

INDIANA GUARDSMAN

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Hoosier Guardsmen reflect on diversity, page 3

In this Guardsman...

Hoosier airmen blitz Florida

Approximately 100, 122nd Fighter Wing airmen participated in Operation Guardian Blitz in Florida last month. The airmen practiced core skills of close air support, basic service attack, and night-vision takeoffs and landings.

See More: <https://www.dvidshub.net/image/4968592/163rd-fs-blacksnakes-fly-10s-avon-park>



Challenge academy spotlighted

“(The Hoosier Youth Challenge Academy) is a way we can work with communities to make a difference for young people in the state.” - Maj. Gen. Courtney P. Carr, Indiana National Guard adjutant general.

See more: <http://ow.ly/FIRx30n7cj7>



National Guard celebrates 382 years

How is the National Guard 140 years older than the United States?

Read More: <https://www.nationalguard.mil/News/Article/1711079/how-is-the-national-guard-140-years-older-than-the-us/>



Confidence through musical talents

A quiet 17-year-old from the band halls of R. Nelson Snider High School discovered a lot about herself when she decided to join the military to pursue her love of music.

Read More: <https://www.nationalguard.mil/News/Article/1707887/indiana-soldier-gains-confidence-through-musical-talents/>



Cover Photo: An A-10C Thunderbolt II from the 122nd Fighter Wing, headquartered in Fort Wayne, bolts through the air during Operation Guardian Blitz, Tuesday, Dec. 11, 2018, at Avon Park, Florida. The 163rd Fighter Squadron pilots tested their weapons skills at Avon Park Air Force Range, a 106,000-acre bombing range located in central Florida. Photo by Senior Airman Rita Foster

The Way Ahead...

The United States of America is a melting pot of different races, creeds, ethnic backgrounds, cultures and genders. This diversity is also reflected in the ranks of the Indiana National Guard, which makes us stronger. The sum is greater than the individual parts. Diversity allows the Indiana National Guard to maximize its capabilities as a vital organization to the defense of the nation.

Below, African-American soldiers reflect on what it means to them to serve in the Indiana National Guard as the National Guard focuses on diversity during the month of February.



Pfc. Babatunde Owofade

"I think it's a huge opportunity for me. We have an equal opportunity. So to serve in the National Guard is a very great thing for me and is a great achievement. When I was in basic training and AIT, everyone was treated equally."



Warrant Officer Malika Dowdell

"When I think about Black History Month, it's a time where we recognize those African-Americans who went above and beyond to contribute to our country: specifically for military and to reflect on heroes from Crispus Attucks to Colin Powell and their impact on society. For me, it is an honor that I am able to wear the uniform and serve the state and nation. It gives me inspiration as an African-American female soldier today, because I understand that impact I can have on the younger soldiers as we work to grow and improve as a military force."



1st Lt. Ken Morris

"I've always seen myself as a leader, and I think that's an asset I can bring to both communities, the military community and the African-American community. I see my service as a unity between races."



Col. Felicia Brokaw

"One of my favorite quotes is 'For of those to whom much is given, much is required' — Luke 12:48. There are a lot of responsibilities that come with being a colonel in today's Army. As one of the few African-Americans, as well as a female leader in this great organization, I do not take any of these responsibilities lightly. I am so grateful to all of those who have come before me paving the way. I just hope that my journey will allow those that follow, to become just as successful with their life endeavors."