “Fire mission!” resonates throughout the small encampment of U.S. Soldiers. The quick-reacting crew members at the mortar position respond in unison, “Fire mission!” A small team of three scramble like a well-orchestrated NASCAR pit crew. Yet for some, this is their first time firing a 120mm mortar since graduating from advanced individual training. For these Illinois National Guardsmen, it takes traveling to Yakima, Washington, for Rising Thunder 19 to experience this training again.

Rising Thunder 2019 is an annual exercise between the U.S. Army and the Japan Ground Self-Defense Force featuring units from the 7th Infantry Division, the Illinois Army National Guard’s 33rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team and 108th Sustainment Brigade, and Japan’s 25th Infantry Regiment. The exercise, held Aug. 28 – Sept. 13 at the Yakima Training Center, Yakima, Washington, consists of company/platoon unilateral and bilateral training events in two phases, culminating with a bilateral live fire exercise.

“We are training in support of Rising Thunder,” said Sgt. 1st Class Lance Odum, of Carrier Mills, Illinois, a motor platoon sergeant with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion, 130th Infantry Regiment, 33rd IBCT. “Specifically, preparing for the culminating event where we are supporting with indirect fire.”

The expectations of this mortar team are rising as each day gets closer to the live-fire exercise with their international partners.

“The overarching mission for Rising Thunder includes a number of things like building relationships with the Japanese,” said Odum, “but specifically we are trying to put on our A-game when we go to the live-fire exercise with the Japanese.”

In order for this crew to perform



their best, they employ the proven military practice of crawl, walk, run. For this group, now in the walk phase, they must not only train new Soldiers on the team but also acclimate seasoned Soldiers to new roles.

“Every time we go to the field, we’ve got a few people that have actually never been

to the field,” said Odum. “We are always training people in new positions or people have moved up into new positions so this is our first test run with people in new positions and we don’t want to get out to the live fire exercise and have anyone doing anything for the first time.”

Capt. Andrew Sanchez, of Chicago, the battalion fire support officer for the 2-130th Inf. Reg., knows the importance of crawl, walk, run as he continually steps up the training exercises.

“Today we are conducting a mortar live-fire exercise,” said Sanchez. “Yesterday, we ran through a dry fire exercise and today we are stepping it up with actual live ammunition.”

Every type of military unit measures their own crawl phase through different events. The dry fire exercises conducted the previous day was the crawl phase for the unit.

Sanchez continued, “We are doing a bilateral training exercise with the Japanese Ground Self Defense Force so today is our way of prepping for the upcoming bilateral exercise.”

Once the walk phase is complete, the run phase will be the single-day, live-fire exercise challenging elements from the 33rd IBCT and the 25th Inf. Reg.

“Today helps us prepare and be ready for the overarching mission so when we go into the bilateral exercise we go in at 100 percent trained,” said Sanchez. “We have a couple of rounds downrange, we’ve done dry fire missions, we’ve done live fire missions; so we get to the bilateral exercise, it’s like second nature.” 



# Chatham Soldier Takes Command of 33rd Brigade

By Maj. Dutch Grove, 33rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team Public Affairs



**SPRINGFIELD, ILL.** – Col. Clayton E. Kuetemeyer of Chatham, Illinois, took command of the Illinois Army National Guard's 33rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team, based in Urbana, Illinois, during a ceremony at the Illinois Army National Guard's Commanders Guidance

Conference in East Peoria, Illinois, Sunday, Sept. 22.

Kuetemeyer enlisted in the Illinois National Guard in 1988 as an Infantry Soldier, serving with the 2nd Battalion, 130th Infantry Regiment. He received his commission in 1993 through the Reserve Officer Training Corps program at the University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana. In addition, Kuetemeyer serves as the Chief of Staff of the Illinois National Guard Joint Staff.

Kuetemeyer has served in a variety of positions throughout his 30 years of military service, including Commander, 2-130th Inf. Bn., Commander, Illinois Army National Guard Recruiting and Retention Battalion, and Director of Plans, Operations, Training, Mobilization and Security for the Illinois Army National Guard. In 2011, Kuetemeyer deployed to Afghanistan in

support of Operation Enduring Freedom with Task Force White Eagle and the 17th Mechanized Brigade of the Polish Land Forces.

Kuetemeyer and his wife, Vicki, reside in Chatham.

Col. Mark Alessia relinquished command of the 33rd IBCT having served as its commander since September 2017.



Alessia enlisted in the Illinois Army National Guard in 1992 as an Infantry Soldier, and in 1996, earned his commission through the Reserve Officer Training Corps at the University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana.

Alessia served as a traditional Guardsman until 2003 when he entered the Active Guard and Reserve Program. He has held a variety of command and staff assignments, including Commander, Recruiting and Retention Battalion and State Military Personnel Officer.

Alessia's deployments include Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom from February to December 2009.

Alessia, who is the Illinois Army National Guard Chief of Staff, resides in Sherman with his wife, Jennifer, and their three children. 🇺🇸



# Gold Star Weekend:

ILNG, IDVA, and Gold Star Mission Honor Fallen Illinois Heroes  
Lt. Col. Bradford Leighton, Illinois National Guard Public Affairs





On Sept. 28-29, the Illinois National Guard, Illinois Department of Veterans Affairs, and Gold Star Mission, a nonprofit organization initiated and led by David Helfrich of the Illinois National Guard, held the annual Gold Star Weekend at the First Infantry Division Museum at Cantigny in Wheaton, Illinois. The weekend started with a ceremony honoring our fallen warriors at the conclusion of the Gold Star 500, a 500-mile endurance bike ride commemorating Illinois' Fallen Soldiers. On Sept. 29, Cantigny hosted the Gold Star Mother's Day Luncheon. The luncheon gives senior civilian and military leaders a chance to thank Gold Star mothers for their service to our nation and its military.

# ILNG, Veterans at Oak Ridge Cemetery for WWI Memorial Rededication

By Mr. Robert Adams, Illinois National Guard Public Affairs

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. – Members of the Illinois National Guard joined veterans and local officials Sept. 25 at Oak Ridge Cemetery in Springfield, Illinois, to rededicate the WWI Memorial. The memorial was recently relocated to Oak Ridge Cemetery, from First Street and North Grand Avenue, in Springfield, Illinois. It lists



the names of more than 100 Sangamon County residents who lost their lives during 'The Great War.' This ceremony also commemorated the 100th Anniversary of the Nov. 11, 1918 Armistice.

The ceremony featured WWI re-enactors and a keynote speaker from the Illinois National Guard, Col. Mark G. Alessia, Chief of Staff of the Illinois Army National Guard.

"On the surface this monument will always be a simple stone monument, made from the strongest rock mined from the earth," said Alessia. "The essence and the meaning of this monument, however, is made from the strongest men and women who ever walked this Earth."

Also, during the ceremony a wreath was placed in front of the memorial to honor the men and women who served and died.

"We can never possibly show enough gratitude for our World War I heroes in our lifetimes," said Alessia. "We can, however, honor them by protecting all they fought for and by ensuring their story is understood and passed on."

John Kerasotes, 96, who paid for the monument to be built in the early 2000s attended the ceremony with many family members. After the ceremony concluded, family members of the men and women on the monument thanked Kerasotes for honoring their loved ones.

The monument reads, "In Honor of all Illinois Veterans Who Served in WWI." 





# Honoring a Legacy:

## *Peoria Airman Awarded French Legion of Honor*

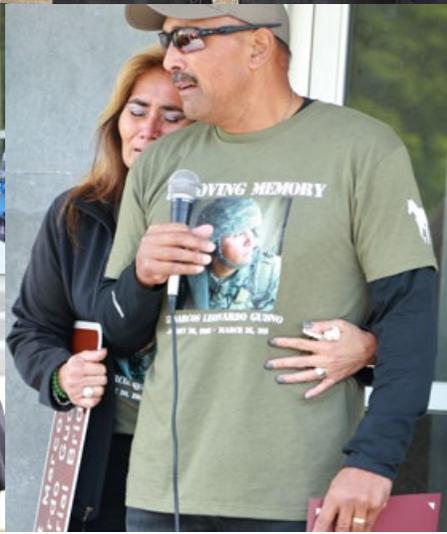


**R**etired U.S. Air Force Master Sgt. Edwin "Gene" Neeley, one of the founding members of the Illinois Air National Guard's 182nd Airlift Wing, receives applause during a French Legion of Honor award ceremony in Peoria Heights, Ill., Sept. 27, 2019. The French government awarded Neeley with its highest decoration for his contributions to the liberation of France during World War II while serving with the Army Air Corps' 2nd Replacement Depot. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Tech. Sgt. Lealan Buehrer)



# Gudino Memorial Bridge:

*Illinois bridge named in honor of slain Army Guardsman*





The city of Elgin, Illinois, honored the memory of Sgt. Marcos Leonardo Gudino Oct. 26, by dedicating the Illinois Route 20 bridge over Route 31 to his name. Gudino, a medic with the Illinois Army National Guard's 1st Battalion, 178th Infantry Regiment, died on March 25, 2018 in an Interstate 90 accident involving his military ambulance while the unit returned from Fort McCoy, Wisconsin, to the unit's headquarters in Chicago. Gudino, who was about to join the Streamwood Police Department, was well-loved and respected in his community. State Sen. Cristina Castro and State Rep. Anna Moeller sponsored legislation to name the bridge, which passed unanimously. Gudino's parents, Minerva and Frank were given a commemorative sign during the dedication.





JGSDF  
COMICS  
COLAB

\$1.00  
ILARNG  
COMICS

# RISING THUNDER

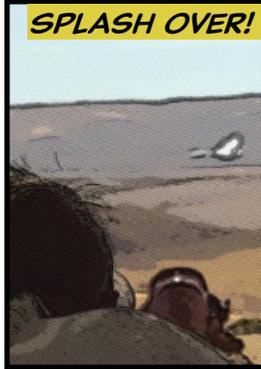
## EXERCISE 2019



AUG. 30-SEPT. 13, 2019 YAKIMA, WASH.



MOUT



SPLASH OVER!



COMBINED ARMS





From Aug. 25 through Sept. 30, 2nd Squadron, 106th Cavalry Regiment took part in Orient Shield at Oyanohara Training Area, Japan. The annual, bilateral exercise is cosponsored by the Japan Ground Self-Defense Force (JGSDF) and U.S. Army Pacific (USARPAC). The exercise is designed to enhance Japan-U.S. combat readiness and interoperability at the battalion level while strengthening bilateral relationships and demonstrating U.S. resolve to support the security interests of friends and allies in the region.

# THIS DAY IN HISTORY

## OCTOBER

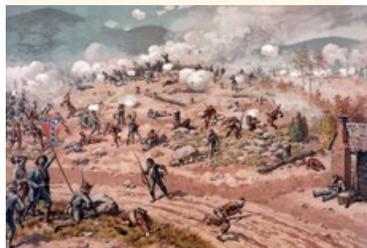
### 1 1903d Aviation Engineer Battalion Heads to Korea

Under the command of Lieutenant Colonel William Hates, the 1903rd Aviation Engineer Battalion entered Federal Service in Chicago for the Korean War. Their first assignment took them to Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri for infantry and engineer training. Before coming to Illinois, the unit had been attached to Colorado, and had lineage and honors dating back to World War II. In December 1948, they were reorganized as the 1903rd Aviation Engineer Battalion, 66th Fighter Wing, Illinois Air National Guard.

### 2 Sgt. George Clark Earns Distinguished Service Cross

On Day seven of the Meuse-Argonne Offensive, the Germans subjected the Americans to an especially murderous artillery barrage. The 122nd Field Artillery moved into action at Epinonville, France near the River Meuse. The enemy shelling blasted Battery D to pieces, leaving many dead and wounded. Sergeant George E. Clark worked tirelessly to get the wounded men to safety, and in the process received a severe wound to his arm. Though he survived, he did lose the mangled arm to amputation. For his watchful devotion to his comrades he received the Distinguished Service Cross.

### Five Illinois Units Gain Victory at Allotoona Pass



Confederate Major General S.G. French stopped the merciless bombardment long at Allotoona Pass enough to have a demand for surrender delivered and rejected, at which time he sent 2000 troops against the Pass. The Union, comprised of 10 Federal Regiments, five from Illinois, held all day with both sides inflicting heavy casualties. Some of the Illinois troops used Henry repeating rifles to mow down scores of attacking rebels. Near dusk, the Confederate attack was repulsed with reinforcements under Major General William Tecumseh Sherman. The heaviest losses for Illinois were in the 7th Illinois Infantry which suffered 16% killed, and the 93rd Infantry with 11% killed.

### 5

### 7 Hill Earns Medal of Honor in France

Corporal Rayln M. Hill of Company H, 129th Infantry witnessed a French plane go down on the German side of the Meuse River near Donnoux, France. After Hill observed movement from the pilot, he darted across the footbridge and over several hundred yards of open ground to the wrecked plane. He lifted the pilot onto his shoulder and ran back amid a storm of enemy shells and bullets. Hill succeeded in reaching his own lines and received the Medal of Honor for his bravery.



### 10 14 Illinois Soldiers Earn Distinguished Service Cross at Consenvoye

The 65th Brigade of the 33rd Division launched an attack to recapture the ground lost in the previous day's fighting, specifically the woods of the Bois de Chaume and the Bois de Foret. At dawn American troops scrambled out of their trenches and advanced into the woods under the cover of artillery. German aircraft strafed the trenches, decimating the once peaceful serenity of the forest into a storm of splintering tree bursts. By dusk, the Americans had secured the forests surrounding Consenvoye. Fourteen Illinois Soldiers received the Distinguished Service Cross for actions that included rescuing the wounded, attacking enemy machine-gun nests, and preventing panicked troops from retreating. They included:

**131st Infantry:** Cpl. Nathan M. Curtis, Company L; Pvt. Robert W. Lindsay, Company B; Sgt. Herrick G. Goodwillie, Company B; Sgt. Van W. Peterson, Company B; Pvt. Leon M. Hanna, Company D; Pvt. Willard D. Petty, Company B, KIA; and 1st Lt. Henry N. Pride

**132nd Infantry:** Pvt. Sidney Holzman, Machine-Gun Company; and Pvt. James J. Snider, Machine-Gun Company

**122nd Machine Gun Battalion:** Pvt. Harry G. Holland, Company B; 2nd Lt. Harry B. Liggett, Company A; and Pvt. Ernest Meador, Company B

**124th Machine Gun Battalion:** Sgt. Raymond N. Moore, Company M

**130th Infantry:** Pvt. Willes Rodgers, Company M



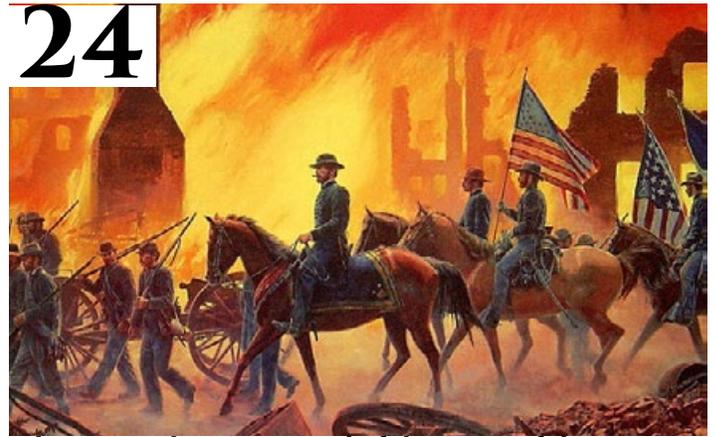
**Leader's Actions Inspire Soldiers; Three Earn Distinguished Service Cross at Bois de Foret**

**21**

Several battalions of the 132nd Infantry had just completed maneuvers to the north end of the Bois de Foret in France. The Germans mounted a surprise attack against the rear of the regiment. Second Lieutenant Albert H. Stout knew that if his unit fell the

entire regiment would be in trouble. He ordered a bayonet charge which resulted in a clash of infantry. In the ensuing hand to hand combat Stout killed three Germans and captured one machine-gun. His quick thinking saved the left flank of the battalion, and destroyed the entire enemy force of 40 men and 6 machine-guns. Stout's decisive actions inspired his men, and led to his receiving the Distinguished Service Cross. The two other recipients included: Corporal Victor A. Cleveland, 130th Infantry, KIA; and Sergeant John Francisco, Company M, 132nd Infantry.

**24**



**Sherman Takes Command of the Army of the Tennesee**

On Oct. 24, 1863, William T. Sherman took command of the Army of the Tennesee. A year later, Sherman led his forces, including seventy-two Illinois regiments, in the Atlanta and Savannah Campaigns. Under his leadership, the Army of the Tennesee brought utter devastation to the home front of the Confederacy. His March to the Sea fractured the South, and made the downfall of the Confederacy a virtual certainty.



**21**

**Famous Guardsman: Edward D. Baker**

On this day, at the disastrous Battle of Balls Bluff, Virginia, Edward D. Baker became the only sitting senator killed in the Civil War. At the time of his death he held the rank of Colonel in the 71st Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry. He also held one of the first 2 Senate seats in Oregon. Before making history in these states, his career began in the Illinois Militia. In 1847 he had left his seat in the Illinois House of Representatives to command the 4th Illinois Volunteer Infantry. He played an important role at the Battle of Cerro Gordo, and his unit had the honor of capturing the cork leg of Mexican General Santa Anna. The leg now resides in the Illinois State Military Museum in Springfield. Baker's death marked the first real loss of a beloved Union commander in the Civil War.



**History Trivia: Did You Know?**

Famous Illinois Guardsman, Edward D. Baker was not only a member of the guard, an Illinois Representative, but also personal friend to Illinois' most famous resident, Abraham Lincoln and his family. He was admired so much by 10-year old William (Willie) Lincon that his death at Balls Bluff was devastating. Willie eulogized Baker in a poem that was published in the *Washington National Republican* in 1861:

*There was no patriot like Baker,  
So noble and so true;  
He fell as a Soldier on the field  
His Face to the sky of blue...  
No squeamish notions filled his breast,  
The Union was his theme,  
"No surrender and no compromise,"  
His day thouht and night's dream  
His country has her part to play,  
To' rds those left behind,  
His widow and her children all -  
She must always keep in mind.*

**THE PRAIRIE SENTINEL  
1301 NORTH MACARTHUR BOULEVARD  
SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS 62702**

**DSN: 555-3569  
PHONE: (217) 761-3569  
FAX: (217) 761-2988**

**THE PRAIRIE SENTINEL IS THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE ILLINOIS NATIONAL  
GUARD AUTHORIZED BY THE  
ADJUTANT GENERAL.**

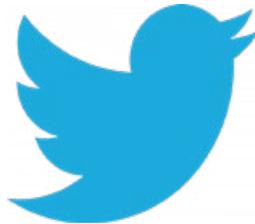
**DEADLINES:**

**STORY AND PHOTO SUBMISSIONS ARE DUE THE 1ST OF EACH MONTH TO  
NG.IL.ILARNG.LIST.STAFF-PAO@MAIL.MIL**

**CONNECT WITH THE ILLINOIS NATIONAL GUARD:**



[www.il.ngb.army.mil](http://www.il.ngb.army.mil)



[https://twitter.com/IL\\_Natl\\_Guard](https://twitter.com/IL_Natl_Guard)



<https://www.facebook.com/illinoisnationalguard/>