

INDIANA GUARDSMAN

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Front cover: Chief Warrant Officer 2 Mike Colone, a pilot Company C, 2-238th General Support Aviation Battalion, stands in front of a UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter at the Shelbyville Amory. Photo by Staff Sgt. Katherine M. Forbes

About the Guardsman

The Adjutant General

Maj. Gen. Courtney P. Carr

Public Affairs Officer

Lt. Col. Cathy Van Bree

Editor

Sgt. 1st Class Jeff Lowry

Layout and Design

Sgt. 1st Class Jeff Lowry

Journalists

Sgt. 1st Class Jeff Lowry

Sgt. 1st Class Lasima O. Packett

Staff Sgt. Daniel Bolinger

Les Newport

Staff Sgt. Jeremiah Runser

Contributing Writers and Staff

State Public Affairs Office

Muscatatuck Urban Training Center

181st Intelligence Wing

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Public Affairs Office
ATTN: Guardsman Magazine
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Indianapolis, IN 46241-4839

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If you have information to contribute to the *Indiana Guardsman*, please contact the editor by calling 1-800-237-2850 ext 3222 or emailing Sgt. 1st Class Jeff Lowry at ng.in.inarng.list.pao@mail.mil

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Message from The Adjutant General ...

Retaining Guardsmen for the future

Service to state, nation critical to Indiana National Guard success

The Indiana National Guard needs you now more than ever before. You've been trained to be experienced service members of an elite force. As Indiana Guardsmen we represent less than one percent of our fellow Hoosiers at a 1 to 470 person ratio.

There are many extraordinary benefits of staying in, such as having the honor to wear the cloth of our nation. You are in an exclusive fraternity of brothers and sisters who have similar experiences. Experiences that can't be matched anywhere else. The camaraderie and training opportunities are unique to what we do. You have committed to our nation and in turn, committed to training future generations resulting in worldwide impact.

Never forgot our duty to state and nation.

Guardsmen help other Hoosiers in times of need during disasters and crises. We are a relevant and ready force for our full-time counterparts. You all bring experiences from the civilian world that our active duty brethren simply don't have.

By serving, you continue to build your career and leadership skills in order to provide more value to your civilian employers.

You can earn thousands of dollars a year in drill pay, health and education benefits as well as a wide variety of discounts for being in the military. Retirement pay will mean time to travel, play or to start a second business. It's a guaranteed stream of income that will provide a safe and secure future for you and your family.

If you're in a leadership position, I'm asking you to look around at your fellow Airmen and Soldiers. Keep them in; they are vital to the health, well-being and future of the Indiana National Guard. Give them the examples above, and there are so many more.

I appreciate your dedication and service to our nation and state. Your service is paramount to the success of the Indiana National Guard. We have to be ready to deploy when called. Your sacrifices do not go unnoticed. If you don't serve, who will? Who will fill your boots? Who will the future of our nation belong to? I encourage you to continue your service. Continue to be the great leaders that you are and continue to develop your subordinates so our children will enjoy the freedoms we all enjoy.

General speaks about Black History Month



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Jeff Lowry

Indiana Army National Guard Brig. Gen. Wayne L. Black, assistant adjutant general Army, speaks at the Federal Aviation Administration Black History Month luncheon in Indianapolis, Thursday, Feb. 25, 2016. Black outlined four ingredients to success — education, hard work, perseverance and positive attitude.

"We are a constant learning organization, a constant learning society," he said in regards to education. For hard work: "Anything worth having is worth working for. It takes commitment; it takes dedication; it takes devotion."

Black also inspired the audience to never accept the first "no." "I always say it's pushing past the 'no's.' Get to that yes, to somebody who believes in you, to somebody who encourages you," said Black. Finally for positive attitude he said, "If you have a positive attitude, half the battle is already won." In regards to attitude, Black also cited American poet and civil rights activist, Maya Angelou, "If you don't like something, change it. If you can't change it, change your attitude."

Patch Changes, History Does Not



Courtesy photo

Indiana Army National Guard 1st Sgt. Joseph Barr unfurls the colors of Company D, 151st Infantry Regiment during the unit's designation ceremony.

LRS Rangers realign to 38th ID

By 2nd Lt. Jeffrey Gray
Unit Public Affairs Representative

Soldiers with the Indiana National Guard's long-range surveillance unit held a redesignation ceremony in January at the unit's headquarters in Seymour, Indiana.

During the ceremony the Soldiers changed the patches on their sleeves, and the unit changed its name.

Instead of being associated with the 219th Battlefield Surveillance Brigade, the unit will now directly report to the 38th Infantry Division's headquarters battalion. The unit's Soldiers will now wear the CY patch as part of the Cyclone Division.

The unit, formerly known as Company C, 2nd Squadron, 152nd Cavalry Regiment, will now be known as Company D, 151st Infantry Regiment.

"Even though our designation has changed over the years, we have always been Company D, 151st Infantry," said Capt. Adam Barlow, Company D's current commander. "This unit is a close knit

brotherhood that is hard to find anywhere else in the National Guard. We have multiple generations of families who have served as Long Range Patrol Soldiers in this unit and a good number of siblings jumping side by side currently."

The LRS unit returned to the same unit numeration that held so much honor and lineage in decades past.

"It's quite an honor for our company to again be designated Company D, 151. With the honor comes a great responsibility to live up to the determination and character of the extraordinary men who served in Vietnam with the Indiana Rangers, Company D (Ranger) 151st Infantry," said Sgt. Granville Carpenter, a unit team leader.

Approximately a dozen of the unit's veterans attended the ceremony.

The current Soldiers of the unit waited at the front door to the Seymour Armory to see in the men who set the standards, honor and prestige that allowed for the unit to



Courtesy photo

Indiana Army National Guard Lt. Col. David Skalon, left, the commander of the 38th Infantry Division's battalion headquarters, attached the 38th ID patch to Capt. Adam Barlow, the commander of Company D, 151st Infantry Regiment (Long Range Surveillance), during that unit's designation ceremony in January.

See Rangers, page 10

Civil support team changes leaders

National Guard Soldiers, Airmen work alongside first responders

By Sgt. 1st Class Jeff Lowry

Indiana National Guard Public Affairs

The Indiana National Guard's 53rd Civil Support Team changed commanders during a ceremony at Stout Field in January.

Indiana Army National Guard Maj. Nate Skelly took the reins of the 53rd from Lt. Col Ron Crane, who helmed the team since 2013.

"To the Soldiers, Airmen and the families of the 53rd Civil Support Team, I am so excited, humbled and honored to have this command opportunity," said Skelly. "I recognize that being on the CST is a demanding assignment, which often times means sacrificing time away from home. I look forward to leading you, and will work hard to earn your trust and respect."

Skelly will now lead the team that works alongside local, state and national civilian

agencies and first-responders in preparation of possible domestic chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear — aka weapons of mass destruction — attacks.

Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department Lt. Ron Humbert, the bomb squad commander, attended the ceremony and praised the Indiana National Guard Soldiers and Airmen of the 53rd CST.

"They bring a level of expertise that is second to none," said Humbert. "These guys and gals bring everything with them to handle any possible event going on in the world today."

In fiscal year 2015 the team conducted 170 missions including 86 standby missions. The CST supported events throughout Indiana including Bankers Life Fieldhouse, Lucas Oil Stadium and the Indianapolis Motor Speedway. Other events also

included NCAA Final Four championship in Indianapolis, Evansville's Fall Festival, Thunder Over Louisville, the papal visit in Philadelphia and Special Olympics World Games in Los Angeles.

Crane said he enjoyed leading the team for the last three years. He's served with the 53rd since the unit's inception in 2004, and he praised the team's efforts while serving alongside his fellow team members.

"I am honored, blessed and humbled to have been the commander of the 53rd CST," said Crane. "To the 53rd, thank you very much for teaching me, for mentoring me, for allowing me to develop and grow. I won't forget any of you, and I look forward to working with all of you in the future."

Crane will now become the Indiana National Guard's director of military support in the operations directorate.



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Jeff Lowry

Maj. Nate Skelly, 53rd Civil Support Team incoming commander, passes the unit's guidon to 1st Sgt. Kyle Miedema, the unit's senior enlisted advisor.

Aviation unit aims high, k



Photo by Spc. Evan Myers

Indiana National Guard Pfc. Darren Barnes, with 2-238th General Support Aviation Battalion, refuels a UH-60 Black Hawk at the Shelbyville Army.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Katherine M. Forbes

Indiana Army National Guard 1st Lt. Bernard Hainen, right, a pilot and operations officer for Company C, 2-238th GSAB, receives the preflight brief from Chief Warrant Officer 2 Mike Colone, also a pilot, in Shelbyville, Indiana.

By Spc. Evan Myers

120th Public Affairs Detachment

Indiana National Guard Chief Warrant Officer 2 Dave Kinyon, a tactical operations officer for the 2-238th General Support Aviation Battalion, strapped himself into the pilot's seat of a UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter in the airfield at the National Guard Armory in Shelbyville.

He checked his navigational instruments around the cockpit while radio chatter buzzed through his headset from air traffic controllers, operation officers and other pilots in the area.

All this is done in coordination for an approaching two-hour training mission.

When Kinyon received the all clear, the aircraft's rotor system picked up speed. The spinning blades' velocity beat the wind into submission, and Kinyon began a controlled ascent.

The 7.5-ton helicopter effortlessly floated to 800 feet above the ground in a matter of seconds. When the stress of takeoff faded, Kinyon glanced over at his copilot and grinned at him from beneath his visor.

"We're getting paid to do this," he said.

A typical training weekend in aviation operations can be a rewarding yet tasking job for National Guardsmen in the 2-238th GSAB and other units with the 38th Combat Aviation Brigade.

Whether it's an assault mission or answering a call for a medevac, being prepared to react to emergencies during a flight requires a great amount of reliance between Soldiers.

Indiana Army National Guard 1st Lt. Bernard Hainen, the operations officer for Company C of the 2-238th GSAB, said aviation operations consist of far more work than just flying. For every hour spent in the air there are at least two to three hours of preparation time spent on the ground beforehand.

Designating crews, maintaining the mechanics, and completing necessary planning for the mission are all routine procedures for every flight. This requires constant communication between the pilots, mechanics, air traffic controllers and all other Soldiers involved.

"Interaction is so heavy with everybody. It takes every single person to play their important part on that aircraft," he said. "You want to be able to trust that person right next to you," Hainen said. "That's where that constant training, evaluating and communication comes in. You have to be able to do it flawlessly."

"You can have fun with your job, though," he said with a laugh. "Sometimes you sit back and think about it, and you think, 'Man, I'm getting paid to fly a \$15 million aircraft.'"

Indiana Army National Guard Sgt. Lou Torres, a crew chief with Company C, said the entire team, including pilots, flight

keeps *Black Hawks* flying



Photo by Staff Sgt. Katherine M. Forbes

Indiana Army National Guard 1st Lt. Bernard Hainen, operations officer for Company C, 2-238th GSAB, gives a thumbs-up while flying over Indianapolis.

mechanics, and medics, play a crucial role for the unit to perform successfully. In this field of work, Soldiers' lives depend on everyone performing their job.

"It's not just us, it's not just our air crews," Torres said. "We have other Soldiers from around the world who are depending on us to have safe, reliable and functioning aircraft. When you get in that type of first-responder environment, when you go on a medevac shift, it's very much like a firehouse. We're all sitting together; the pilots, the crew chiefs, the flight medics, and we eat together and sleep in the same room, ready to answer a call at a moment's notice."

Torres said that the closeness of his team results from their high-stress jobs that



Photo by Spc. Evan Myers

Spc. Roberto Melendez, an aircraft mechanic, works on a UH-60 Black Hawk in Shelbyville, Indiana.

See **Flying High**, page 9

Trailblazer



Indiana Army National Guard Sgt. Erin Davis, from Evansville, Ind., and a radar operator with 1st Battalion, 163rd Field Artillery Regiment, shakes hands with Maj. Gen. David C. Wood, the 38th Infantry Division commanding general, during his site visit to the Evansville Armory, Jan. 23, 2016.

First female Guardsman in combat role

By Cadet Emily Abrams

38th Infantry Division Public Affairs

An Indiana National Guard Soldier from Evansville set a precedent among troops within 1st Battalion, 163rd Field Artillery Regiment, headquartered in Evansville.

Indiana Army National Guard Sgt. Erin Davis is the first female soldier serving as cannon crewmember for the combat unit.

For her outstanding performance Davis received a challenge coin from the 38th Infantry Division Commanding General, Maj. Gen. David C. Wood, during his site visit to the Evansville Armory.

Wood praised Davis' efforts on becoming a trailblazer for all

female Soldiers.

"The Army is strong because we have females and males," said Wood. "Having females in our units only makes us stronger."

Davis said she was proud to have received the award.

"I'm at a loss for words," Davis said after receiving the honor. "It's nice to be recognized as a female placed in a position that can make a difference, and it's nice to know that it's being seen at a higher level."

In December, Secretary of Defense Ash Carter opened all combat roles to women. That decision overturned a 1994 Pentagon rule that restricted women from artillery, armor, infantry and other combat-related roles.

CG visits troops

By Cadet Grace Begovich

38th Infantry Division Public Affairs

The 38th Infantry Division command team traveled to Fort Wayne and South Bend and visited with troops of the 76th Infantry Brigade Combat Team.

Maj. Gen. David C. Wood, 38th ID commanding general, and Command Sgt. Maj. James H. Martin, the 38th's senior enlisted advisor, met and talked with Soldiers of the 1st Battalion, 293rd Infantry Regiment and the 2nd Battalion, 152nd Infantry Regiment. Wood's intent was clear; not to inspect, but to mingle and offer help.

"We are here to say thank you. We are not here to inspect," said Wood at each stop.

Wood presented the battalion's mission to the Soldiers of each unit, indicating that preparedness was at the top of the priority list. Wood believes that the battalion's readiness level for deployments is key.

"Days of two years notice are over. You could be notified in four months or less," said Wood.

Wood's scope of priorities includes the Army's overarching message focusing on professionalism.

"Our number two mission is the foundation we build readiness on, positive command climate is key," said Wood, who added that sexual harassment and assault would not be tolerated.

Wood continued his mission urging Soldiers to continue their professionalism throughout every military procedure, including the Army Physical Fitness Test. Wood encouraged leaders to change the expectation, in turn, changing the culture.

"If we tighten up our physical fitness programs it will transfer over to operations and administration," said Wood.

At the 2nd Battalion 151st Infantry Regiment, Staff Sgt. Brandon Reese, from Rensselaer and a squad leader, explained the physical expectations for the headquarters company reconnaissance platoon — failed physical fitness tests are not acceptable for his Soldiers.

"We have a 270 minimum baseline score, which the Soldiers must meet and sustain. They also must complete a 10-mile ruck march in under 2.5 hours at least once a year. Everyone is self-motivated," said Reese.

It is motivation such as this that gains interest in Indiana Army National Guardsmen to continue with their National Guard career.

Recruiting and retaining Soldiers is a goal Wood is taking strides in.

"We recruit people in the front door as we close the backdoor of our organization," said Wood, meaning that he wants to keep Soldiers in uniform and serving in the Indiana National Guard.

Flying High

Continued from page 7

require extreme attention to detail.

"Once the work is done, you'll hear us joke and cut up with one another," he said. "We have to. I think it's a coping mechanism."

Indiana Army National Guard Sgt. Ron Johnson, a flight paramedic with Company C, deployed to Kuwait from 2012 to 2013. Throughout that deployment, Johnson treated numerous patients: U.S. troops, coalition service members and local civilians. Being ready to give medical attention to anybody in the area, including enemy combatants, can be a difficult mindset to adapt to, he said.

"That's one thing with medevac; you never know who you're going to get," Johnson said. "Initially it's kind of hard as a medic to think about that. I was a ground medic before, so I've been in the role where you have somebody who just killed or wounded your buddies, and now you're trying to take care of him. But if you can keep that guy alive and get him stabilized to the point where intel can talk to him and gather him, you're effectively taking more combatants of the battlefield that way."

Per U.S. Army doctrine, when a casualty evacuation is called, the helicopter has to be off the ground within fifteen minutes. Johnson said his team was usually en-route within seven minutes after receiving the call.

"Outside of special forces operations, flight medics are the pinnacle of care," he said. "Pretty much everybody in the military ... will call Army medevac when they need them. People count on you. So you're always on your toes, you have to be on your A-game all the time, so it drives you to be the best medic you can be."

Aviators in the 2-238th GSAB constantly train to be prepared to react to a sudden state of emergency in Indiana or anywhere else they're needed, Hainen said. Most Guardsmen in the 2-238th GSAB spend more than their mandatory one weekend per month training in order to be prepared for a mission at a moment's notice.

"You never know what can happen, so you have to be ready to perform your task," Hainen said. "If you're called in on any given Sunday, someone tells you 'hey, you've got to be here,' ... you have to be ready to take that order."

Rangers remember history of storied unit

Continued from page 4 _____

exist today. Those in uniform greeted the veterans as they walked in just as if they were heroes being welcomed home to cheers and handshakes.

“The history that makes up the Long Range Surveillance is what drives our esprit de corps. We are proud of our lineage as a Ranger legacy unit and are even more proud to know the men that served so honorably in the jungles of Vietnam,” said Barlow. “The drop zones that we jump into on Camp Atterbury today are named after some of the finest men that gave their lives in service of our country under our guidon.”

As Company D, 151st Infantry Regiment, the unit has a legacy as a Ranger unit that traces its ties directly back to Company D, 151st Infantry (Ranger) of the Vietnam War. That unit was the only Indiana National Guard unit activated for service in Vietnam, and Company D was expected to live up to the standards set by their counterparts from active-duty Ranger units, which at that time all fell under the 75th Ranger Regiment.

The Indiana’s Company D was the only National Guard Unit that deployed as a complete unit and continued serving

as such. At the time, most units that were called up were used to fill the gaps left in other units due to casualties, injuries, end of terms of service, etc. It was during the preparation for Vietnam that the unit gained its Airborne Ranger status in which the Soldiers distinguished not only themselves but also the unit as a whole.

During the time in Vietnam six members of the unit made the ultimate sacrifice on Ranger missions. Other Indiana National Guard Soldiers with the unit were decorated for valor and duty.

In all, 19 Silver Stars, 175 Bronze Stars, 86 Army Commendation Medals, 120 Air Medals, 110 Purple Hearts, 19 Indiana Distinguished Service Crosses and 204 Indiana Commendation Medals were awarded to unit Guardsmen.

The unit also provided personnel to support several mobilizations within the state of Indiana to include Afghanistan with the 76th Infantry Brigade Combat Team from 2004 to 2005 and with the 219th BfSB in 2011 to 2012 in Afghanistan with the agricultural team.

Unit Soldiers conducted several joint exercises with the 113th Air Support Operations Squadron, 19th Special Forces

Group, 20th Special Forces Group and participated in the Joint Forcible Entry Exercise at Fort Bragg, North Carolina.

The unit started its lineage as Troop F, 1st Squadron, 238th Cavalry Regiment then Company D, 151st Infantry Regiment later transitioned into Company C, 2nd Squadron, 152nd Cavalry Regiment.

During the unit’s long distinguished history, unit troops have maintained a presence at the Bataan Memorial Death March placing first in the years 1993, 1994, 1996, 2001 and 2015. They have also participated in the Rhode Island National Guard’s Leapfest competition, an International Static Line Parachuting Competition. In 2015 the LRS team placed fifth overall in the International Competition demonstrating the professionalism and dedication to the unit’s craft and skillset.

Though the unit’s designation has changed over the years, the Soldiers of the unit still maintain and expect only the highest standards of professionalism, proficiency and discipline to be found in the U.S. Army. The Guardsmen of the unit continue to pursue maintaining the elite status no matter what the designation they serve under.



Courtesy photo

Indiana National Guard Soldiers with Company D, 151st Infantry Regiment pose with Vietnam War veterans of the unit following the Company D’s ceremony designating it as a 38th Infantry Division unit, Sunday, Jan. 24, 2016. The long-range surveillance unit will now report to the Headquarters and Headquarters Battalion, 38th Infantry Division, and the unit’s Soldiers will now wear the CY patch.

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Indiana National Guard Airmen and Soldiers march in a cortege around the Soldiers and Sailors Monument in Indianapolis for former Gov. Edgar Whitcomb, Friday, Feb. 12, 2016. Whitcomb, who was a World War II veteran and prisoner of war who escaped twice from the Japanese, died Feb. 4. Whitcomb served as governor for the Hoosier State from 1969 to 1973. Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Jeff Lowry

