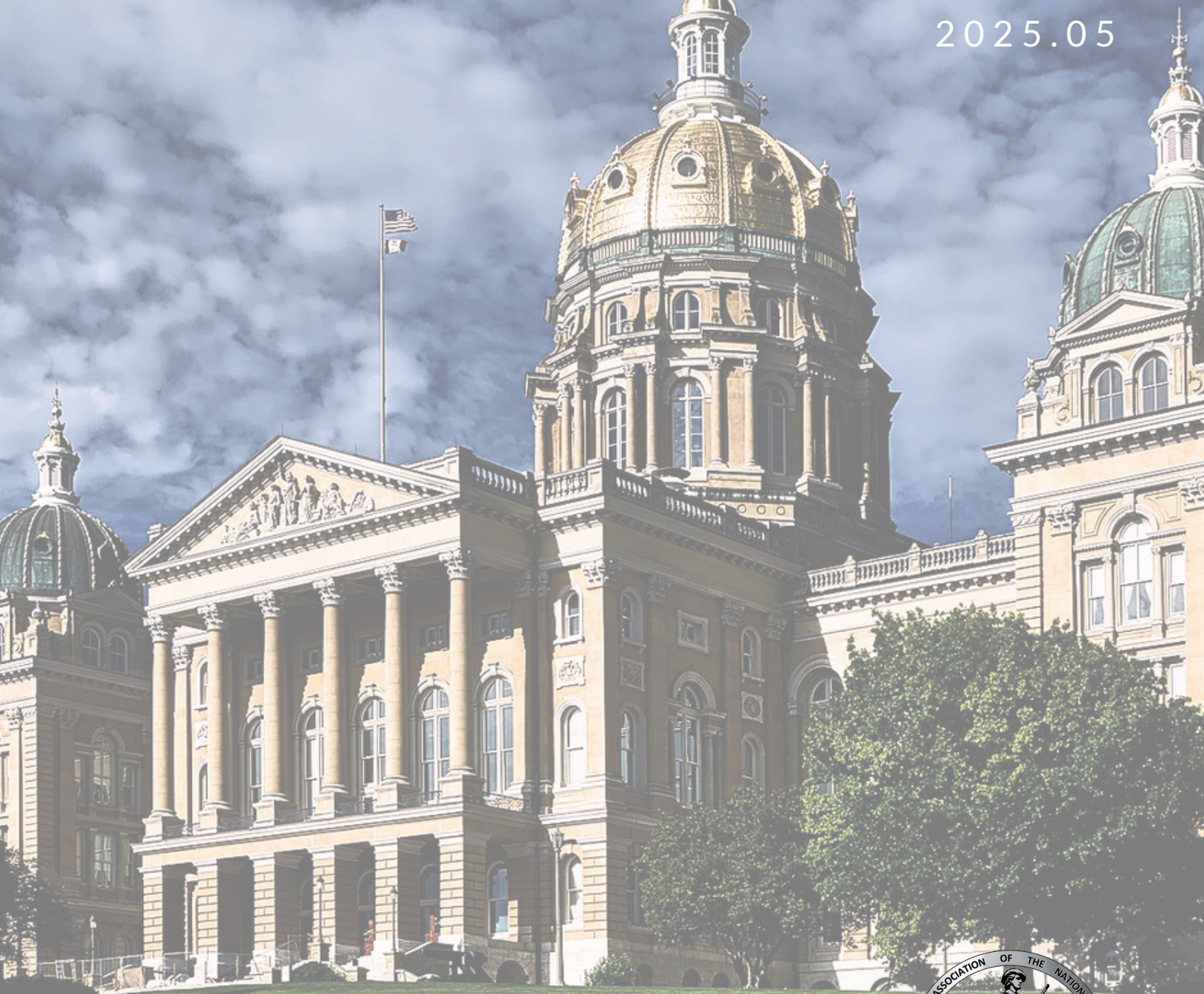


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AIRMEN OF THE YEAR

Hailey Onken Balances
Service & Goals
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21BCT SENDOFF CEREMONIES

Dates and Locations for
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2025 ANNUAL CONVENTION

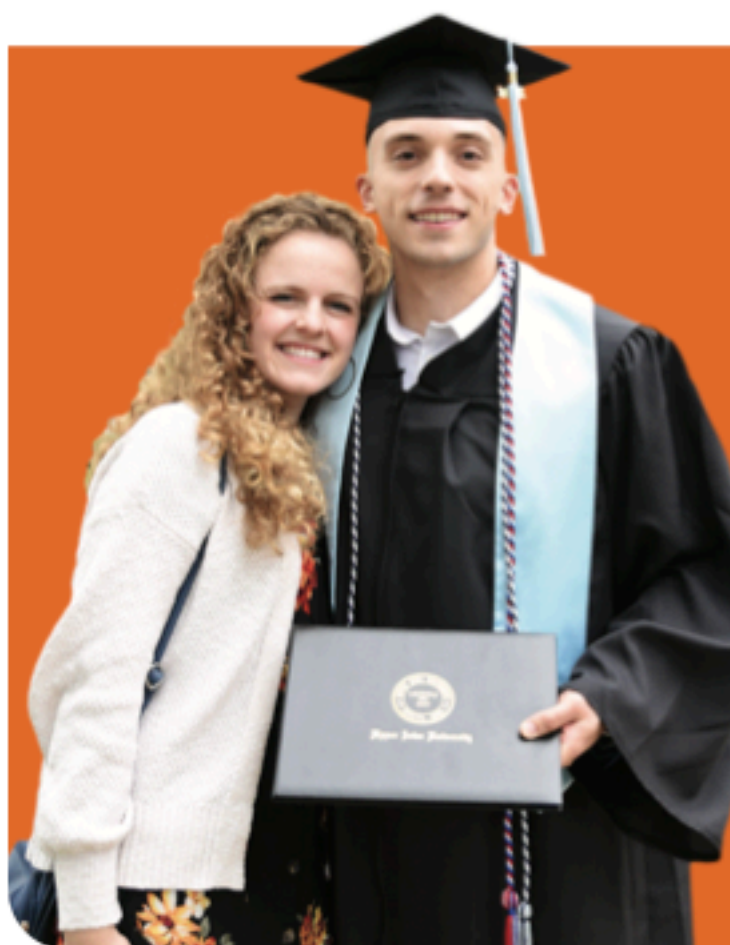
Four Pages of Content to
Tell our Story
Page 10



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

PETER MOELLER

To our dedicated Airmen and Soldiers of the Iowa National Guard,

As we reflect on the recent success of our 2025 Annual Convention, I want to begin by extending my deepest gratitude to each of you. Your presence, energy, and contributions made the event a resounding success. Whether you attended in person, helped organize, presented, or simply supported from afar—thank you. The strength of our association lies in its people, and once again, you proved why Iowa's enlisted force is among the very best in the nation.

As we shift from celebration to action, know that your association continues to advocate on your behalf. We are hard at work on several legislative initiatives that directly impact the well-being, benefits, and recognition of our enlisted members and their families. From securing improved education benefits to enhancing state-level support during deployments, our legislative team is fully engaged. Your voice is powerful, and we urge you to stay informed and involved as these efforts progress. Together, we can ensure that the needs of Iowa's enlisted soldiers and airmen remain a top priority.

Looking ahead, I'm excited to invite you to the 2025 EANGI Charity Classic Golf Tournament. This annual event is more than a day on the greens—it's a chance to give back, build camaraderie, and show our community what the Guard family is all about. The funds we raise support programs that directly benefit our service members and their families, especially during times of need. Whether you're a scratch golfer or just there for the laughs and fellowship, your participation makes a difference. So gather your team, spread the word, and let's make this year's tournament the most impactful one yet.

As we plan for the months ahead, our thoughts and full support go out to the members of the 2nd Brigade Combat Team as they prepare for deployment. You carry with you the pride and strength of Iowa. Know that your brothers and sisters in EANGI—and across the state—stand with you. We are committed to supporting you before, during, and after your mission, and we thank you for your courage and dedication.

Finally, to all our members preparing for a demanding training season—don't forget to take a moment to recognize the unwavering support of your Families. They are the quiet strength behind your service, the steady force that allows you to succeed in uniform. Be sure to thank them, include them, and let them know how much they matter.

As always, I am inspired by your commitment, your resilience, and your service. Let's continue standing together, lifting each other up, and driving the mission forward. The best is yet to come.

Your liberties we prize and your rights we will maintain.



PETER MOELLER
EANGI President



EANGI ANNUAL

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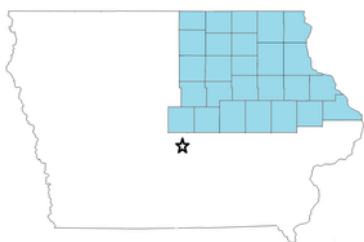
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DISTRICT DIRECTORS

Districts 1-4 represent Soldiers of the highlighted districts

District 5 represents the Airmen of the 132nd Air Wing and state headquarters.

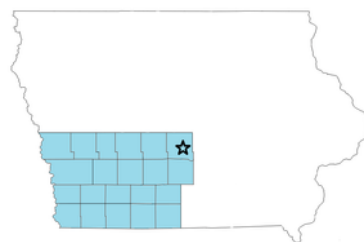
District 6 represents the Airmen of the 185th Air Wing.



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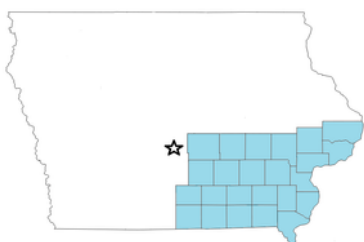


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Assistant Director: Rachel White



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Assistant Director: Philip Kamm

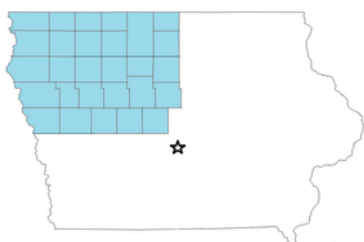


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Assistant Director: Brendan Standfest



DISTRICT 6

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Assistant Director: Sebastian Buman

132D WING HOSTS 2025 ESGR BOSS LIFT

Story by Master Sgt. Michael Kelly



On April 24-25, 2025, the Iowa Air National Guard's 132d Wing welcomed civilian employers to its airbase in Des Moines, Iowa for the annual Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) "Boss Lift" event. This initiative aims to strengthen the bond between service members and their civilian employers by providing firsthand insight into military operations.

A highlight of the event was the static display of the MQ-9 Reaper, a remotely piloted aircraft from the North Dakota Air National Guard's 119th Wing. The MQ-9, known for its intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance capabilities, offered attendees a close-up view of the technology that supports modern military missions.

"It's always interesting to see what the Air National Guard does on a daily basis," said Clinton Torp, the director of operations for Des Moines Airport Authority. "The big thing we learned today was just the importance of supporting our guard members that we employ. Its great to see what they do

every day out here and appreciate that service."

Attendees also experienced aerial operations aboard two KC-135 Stratotankers from the 185th Air Refueling Wing. During the flights, they observed mid-air refueling procedures involving F-16 Fighting Falcons and A-10 Thunderbolt II aircraft. This demonstration showcased the critical role of aerial refueling in

extending the operational range and endurance of combat aircraft.

The Boss Lift program underscores the importance of employer support for National Guard and Reserve members. By engaging directly with military activities, employers gain a deeper appreciation for the skills and commitments of their employees who serve in the armed forces.

"When employers understand the critical roles our airmen play in national defense, disaster response, community engagement, and international partnerships, they're more likely to support the training and deployments that keep us mission ready," said Col. Todd Pierce, 132d Mission Support Group commander. "Events like

the ESGR Boss Lift help bridge the gap between the military and the private sector, leaving a lasting impression, especially when they get to see something as dynamic as fighter aircraft refueling mid-air. Employers who are educated about the National Guard are not only more flexible, but they also become advocates in their communities. That kind of support translates into better policies for our members and strengthens retention by reducing stress when our airmen have to prioritize the mission."

The 132d Wing continues to foster strong relationships between its service members and the civilian community, highlighting the integral role of employer support in national defense.



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CELEBRATING EXCELLENCE, UNITY, AND SERVICE:

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE 2025 ANNUAL CONVENTION AND SENIOR ENLISTED APPRECIATION DINNER



The importance of this meeting cannot be overstated; it is here that ideas are transformed into action and challenges are met with unified resolve.

Attendees also had the opportunity to hear directly from the top. The Adjutant General of Iowa and the Senior Enlisted Leader delivered powerful briefings that captured both the challenges and the immense opportunities facing the Iowa National Guard today. Their remarks addressed not only the current state of the force, but also their vision for its future.

Each year, members of the Enlisted Association gather with purpose, pride, and passion—to honor achievements, plan for the future, and celebrate the selfless service that defines the Iowa National Guard. The 2025 Annual Enlisted Association Convention and Senior Enlisted Appreciation Dinner proved once again that this tradition is far more than an event—it's a cornerstone of our commitment to one another, to our families, and to the people of Iowa.

Over one powerful weekend, enlisted leaders, Soldiers, Airmen, and community supporters came together to engage in meaningful dialogue, professional growth, and heartfelt celebration. The atmosphere throughout the convention was a blend of strategic focus and deep camaraderie—where past achievements were recognized, future goals were set, and our

shared mission was reaffirmed.

The weekend began with the Annual Business Meeting—an essential gathering where the voices of our enlisted members helped shape the path ahead. The Association's leadership, along with delegates from across Iowa, worked together to improve operational processes, refine administrative functions, and prioritize legislative

initiatives. These initiatives are critical, aimed at advancing benefits and support systems that directly impact our members and their families.

There was a shared sense of responsibility in the room—a clear understanding that our collective voice carries power, and that through thoughtful planning and collaboration, we can drive meaningful change.

From modernization initiatives and recruiting efforts to readiness and resilience, the leadership emphasized that the strength of the Iowa National Guard lies in its people—motivated, mission-ready men and women who uphold the highest standards of service. The clarity and honesty of their message inspired many in the

cont'd on Page 12





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cont'd from Page 12

room, reinforcing the fact that our senior leaders are not only aware of the issues facing enlisted members but are actively working to address them.

One of the weekend's highlights was the professional development session provided to 34 of our best and brightest—Airmen and Soldiers who were selected as their unit's Airmen and Soldiers of the Year. These individuals attended a tailored training program that included Lean Six Sigma principles, giving them valuable tools to improve efficiency, effectiveness, and innovation in their work environments.

By investing in our top performers, we are not only recognizing excellence—we are

cultivating it. These rising leaders are now better equipped to lead, solve problems, and drive improvement within their units. Their selection and participation in this training was a clear message: excellence is recognized, and growth is supported.

As the sun set and the formal attire came out, the tone shifted from strategy to celebration. The Senior Enlisted Appreciation Dinner was a night to reflect, honor, and connect. It was an evening filled with emotion, gratitude, and genuine pride.

The Association was honored to welcome Iowa Governor Kim Reynolds, who delivered keynote remarks highlighting the indispensable contributions of the enlisted force. Governor

Reynolds emphasized the strength of Iowa's National Guard, the importance of service, and the enduring bond between the military and the communities it protects. Her words served as a reminder that while service members may wear the uniform, their work impacts every corner of our state.

The evening's most poignant moment came when Command Sergeant Major Strasser took the stage to recognize two remarkable individuals: SSG Rew and SSG Schultz. These Soldiers were commended for their extraordinary valor during a rescue mission that saved lives from dangerous floodwaters. As UH-60 Blackhawk crew chiefs, their actions embodied the highest traditions of selflessness and courage. The room rose in a

standing ovation—a moment that transcended rank and role, unified in admiration and gratitude.

After the formal portion of the evening, guests were treated to the incredible talents of Michael Winslow, best known as the "Man of 10,000 Sound Effects." His performance brought laughter, nostalgia, and an undeniable energy to the room, reminding everyone that celebration is a vital part of community and wellness.

But the evening's spirit of generosity didn't stop there. Through an inspiring collective effort, attendees raised \$9,000 for the We Care for Iowa Foundation, a nonprofit organization dedicated to supporting Iowa service

cont'd on Page 14



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cont'd from Page 12

members and their families. The success of this fundraiser reflects not only the generosity of our members but the strength of our shared values—service, support, and sacrifice.

The night continued with music, dancing, and hospitality rooms where friendships were deepened and memories were made. The 34th Army Band provided live music, filling the space with energy and joy. Whether dancing to familiar tunes or catching up over refreshments, everyone felt the powerful bonds that unite us as a Guard family.

The 2025 Annual Enlisted



to every family member, supporter, and volunteer who made this weekend possible—thank you. Your efforts matter. Your service matters. And your future is bright.

Together, we look ahead with purpose, unity, and unwavering pride in what it means to serve in the Iowa National Guard. ■

more photos on Page 15

Association Convention and Senior Enlisted Appreciation Dinner was not just a reflection of where we are—it was a launchpad for where we're going. It underscored the importance of professional development, the power of strategic leadership, and the enduring spirit of service that drives us forward.

It reminded us that we are more than a collection of ranks and roles—we are a community bound by shared values and a commitment to something greater than ourselves.

To every Soldier and Airman who participated, to every leader who guided the way, and

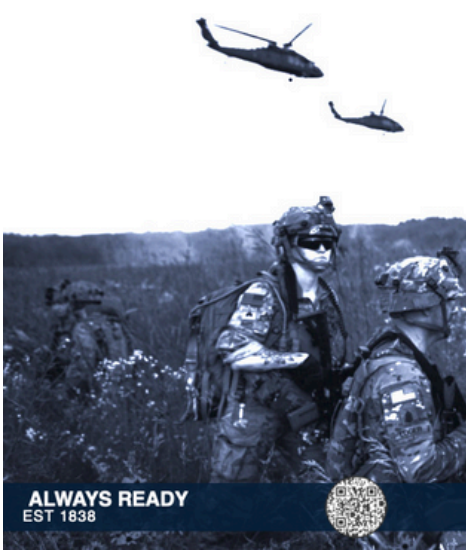





READ OUR STORY

2025 ANNUAL REPORT

Reading our story is essential to understanding the purpose and progress of our organization—and the incredible leadership behind it. The Adjutant General and Senior Enlisted Leader are making significant strides to strengthen the Iowa National Guard through bold vision, clear priorities, and genuine care for our Soldiers, Airmen, and Families. Their leadership sets the tone for excellence, readiness, and resilience across our force. By staying informed, you stay connected to the mission and the momentum driving our success.



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IOWA NATIONAL GUARD
2024 ANNUAL REPORT | 2025 OBJECTIVES

FROM THE ADJUTANT GENERAL


Dear Fellow Iowans,

As I reflect on the past year and the many accomplishments of the Iowa National Guard, it is my honor to share this annual report, which highlights the dedication and commitment of our service members, their families, and our civilian employees. Throughout the year, our Soldiers and Airmen have answered the call, making a direct and lasting impact across our state and nation.

At the heart of our success is our people. We are a professional force, composed of citizen Soldiers and Airmen from every corner of Iowa who have volunteered to serve. Whether called upon to respond to a natural disaster, protect our borders, or support national defense, the efforts put forth through our training, discipline, and commitment ensures the Iowa National Guard is always prepared to respond.

Readiness of the Iowa National Guard remains unwavering as we continue to evolve and adapt to the demands of an ever-changing world. In 2025, we will again strive to improve upon the lessons learned this past year. Our focus will remain on improving the skill and resiliency of our Soldiers and Airmen, developing competent leaders, and building units with the collective capability and agility to fight and win.


In 2025, the Iowa Air National Guard will continue to provide constant operational support to U.S. Air Force missions directly from our bases in Des Moines and Sioux City while providing individuals for small scale deployments around the world. The Iowa Army National Guard will conduct a demanding 21-day rotation at the Joint Readiness Training Center at Fort Johnson, Louisiana. This training event will involve nearly 4,000 Iowa Soldiers and replicate the rigor and stress of combat through a continuous high-paced exercise against the U.S. Army's world class



are the families who support us. To our spouses, as, though often unseen, are never bers is built upon the strength of our families. You omen in uniform, and we are deeply grateful for and mission-ready.

of the support we receive from leaders and nt to personally thank each of you for the men and women in uniform. Their nmitment have made this force stronger than ever. nd whenever, wherever, and however needed.

Stephen E. Osborn
Maj. Gen. Stephen E. Osborn



PRISTINA, Kosovo - Members of the Iowa National Guard and Kosovo Security Force conduct a radio operations and cyber defense training, Sept. 9-11, 2024. The training was part of an ongoing relationship through the State Partnership Program to enhance military readiness.

By Sgt. 1st Class Jason Everett

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2IBCT SENDOFF CEREMONIES

We encourage everyone to attend the upcoming sendoff ceremonies for the Soldiers of the 2nd Brigade Combat Team as they prepare to deploy overseas. These brave men and women are answering the call to serve, and your presence at these events is a powerful way to show them—and their families—that they are supported, appreciated, and never alone. Let's stand together as a community to honor their commitment and give them the sendoff they truly deserve.

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 A CO 224 BEB - MOUNT PLEASANT
 C CO 224 BEB - CEDAR RAPIDS
 D CO 224 BEB - CAMP DODGE
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C CO 334 BSB - CAMP DODGE
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Staff Sgt. Haley Onken, a member of the 132d Wing, Iowa Air National Guard, was named the 2024 Airman of the Year for the state of Iowa. Her journey to this achievement highlights her dedication to service, her family's military legacy, and her aspirations beyond the uniform.

Onken's path to the Air National Guard was influenced by her family.

"My uncle served here full-time for as long as I can remember. Then his daughter was here, so I had some connections, and they helped convince me" said Onken. "In high school I never thought I'd be in the military."

This strong familial military tradition led her to enlist as a high school senior and even convinced her younger brother to follow in her footsteps.

The additional draw of educational benefits was an important factor when considering her future.

"I just was dead set on being a veterinarian" stated Onken. "I needed something to help me pay for pursuing veterinary studies at Iowa State University." She found the benefits of service were not only

tuition assistance, but much more.

In her time at the 132d, Onken has found a sense of community and purpose within the Wing. Currently working in material management, Onken assists with customer support, document control and has gained experience with various operational areas, including equipment management, particularly with chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear defense gear.

"She is almost the perfect example of exactly what it is to be the ideal Airman," said Master Sgt. Danielle Overton, 132d Logistics Readiness Squadron material management superintendent. "She is well rounded-willing to learn, help and develop others."

Overton also said Onken values the camaraderie of her unit and credits the unit for teaching her excellence in customer support, leadership, and adaptability—skills she applies both in uniform and as a veterinary student.

Onken's proudest military accomplishment is earning the 2024 Airman of the Year award for the state of Iowa. She also

MISSION TO SUCCEED

IOWA AIRMAN OF THE YEAR HALEY ONKEN BALANCES SERVICE & GOALS

Story by Senior Airman Nathan Osmundson

takes pride in her growth as a leader, currently transitioning from being mentored to mentoring younger airmen. While her long-term civilian goal is to become a large-animal veterinarian in her hometown, she is grateful for how the Iowa Air National Guard has shaped her professionalism and resilience.

Her story reflects not only personal achievement but also the robust impact of service—balancing military duties and professional civilian pursuits while exemplifying leadership and commitment.

"I value the camaraderie here. I love this unit. I love the people in it. I value coming here. It doesn't feel like I come to work on drill" said Onken. "I come to do my job, but we have fun doing it."

The stage is set for Staff Sgt. Onken in both her civilian and military roles. She plans to continue her pursuit of becoming a veterinarian, and an outstanding Airman.

"Her possibilities are endless," said Overton. "With her dedication and talent, she has boundless potential to succeed."





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