

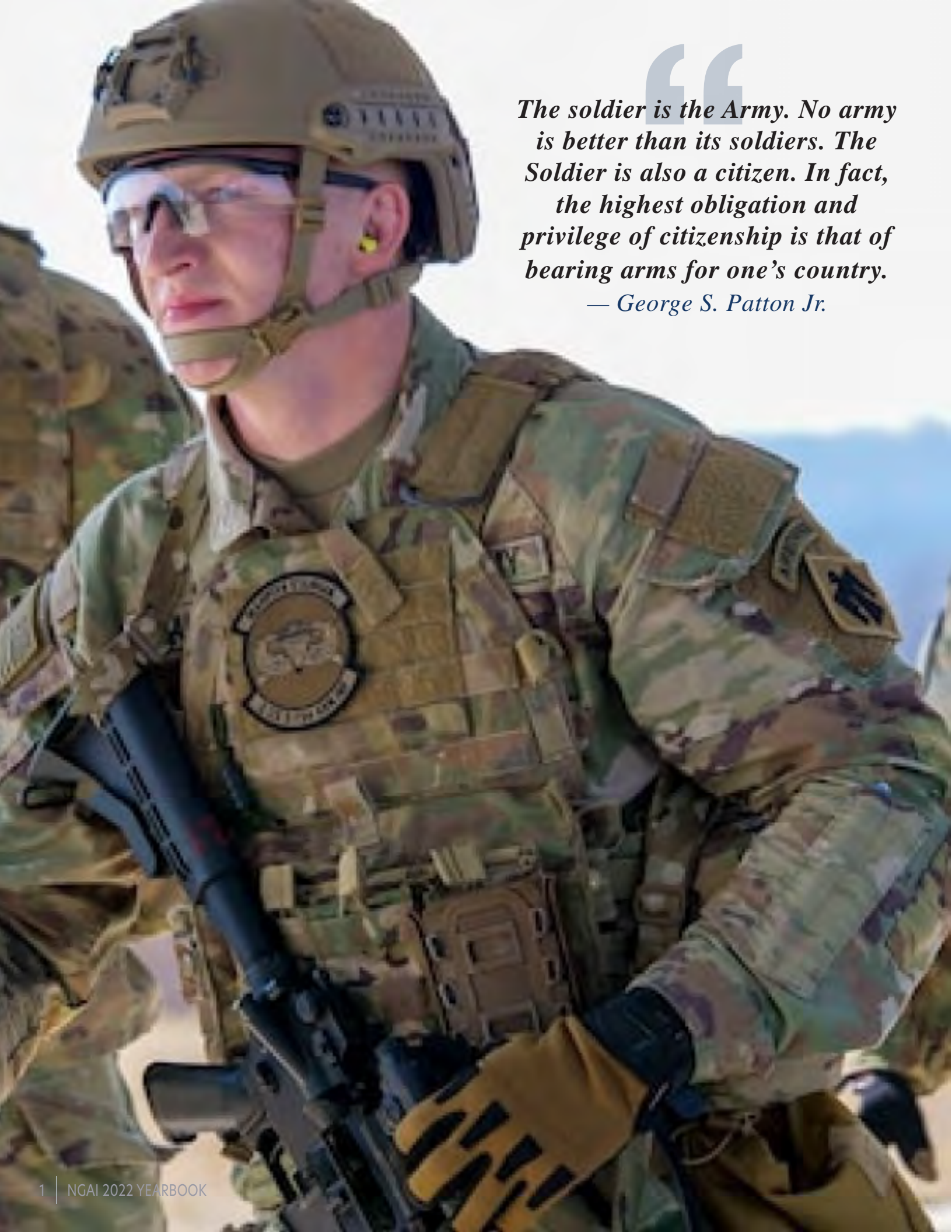


National Guard Association of Indiana

Educating Indiana State Legislature
and Congress on the Roles,
Capabilities, and Requirements
of the Nation's First Military



2022 YEARBOOK



“
The soldier is the Army. No army is better than its soldiers. The Soldier is also a citizen. In fact, the highest obligation and privilege of citizenship is that of bearing arms for one’s country.

— George S. Patton Jr.



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NATIONAL GUARD**



Readiness starts with fitness. Holistic Health and Fitness (H2F) trainers at battalions across the state work to ensure success with the FY23 Army Combat Fitness Test (ACFT).

STRONG AND READY WITH YOU AT OUR SIDE

Maj. Gen. R. Dale Lyles, 59th Adjutant General of Indiana

The National Guard Association of Indiana annual conference gives us an opportunity to engage current and former Guardsmen and industry partners in the progress of the Indiana National Guard. Today, fast-moving, global and domestic, multi-domain threats require bold action and teamwork across the Armed Forces to ensure the continued security of all Americans. As you know, the unique challenges of the Guard's dual mission require us to sustain readiness for domestic missions and simultaneously be ready to be called to action to support the Total Force anywhere in the world.

If you have taken the time to attend this year's conference and you are reading this letter, you belong to a very special network of supporters who care deeply about the continued viability and relevance of this organization. For your time and commitment, I thank you from the bottom of my heart. Here are some additional ways you can help:

Refer a recruit

We're thinking differently about how we attract and retain the best talent to our ranks and how we motivate and inspire our soldiers, airmen and civilians. As recruiting shortfalls persist, we need you to step up and help us recruit through the Referral Enlistment Program (rep.nationalguard.in.gov).

Tell us your story

We need your stories to share with news media and potential recruits. As a result of your service, did you earn an education and embark on a better career? Did you help your neighbors through a blizzard or flood? Did you travel the world and experience different cultures? The next generation needs to hear your stories of patriotism, and they need to know that military service is a melting pot of people from many backgrounds and geographic locations working together in a shared endeavor. We know from day one that our individual successes power the successes of our team. We are stronger and better together.

Tell the world OUR story

Day and night we are working to make the Indiana National Guard the best it can be. We're working to modernize our equipment and assets to maintain parity with the other components, and have proposed a new MQ1 Gray Eagle detachment at Terre Haute. We're strengthening our relationships with neighboring states and expanding our international commitments through the State Partnership Program. Our Guardsmen are serving CONUS and OCONUS on combined joint multinational exercises, Warfighter preparation, regional defense strategies and peacekeeping and security missions. We're putting people first, and seeing results. Learn more by visiting nationalguard.in.gov, then share our stories with potential recruits, local media and on your social media channels. [#NationalGuard](https://twitter.com/NationalGuard)

**SCAN TO
BEGIN**





A NOTE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

SSG Dawn Bennett



I have been honored to serve as your president for the past two years, and I look forward to serving as the advisor to the new NGAI President. Thank you for your continued support of the Association, we couldn't do what we do without you.

One of the most important things we offer our Guardsmen is State Sponsored Life Insurance. If you aren't taking advantage of that benefit, get signed up today. Also, if you reach out to the NGAI Board, we will send someone to brief your Guardsmen on this program. You won't find cheaper life insurance on the market that pays out very quickly for any reason.

A key aspect of our mission is to secure legislative benefits for you and your families. We are well on our way to having all military pay in the State of Indiana tax exempt. We are also working on providing \$10,000 of SSLI insurance to all active Guardsmen. These things were accomplished with low membership numbers but think about what we could accomplish with larger numbers. We need your help in making our voice louder. Please introduce NGAI to some of your fellow Soldiers and Airmen today. NGAI annual membership is FREE FOR ALL, so please join on our website at www.ngai.net.

Our Corporate Partners are so critical to our future. Our success is limited without their support. Please take the time to visit their websites and learn about their products, equipment, and services. Support them as they support us. There are so many opportunities they bring to us as an Association, a National Guard, and as individuals. Without their commitment, we would not be able to effectively meet our state and national level objectives. Please get involved with NGAI so we can serve you effectively. One team. One fight.

Best Wishes,
Dawn Bennett
NGAI President



A NEW ERA - A WORD FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

COL (Ret), Jeff Coomler



On behalf of the Board of Directors and the office staff I want to begin by thanking everyone for their support of the National Guard Association of Indiana. The Soldiers and Airmen of the Indiana National Guard continue to complete missions all over the world, and your support of NGAI allows us to continue fighting for greater benefits back here at home.

The association is committed to serving you, your fellow service members, our retirees, and their families. Thanks to your support and the hard work of our legislative team we have had some notable legislative successes this year. As I write this letter, HB 1034 which would provide an Income Tax Exemption for ALL military pay to include IDT and AT pay is expected to clear its final hurdle enroute to the governor's desk. If signed by the governor HB 1034 would go into effect this year. Other bills that gained traction this year were; HB1056 which would provide Hoosier Veterans with access to our States Veteran' Cemeteries; HB1511 which would protect funds allocated to the National Guard tuition supplement program from any use not related to stated purpose of the program; and HB1555 which would provide that a military service applicant who has held an occupational license, certification, registration, or permit (license) in another jurisdiction for at least one year may qualify for an Indiana license.

I also want to thank our corporate partners. Your continued support of NGAI is truly appreciated and is a big reason that we can fulfill our mission of promoting the growth and development of the Indiana Army and Air National Guard.

As many of you know Indiana will be hosting the National Guard Association of the United States annual conference in August of 2026. Hosting this event will tax the associations resources and will require support in addition to the board of directors. If you would like to volunteer your services to help make this event a success, please contact the association office for more details.

I am excited and feel privileged to be your new Executive Director and I look forward to growing and strengthening the organization. We can only accomplish this with your help. As you know membership in the association is not mandatory, so word of mouth is our strongest membership recruiting tool. Help us get our message out by following us on our various social media accounts and sharing our successes on your accounts.

The Association gets stronger with each member and the stronger the Association gets, the louder our voice becomes on the State and Federal level.

Sincerely,
COL (Ret), Jeff Coomler
Executive Director



INDIANA NATIONAL GUARD

COMMAND TEAM



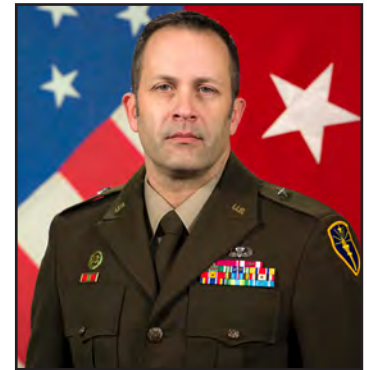
MG R. Dale Lyles
The Adjutant General



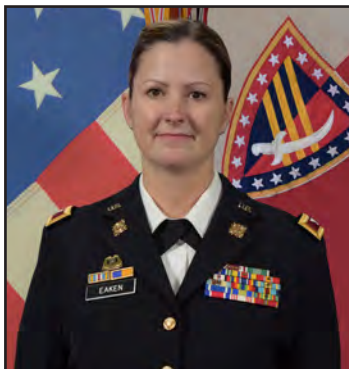
MG Timothy Winslow
Assistant Adjutant
General - Army



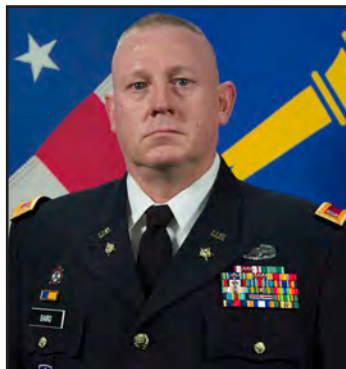
BG Michael D. Stohler
Assistant Adjutant
General - Air



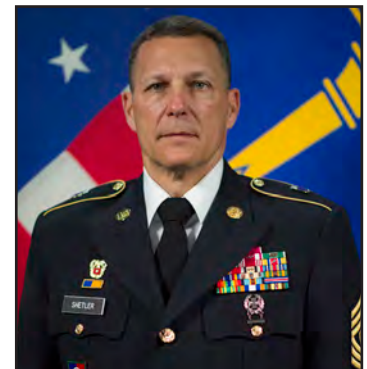
BG Justin L. Mann
Director of The Joint Staff



COL Cathy A. Eaken
Chief of Staff - Army



CW5 Ronald Baird
State Command Chief
Warrant Officer



CSM Dale Shetler
State Command
Sergeant Major



INDIANA NATIONAL GUARD MACOMS



**81st Troop
Command**
"War Eagles"



MG Timothy Winslow
Commander
81st Troop Command



**Command Sgt. Maj.
Tony Williams**
Senior Enlisted Advisor,
81st Troop Command



Col. Matthew R. Handy
Commander
38th Combat Aviation
Brigade

**38th Combat
Aviation
Brigade**
"Falcons"



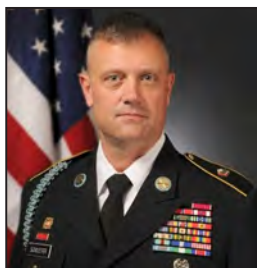
**Command Sgt. Maj.
Timothy J. McDaniel**
Senior Enlisted Advisor,
38th Combat Aviation BDE



**38th Infantry
Division**
"Cyclone"



BG Daniel A. Degelow
Commander
38th Infantry Division



**Command Sgt. Maj.
Jeffrey T. Schuster**
Senior Enlisted Advisor,
38th Infantry Division



Col. Sean P. Begley
Commander
219th Engineer Brigade

**219th Engineer
Brigade**
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Anywhere"



**Command Sgt. Maj.
Jason Schreiner**
Senior Enlisted Advisor,
219th Engineer Brigade



**76th Infantry
Brigade
Combat Team**
"Nighthawk BDE"



Col. Chris Mabis
Commander
76th Infantry Brigade
Combat Team



**Command Sgt. Maj.
Joshua Brown**
Senior Enlisted Advisor,
76th Infantry Brigade

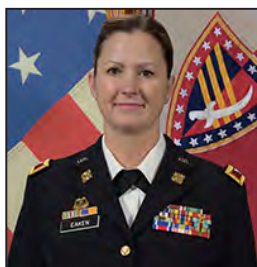


Col. J. Todd Norris
Commander
138th Regiment

**138th Regiment
Combat Arms**
"Seek and Destroy"



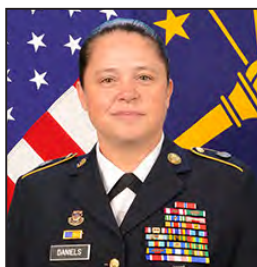
**Command Sgt. Maj.
Jason McReynolds**
Senior Enlisted Advisor,
138th Regiment



**38th
Sustainment
Brigade**
"Avengers"



Col. Cathleen A. Eaken
Commander
38th Sustainment
Brigade

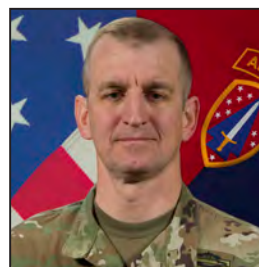


**Command Sgt. Maj.
Elizabeth K. Daniels**
Senior Enlisted Advisor,
38th Sustainment Brigade



Col. Mark O'Neill
Commander
54th Security Force
Assistance Brigade

**54th Security
Force
Assistance BDE**
"To the Very End"



**Command Sgt. Maj.
Brian Zirkelbach**
Senior Enlisted Advisor,
54th SFAB



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BG Michael D. Stohler
Assistant Adjutant
General - Air



**Chief Master Sgt.
Michael E. Dixon**
State Command Chief
Master Sergeant



Col. Joshua Waggoner
"DUECE"
Base Commander,
122nd Fighter Wing



**Chief Master Sgt.
Kyle D. Hoopingarner**
Wing Command Chief,
122nd Fighter Wing



Col. Charles T. Goad
Commander
181st Intelligence
Wing



**Chief Master Sgt.
Robert C. Hackett**
Wing Command Chief,
181st Intelligence Wing



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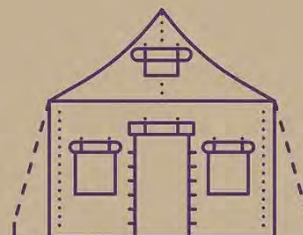


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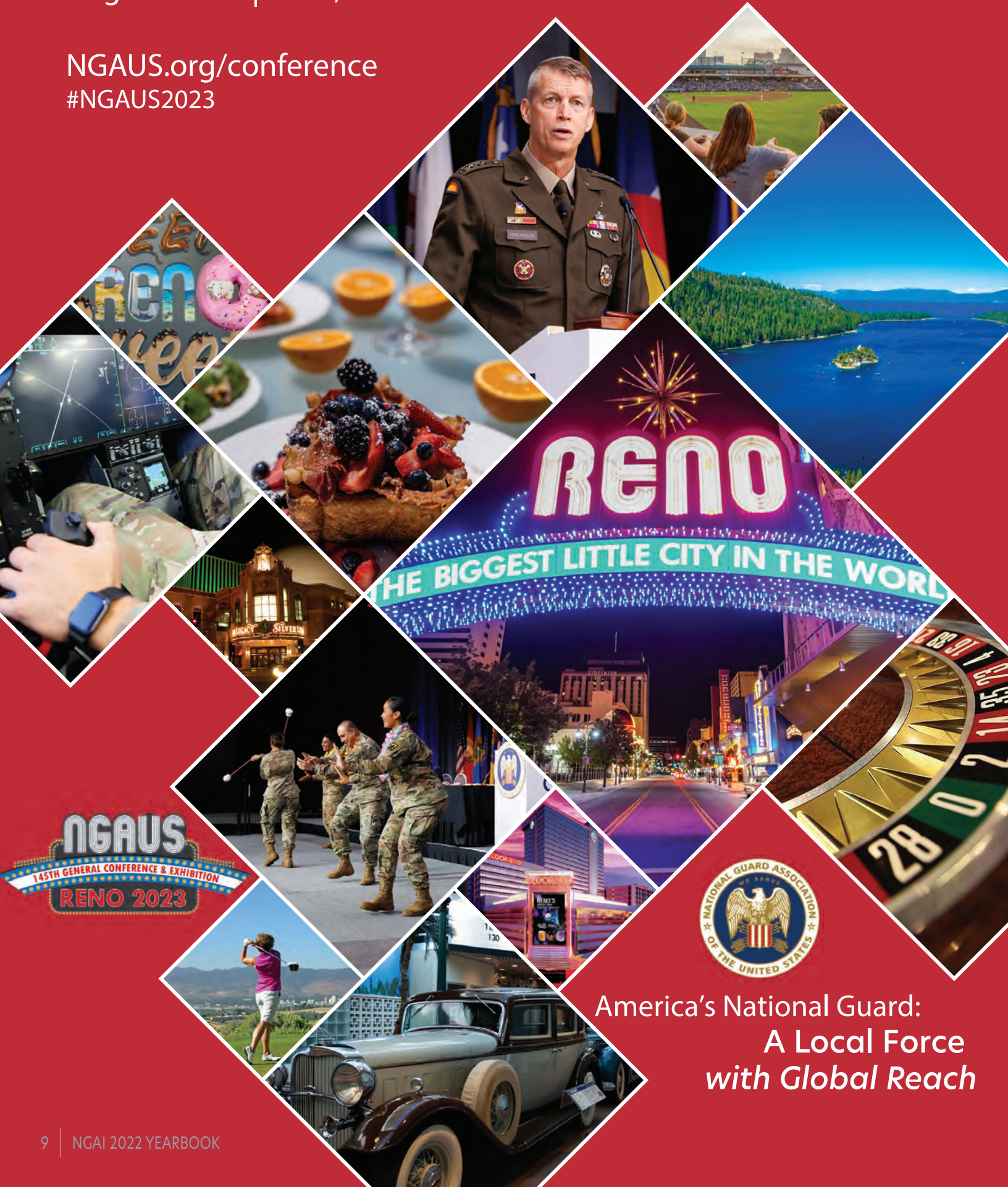
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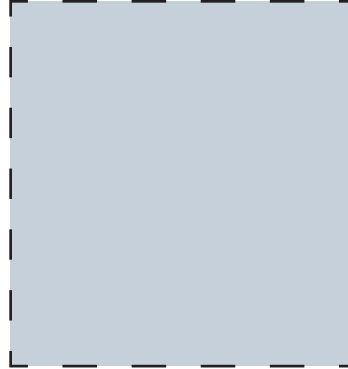


NGAI BOARD OF DIRECTORS

EXECUTIVE BOARD



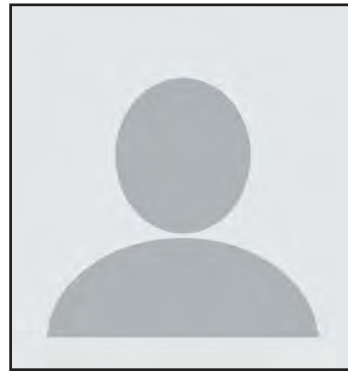
SSG Dawn Bennett
President
Term Expires: 2023



TBD
4th Vice President
Term Expires: TBD



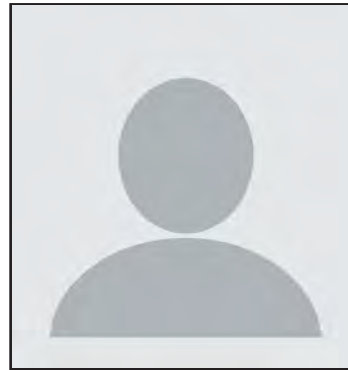
SGM Alan E. Thomas Jr
1st Vice President
Term Expires: 2023



SFC (Ret), Kara Wheat
Secretary
Term Expires: 2023



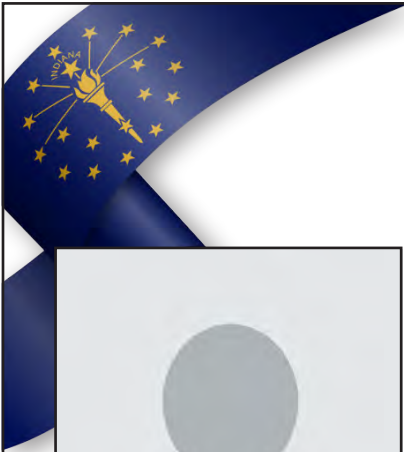
MAJ Kristopher Daupert
2nd Vice President
Term Expires: 2023



MSG (Ret), Mike Lockridge
Treasurer
Term Expires: 2023

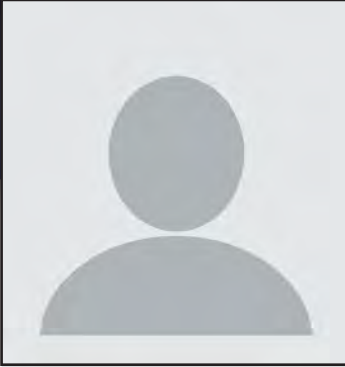


Maj Holly Shelton
3rd Vice President
Term Expires: 2025

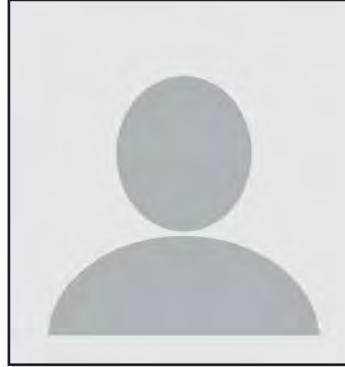


NGAI BOARD OF DIRECTORS

MEET THE TEAM



MSgt Nicole Gonser
Active Air Enlisted
Term Expires: 2024



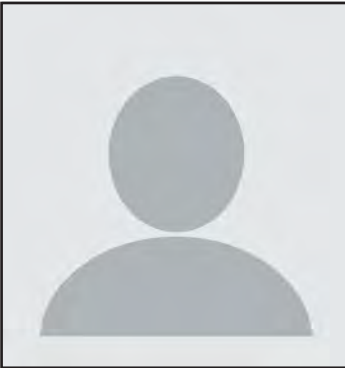
SFC James Pedigo
Active Army Enlisted
Term Expires: 2023



MSgt Zachary Herring
Active Air Enlisted
Term Expires: 2025



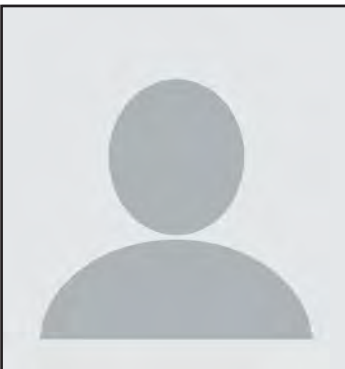
CPT Joshua Mayo
Active Army Officer
Term Expires: 2025



SFC Nicole Early
Active Army Enlisted
Term Expires: 2024



LTC James Babbitt
Active Army Officer
Term Expires 2025



SFC Nicholas Lucas
Active Army Enlisted
Term Expires: 2025



1st Lt Alisha Furlong
Active Air Officer
Term Expires: 2023



1LT Erin Elpers
Active Army Officer
Term Expires: 2024



BG (Ret) Marge Washburn
Retired Army Officer
Term Expires: 2025



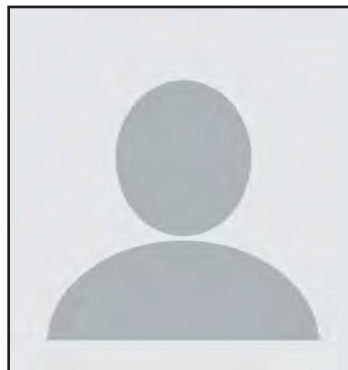
Brian McCammon
Active Air Officer
Term Expires: 2025



Brig Gen (Ret) Jim Wilson
Retired Air Officer
Term Expires: 2025



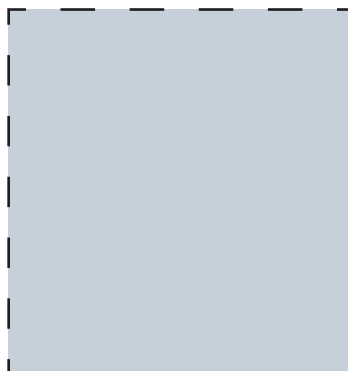
CMSgt (Ret) Robert Beasley
Retired Air Enlisted
Term Expires: 2024



CW2 Brian Schafer
Active Army Warrant
Term Expires: 2023



CSM (Ret) John Piper
Retired Army Enlisted
Term Expires: 2024



TBD
Active Army Officer
Term Expires: 2023



Land of Lakes

Minnesota

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52nd EANGUS CONFERENCE

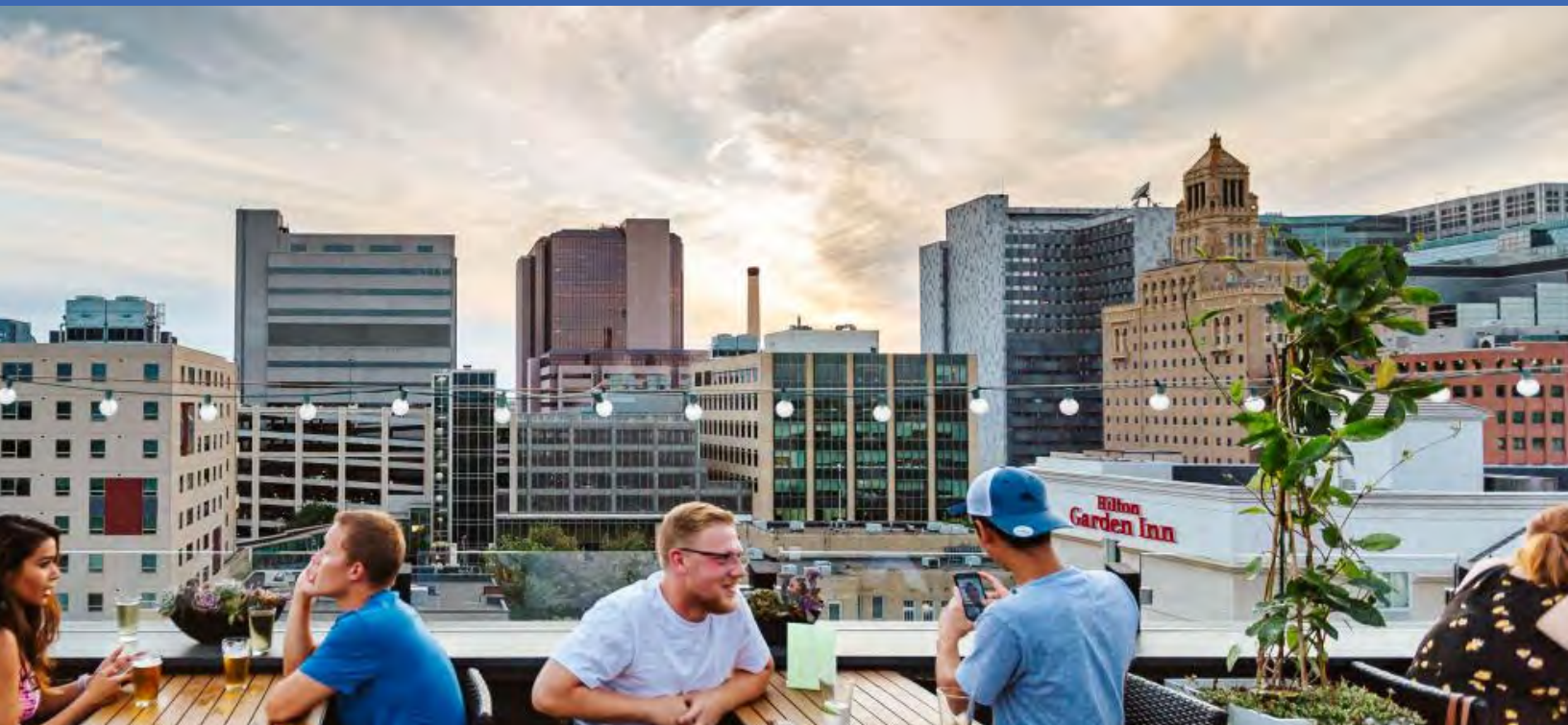
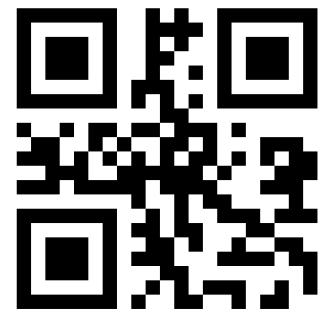
The graphic features a map of Minnesota with various cities and landmarks labeled: INTERNATIONAL PARKS, VIRGINIA, BRAINERD, MOONHEAD, ROYALTON, ST. CLOUD, MINNEAPOLIS, GLENCOE, MARSHALL, WILMAR, MANKATO, ST. PAUL, WINONA, ROCHESTER, and AUBERTON. The map also includes illustrations of a moose, a fish, a duck, and a tree.

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NGAI LEGISLATION DAY REVIEW



INNG 2023 Legislation Day Review
1st Vice President Alan E. Thomas Jr.
National Guard Association of Indiana
White Paper
NGAI Board Of Directors
31 January 2023

NGAI Legislation Day Review

On January 10th, 2023, the National Guard Association of Indiana (NGAI), working in collaboration with other patriotic veteran service organizations (VSOs), attended the Indiana Military and Veterans Legislation Day (IMVLD). The historic Indiana State Capitol building created a vibrant backdrop for the IMVLD sponsors, Representative John L. Bartlett and Senator Michael Crider. Additionally, the audience of over 100 veterans had the honor and privilege to listen and meet the keynote speaker Sergeant First Class (SFC) Samuel L. Davis, Medal of Honor recipient. One of the critical comments SFC Davis made was about being a veteran and how a Soldier's duty is loving your brother and sisters to your front, back, and flanks. Only through love can individuals find the courage to persevere in the worst of times.

The NGAI Operations Director, Hoped Daupert, Executive Director Jeffrey Coomler, and 1st Vice President SGM Alan E. Thomas Jr anchored an All-Star team of VSOs supporting vital legislation that will benefit veterans across the great State of Indiana. IMVLD 2023 was a great demonstration of how when VSOs work with synergy, change will happen quickly, and voices will be heard. With veteran benefits continually under review and impediments, all veterans need to understand that we must adapt and expect but never accept less than what we are worth.

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<https://ngai.net/legislation/>

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NGAI created The NGAI R. MARTIN UMBARGER PRESIDENT'S AWARD to provide the Association President the option to recognize any individual who, as a civilian or member of the Armed Forces, performed exceptionally outstanding service to the United States, to the Armed Forces of the United States or to NGAI.

Recipients:



President's Award: Bailey & Wood Mortgage



President's Award: CSM (Ret) John Piper



Grant Recipients:

- Samuel Woolf
- Seabrina Sehi-Spencer
- Soliu Shittu
- Sola Akinsola
- Alexander Purdue
- Alexandria Brown
- Kolton Newlin
- Jessica Schuster
- Mason Newlin
- Bradley Shue

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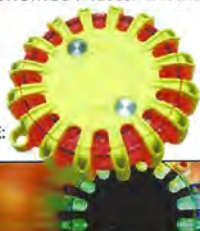
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Vice President - Sales

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Indiana National Guard Marathon Team Run Alongside National Team

Story by Staff Sgt. Tackora Farrington
Thursday, November 17, 2022

National Guard Soldiers from 17 states joined the Indiana National Guard's marathon team for the Indianapolis Monumental Marathon Saturday.

This race has grown into one of the 15th largest marathons in the nation attracting more than 15,000 athletes.

"I'm excited to see our teammates and catch up with them, but I'm mostly excited to show off our wonderful city," said 1st Lt. Blaine Zimmerman, from Indianapolis. "Many of the folks coming in have never been to Indianapolis, so this is our opportunity to show them all our city has to offer."

The Monumental Marathon is known as a great fall marathon for first-time marathon runners to elite athletes. Starting and finishing at the Indiana Statehouse, the course highlights landmarks, and historical neighborhoods throughout the Circle City. "I was running marathons on my own when I found out the team existed," said Zimmerman. "It seemed like a great way to participate in a unique opportunity, I never thought the Army would pay me to travel the country to run marathons, and it's been an amazing experience."

Running a marathon competitively takes hard work and dedication that can take anywhere from 12 to 16 weeks of training at minimum. The team shows what soldiers can do beyond just military service," said Sgt. Maj. Joe McFarren, from Liberty Center. "It takes a lot of dedication and discipline to compete, and this team helps keep your mind and body focused."

These soldiers are running for a purpose as they compete, if their times meet the mark they will join the all guard team in more races across the country

We have exceptional athletes throughout the Indiana National Guard, but these soldiers take athletic pursuits to another level," said Brig. Gen. Justin Mann, Indiana National Guard director of joint staff. "I admire the hard work, dedication, and abilities of these men and women who represent our state in competitions like this. Getting to see them train with and compete alongside service members from other states gives us another great opportunity to showcase what we Hoosier Guardsmen can do!"



State Partnership Exchange At Camp Atterbury

Story by Staff Sgt. Tackora Farrington
Thursday, September 8, 2022

CAMP ATTERBURY, Ind.—Three medical professionals from the Niger Armed Forces joined Indiana Army and Air National Guard medical professionals at Camp Atterbury during a state partnership exchange in July.

The weeklong training focused on public health, mental health, basic sanitary needs, and additional topics that increase the overall health of any army.

“This visit has been very beneficial,” said Doctor Colonel Major Garba Hakimi, Director of army health services and social action. “It has given us an opportunity to share experiences and learn things that we can take back to our army, more specifically in the way we organize a patient during ground transportation.”

Hakimi also said that observing the international teams during patient transport training, we conducted allowed him to gain valuable information to take back to their force and implement it with their trainers.

The mutually beneficial exchange took extensive international time, coordination, and planning to coordinate appropriate and applicable training.

“During my public health brief, it was evident that there are some very real and direct impacts from the work done here,” said Indiana Air National Guard Lt. Col. John Shepherd state public health officer from the 181 Intelligence Wing “During the brief it was clear that they were receiving the information and actively identifying how they could implement some of the topics to their developing doctrine.” Niger leaders said their army is projected to more than double in size relatively quickly making public health a hot topic. Another topic heavily focused on during this exchange was mental health and resiliency training.

Hakimi found mental health and resilience training particularly interesting.

“These topics aren’t very developed in our army,” said Hakimi. “Resilience training is a something we would like to further develop in our army, they gave us good information to do just that.”

This exchange would not have been possible without one specifically dedicated member who had the privilege of feeling a little closer to home during her mission.

“Overall, I’m very thankful for the experience supporting this mission,” said Sgt. Desiree Demercedes the exchange translator and member of the 38th Sustainment Brigade. “It’s not very often I get to engage in my native language, and it made me feel like I was back home.”

Demercede was born and raised in Switzerland until she was a teenager when her family migrated to the United States. She currently resides in Danville.

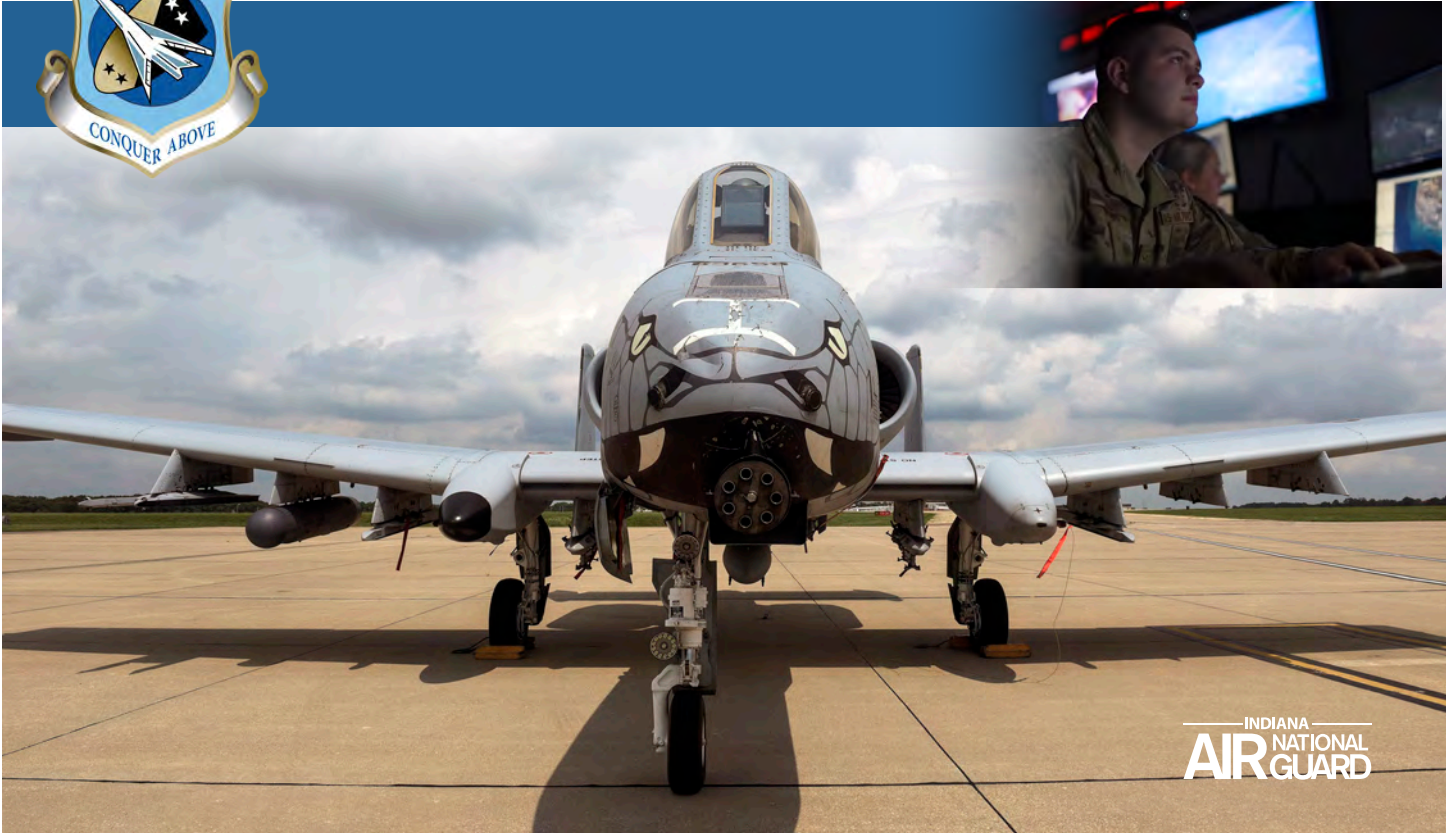
Demercede is just one example of how our diverse force of Indiana Guardsmen live, work, and serve here and around the globe.

“It takes a lot of diverse talent and dedication to develop and implement an information exchange like this successful event,” said Brig. Gen. Justin Mann, director of the Indiana National Guard Joint Staff. “We have the right people in the right places and will continue to work hard to develop our relationship with our Niger partners.”

A safe, stable, secure, and prosperous Africa is an enduring United States’ interest. The Indiana National Guard signed another State Partnership Program agreement with Niger in 2017 and has a 20-plus year partnership with Slovakia.



We are the Indiana Air National Guard



The Indiana Air National Guard is made up of two wings, The 122nd Fighter wing and the 181 Intelligence Wing. The 122nd consists of highly trained professional citizen airmen dedicated to community, state and nation. Providing proven performance as the premier A-10C fighter wing in the combat air forces. The 181st Intelligence wing's primary mission is Intelligence, which involves gathering, analyzing and interpreting information from a variety of sources to allow leaders to make the necessary decisions to protect and defend our national interests.

Blacksnakes practice multi-aircraft generation

A-10C Thunderbolt II aircraft, assigned to the 122nd Fighter Wing, perform multi-aircraft generation maneuvers July 10, 2022, at the Fort Wayne Air National Guard base, Fort Wayne, Indiana. Airmen from the 122nd Fighter Wing performed military duties during a large-scale readiness exercise that tested their abilities to respond to real-world threats.





122nd Fighter Wing conducts combat munitions training

Indiana Air National Guardsmen, assigned to the 122nd Fighter Wing Munitions Maintenance Flight, attended combat munitions training at the Fort Wayne Air National Guard base, Fort Wayne, Indiana August 4, 2022. Munitions specialists are required to refresh their skills every 18 months.





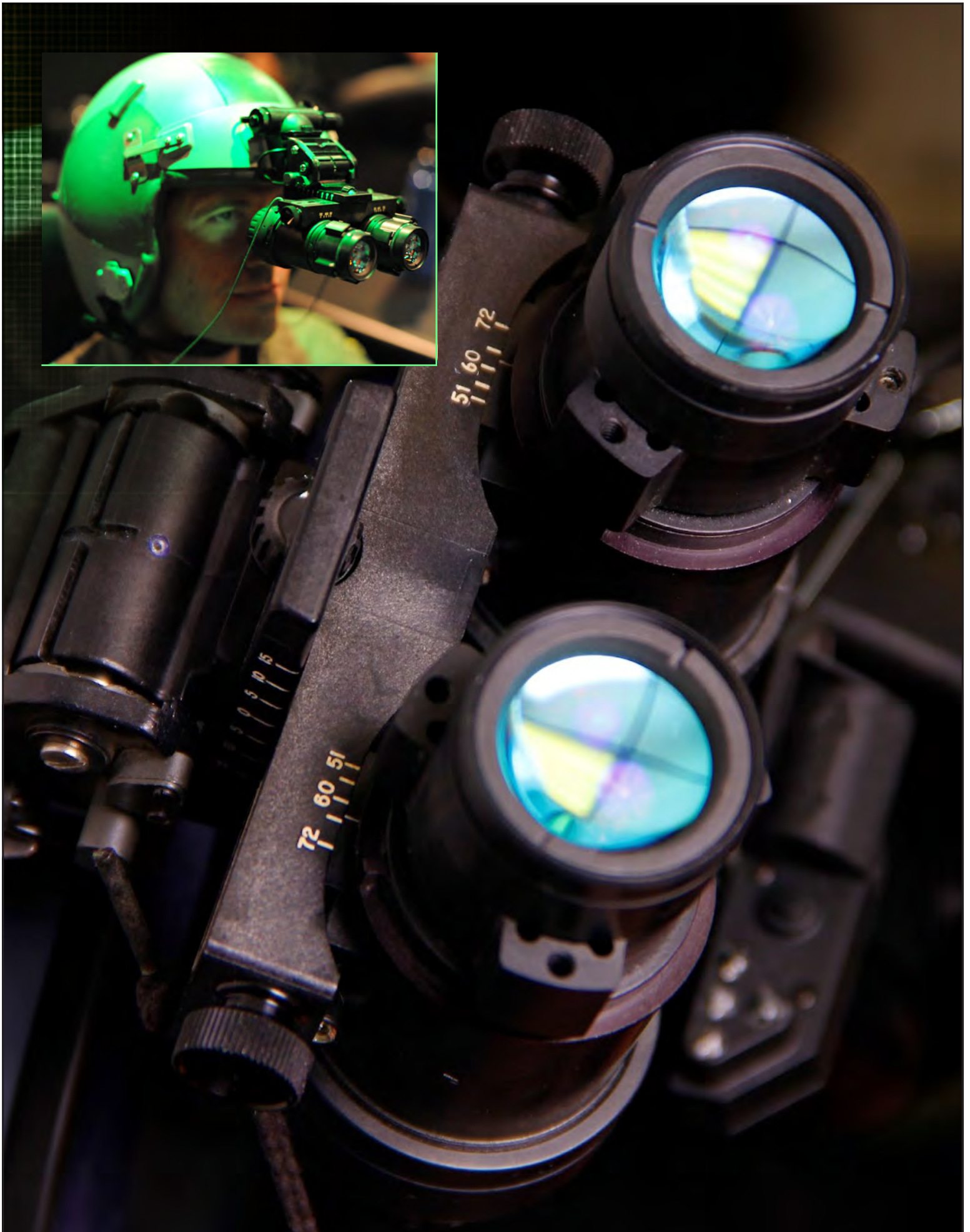
122ND FIGHTER WING AIRCREW FLIGHT EQUIPMENT SHOP TOUR



122nd Fighter Wing Aircrew Flight Equipment shop tour

U.S. Air Force Senior Master Sgt. Zachary C. Spieth, Aircrew Flight Equipment (AFE) Superintendent with the 122nd Operations Support Squadron, explains what AFE does Jan. 3, 2022, at the 122nd Fighter Wing, Indiana Air National Guard base, Fort Wayne, Indiana. Spieth conducts tours of the AFE shop to visiting guests of the 122nd Fighter Wing.







INDIANA NATIONAL GUARD ENGINEERS PLAN OVERSEAS MISSIONS

Indiana National Guard photo by Sgt. Hannah Clifton

Maj. Amy Hoover, 219th Engineer Brigade operations officer, and Indiana Air National Guard Brig. Gen. Lisa Snyder, State Partnership Program senior medical advisor, discuss future missions at a worksite in Niamey, Niger. Niger's armed forces leadership seeks to train with engineers to improve infrastructure to assist their military fight the extreme terrorists in the region and replicate the success they have had training alongside Indiana National Guard medical and logistics teams.

Indiana National Guardsmen discuss future missions at a worksite in Niamey, Niger. Niger's armed forces leadership seeks to train with engineers to improve infrastructure to assist their military fight the extreme terrorists in the region and replicate the success they have had training alongside Indiana National Guard medical and logistics teams.

Indiana National Guard leadership develops opportunities to train their military engineers in Slovakia in real-world environments on projects that have a direct and positive impact. Future training in Slovakia would focus on improving the current infrastructure and living quarters of active duty, American soldiers stationed in the country.

Maj. Amy Hoover, 219th Engineer Brigade operations officer, and Sergeant First Class Timothy Cox, 219th Engineer Brigade operations noncommissioned officer in charge, learn about Slovakia's military history in Slovakia. The Indiana National Guard and Slovakian military engineer leadership are developing opportunities to train together in future peer-to-peer, real-life exercises.





INDIANA NATIONAL GUARD ENGINEERS

M113 INTERVIEWS

Brig. Gen. Justin L. Mann, director of the Indiana National Guard joint staff, and Capt. Gary A. Parks Jr., Combined Support Maintenance Shop 2 supervisor, provide interviews concerning the Indiana National Guard's role in supplying Ukrainian forces with M113 Armored Personnel Carriers at Camp Atterbury, Indiana, April 25, 2022.

Video link: <https://www.dvidshub.net/download/popup/841704>





INDIANA AIR NATIONAL GUARD TRAINS WITH NIGER ARMED FORCES MEDICAL MEMBERS

State Partnership Program

Indiana Air National Guard Lt. Col. Kenneth Hanson, a flight surgeon with the 122nd Fighter Wing Medical Group, conducts hands-on training with medical members of the Niger armed forces during an exercise, June 17-24, 2022, in Niamey, Niger. The National Guard State Partnership Program is an innovative Department of Defense joint security cooperation program.

The purpose of this exercise was to test and share equipment knowledge while providing mutually beneficial training. The National Guard State Partnership Program is an innovative Department of Defense joint security cooperation program.

Indiana Air National Guard Brig. Gen. Lisa Snyder, State Partnership Program senior medical advisor, conducts hands-on training with medical members of the Niger armed forces, June 17-24, 2022, in Niamey, Niger. The purpose of the exercise is to test and share equipment knowledge while providing mutually beneficial training. The National Guard State Partnership Program is an innovative Department of Defense joint security cooperation program.

Indiana Air National Guard 2nd Lt. Amanda J. Barton, a critical care air transport team nurse with the 122nd Fighter Wing Medical Group, conducts hands-on training with medical members of the Niger armed forces, June 17-24, 2022, in Niamey, Niger. The purpose of the exercise is to test and share equipment knowledge while providing mutually beneficial training. The National Guard State Partnership Program is an innovative Department of Defense joint security cooperation program.





INDIANA NATIONAL GUARD SUPPORTS THE VERIZON 200



The Indiana National Guard color guard also presented the colors during the invocation and The Star-Spangled Banner during the Verizon 200 prerace ceremonies at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway in Indianapolis, Ind., Aug. 31, 2022. Military service members from all branches were also recognized and honored before the race.

Military service members were recognized at the Verizon 200 during prerace ceremonies at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway in Indianapolis, Ind., Aug. 31, 2022. The Indiana National Guard color guard also presented the colors during the invocation and The Star-Spangled Banner.



INDIANA NATIONAL GUARD SUPPORTS GRAND PRIX 2022

Soldiers with the Indiana National Guard ceremonial unit present the colors during the Grand Prix's prerace ceremonies at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway, May 14, 2022.



DONATION TO INDIANA NATIONAL GUARD RELIEF FUND

Brad Smith and Brian Tabor with the Indiana Hospital Association present a check to Marla Miller, the Indiana National Guard Relief Fund administrator, and Brig. Gen. Justin Mann, the Indiana National Guard director of the joint staff, during a ceremony in Indianapolis, Monday, Aug. 15. The approximate \$50,000 dollar check will go to the relief fund, which helps Hoosier Guardsmen who experience economic hardships. Smith, Tabor and the association made the donation in honor of Indiana National Guard soldiers and airmen who assisted hospitals throughout the state during the COVID pandemic.





INDIANA NATIONAL GUARD SUPPORTS THE INDIANAPOLIS 500

Indiana National Guardsmen march along the track at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway in Indianapolis, Indiana, May 29, 2022. Members of the United States Armed Forces joined together to support the Indianapolis 500 during Memorial Day weekend.

Indiana National Guardsmen stand in the back of a truck at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway in Indianapolis, Indiana, May 29, 2022. Members of the United States Armed Forces joined together to support the Indianapolis 500 during Memorial Day weekend.

U.S. Army Gen. Daniel R. Hokanson, 29th Chief of the National Guard Bureau and his wife, Kelly Hokanson ride in a pace car at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway in Indianapolis, Indiana, May 29, 2020. Hokanson and members of the United States Armed Forces joined together to support the Indianapolis 500 during Memorial Day weekend.





INDIANA NATIONAL GUARD

SOLDIERS COMPETE TO BE BEST IN STATE

EDINBURGH, Ind. – After a weekend of grueling events, two Indiana Army Guardsmen achieved the title of ‘Best Warrior’ at this year’s competition held at Camp Atterbury from March 5 to 7, 2022.

Indiana Guardsman brought their A game to determine best noncommissioned officer and best soldier. This year’s competition consisted of 13 noncommissioned officers and 12 junior enlisted soldiers competing in 13 events to evaluate their overall competency ranging from uniform inspections, supplies and ammunition issue to medical attention.

Staff Sgt. Michael Bougher, of the 38th Sustainment Brigade, and Spc. Kyle Lawson, of Company C, 2nd Battalion, -134th Airborne Regiment, took first place in their respective categories.

The soldiers’ efforts did not go unnoticed by State Command Sgt. Maj. Dale Shetler, and other sergeants major from across the state.

“I’m extremely proud of the soldiers that competed this weekend,” Shetler said. “Readiness is a top priority and competitions like this are exactly how we demonstrate the premier ability we have within our state”

“My favorite part of the weekend was being surrounded by great competition in an environment that allowed me to put my craft to the test in an elevated training situation,” said Lawson, from Decatur. “Training like this can be difficult to find, winning or losing, we each return to our units with valuable knowledge and as a better leader.”

The competition challenged each competitor with events like the Army Physical Fitness Test; an M4 weapons qualification range; a mystery weapons event; a 12- mile ruck march; land navigation; Army Warrior Tasks and Battle Drills testing and an obstacle course. Day three included a military board followed by the awards banquet with the Indiana National Guard command team.

“My favorite part of the competition was definitely the emplacement and detonation of the M18A1 claymore,” said Bougher, from Fort Wayne. “The hardest part of the competition was completing the 12 Mile Ruck March at the end of a very long day that was full of other physically demanding events.”

The soldiers who participated will return to their units and be able to share some of the experiences and new skills they learned.

“It was grueling, leaving us physically drained with little sleep,” said Larson. “The camaraderie during the event and my sponsor is what kept me focused, my peers were awesome, encouraged me through every event.”

The two will go on to represent Indiana in the regional ‘Best Warrior’ competition to be held in Minnesota later this year.



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A-10C Thunderbolt II pilot - FORT WAYNE AIR NATIONAL GUARD BASE, Ind.

“

It's kind of a military leadership cliché to say that if you take care of your people, the mission will take care of itself, said Jahn. That may not be true to the extreme, but the Indiana Air National Guard leadership, the 122nd leaders and the Blacksnake team have made it a real pleasure for me to serve during a decade that I had the opportunity to do other things.

— Retired U.S. Air Force
Lt. Col. Jesse “Porta” Jahn
06.05.2022



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