


ILLINOIS NATIONAL GUARD

PRAIRIE SENTINEL

VOLUME 14



**SNOWMAGEDDON 2022:
ILLINOIS NATIONAL GUARD ASSISTS
MOTORISTS DURING BLIZZARD**

**ENTER THE MATRIX: ILLINOIS BUILDS JOINT
CYBER RANGE TO TRAIN CYBER EXPERTS**

**DRAGON TRAILS: 404TH MANEUVER
ENHANCEMENT BRIGADE DEPLOYS**

NEW YEAR 2022

ILLINOIS NATIONAL GUARD PRAIRIE SENTINEL

Click on a title to jump to the full story

FEATURES

Head of the Class **p. 6**
Col. Seth Hible, a high school teacher, is selected to be next Chief of the Illinois Joint Staff.

Entering the Matrix **p. 10**
Illinois stands up Joint Cyber Range to hone cyber skills.

Full-Spectrum Warfare **p. 16**
Illinois National Guard awarded electronic warfare and sensors battalion

Exchange Rates **p. 28**
Longtime PX manager retires after 30 years serving Camp Lincoln.

Bury These Burdens **p. 32**
Sgt. 1st Class David Allen Stone uses music to bring awareness to suicide within the ranks.

STAPLES

Take it from the Top **p. 3**
Task Force Restore Trust set to combat major challenges facing the force.

Highlighting Diversity **p. 5**
Jose Sanchez, a 1995 graduate of Lincoln's Challenge Academy, selected as the 198th CSSB's Command Sgt. Major.

This Day in History **p. 40**
Highlighting important dates in the Illinois National Guard's history and remembering our Fallen Heroes

PHOTO SPREADS

Dragon Trails **p. 14**
The 404th MEB mobilizes to the Horn of Africa

Keyed Up **p. 23**
The Illinois Army National Guard transfers the Beardstown Armory to the Beardstown Park District.

Hitting the High Notes **p. 27**
Illinois participates in Brave Band 1 with the LITPOLUKRBRIG.

Worthy Phoenix **p. 35**
The 126th Air Refueling Wing participates in TRANSCOM led nuclear response exercise.



NEWS

Springfield Soldier selected as next State Command Chief Warrant Officer **p. 8**

CW5 Thomas Black selected to replace CW5 Hammon.

183rd ACOS earns Verne Orr Award **p. 9**

183rd Air Component Operations Squadron earns 2022 Verne Orr Award.

Flying High **p. 13**
Illinois Air National Guard selects Outstanding Airmen of the Year.

Snowmageddon 2022 **p. 18**
Illinois National Guard responds to winter weather.

A New Challenge **p. 20**
LCA starts CNA certification courses for cadets.

Post office name change to honor fallen ILARNG Soldier **p. 22**
A bill to change the Maora Post Office name to honor Spc. Jeremy Ridlen passes the U.S. House of Representatives.

Land of Eternal Blue Skies **p. 24** *Five*
Soldiers from the 6th SFAB deploy to the USINDOPACOM region for advisory mission.

Celebrating Lincoln **p. 26**
Maj. Gen. Rich Neely lays a wreath and speaks at Lincoln's Tomb to honor Lincoln's birthday.

Bless the Rains **p. 30** *The*
404th MEB takes over command of Combined Joint Task Force - Horn of Africa. **Oswego**

Soldier retires after nearly 36 years of service **p. 36** *Maj. Ivan Ortiz*

retires after 36 years spanning three services. **182nd Airlift Wing welcomes new commander** **p. 37** *Col.*

Rusty Ballard takes the reins in Peoria. **You know it's time...** **p. 38** *Lt. Col. David Malenfant retires after more than 30 years of service.*

Take it From the Top:

Senior Leaders' Corner

Task Force Restore Trust: Combating sexual harassment, racism/extremism, suicide and counterproductive leadership.

On April 29, 2021, an Illinois Army National Guard sergeant major on active duty was convicted “of rape using force likely to cause death or grievous bodily harm” during a general court-martial convened in Vilseck, Germany. He was also convicted of violating a lawful general regulation and violating a lawful order.

This E-9 is now an E-1 and is serving a 10-year sentence in federal prison.

An attack of this nature creates wounds in fellow service members that can be carried the rest of their lives. It also creates distrust among members of the unit and hurts unit cohesion.

I raise this incident because I know that a sexual predator does not rise to the rank of sergeant major without there being some indication that he might be capable of this kind of reprehensible and deviant behavior. This man was a member of the Illinois National Guard and the Army for many many years, and he was promoted multiple times until he reached the highest enlisted rank. Think about that for a minute.

I know we have a problem, not just because of this incident, but also because Illinois National Guard members who have survived sexual assault have told me. Their words are often heart-rending and their pain palatable. An ill-informed response to sexual assault, often from well-meaning people, can cause secondary trauma to survivors.

I am extremely proud of everything this organization has accomplished. We are the best or near the best in many ways and have accomplished historic missions with



professionalism and expertise. However, we must do better in preventing sexual assault and responding to it if it does occur.

When I took command of the Illinois National Guard three years ago, the first policy I signed and my first communication to you were both concerning sexual assault and sexual harassment prevention. It has been at the top of our priority list since – and will continue to be.

We have made progress, in ensuring reported cases are investigated. All unrestricted cases of sexual assault within the Illinois National Guard are referred to civilian law enforcement and, if civilian law enforcement chooses not to pursue charges, it is referred to NGB's Office of Complex Investigations for administrative investigation. We do not investigate these crimes internally, as too often internal investigations can provide the optic of a “good-ole boy” system.

If local law enforcement decides not to pursue an investigation, we have a signed memorandum of understanding with the Illinois State Police to investigate these cases. I lead a monthly Case Management Group to review all cases of sexual assault. This meeting includes all senior leaders of both the Illinois Army National Guard and Illinois Air National Guard, the Sexual Response Coordinator and the Staff Judge Advocate. We've adjusted the format of this group to give us better focus on the status of sexual assault survivors and to be more action-focused while protecting the privacy of the victim.

We have also reviewed the Inspector

General findings from both Fort Hood and the Wisconsin National Guard and incorporated recommended changes from those reports into our programs. The Illinois National Guard's Senior Enlisted Leader, Command Sgt. Maj. Dena Ballowe, represents Illinois and the field as part of the National Guard Bureau's General Officer Steering Committee Sexual Assault Prevention Task Force and Suicide Prevention Task Force. She provides her expertise to the committee and also provides the state with national level insight.

There is progress being made on the national level too. Designating sexual harassment as a crime in the military and as a leading indicator of sexual assault will have a positive effect on the National Guard. I welcome more reforms that will better help us prevent sexual assault and ensure our Soldiers and Airmen feel more safe and respected in our formations.

However, we cannot wait for federal reforms and we can't stop with the actions we've already taken.

We must do more.

The Illinois Army National Guard is launching a new task force, Task Force Restore Trust. It will be led by Brig. Gen. Justin Osberg, our Deputy Assistant Adjutant General – Army, and a professional change agent in his civilian life. This task force was formed to address what we are calling the "3+1" corrosives. This includes the Army's Three Corrosives: sexual assault/sexual harassment, extremism/racism, and suicide, plus counterproductive leadership. Through significant data mining of IL ARNG unit climate surveys, Brig. Gen. Osberg identified that sexual assault/harassment and racism were strongly linked to counterproductive leadership. This information provides focus for Task Force Restore Trust to identify the best approach to address these corrosives.

Restore Trust will gather and analyze information to get to core issues within these problems and then will recommend changes directly to the ILNG senior leaders to help implement positive change.

For Restore Trust to be successful, we must involve the true experts on these issues. For

sexual assault and sexual harassment, that means involving those Soldiers and Airmen who have survived sexual assault to whatever degree they are able and willing. Their voices must be heard for this new effort to be successful.

Restore Trust will not be a headquarters exercise. We will be reaching into the ranks and seeking out the viewpoints that are most important – your view, your family's view, your fellow service members' views, and the views of those most affected by sexual assault/sexual harassment, racism, suicide and counterproductive leadership.

It is also important for you to know, this past week we launched the Illinois National Guard App. This App is a great tool for sharing information about benefits and for getting news out there, especially to our traditional force who may not have a computer. This is important, but even more important is that it provides access to resources and information for survivors of sexual assault or harassment, for those who have experienced racism or discrimination, or for those who might be struggling with their mental health. I encourage each of you to download the ILNG App so you are never without this information. The App has many functions, however the most important is to support our traditional Soldiers and Airmen.

There will be more positive changes as we continue to improve the Illinois National Guard. We must, and we will, cut this rot from our organization. We will overcome. There are thousands of good duty-bound moral people in the Illinois National Guard who will see to it.

DOWNLOAD THE APP BY CLICKING ONE OF THE LOGOS BELOW



**Apple App
Store**



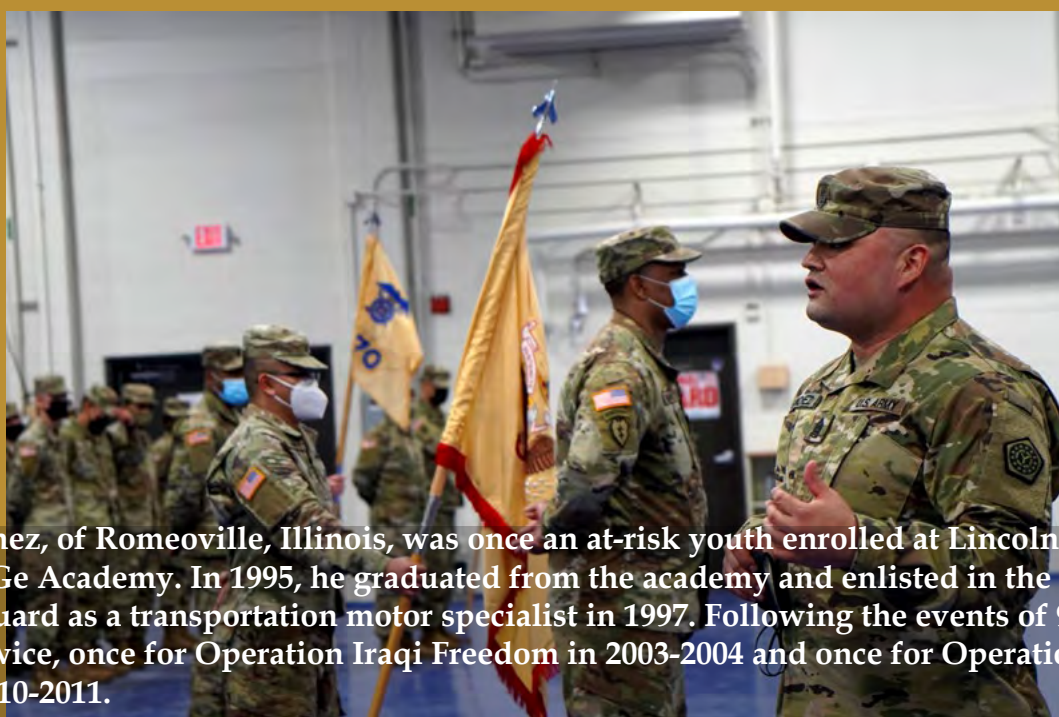
Google Play

HIGHLIGHTING DIVERSITY

ALL THE WAY UP

By Michael Camacho, Lincoln's ChalleNGe Public Affairs

LCA grad becomes top enlisted Soldier for 198th CSSB



Jose Sanchez, of Romeoville, Illinois, was once an at-risk youth enrolled at Lincoln's ChalleNGe Academy. In 1995, he graduated from the academy and enlisted in the Illinois National Guard as a transportation motor specialist in 1997. Following the events of 9/11, he deployed twice, once for Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2003-2004 and once for Operation New Dawn in 2010-2011.

On Feb. 26, he was promoted to command sergeant major and became the senior enlisted leader for the 198th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion after a change of responsibility ceremony at the North Riverside Readiness Center in North Riverside, Illinois, taking the reigns from Command Sgt. Maj. Paul Kindred, of Jacksonville, Illinois.



HEAD OF THE CLASS

High school teacher selected to be ILNG's Chief of the Joint Staff



By Barb Wilson, Illinois National Guard Public Affairs

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. –A teacher at Lake Park High School in Roselle has been selected as the Illinois National Guard's next Chief of the Joint Staff.

Col. Seth Hible of Winfield, Illinois, serves as a traditional National Guard Soldier and will continue teaching full-time. In his military duties, he now plays a key leadership role planning and coordinating Illinois National Guard support for domestic operations, international cooperation, and interagency and intergovernmental coordination. Hible began his duties as Illinois National Guard Chief of the Joint Staff earlier this month.

Hible, who enlisted in 1985, previously served as the Director of Domestic Operations for the ILNG Joint Staff. He spent the first 12 years of his career as an enlisted infantry Soldier before enrolling in the Illinois Army National Guard's

Officer Candidate School in 1995, graduating in 1996 as an honor graduate. As the Director of Domestic Operations for the ILNG for the past two years, Hible planned and supervised the ILNG's COVID-19 response and six civil disturbance operations.

"Colonel Hible is the quintessential Citizen-Soldier. He's an English and art teacher as a civilian and a professional planner and leader as a military officer," said Maj. Gen. Rich Neely, the Adjutant General and commander of the Illinois National Guard. "He played a key role in the Illinois National Guard's domestic operations response these last two years and his calm demeanor will serve him well as the Joint Chief."

As Chief of the Joint Staff, Hible will supervise the Joint Staff as well as develop and coordinate partnering activities with other military services and other countries and their



militaries. Domestically, he will also work with intergovernmental agencies to provide support to civil authorities and augment domestic operations.

"Colonel Hible was selected for his experience as a leader and as a planner," said Brig. Gen. Mark Alessia of Sherman, Director of the ILNG Joint Staff. "He will use this experience to work closely with our state partners during emergency operations."

Hible said he is honored to be selected to serve as the Chief of the Joint Staff.

"Transitioning from the Director of Domestic Operations for the Joint Staff to the Chief of the Joint Staff allows for consistency in the Joint Staff. I look forward to developing the Joint Staff," Hible said.

He replaces Alessia, who was selected to serve as the Director of the Joint Staff in October.

Hible has deployed three times, including Task Force Santa Fe to Kaiserslautern, Germany, in 2002 in support of U.S. Army Europe as part of Operation Enduring Freedom in response to the terrorist attacks on Sept. 11, Operation Cajun Fury to Fort Polk, Louisiana, in 2004-2005 when the 509th Parachute Infantry Battalion was mobilized and sent to Iraq and Soldiers from the Illinois Army National Guard's 131st Infantry Regiment were sent to Louisiana to take over the duties of the 509th as Opposing Forces Soldiers under the Joint Readiness Training Center, and to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom in 2008-2009.

In addition to the federal activations, he served on state active duty for flood response operations in 1993.

Hible said his last duty positions have prepared him for the job.

"The past two years with the Joint Staff and experience as an operations officer with the 404th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade has helped me to define and refine the planning process," he said. "This experience has really prepared me to better work with our state and federal emergency partners and other state agencies."

Sgt. 1st Class Anthony Gorup, of Raymond,

noncommissioned officer in charge of the Illinois National Guard's Joint Operations Center, has served with Hible on numerous assignments throughout his own nearly 26-year career and said Hible is the right person for the job.

"I've worked with Colonel Hible several times in the

past 19 years, first deploying together in 2004 and then again in 2008," Gorup said. "I've watched him grow as an officer and as a leader. He's a great mentor and I've learned a lot from him. He's a great teacher and will explain what the plan is and why it's executed that way."

Hible became the Director of Domestic Operations for the Joint Staff in early 2020 and according to Gorup, he had to learn very quickly when the ILNG was activated for the COVID-19 response operations.

"As one of his very first duties in the Joint Staff, Colonel Hible had to plan and direct the Illinois National Guard's COVID-19 response operations," Gorup said. "It was a very high tempo operation, which was changing almost every day."

Gorup said from watching Hible over the years, he's going to go far in the ILNG.

"He's a great guy and is great for the organization," he said.

Hible and his wife, Laura, have three sons, Michael, Sean and Adrian.



Springfield Soldier selected as next Illinois Army National Guard Command Chief Warrant Officer

By Barb Wilson, Illinois National Guard Public Affairs

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. –Chief Warrant Officer (5) Thomas Black of Springfield was selected to serve as the sixth Command Chief Warrant



Officer of the Illinois National Guard.

Black, who enlisted in 1987, previously served as the Deputy of Supply and Logistics Management for the Supply and Services division of the U.S. Property and Fiscal Office. He spent his enlisted career as a flight medic and

automated logistics specialist before attending Warrant Officer Candidate School at Fort Rucker, Alabama, in 2005.

“Chief Black is a highly qualified, composed and engaging leader who has the right skill sets to cultivate the next generation of warrant officers and skillfully represent the warrant officer corps at the senior leadership level,” said Maj. Gen. Rich Neely, the Adjutant General and commander of the Illinois National Guard.

The Command Chief Warrant Officer serves as the principle advisor to the Adjutant General on all matters pertaining to warrant officers including warrant officer accessions, training, education, promotion and career management.

“The Illinois Army National Guard’s warrant officer corps is stocked with technical experts who provide important technical advisement to officers and non-commissioned officers throughout the organization,” said Brig. Gen. Rodney Boyd, the Assistant Adjutant General-Army and commander of the Illinois Army National Guard. “Tom brings tremendous expertise to this position. His leadership will energize the warrant officer corps.”

Black replaces Chief Warrant Officer (5)

David Hammon who retires in April after serving 42 years in the Illinois National Guard; the last 10 as the command chief warrant officer.

“Chief Hammon has seen and done it all over the course of his long career,” said Boyd. “The organization is better today because of Dave’s persistence and attention to detail. He knows every warrant officer in the state, knows their story, and has been a catalyst of their success and careers.”

Black deployed to Iraq in 2007-2008 on one of the first co-deployments between the Illinois National Guard and Polish Land Forces. In 1989 Black supported a multinational medical training exercise in Bolivia. He has served the Illinois National Guard as a full-time federal military technician since 1993.

“You don’t get anywhere if you don’t surround yourself with great people. I have been very fortunate to work for and with a lot of outstanding leaders,” Black said. “When I interviewed to become a federal technician in 1993, the last question I was asked was ‘Why should we hire you?’ My answer was I wanted to give back to the Guard what it gave to me – an education, experience and I wanted to be part of a team.”

Black said he is blessed for this opportunity to lead the Illinois Army National Guard warrant officer cohort.

“Each of my mentors made a difference in my career,” he said. “Without their support I would have never made it this far. I look forward to paying that forward to ensure the warrant officers continue to be an integral part of this great team.”

183d ACOS earns Air Force Association's 2022 Verne Orr Award

By Barb Wilson, Illinois National Guard Public Affairs

SPRINGFIELD, ILL. –The 183rd Air Component Operations Squadron (ACOS), 183rd Wing, based in Springfield has been selected as the Air Force Association's Verne Orr Award recipient for 2022 at the Air National Guard level. The award, established by the Air Force Association in honor of former Secretary of the Air Force Verne Orr, recognizes an Air Force unit that makes the most effective use of its human resources.

Over the past year, the ACOS overcame training challenges due to COVID by conducting the first operational virtual drills in the history of the unit. This ability to adapt to ensure the unit could maintain the training of its more than 50 different Air Force Civilian Service specialties and skill levels was instrumental to not only supporting Illinois COVID response efforts, but Illinois counterdrug operations, Joint Task Force Haiti earthquake response, Operation Allies Refuge, and U.S. Transportation Command requirements at the 618th Air Operations Center.

"Innovation and adaptation are key components to ensuring readiness" said Maj. Gen. Rich Neely, the Adjutant General and Commander of the Illinois National Guard.

"The Air Component Operations Squadron at the 183rd demonstrated their ability to overcome new and ever changing obstacles to ensure they were fully trained and ready to respond when their nation called. I am immensely proud of their hard work and dedication to the mission and this award serves as recognition of their ability, accomplishments and achievements."



"The training and experience that the members of this squadron possess have repeatedly proven to be of significant value to the United States Air Force and the State of Illinois," said Col. Jonathan Edwards, Commander, 183rd ACOS. "Over the past year, a time that has been undoubtedly challenging for all organizations due to the struggles created by the corona virus, the members of the 183rd ACOS exhibited

innovative ideas to continue to meet the needs of the state and nation, accomplishing over 4,900 days on orders in support of six major events. The team's professionalism, expertise, and continued willingness to answer

the call is inspiring and I am humbled to serve as their commander!"

The 183rd ACOS was created in 2008 as one of five squadrons belonging to the 183rd Air Operations Group. It is a unique unit that employs nearly 100 subject matter experts in over 50 different Air Force



specialties who train, augment and integrate with a numbered Air Force Forces staff.

ENTERING THE MATRIX



Joint Cyber Range Allows National Guard and State Partners to Battle Safely in Cyberspace

By Sgt. Steve Gifford, 139th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. - During drill weekends, Illinois National Guard Soldiers and Airmen often go to the range for training. A typical day at the range might include training in tasks from physical fitness, to land navigation, to weapons qualification.

This year a new range, the Illinois National Guard's Joint Cyber Range, will offer service members and their civilian partners an exciting training tool in the cyber domain.

The Illinois Air National Guard's 183rd Air Wing, based in Springfield, hosts the cyber range. Physically, the range consists of approximately 10 servers, networking equipment, computer terminals, and other information technology infrastructure that can be configured to create a variety of training scenarios. An official ribbon-cutting and tour of the range is being planned for March.

The Joint Cyber Range will bring challenging,

but safe, training to the Illinois National Guard's cyber service members and their Illinois partners.

"The National Guard has taken an increasingly important role in responding to cyber attacks and conducting cyber defense both in state missions and within our national missions," said Maj. Gen. Rich Neely, the Adjutant General of Illinois and Commander of the Illinois National Guard. "The Illinois National Guard Joint Cyber Range allows us and our partners to practice our cyber skills together much in the same way we might be required to respond to a real-world cyber event."

"It can be used for a wide range of training and exercise applications," said 1st Lt. Paul Murley, the officer leading the cyber range project. "We are building toward a primary cyber exercise scenario, but because of the



flexibility the virtual environment provides, it is also an effective tool for training system administrators and network admins.”

According to Lt. Murley, a typical training scenario consists of two teams taking opposing sides across the network. One side attempts to disrupt the network, while the other side works to secure it and correct vulnerabilities. The cyber range allows these battles to take place in real time on a network separated from the outside world.

“Having the dedicated hardware allows us to take advantage of training opportunities as they arise,” said Master Sgt. Chris Ward of the 183rd Wing’s Air Communications Flight and a senior leader on the Illinois National Guard’s Joint Cyber Task Force. Previously the cyber warriors would have to schedule the unit-owned information technology hardware in advance because it was typically occupied for other missions. Having the dedicated range makes it a lot easier to fill white space in the training schedule with challenging and productive cyber training, Master Sgt. Ward said.

Master Sgt. Ward, who is the head of global security operations for a Chicago-based corporation, said that having the dedicated platform also makes it easier to train with other state agencies, military services, corporate or utility partners or potentially international partners. “You do not have to deal with some of the constraints you’d have working with DOD networks,” he said. “Having a closed, safe platform allows you to take the kid gloves off

and really go at it.”

Master Sgt. Ward said he is hoping to host training on the Joint Cyber Range with the Illinois National Guard’s State Partnership Program allies in the Polish military. “I had the opportunity to go to Poland and train with them in the Polish military’s Cyber Warfare Center and they have skilled cyber warriors. We would love to explore more opportunities to learn from each other.”

Already cybersecurity courses exist for Soldiers and Airmen to build their skills, but Lt. Murley said there is no substitute for real-time training with an active adversary.

“First and most important is that it provides a venue for Soldiers and Airmen to try, fail, and learn in the world of cybersecurity without negative externalities,” said Lt. Murley. “Flight simulators are essential for pilot training, and similarly here, we are able to put operators into the cyber ‘cockpit’ without risking damage to real-world networks.”

The physical aspect of the range is an important additional tool for training. Virtual training inside of the cyber “cockpit” is important. Lt. Murley said the ability to walk up to a server and troubleshoot problems cannot be overlooked. The full access provided by the range is an exciting tool in the Illinois National Guard’s cyber tool belt.

“As the saying goes, iron sharpens iron. Our cyber warriors become better by competing against each other and with increased opportunities to work with other cyber professionals. The Joint Cyber Range allows them to hone their skills against each other in a safe environment,” said Maj. Gen. Neely, a national leader in the area of cyber security and critical infrastructure.

The Department



of Defense has safe cyber ranges, such as U.S. Cyber Command's Joint Cyber Training Environment (JCTE)/Persistent Cyber Training Environment (PCTE), but the Illinois National Guard range will allow for more frequent training opportunities with local partners and agencies, said Col. Shawn Strahle, the Illinois National Guard's Chief Information Officer and Deputy Chief of Staff for Information Management. "It is these increased opportunities with Illinois partners that makes the Illinois National Guard's Joint Cyber Range exciting in addition to increased opportunities to train during weekend training assemblies. Most of our drill-status Airmen and Soldiers in the military cybersecurity/information technology career field also work in these areas in their civilian careers. The Joint Cyber Range allows them to bring their cutting-edge technology skills to their military training, and increases cybersecurity education opportunities."

The Illinois National Guard also participates in, and fills key staff positions in national cyber defense exercises such as Cyber Shield, which uses Cyber Command's JCTE/PCTE, Maj. Gen. Neely said. Cyber Shield, with more than 800 participants, is the Department of Defense's largest unclassified cyber defense exercise. Participating in these large cyber exercises with cyber experts from across the nation is invaluable, but so is working with cyber experts within Illinois, Maj. Gen. Neely said.

The Joint Cyber Range will also give the Illinois National Guard cyber warriors more exposure to cyber defenders outside of the military.

"I can also see it being used as a recruiting tool to attract more cyber talent into the Illinois National Guard as well as expose our cyber warriors to more opportunities in their civilian lives," Maj. Gen. Neely said.

Master Sgt. Ward agreed. "In the Joint Cyber Task Force we have folks with great civilian-acquired skills regardless of the duty assignment they hold in the Army or Air Force. We have junior enlisted with extensive cyber experience who are just too busy in their civilian lives to go through the commissioning process and outstanding leadership that recognizes these talents."

Having the Joint Cyber Range where they can really put their skills to the test is a great retention and recruiting tool, Master Sgt. Ward said.



Across the country, organizations, both public and private, work to ensure the security of our interconnected systems. The Illinois National Guard's Soldiers and Airmen must keep up to date with the latest techniques and tactics used in both government and civilian systems. The new range provides the environment for these skills to develop in the men and women serving here in Illinois.

Flying High: Illinois Outstanding Airmen of the Year selected

By Barb Wilson, Illinois National Guard Public Affairs
Photos by Master Sgt. Shelly Stark, 183rd Wing Public Affairs

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. –The Illinois Air National Guard “Outstanding Airmen of the Year”

awards were presented on Jan. 8 at Illinois National Guard headquarters on Camp Lincoln in Springfield, Illinois.

Winners were “Airman of the Year” Airman 1st Class Landon Hiebert of the 126th Air Refueling Wing based on Scott Air Force Base, “Noncommissioned Officer of the Year”

Tech. Sgt. Stephanie Paczesny, also of the 126th Air Refueling Wing based on Scott Air Force Base, “First Sergeant of the Year” Master Sgt. Kathy Moran of the 182nd Airlift Wing based in Peoria, and “Outstanding Senior Non-Commissioned Officer of the Year,” Master Sgt. Dylan Geer from Chatham, a senior non-commissioned officer with the 183rd Wing, located in Springfield.

“These Airmen represent the best of the best in the Illinois Air National Guard” said Maj. Gen. Pete Nezamis, Assistant Adjutant

General - Air and Commander of the Illinois Air National Guard. “With their determination, attention to detail and laser focus on the mission, the Illinois Air National Guard is operating at high levels. It’s my absolute pleasure to recognize these Airmen for the amazing things they have accomplished over the last year.”

“The leadership, growth and resilience

demonstrated by these Airman over the last year truly exemplifies the core values of the Air Force and the Illinois Air National Guard,” said Maj. Gen. Rich Neely, the Adjutant General and Commander of the Illinois National Guard. “As members of the Illinois Air National

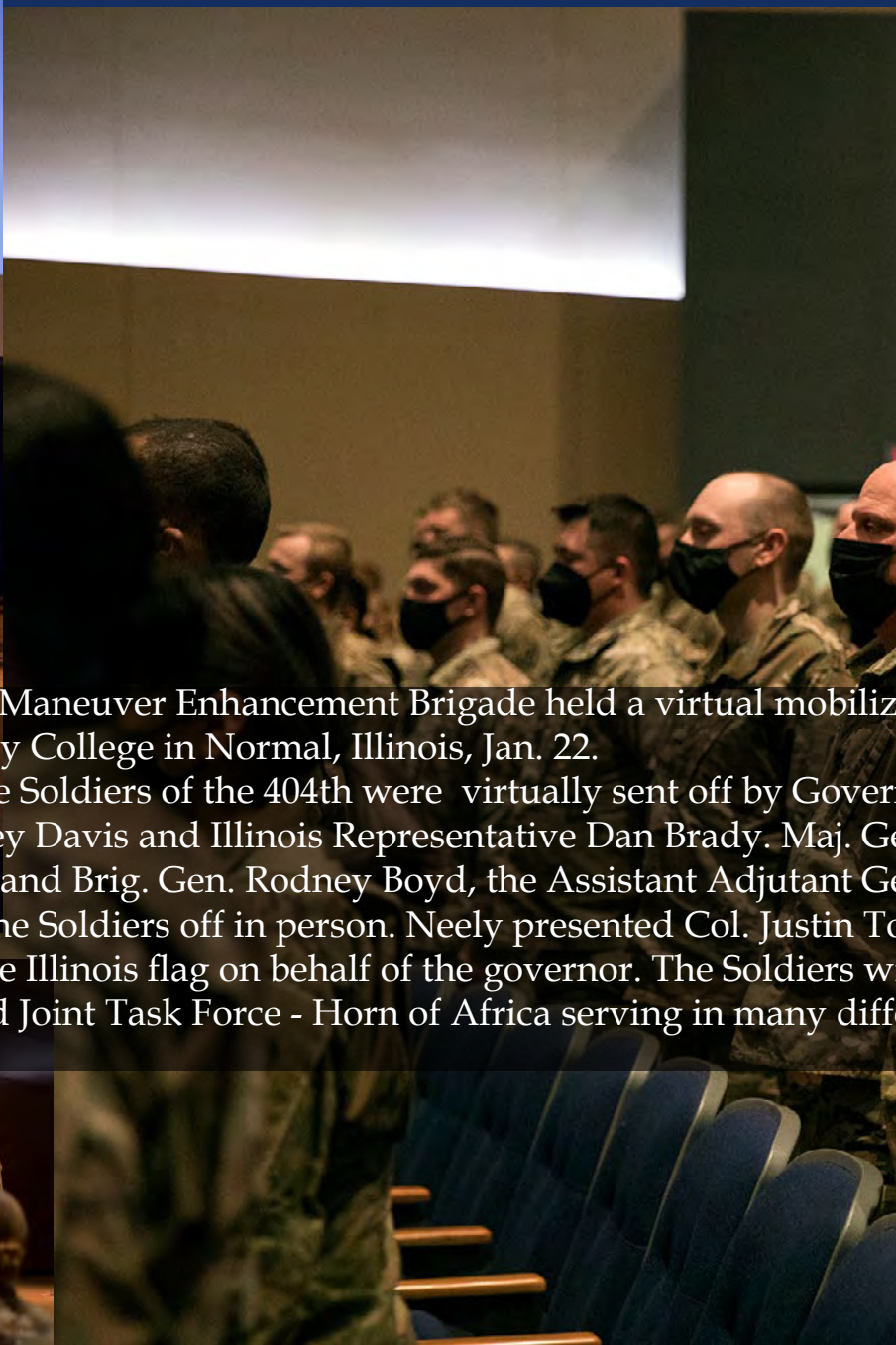
Guard, these Airmen completed deployments, professional military education, leadership courses and training - all while balancing home life and civilian careers. They truly stepped up and went above and beyond. It’s my honor to recognize their individual accomplishments and award them with the Outstanding Airman of the Year awards. I look forward to seeing them continue to grow as leaders in their own units and the Illinois National Guard. We wish them all the best as they move on to compete at the national level.”





DRAGON TRAILS:

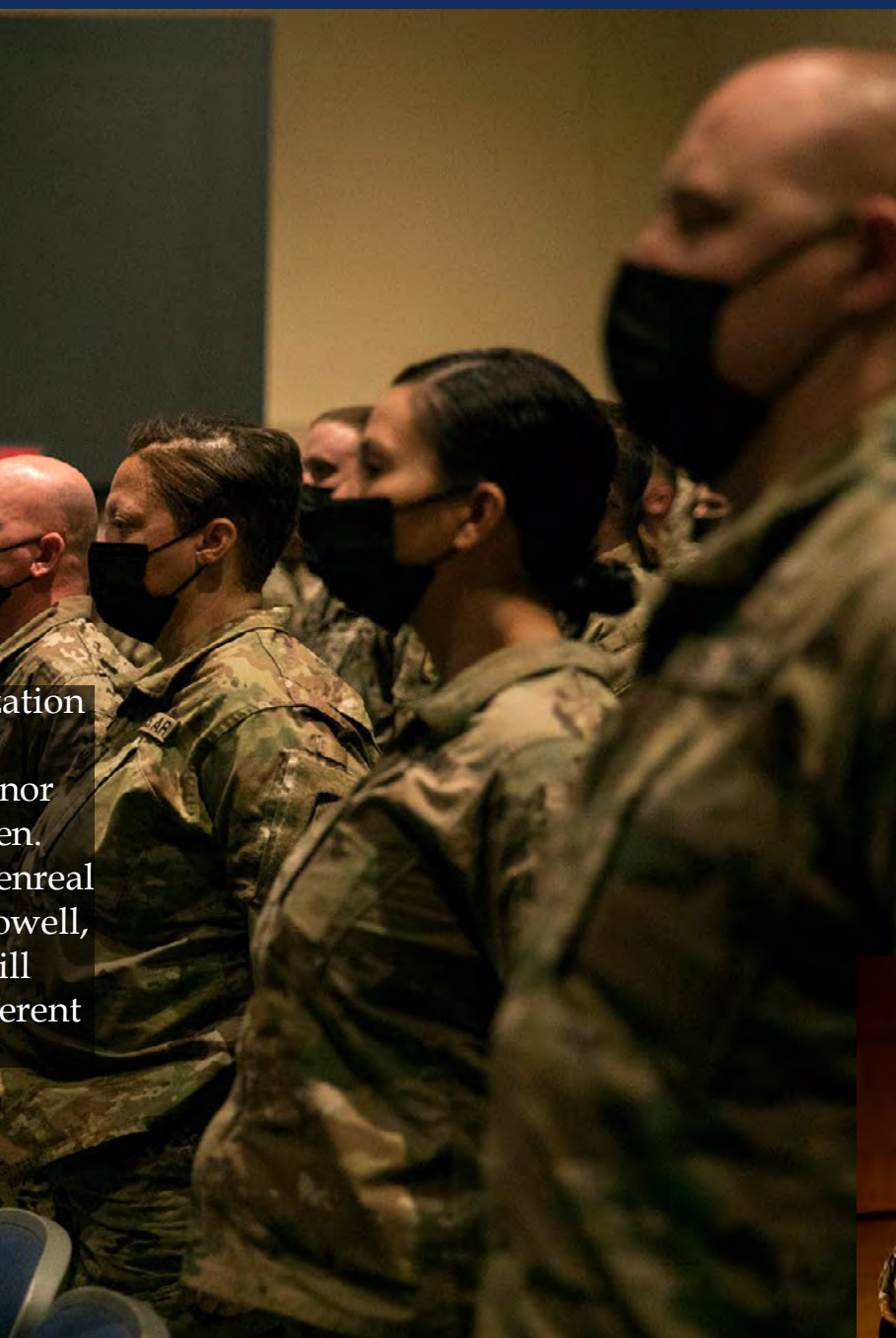
404th MEB Mobilizes for CJTF-Horn of Africa



The Illinois National Guard's 404th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade held a virtual mobilization ceremony at Heartland Community College in Normal, Illinois, Jan. 22.

Due to COVID-19 safety concerns the Soldiers of the 404th were virtually sent off by Governor JB Pritzker, U.S. Representative Rodney Davis and Illinois Representative Dan Brady. Maj. Gen. Rich Neely, Illinois' Adjutant General and Brig. Gen. Rodney Boyd, the Assistant Adjutant General - Army, Illinois National Guard sent the Soldiers off in person. Neely presented Col. Justin Toombs, commander of the 404th MEB, with the Illinois flag on behalf of the governor. The Soldiers will have a year-long rotation in Combined Joint Task Force - Horn of Africa serving in many different roles.





FULL- SPECTRUM WARFARE

High-Tech Intelligence and Electronic Warfare and Sensors Battalion Brings Nearly 200 High-Tech Positions and Multi-Million Dollar Investment to Illinois

By Lt. Col. Brad Leighton, Illinois National Guard Public Affairs

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. – Governor JB Pritzker announced today that the Illinois Army National Guard is one of only eight states selected for an Intelligence and Electronic Warfare & Sensors (IEWs) Battalion as part of the U.S. Army's future investment plans. The unit will include nearly 200 highly skilled technology positions in Illinois and the U.S. Army will invest multi-millions of dollars in the unit's high-tech infrastructure, equipment and training. The unit is slated for activation in 2027, with the Illinois Army National Guard beginning to start filling in positions in 2025.

"Our Illinois National Guard is the best of the best, and this federal investment is just the latest example of their leadership at home and abroad," said Governor JB Pritzker. "Technical capability is a key component of 21st century national defense, and I have no doubt that the Illinois National Guard will continue to lead in this space for years to come."

"The IEWS battalion brings in a whole array of multi-disciplinary specialties – cyber experts, geospatial specialists, intelligence and counter-intelligence analysts, linguists as well as satellite and communications experts, to name just a few. These experts analyze data across the land, air, sea, space and cyber domains putting together the pieces of the puzzle to give the division commander a full picture of the battlespace," said Maj. Gen. Rich Neely, the Adjutant General of Illinois and Commander of the Illinois National Guard. "Having many of these specialties within the Illinois National



Guard can also be extremely useful in our domestic missions."

The new unit is slated to be stationed within the Illinois Army National Guard's historic General Richard L. Jones Armory next to Washington Park on Chicago's South Side. The ILNG is requesting federal support for a significant modernization and renovation project for the armory. The modernization of the General Jones Armory, named for one of the Guard's most prominent African American leaders and a former U.S. Ambassador to Liberia, will save millions in long-term facilities construction costs.

"This battalion will provide new opportunities for members of the Illinois Army National Guard and benefit our long-term national defense strategy," said U.S. Senator Dick Durbin (D-IL). "This selection is



a testament to the incredible work ethic of the brave men and women of the Illinois Army National Guard and the first-rate talent pool and infrastructure that Illinois offers, including the historic General Richard L. Jones Armory on Chicago's South Side."

"I'm pleased the U.S. Army selected the Illinois National Guard for an Intelligence and Electronic Warfare & Sensors Battalion, bringing hundreds of high-skilled jobs to the state," U.S. Senator Tammy Duckworth (D-IL) said. "The modernization efforts for our armed forces and investing in technology is critical to our military readiness, and I'm proud to see these efforts in Illinois. I've long supported modernization at General Jones Armory and I'm glad the Army sees the potential in Illinois and at this location."

"General Jones Armory is an important part

of Hyde Park and has meant so much to our South Side community, but the facility has been underutilized for years," said Congressman Bobby L. Rush. "I am thrilled that this new announcement will put the Illinois National Guard and General Jones Armory on the cutting edge of American high-tech intelligence and national defense strategies. As a proud Army veteran and an even prouder South Sider, I am excited about this investment and the local jobs it will bring to our community, and I look forward to continuing to push for needed improvements to the General Jones Armory in Congress."

The IEWS Battalion is a critical component of national defense strategy and is designed to provide near real-time situational understanding to an Army division commander on the modern battlefield. It is part of the Department of Defense's strategy to modernize and develop units which ensure superiority over potential "near-peer" adversaries. The Illinois IEWS battalion's war-time mission will be to support the Minnesota Army National Guard's 34th Infantry Division. These experts are also useful during domestic operations.

For example, geospatial specialists could help analyze road or bridge damage in the event of an earthquake. The satellite and communications experts can help analyze the extent of damage caused by a natural or man-made disaster and assist in re-establishing lines of communication within the damaged areas. The cyber experts can add to the state's response capabilities in the event of a cyber-attack.

Much of the reason Illinois was chosen was because of its proven ability to recruit, develop, and retain high-quality Soldiers from the state's talent base, which includes some of the nation's top state and private colleges and universities as well as a burgeoning high-tech sector, top-flight innovation incubators and a well-established manufacturing base. The battalion will help Illinoisans entering the National Guard develop high-tech skills and achieve security clearances that will benefit them throughout their career in the ILNG and beyond.

SNOWMAGEDDON 2022

Illinois National Guard assists motorists during blizzard

By Barb Wilson, Illinois National Guard Public Affairs

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. – The Illinois National Guard ended its winter weather response operations Feb. 4.

Gov. J.B. Pritzker activated the approximately 110 Soldiers and 20 Airmen Feb. 1 to team with the Illinois State Police to assist stranded motorists in the areas they were assigned.

“The Soldiers and Airmen activated for this mission lived up to our motto of Always Ready, Always There,” said Maj. Gen. Rich Neely, the Adjutant General of Illinois and Commander of the Illinois National Guard. “They left their homes and civilian jobs in the face of severe winter weather to help our state partners assist men and women stranded on Illinois highways. They are the epitome of Citizen-Soldiers and Citizen-Airmen.”



During the activation, the Soldiers and Airmen conducted 40 missions alongside the Illinois State Police. The seven winter weather response teams inspected 82 cars, transported or otherwise assisted 88 individuals and traveled a total of 15,088 miles throughout their mission locations.

The Illinois Army National Guard's 33rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team's six winter weather platoons were equipped with six High Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicles and one Heavy Expanded Mobility Tactical Truck Wrecker. The winter weather platoons from the 766th Brigade Engineer Battalion, headquartered in Decatur, with units based in Bloomington, Urbana and Lawrenceville, were assigned to the Litchfield, Springfield, and Pittsfield areas. The WWPs from Troop A, 2nd Battalion, 106th Cavalry Regiment, based in Pontiac, were assigned to the Kankakee and Champaign areas. The WWP from Company B, 634th Brigade Support Battalion, based in Champaign, was assigned to the Mattoon area.

"Our mission was to assist the Illinois State Police with evacuating motorists stuck in snow



needed them.

"It's impossible to predict what is going to happen on each mission. The Illinois State Police District 20 was very prepared for the snow storm with ample officers and vehicles," Patten said. "We were proud to be able to offer assistance if needed to our home state."

The Illinois Air National Guard's 182nd Airlift Wing, based in Peoria, was equipped with six HMMWVs and assigned to the Bloomington and Peoria areas.

Maj. Joseph Pingley, of East Peoria, officer in charge of the ILANG winter weather response team and commander of the 169th Air Support Operations Squadron, based in Peoria said the Air Guard team excelled at operating under less than ideal conditions.

"Our 18-Airmen team drove more than 3,500 miles, worked 696 man-hours, operated 348 vehicle hours, responded to 42 ISP tasks and provided transport to 19 civilians," he said. "This was accomplished without a single injury to our members or damage to any of our equipment."

Pingley's teams were sent by the ISP to assist stranded motorists in addition to patrolling the highways looking for unreported stranded motorists.

"We would ensure the motorists were not injured then offer rides to warming locations, mark the vehicles as being searched and then would call in the information to the ISP," he said.

He said the teams also provided traffic control a couple of times when semi-trucks blocked the roadway until a wrecker cleared the roadway.



and marking the vehicles as empty," said Sgt. 1st Class Mary Joan Patten, of Caledonia, Wisconsin, noncommissioned officer in charge of the ILARNG WWP assigned to the Pittsfield, Illinois area.

Patten said her team was put in an "on call" status when they arrived in the Pittsfield area and stood ready to render assistance if the ISP



A NEW CHALLENGE

LCA Launches new Certified Nursing Assistant program

By Michael Camacho, Lincoln's Challenge Academy Public Affairs

RANTOUL, Ill. –Lincoln's ChalleNGe Academy has expanded its vocational job skills and certifications under its Workforce Initiative by officially starting its Certified Nurse Assistant program Jan. 31 at its campus at Rantoul, Ill.,.

The Workforce Initiative provides cadets with training that helps them find employment and exposes them to different career options. The academy has been working with different organizations and community partners such as Parkland College to add new training during the 5-month in-residence phase. The training is provided by the academy and is at no cost to the Cadets or their families.

LCA is a program administered by the Illinois National Guard for Illinois youth ages 16-18 at risk of not completing high school or behind. It begins with a residential life-skills program in a quasi-military environment on the academy's campus on the former Chanute Air Force Base in Rantoul, Illinois. The residential phase is

followed by a year-long mentoring program.

"This has been a long, but wonderful process getting the CNA program started at the academy," said Jaime Eaker, Deputy Director of Programs. "We started developing this idea in the fall of 2020 and worked with Parkland College to make it a reality."

Eaker said based on an interest expressed by prior cadets, the academy wanted to create a CNA program on its campus to be able to offer the training to youth interested in the medical field.

"Placement has become an important focus alongside life skills and education for our cadets," Eaker said. "Every class, we ask for insight on what careers our cadets are interested in so we can implement programs that help them learn job skills and help them develop a career plan. Our staff has out in countless hours put in by staff to make our CNA program a reality and help our cadets to start a career in the medical field."

The need for healthcare professionals is growing. The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics estimates a 9% increase through 2028. About 192,800 openings for nurse assistants and medical support positions are projected each year, on average, over the decade.

"The demand for nurse's assistants is present and it is a great career path," said Eaker. "The cadets going through this program are entering a field where they are needed and have a lot of opportunity to advance. We are helping to set a foundation for their careers."

The course teaches about the roles and responsibilities of nurse assistants, said Jared Spencer LCA's Workforce Initiative Training Supervisor. The cadets will have a solid foundation of everything they need to know to perform duties as a nurse's assistant.

"When the Class 57 cadets arrived, we asked who had an interest in participating in the CNA program," said Spencer. "During the first few days here, we interviewed them just like they were interviewing for a job and identified who our best candidates would be.

"We're focusing on seeking for those cadets who are looking at healthcare as a part of their placement plan in the Post Residential phase and a career moving forward," said

Spencer. "These cadets already show a sense of determination because they are completing all the same tasks as every other cadet in academic and life skill classes in addition to doing a 13-week CNA course."

Cadet Naliyah Calvin with LCA Class 57-22 said her interest in healthcare came from caring for family members during times of illness and her desire to pursue a career helping others.

"I'm really glad I'm in the program because I am able to attend the training for free and without having to go to school for years. I can get it in the few months I'm here," said Calvin.

For more information on LCA's Certified Nurse Assistant program, the Workforce Initiative and education opportunities please contact the LCA Admissions Department at 1-800-851-2166.

Now Hiring Cadre Staff



Be a leader. Join our team

217-761-1302 www.lincolnschallenge.org

MAROA POST OFFICE NAME CHANGE WOULD HONOR FALLEN GUARDSMAN

By Barb Wilson, Illinois National Guard Public Affairs

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. – Illinois Army National Guard Spc. Jeremy Ridlen, of Paris, Illinois, was among approximately 170 Soldiers who deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom in December 2003 with the 1544th Transportation Company, based in Paris.

He was just 23 years old when he died from small arms fire May 23, 2004, after a dump truck on the side of the road was detonated as his military convoy passed by in East Fallujah, Iraq.



On Feb. 1, the U.S. House of Representatives unanimously passed House Resolution 3579 to designate the U.S. Post Office in Maroa, Illinois, as the Jeremy L. Ridlen Post Office. This is the first step in the legislative process to rename



the Post Office. The bill will now go to the U.S. Senate, and if adopted, to the President for his signature.

"Specialist Ridlen gave his life for his country, and renaming this post office in his honor will serve as a lasting tribute to his sacrifice," said Maj. Gen. Rich Neely, the Adjutant General of Illinois and Commander of the Illinois National Guard.

Ridlen was born and raised in Maroa, where he attended Maroa-Forsyth High School. He and his twin brother, Jason, attended Illinois State University where they signed up for the Illinois National Guard and were assigned to the 1544th. When the unit was activated in 2003 and deployed to Fallujah, Iraq, Ridlen served as a gunner.

"As a member of the Army National Guard, Specialist Jeremy Ridlen gave the ultimate sacrifice in service of his country and we remain eternally grateful," said Congressman Rodney Davis, District 13, Illinois. "Designating this post office in honor of Jeremy will serve as a testament to his bravery and a reminder of all those who laid down their life for the United States of America."



KEYED UP

*Illinois Army National Guard transfers armory to Beardstown
Park District*

By Sgt. Trent Fouche, Illinois National Guard Public Affairs



On March 1, 2022, the Illinois National Guard transferred the Beardstown Armory to the city of Beardstown and the Beardstown Park District. The building was officially dedicated on November 7, 1987 as a cooperative effort between the ILNG and Beardstown Park District. Several Illinois Army National Guard units have occupied the armory over the last 35 years. Most recently, the facility was home to the Illinois Army National Guard's 616th Engineer Utilities Detachment. Director of the Illinois National Guard's Joint Staff, Brig Gen. Mark Alessia, Mayor Tim Harris, and Beardstown Park District Director Deon Summers were all in attendance.



THE LAND OF ETERNAL BLUE SKIES

6th SFAB deploys five to USINDOPACOM for advisory mission

By Barb Wilson, Illinois National Guard Public Affairs

ROCK ISLAND ARSENAL, ILL. – As much of the nation watched the pre-game Super Bowl hype, five Soldiers with the Illinois Army National Guard were launched on a Super Bowl of their own. But this team's big game won't be held in Tinseltown, but rather the U.S. Indo-Pacific Command (USINDOPACOM) area of responsibility (AOR).

A logistics advisor team of five Soldiers from the Illinois Army National Guard's elite 6th Battalion, 54th Security Force Assistance Brigade (SFAB) held a deployment ceremony on Sunday, Feb. 13, at Rock Island Arsenal, Ill. After a short time training in Texas, the team will join with the active duty Army's 5th SFAB based at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash., to deploy to the USINDOPACOM

AOR. The six-month deployment is the first for the Illinois National Guard's SFAB unit and represents the first SFAB to support the USINDOPACOM.

The SFAB is an elite unit with a core mission to conduct training, advising, assisting, enabling and accompanying operations with allied and partner nations. The Illinois Army

National Guard's SFAB unit was activated in 2020, after about a year and a half of organizing the unit. The 6th Battalion, based at Rock Island Arsenal in Illinois, represents the logistics experts in the 54th SFAB. The 54th SFAB headquarters is based in Indiana.

"We just feel a tremendous amount of pride sending this team off," said Maj. Keri Wolf, the officer-in-charge of 6th Battalion and





one of the original full-time Active Guard-Reserve (AGR) officers charged with manning, equipping and training the new unit. "To see this all come to fruition is just a great feeling."

Lt. Col. Bradley Roach, the 6th Battalion Commander, said he was "jealous" of the deploying team. "Although you are few in numbers, the positive effect you can have on future relations is great." Roach said the SFAB doesn't just advise foreign defense forces, it also

builds lasting relationships and trust between nations.

The logistics advisory team, designated Team 6621, consists of an officer-in-charge, a noncommissioned officer-in-charge/transportation expert, a supply/quartermaster expert, a maintenance expert, and a medical expert. "While they are all experts in their own field, they are also cross-trained in the other areas so they can effectively advise in any of the areas of Army logistics," Wolf said.

Col. Tim Newman, the Commander of the 108th Sustainment Brigade, the 6th Battalion's higher headquarters in Illinois, told the families of the deploying Guard members to please reach out if they needed support. "We are here for you," Newman said.

Capt. Cameron Worley, a native of Peoria and officer-in-charge of the team, said he was excited for the deployment and promised to take good care of the Soldiers while they are in the INDOPACOM AOR. In six months the team is slated to be replaced in Mongolia with another team from 6th Battalion.

"I'm honored to lead this first team and to go do what this unit is designed to do," he said.



CELEBRATING LINCOLN

Maj. Gen. Rich Neely lays wreath at Lincoln's Tomb

By Barb Wilson, Illinois National Guard Public Affairs



SPRINGFIELD, Ill. – Maj. Gen. Rich Neely, the Adjutant General of Illinois and Commander, Illinois National Guard, presented a wreath on behalf of President Joseph R. Biden, Jr. at the tomb of Abraham Lincoln during the American Legion's 88th annual Lincoln Pilgrimage at Oak Ridge Cemetery, Springfield, Illinois, Feb. 12.

Maj. Gen. Neely told American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary and Sons of the American Legion members attending the ceremony that Illinois' most famous Guardsman, Capt. Abraham Lincoln served in the Illinois military during the Blackhawk war. "Illinois Guard members today gather inspiration from President Lincoln," Neely said. "Lincoln served at the lowest level of the militia and ultimately led the military during our nation's

most bloodiest conflict."

Neely said Lincoln talked of diversity in his second message to Congress in December 1862, urging Congress to pass the 13th Amendment.

"We can apply Lincoln's message of diversity to today's society," he said. "Following Lincoln's logic we can leverage this diversity, and harmony and purpose for all of our organizations, including the Illinois National Guard."





HITTING THE HIGH NOTES

Illinois participates in Brave Band 1 with LITPOLUKRBRIG



Illinois National Guard Soldiers participated in the Brave Band 1 exercise with members of the Lithuanian, Poland and Ukrainian Brigade Feb. 13.

LITPOLUKRBRIG staff were given a scenario that they had to apply the Military Decision Making Process to and conduct mission analysis and provide a course of action brief. The MDMP is a collaborative approach to decision making and is an integral part of military operations. In the next phase of Brave Band, LITPOLUKRBRIG staff will produce an operations order for the hypothetical scenario.





EXCHANGE RATES

***Camp Lincoln Shopette
manager retires after 30 years***

By Sgt. Trent Fouche, Illinois National Guard Public Affairs

SPRINGFIELD, ILL. – The Exchange hadn't even been built yet, when Lori L. Chapman decided to apply. Her husband, who had transferred into the Illinois Army National Guard, told her that they would be converting a locker room into a shopette on post. For Lori, that was enough to put in a job application.

Now, after 31 years of putting smiles on the faces of service members and civilians at the headquarters of the Illinois National Guard on Camp Lincoln, she will be retiring. Chapman was honored by the Illinois National Guard leadership on Feb. 23 prior to her March 1 retirement.

"Lori has certainly become part of the Illinois National Guard family," said Maj. Gen.

Rich Neely, the Adjutant General of Illinois and

Commander of the Illinois National Guard. "I remember meeting Lori as a second lieutenant at the Exchange many years ago."

Over the years, Chapman has helped bring Exchange services to wherever Illinois National Guard Soldiers and Airmen needed them," said Col. (ret.) James Smith, the Chief of Staff for the Illinois Department of Military Affairs. "Where

we'd go, she'd go."

In addition to the Camp Lincoln Exchange, Chapman also helped set up Exchange services at the Illinois Army National Guard's Marseilles Training Area in Marseilles, Illinois.

Chapman said she was excited for the opportunity to work at an Exchange and, 31 years later, still loved

her job.



"We had just moved back to Illinois after living in Texas," Lori said. "My husband decided to come into the Illinois Army National Guard and told me that they were making a store out of his locker room, so I just knew that I had to apply."

Growing up with an active-duty Army father, she had been familiar with going to the shops on post. This would spark her interest and help her understand the significance of her role.

"The store wasn't even put together yet," she said. "I came in and helped put it together. I helped with shelving, priced the merchandise, and unloaded the truck before our grand opening."

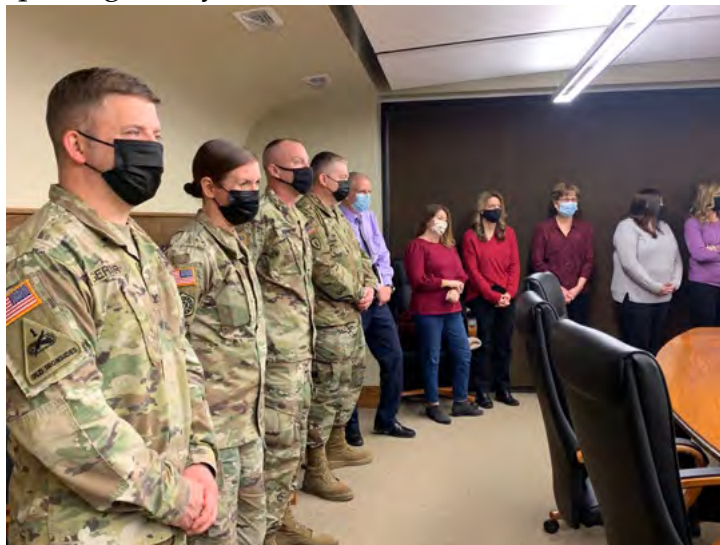
The store would officially open in August 1991. Lori's role would soon go from part-time to full-time management. Lori attributed her role as a military spouse to being helpful with managing her employees and ensuring the store's success.

"A lot is expected of you, with the suspense times, reports and facility analysis every month," she said. "Being married to a Soldier, it's a lifestyle that I kind of grew up with."

Throughout the decades, Lori has gained the respect and admiration of her peers. Both civilians and service members recognize her for being



(SRP). We had no idea how much of a load it was going to be, but she jumped right in and brought out products for our troops like shaving gear, candy bars and all that. She



a tremendous asset to Camp Lincoln.

"In 2003 I came here as the personnel officer," Smith said. "We were right in the middle of the ramp-up for Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) and Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF) and we partnered with Lori while we were moving troops through Soldier Readiness Processing

would adjust her inventory to the needs of the Soldiers every day. I knew that this wasn't just a job for her, this was a calling, and she was all about supporting our troops. I will miss her."

Lori says that she has enjoyed her time at Camp Lincoln and hopes that she has made a positive impact on the many people

that she has met.

"I'm grateful that I've been here for 31 years, It's going to be hard to retire," said Chapman.



"I've made a lot of friends. We're always seeing a lot of new, young people coming in, which is a good thing. Seeing everyone come through the store to get what they need makes my day."

BLESS THE RAINS

404th MEB assumes responsibility of Combined Joint Task Force - Horn of Africa

By Tech. Sgt. Lynette Rolan and Sgt. Lisa Crawford, Combined Joint Task Force – Horn of Africa, Public Affairs

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. –Soldiers from the Illinois Army National Guard’s 404th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade (MEB), headquartered in Normal, Illinois, assumed responsibility of the Combined Joint Task Force – Horn of Africa (CJTF-HOA) mission from the Nebraska Army National Guard’s 67th MEB, Feb. 26.

As a dynamic operational headquarters, CJTF-HOA

ensures a strategic partnership with Djibouti, responds to crises, supports operations, protects U.S. lives and enables the countering of violent extremist organizations throughout East Africa in order to enhance stability and prosperity. CJTF-

HOA works with partner nations, coalition forces and interagency and intergovernmental organizations to achieve a unified effort.

“You’re arriving at a pivotal time in DoD and U.S. government’s time in East Africa,” U.S. Army Maj. Gen. William Zana, commanding general of CJTF-HOA, said to the incoming 404th MEB. “You’re going to be both witness and participant to history.”

CJTF-HOA is headquartered at Camp Lemonnier, Djibouti, the only permanent U.S. military installation on the African continent. While serving CJTF-HOA, the 404th MEB will work hand-in-hand with their Djiboutian counterparts and other partner nations for integrated security tactics, mobility and functional methods.

According to the commanding general, CJTF-HOA and the MEB play a central role in the implementation of U.S. decisions affecting activities in the region and on the African continent as a whole. While the impact of those decisions will determine the tempo of operations at CJTF-HOA, Zana added that the 67th MEB has continued to build on an

outstanding foundation and has ensured the 404th is adequately prepared.

“Today our chapter closes in the history book of this organization,” said U.S. Army Col. Brian Medcalf, 67th MEB commander, also the outgoing

CJTF-HOA chief of staff. “The mission here is quietly executed by the very best the nation has to offer.”

Thanking the entire CJTF-HOA staff and joint partners in attendance, Medcalf also reminded his team of the important accomplishments they achieved during their nine-month rotation at Camp Lemonnier. As the outgoing MEB commander expressed his thanks, the incoming 404th MEB commander, U.S. Army Col. Justin Towell, of Edwardsville, Illinois, offered his excitement for the new challenge and expectations for his team.

“Today starts a new chapter in our storied history as we now are integrated into the CJTF-HOA,” Towell said. “...You all have trained hard for this mission and I know this team will



move the ball forward with each and every task.

"I have trained this young staff; they are hungry, eager, dedicated, and willing to throw everything they have to ensure the success of CJTF-HOA," Towell added.

Zana addressed the significance of the CJTF-HOA mission and the heavy responsibility required of the 404th Soldiers.

"Your work is part of this combined, joint-interagency team and in that role, you're going to be ambassadors of your service, ambassadors of your state, ambassadors of the National Guard, and ambassadors of our nation," said Zana. "My expectation is that you're going to be exceptional team players. This ambassador role can't be understated. You're the face of our nation, to so many of our partners, both here and across the region. You've got to take that on. It's a big responsibility and one that I think you're going to excel at."

In October 2020, the first MEB, the 196th of Sioux Falls, South Dakota Army National Guard, became the new headquarters staff at CJTF-HOA. For the first time, the headquarters moved from its conceptional structure of filling its forces out of joint force individual augmentees. Individual augmentees came with a high-turnover rate and continuity challenges; CJTF-HOA leadership sought a new solution.

The headquarters staff liked the idea of a single-unit solution that could perform headquarters functions, deploy as a unit, and perform turnover with other like units, less frequently. The solution came in the form of MEBs.

According to Zana, the National Guard Bureau quickly committed to the request to provide MEBs for the CJTF-HOA mission, and

worked to overcome an absence of doctrine, training pipeline and other infrastructure necessary to train a formation to come to Africa. The Soldiers of the 196th helped build the foundation for the future of the task force and the transition of MEB rotations.

Filling 60 percent of the command

responsibility with a single unit brings the benefit of a self-contained, modular, and multifunctional support unit that can easily be customized to meet mission requirements. There are currently 19 MEBs in the U.S. Army, 16 in the National Guard and three in the Army Reserves.

"As we embark on this third MEB rotation, each MEB will impart their own legacy on this transition and how we got here and where we're going," said Zana. "Members of the 196th were the pathfinders; they were figuring

out a very complex transition and setting the course for future MEBs. The 67th legacy is one of raising the bar and normalizing the MEB's role and processes. You have set a high standard for the 404th. I think the 404th's legacy is going to be refining, improving and building momentum

for future rotations and more broadly, for this headquarters' role here on the continent."

404th MEB, Illinois Army National Guard, took responsibility 26 February, 2022

67th MEB, Nebraska Army National Guard, served June 2021 to February 2022

196th MEB, South Dakota Army National Guard, served September 2020 to June 2021.



BURY THESE BURDENS

Illinois Soldier raises suicide awareness through music

By Mike Chrisman, Illinois National Guard Public Affairs



SPRINGFIELD, Ill. –As a kid, David Allen Stone of Robinson, Illinois always wanted to be in the military and serve his country. Enlisting in a post-9/11 era, Stone knew he would be deployed overseas. However, he never envisioned the internal struggles he would endure during his military service.

For many, depression and suicide are taboo topics no one wants to talk about. However, Stone has turned his pain into music, with hopes of helping others struggling with mental illness.

Stone, an Illinois Army National Guard sergeant first class, is part of the 123rd Engineer Battalion in Murphysboro, Illinois. He has served in the Illinois Army National Guard since 2004, when he enlisted at the age of 18. Deployments to Afghanistan and Iraq gave him a unique perspective on the ‘personal demons’

many Veterans face. Like many Veterans, Stone turned to alcohol to cope with his depression. It was those personal struggles that enabled the 35-year-old Veteran to hone in on his passion, finding an outlet that helped him cope. Now he’s helping others struggling with depression and suicidal ideations.

“I wrote the song ‘Bury These Burdens’ when I was in a pretty dark spot in my life and thought I could fix my problems at the bottom of the bottle,” Stone recalls. “I thought ending my life would be best for everyone, until a conversation with my aunt, Angie Watson, helped me use my passion for music to focus on my pain.”

Stone said he wrote ‘Bury These Burdens’ simply to unleash his sadness and anger in a way where no one would get hurt. However, when a high school friend and fellow Illinois



Army National Guard Soldier died by suicide in January 2020, Stone knew it was time to act.

"I had the song started, but after Tyler Zellers passed away, I really focused my mentality on getting the message out," Stone said. "I wanted others to know that it's okay to talk about your

feelings. For me, it helped talking about what I was going through. You can't hold it in. I want others to know they're not alone. You can talk about it. There are many others going through similar struggles just like you."

Zellers' sister, Chrissy (Zellers) Arvin of Hutsonville, Illinois, said she doesn't want to see others endure what they've gone through as a family.

"Because of what happened, so many people have opened up about things," Arvin said. "If it changes one mind not to make the final decision Tyler did, then it's absolutely worth it. Tyler didn't die in battle, but he lost his life for this country."

Stone's biggest advice to people struggling with depression and thoughts of suicide is to find something you love and you're passionate about and surround yourself with positivity. Stone said embracing his passion for music helped save his life and now he wants to help others with similar struggles.

"If you're going through depression or dealing with alcoholism and don't think life is worth it anymore, start hanging out with people who give you positive verification you are good person," Stone said. "You're on this Earth for a reason; you just haven't found your purpose in life yet. Surround yourself

by people you admire and find an escape from reality."

Suicide rates in the military community are at an all-time high since record-keeping began after 9/11 and those rates have been increasing over the last five years at a steady pace.

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs reports there are an average of 20 Veteran suicides per day, and suicide among Veterans account for approximately 14 percent of all suicides in the U.S. every year.

The Illinois National Guard has taken a strong proactive approach to Veteran suicide, hoping someday there will be zero suicides in the force. Part of the prevention effort is training Soldiers on what to look for and how to help someone who may be contemplating suicide.

"Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training (ASIST) equips the Soldier with the ability to identify risk factors and intervene in a suicide situation," said Erica Metzger, Illinois Army National Guard Risk Reduction Coordinator.

The Illinois Army National Guard has 370 Soldiers (four percent of the overall force) trained to intervene if someone shows signs of suicide.

In addition to ASIST, Illinois Army National Guard leaders can enroll in an 8-hour 'Ask, Care, Escort (ACE) Suicide Intervention Course.'

Thirty-five Illinois Army National Guard Soldiers have taken their own life since 2003. However, those numbers have decreased over the last few years. In 2019, four Soldiers died by suicide. Since 2019, four Illinois Army National Guard Soldiers



have died due to self-inflicted wounds.

While it may be difficult to find positives in life when you're coping with depression, Stone encourages others to find outlets to channel their emotions so those feelings aren't bottled up inside.

"Music is my escape, but it's also a way to put your emotions into something," Stone said. "If I'm angry, my music will reflect that. If I'm sad, the song I'm writing will reflect those feelings."

Stone said he was sad and depressed when he wrote 'Bury These Burdens.'

"I just wanted to help," Stone recalls. "With that mentality, I wrote a song that can help others if they listen to the message. I want others to know they're not alone. There's always someone there for you. You just have to reach out and talk. That is the key behind the song. Don't hold it in anymore. Talking to others helps you understand there are other people struggling in similar ways."

Arvin doesn't understand why we think it's taboo to talk about suicide.

"Our brains are just as important as everything else," Arvin said. "If we're sick, we go to the doctor to get medicine. We don't think twice about it. We need to start treating ourselves the same way and learn what to look for in others."

Frances Hill of Robinson, Illinois, Stone's mother, hopes this song will give others comfort knowing it's okay to talk about your feelings.

"It has a very important message," Hill said. "Don't be afraid to reach out to others. There's always someone who will listen. If you need to talk, David is the type of person who will be right there. Even if you're miles away, he will



get in his car and come talk to you. He has been there and he knows how important it is to talk through your feelings."

Stone and his wife Brittany have been married since September 2010. Together, they have two young boys, 10-year-old Draven and 8-year-old Bayne. Brittany says she has witnessed the ups and downs during their marriage and believes in the message of this song.

"I think everybody needs something where they can take a break from life and do something they love," Brittany said. "David is able to use music to escape from reality and the

stress of life. I think it's important for people to find something that makes them happy, something that helps them escape from reality for a little bit."

Stone hopes his battles with depression will help show others there isn't a negative stigma with mental health. Admitting you are struggling is the biggest step to recovery.

"We're Soldiers. We don't talk about our feelings," Stone said. "Talking about your feelings doesn't mean you're weak. It doesn't mean you are less of a man. It just means you are strong enough to know you need help. That is important for everyone to understand, not just those serving in the military."

Stone has performed at a handful of places since the song was released on Veterans Day 2021. Once the pandemic subsides, Stone is hoping he is

able to be more active in suicide prevention, especially in the Veteran community.

"I don't care if this song hits five million people," Stone said. "If it affects just one person in a positive way, the song is a success. If this song can help just one person from taking their life, then I'm happy."





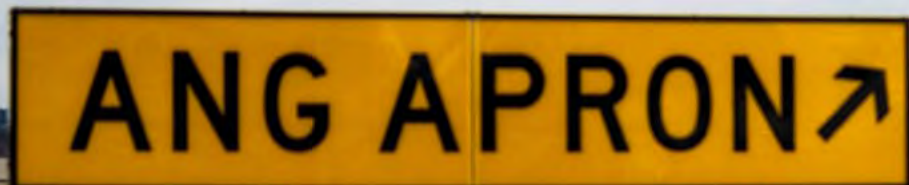
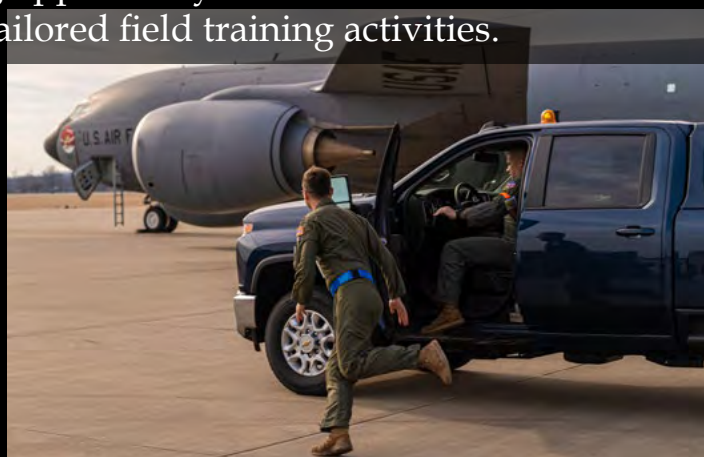
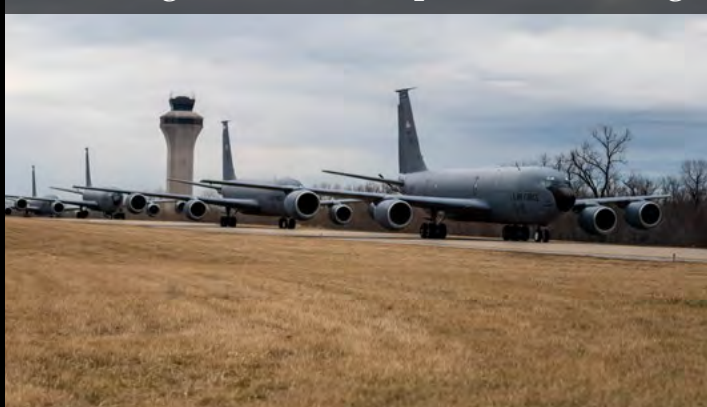
WORTHY PHOENIX

126th Air Refueling Wing takes part in AMC Sponsored Nuclear Response Exercise

By Tech. Sgt. Cesaron White and Staff Sgt. Aaron Rodriguez, 126th Air Refueling Wing Public Affairs



The Illinois National Guard's 126th Air Refueling Wing participated in Exercise Worthy Phoenix at Scott Air Force Base, Ill., March 4-6, 2022. Exercise Worthy Phoenix is an Air Mobility Command-sponsored exercise designed to provide select mobility air refueling forces a robust training opportunity to hone nuclear readiness and strategic deterrent capabilities through tailored field training activities.



Oswego Soldier retires after 36 years of service

By Lt. Col. Brad Leighton, Illinois National Guard Public Affairs

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. – Maj. Ivan Ortiz of Oswego, Illinois, retired from the Illinois Army National Guard after nearly 36 years of military service during a ceremony held Saturday, March 5, at the Illinois Military Academy on Camp Lincoln in Springfield.

Ortiz, who grew up in Chicago, is employed full-time as an engineer with the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT). He has been employed by IDOT for more than 20 years. He retired from the Illinois Army National Guard as the Materials Management Branch Chief in the U.S. Property and Fiscal Office.

He served as both a Soldier and a Sailor graduating basic training twice – once for each service. He served in the Army Reserves from 1986 to 1987, then as an active-duty Navy Sailor from 1988-1991, and then in the Navy Reserves from 1992 to 2005. In March 2005 he transferred from the Navy into the Illinois Army National Guard's Officer Candidate School. After graduating from the school and earning his commission, he has spent the last 17 years as an Ordnance Officer in the Illinois Army National Guard.

"Take advantage of all the education benefits that the military and the Illinois National Guard offer," Ortiz advised those starting their military careers.

He used the Illinois National Guard Grant as an example, which waives tuition at all state colleges and universities for Illinois National Guard members. He also advised those in

the audience to start each day by identifying realistic, achievable goals. Ortiz holds a bachelor's degree in construction management/engineering from Purdue University and a master's degree in project management from DeVry University. He is also a licensed journeyman carpenter.

Throughout his career, Ortiz has supported military operations in Africa, South Korea, and Kuwait. He deployed twice to the Middle East in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, from January 2014 to November 2014 and from October 2018 to May 2019.

Ortiz commanded Co. B of the 405th Brigade Support Battalion after serving as the company's executive officer. He served as a platoon leader with the 3625th Maintenance Co. After company command, he served as an executive officer within the 108th Sustainment Brigade. He served on two active-duty tours, as a manpower studies analyst with National Guard Bureau's

G-1 (personnel office) and as a logistics officer with 1st Army on Rock Island Arsenal. Prior to serving as Materials Management Branch Chief, he served as a logistics officer with the 244th Digital Liaison Detachment based in Chicago.

Ortiz was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal upon his retirement as well as an Army Achievement Medal for his work during the Bright Star multinational exercise hosted by Egypt in 2021. He has multiple other awards and decorations from throughout his career including the Army Commendation

Medal with three Oak Leaf Clusters indicating he has earned the medal four times.

Ortiz is single with a daughter, Gabriella.



182nd Airlift Wing welcomes new commander

By Lt. Col. Brad Leighton, Illinois National Guard Public Affairs

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. – Col. Rusty Ballard of Morton, a combat pilot with over 28 years of service, has been selected as the next Commander of the Illinois Air National Guard's 182nd Airlift Wing based in Peoria.

Ballard will succeed Col. Dan McDonough on June 4. McDonough is retiring from the Air Force after more than 35 years of military service, including nearly five years in command of the wing's more than 1,200 Airmen and multiple C-130H aircraft. The wing has an annual budget of nearly \$90 million.

Under McDonough's tutelage, the wing was a major part of the Illinois National Guard's COVID-19 response as well as multiple law enforcement support missions, while also conducting multiple overseas contingency missions. The unit earned its 10th Air Force Outstanding Unit Award in late 2021. "Dan McDonough has certainly earned his place in Illinois Air National Guard history, and Rusty has big shoes to fill," said Maj. Gen. Pete Nezamis, Commander of the Illinois Air National Guard.

Nezamis expressed confidence in Ballard's leadership and experience. "Rusty has deployed multiple times. Like Dan before him, Colonel Ballard is the Commander of the 182nd Operations Group. Rusty has also shown leadership at the national level," Nezamis said.

From 2015 to 2018, Ballard served as both the ANG Liaison and Advisor to the Air Mobility Command's Director of Operations located at Scott Air Force Base, in which he coordinated the use of ANG assets in Air Force missions on an international level. He was then named Commander of the 182nd Operations Group in August 2018. While commanding the 182nd Operations Group, Ballard also served as the ANG's C-130 Operations Group Council chair



from 2018 to 2021, representing 17 ANG C-130 Operations Groups as the main conduit for all ANG C-130 assets worldwide.

"It is an absolute honor to be selected to lead the 182nd Airlift Wing, which has proven itself multiple times as a premier organization in the C-130 Air Force community," Ballard said.

Ballard has deployed in support of Operations Enduring Freedom, Iraqi Freedom, Joint Forge and Atlantic Resolve. In his civilian life, he is a FedEx pilot, flying both domestic and international routes out of Memphis, Tennessee. Previously he worked for several years as an Air Interdiction Agent for U.S. Customs and Border Protection.

Ballard grew up in Oreana, population of about 875. He gravitated toward the military after graduating from Argenta-Oreana

High School in 1994.

He enlisted in the Illinois Army National Guard in 1993 as a utility equipment repairer for the 1st Battalion, 106th Aviation detachment in Decatur, and earned a bachelor's degree from Southern Illinois University in Carbondale, tuition-free, using the Illinois National Guard Grant. He also obtained a master's degree from Webster University in St. Louis, Missouri.

While attending SIUC, he entered the Illinois Army National Guard Officer Candidate School and earned his commission as an Army second lieutenant in 1998.

Ballard earned his wings as an Army Aviation officer in 2000 and became qualified as a UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter pilot. He also earned his commercial pilot's license and flew for a regional airline. In 2003, Ballard joined the 182nd Airlift Wing as a C-130H Hercules Mobility Pilot, deploying multiple times in support of global contingency operations.

Ballard currently lives in Morton with his wife Andrea, daughter Audrie, and son Andy.

The incoming wing commander said he is grateful for all of the opportunities the Illinois National Guard has given him, within which a small-town boy grew up to become the Commander of a world-renowned C-130 wing within the Air Force arsenal.



YOU KNOW IT'S TIME...

Springfield Soldier retires after more than 30 year

By Lt. Col. Brad Leighton, Illinois National Guard Public Affairs

SPRINGFIELD, ILL. – Lt. Col. David Malenfant of Springfield, Illinois, retired after more than 30 years of military service during a ceremony on Saturday, March 5, at the Illinois National Guard headquarters on Camp Lincoln in Springfield.

“I will miss the comradery and the teamwork,” Malenfant told his family, friends and fellow Soldiers. While serving as the officer-in-charge of the 108th Sustainment Brigade, the unit deployed two teams overseas and was primarily responsible for manning the COVID-19 testing sites in 2020. “It was a tumultuous time, both challenging and rewarding,” he said. “But we all came together as a team to accomplish the mission.”

Malenfant retired as an Army officer, but will

continue serving as a federal civilian employee and the Illinois National Guard’s new State Equal Employment Manager (SEEM).

Malenfant joined the Illinois Army National Guard in 1992 and rose to the rank of sergeant first class before being commissioned as a second lieutenant through the Illinois Army National Guard’s Officer Candidate School in 2005. As an enlisted Soldier he served as

a legal specialist, an administrative noncommissioned officer and a Stinger missile gunner.

“I think Dave’s years as an NCO really helped him as an officer because he learned how to empower good NCOs – how to give them a clear, straightforward mission statement,

and then get out of the way,” said Col. Dan Reichen, the commander of the 129th



Regiment (Regional Training Institute) and the Illinois National Guard's Director of Human Resources. Reichen served with Malenfant throughout his career and served as the master of ceremonies for his retirement ceremony.

As an officer, Malenfant served in multiple command and staff positions including company commander, battalion operations officer, battalion executive officer, brigade support operations officer and brigade executive officer while simultaneously serving AGR assignments as an officer recruiter, battalion training officer, detailed inspector general within the Inspector General's office, Recruiting and Retention Command's officer strength manager, battalion officer-in-charge at the 634th Brigade Support Battalion, and the 108th Sustainment Brigade's officer-in-charge. He retired as the 65th

Troop Command's officer-in-charge and the brigade's executive officer.

Malenfant deployed as the commander of the 2123 Forward Support Company, 2nd Battalion, 123rd Field Artillery Regiment from May 2010 to May 2011. The unit served as part of Task Force Sinai, the Multinational Force Observer Mission in the Sinai Desert of Egypt.

Selfless service marked Malenfant's career as an officer, COL Reichen said. He joked about how Malenfant's two sons, Aiden and Alex,

know him as "Dan Dan the Doughnut Man" because he would bring doughnuts over to the Malenfant house on off-duty Saturday mornings. "He worked hard to ensure he understood the commander's intent," Reichen said.

Col. Jason Osberg, Commander of the 65th Troop Command, said Malenfant was a "true performer" whose honesty and

integrity stood out. "He will have those hard conversations, he did with me," Osberg said. "He'll say this is what I think, this is what I don't think, and this is the way it should go. In my position, you need that."

Malenfant thanked his family and friends, especially his girlfriend, Melissa, for helping him through what he called "The Five Phases of Military Retirement" – acknowledgment, denial, acceptance,

fear and jubilation. "I'm in the jubilation phase now as anyone who has seen me around Camp Lincoln can tell you."

Reichen said military service can be stressful and Malenfant's sense of humor often helped

diffuse that

stress. True to form, Malenfant ended his retirement comments with "The top 10 ways you know it is time to retire from the Army."



LT. COL. MALENFANT'S LATE CAREER TOP TEN
FROM THE HOME OFFICE OF SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS
REASONS YOU KNOW ITS TIME TO RETIRE

1. You've been in the Army long enough for the uniform to change three times.
2. Fighting the Russians has become relevant again.
3. The new Army acronyms mean the same as the old Army acronyms.
4. You still call the enlisted leadership schools PLDC, BNCOC and ANCOC.
5. You have been in the Army longer than the new Soldiers have been alive.
6. PT starts to mean physical therapy rather than physical training.
7. You have more doctor appointments than command and staff meetings.
8. CrossFit has found its way into the Army's PT regimen.
9. You exercise year-round to stay alive rather than two weeks before the PT test.
10. You still refer to it as the PT test.

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

January

5

Third day of combat for the 33rd on Morotai in the Pacific

1945: After the allied invasion of Morotai in September, the 130th and 136th Infantry Regiments of the 33rd Division stormed up the slopes of Hill 40, an enemy stronghold four miles inland. The first day of the attack, did not go well, they expended most of their ammunition in the initial assault, and resupply had to come by air. On January 4th, troops of the 130th and 136th fought within a few dozen yards of the summit. On January 5, the third day of grueling uphill combat, the 130th and 136th Infantry Regiments finally gained the high ground on Hill 40. This tactical advantage allowed them to easily destroy the last remaining elements of the Japanese 211th Infantry Regiment alleviating the threat to American air and naval installations. Eight-hundred seventy enemy dead littered the hill. Casualties for the 33rd came to forty-six dead and 127 wounded.



7

Governor George Ryan Sends off 66th for Operation Santa Fe

2002: The first group of the 66th Infantry Brigade to mobilize for OEF received an official sendoff from Illinois Governor George Ryan.

"The President has called you to duty, and without hesitation you have answered the call like so many patriots before you. You are men and women who believe so strongly in your country, your freedoms and the American way of life, you willingly take up arms to defend your country. You are truly citizen soldiers, sons and daughters of Illinois. All of us are thankful for your sacrifices. It's not easy leaving your homes and your families behind, but it is a sacrifice you make in the name of freedom, to ensure your sons and daughters and neighbors can live without fear."

The 66th made up a contingent of Task Force Santa Fe, a National Guard force of 2,100 Soldiers from Kansas, Illinois, and Kentucky.

15

Fighting for the 123rd Infantry ends on Guadalcanal

1943: After several weeks of continuous combat the 132nd Infantry Regiment received relief from the 35th Infantry Regiment of the 25th Division. The exhausted troops of the 132nd marched out of the Gifu, a massive bunker complex on the western slope of Mt. Austen. Beginning on Christmas Eve 1942, the 132nd had counterattacked against the Gifu and its 45 camouflaged machine-gun nests. Only direct hits by American artillery could destroy these concealed bunkers. During this time, the 132nd suffered casualties of 112 dead, 268 wounded, and three missing.



21

Militia Act establishes modern-day National Guard

1903: As a revision of the Militia Act of 1792, Congress passed the Militia Act of 1903, otherwise known as the Dick Act. The Act made all males between the ages of 18 and 45 inactive members of the militia eligible for call-up. It did away with the 1792 Act and split the militia into two separate groups: the National Guard and the Reserve Militia. Each congressional representative had 200 Guardsmen assigned to them, and the President could now call out the Guard whenever he or she deemed it necessary. National Guard funds for weapons, equipment, and training were to be the same as that of the regular Army.

4

106th Cav. takes part in Battle of the Bulge

1944: The Illinois Army National Guard's 2-106th Cavalry, 33rd IBCT, then known as the Army's 106th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron, was heavily engaged in the "Battle of the Bulge." The 106th was critical in protecting the town of St. Vith. One of the unit's Soldiers, Private Harold W. Munson of Decatur, received the Silver Star for his bravery during the battle.



February

3 33rd Wraps up operations in Japan

1944: With their services no longer required, the 33rd Infantry Division officially ceased its occupation duties in war torn Japan. Having been in the country since shortly after the surrender the previous fall, the battle tested unit now looked forward to returning home. While in Japan the 33rd had primarily overseen the disposal of captured munitions as well as the deactivation and disarmament of Japanese military units.

8 Staff Sgt. Jason Burkholder and 1st Lt. Jared Southworth

2009: Staff Sgt. Jason Burkholder, 27, of Champaign, Illinois, and 1st Lt. Jared Southworth, 26, of Oakland,



Illinois, were killed in action when they encountered an improvised explosive device in Kabul, Afghanistan. Both Soldiers were assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 130th Infantry Regiment based in Marion, Illinois.

9 Sgt. Jessica Housby

2005: Sgt. Jessica Housby, 23, of Rock Island, Illinois, was killed in action when the vehicle she was traveling in struck an improvised explosive device on Route Golden, in Iraq. Housby was assigned to the 1644th Transportation Company, based in Rock Falls, Illinois.



17 Illinois sends troops to Havana, Cuba in support of the sinking of the U.S.S. Maine

1898: Two days after the explosion of the USS Maine in Havana, Illinois Governor John R. Tanner received approval from the House of Representatives to raise troops for the coming war with Spain. By April 27, the United States had declared war and Illinois had mobilized seven regiments of infantry, and one regiment of cavalry at Camp Tanner in Springfield. On April 30, a battery of artillery also mobilized. Eleven thousand one-hundred forty-two Illinois Soldiers served in the war, 276 of whom died in battle or from disease.



The Illinois call up included: 1st Illinois Volunteer Infantry; 2nd Illinois Volunteer Infantry; 3rd Illinois Volunteer Infantry; 4th Illinois Volunteer Infantry; 5th Illinois Volunteer Infantry; 6th Illinois Volunteer Infantry; 7th Illinois Volunteer Infantry; 8th Illinois Volunteer Infantry; 9th Illinois Volunteer Infantry; 1st Illinois Volunteer Cavalry; and Battery A, Illinois Volunteer Light Artillery

24 Sgt. Schulyer Patch and Sgt. Scott Stream



2009: Sgt. Schulyer Patch, 25, of Galva, Illinois, assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 2nd Battalion, 106th Cavalry Squadron, based in Kewanee, Illinois, and Sgt. Scott Stream, 39, of Mattoon, Illinois, assigned to B Co., 2nd Battalion, 130th Infantry Regiment based in Effingham, Illinois, died of wounds suffered when the vehicle they were in struck an improvised explosive device in Kandahar, Afghanistan.

**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@ARMY.MIL**

CONNECT WITH THE ILLINOIS NATIONAL GUARD:



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



https://twitter.com/IL_Natl_Guard



www.il.ngb.army.mil

DOWNLOAD THE NEW APP:



**Apple App
Store**



Google Play