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MEDICS CONDUCT STATEWIDE EXERCISE

The Medical Battalion
Excels at Treatment
Page 8

2026 EANGUS CONVENTION RECAP

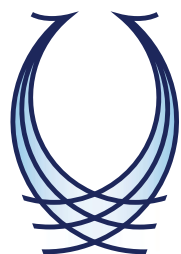
See Everything that Went
Down in Daytona
Page 10

READ IOWAS ANNUAL REPORT

Iowas Guide to What
We Do and Where We
are Going
Page 21



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CONTENTS

pg. 4	PRESIDENTS MESSAGE
pg. 6	EXECUTIVE OFFICERS
pg. 7	DISTRICT DIRECTORS
pg. 8	ARTICLE: STATEWIDE MEDICAL EXERCISE
pg. 10	ARTICLE: 2026 EANGUS ANNUAL CONVENTION RECAP
pg. 11	ARTICLE: AIRMEN CONDUCT JOINT LEADER COURSE
pg. 21	IOWA NATIONAL GUARD ANNUAL REPORT
pg. 23	ARTICLE: 185TH MEMBERS IN RAGBRAI

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

PETER MOELLER

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

As we move through 2026, I want to begin by thanking each of you for your continued service, sacrifice, and support of one another. This year has already brought homecomings, new deployments, and countless examples of what makes the Iowa National Guard special. We proudly welcomed home the Soldiers of the 2nd Brigade Combat Team from the Middle East while watching other Iowa units answer the call and deploy in support of missions around the world. Through every departure and every homecoming, our association remains committed to standing behind our Soldiers, Airmen, and Families.

That commitment continues through our advocacy and direct support of our members. EANGI remains actively engaged on legislative initiatives that protect and improve the benefits, opportunities, and quality of life of Iowa's enlisted force. At the same time, through the We Care For Iowa Foundation, we are providing more hardship grants than ever before. These grants provide real assistance when our Soldiers, Airmen, and Families face unexpected financial challenges. Taking care of our own is not simply something we talk about it is something we must continue to put into action.

Our annual EANGI Charity Classic Golf Tournament once again demonstrated the incredible support surrounding Iowa's Guard Family. This year's tournament raised a tremendous amount of money to directly support our service members and Families. Just as importantly, our corporate partnerships continue to grow. More businesses and organizations are stepping forward to support our events, invest in our mission, and stand behind the men and women of the Iowa National Guard. Their generosity expands what we can accomplish and allows us to reach more people when they need us most.

As we continue through another demanding year, our thoughts remain with the Iowa Soldiers and Airmen currently deployed and the Families carrying the mission at home. While we celebrate bringing our brigade home, we cannot forget those who have since stepped forward to take their place. That cycle of service continues, and so does our responsibility to support them before, during, and after their missions. To our Families, thank you for being the quiet strength behind everything our Soldiers and Airmen accomplish.

As always, I am incredibly proud of what this association continues to accomplish. But our success is not measured by the money we raise, the events we host, or the number of partners standing beside us. It is measured by what we do with those resources and how many of our people we can help. Let's continue growing, advocating, supporting one another, and ensuring that when an Iowa Soldier, Airman, or Family needs someone in their corner, EANGI is there. The best is still ahead.

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PETER MOELLER
EANGI President





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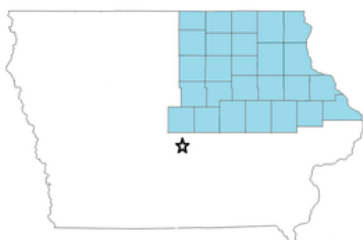
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Districts 1-4 represent Soldiers of the highlighted districts

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

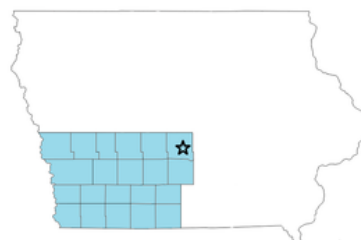
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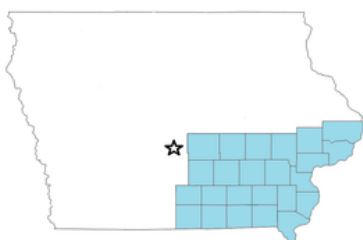


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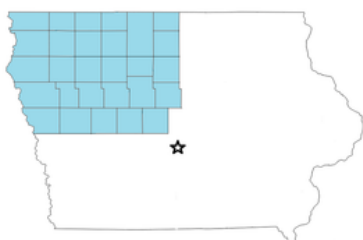


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IOWA ARMY NATIONAL GUARD MEDICAL UNITS PARTICIPATE IN STATEWIDE TRAINING EXERCISE

Story by Sgt. Matthew Tudor

Photos by Staff Sgt. Rachel White



With just two hours of sleep and in the sweltering heat of June in Iowa, Sgt. Griffin Vesley moved quickly toward an ambulance full of simulated casualties as fellow medics prepared the mobile treatment area. Patient one suffered a blast injury resulting in a leg fracture. The next suffered an abdominal evisceration, where organs were protruding from the midsection. The third carried shrapnel wounds on their rear end.

The mass-casualty scenario was one of dozens played out during the Hawkeye River Run, a two-week long, statewide medical training exercise designed to prepare Iowa Army National Guard medics for large-scale combat operations. Soldiers assigned to 109th Multifunctional Medical Battalion, 67th Troop Command, Iowa National Guard conducted triage operations, stabilized and evacuated simulated casualties, and established mobile treatment areas while operating alongside local emergency medical and

fire service partners from the Solon, Grundy Center, Marshalltown and Johnston areas. Soldiers serving as role players in the exercise were prepared with seemingly-realistic injuries to challenge the combat medics. Chemical, biological,

radiological and nuclear teams as The exercise provided well as explosive ordnance opportunities to learn and grow disposal teams were dispatched at every level. Junior soldiers to various locations to train gained hands-on experience medics on different scenarios operating with field medical they might face in a large-scale equipment equipment on conflict. hundreds of patients. The unit's new generation of leaders were One of the challenges the 209th able to manage the company's Medical Company Area Support medical capabilities and oversee faced during Hawkeye River Run personnel. "This training has been was the turnover in leadership great to enhance readiness," said and experience after their 209th MCAS commander Maj. mobilization to Poland in 2022. Jonathan Bluemke, "a lot of this Since returning home, many unit is a younger fighting force senior leaders have rotated out of and we were able to introduce the unit or organization, leaving them to the concept of our layout newer soldiers to learn those of our role two and introduce responsibilities. "It was awesome them to how we can be flexible as to see the growth in our junior we continue to move across the soldiers that are learning and battlefield." even in leadershi roles that they don't necessarily Army medical units are organized into roles with increasing know," said Vesley.

cont'd on Page 13



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REPRESENTING THE HAWKEYE STATE:

THE 55TH ANNUAL EANGUS NATIONAL CONFERENCE

Story by Peter Moeller



participate in committee meetings, area caucuses, professional development sessions and general business sessions while considering resolutions that ultimately help shape EANGUS legislative priorities in Washington, D.C.

That process remains one of the association's most important functions. Legislative priorities often begin with an issue identified by an individual member or state association. Those concerns work their way through the seven EANGUS areas, committees and ultimately the national delegation. When adopted, resolutions help direct EANGUS advocacy on issues affecting enlisted Guardsmen, their families and retirees.

Those issues can include military pay and benefits, health care, retirement, education, equipment, quality of life, family programs and the conditions under which National Guard Soldiers and Airmen serve.

cont'd on Page 15

Thirty members of the Iowa National Guard and Enlisted Association of the National Guard of Iowa traveled to Daytona Beach, Florida, July 31 through August 3 for the 55th Annual Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States and Auxiliary Conference & Expo.

The annual conference brought together enlisted National Guard members, retirees, families, senior military leaders, state association representatives and industry partners from across all 54 states and territories. For four days, Daytona became the center of the enlisted Guard Nation, a place where the people serving in communities across America could come together to discuss the future of the force they represent.

For Iowa's 30 attendees, the conference represented far

more than another trip or annual meeting. It provided an opportunity to ensure Iowa maintained a voice in the national conversation, learn directly from senior leaders shaping the future of the National Guard, participate in the legislative and organizational business of EANGUS, build relationships with Guardsmen from across the country and bring new ideas home to Iowa.

Most importantly, the conference reinforced something that can sometimes get lost within the boundaries of our individual units and states: Iowa's Soldiers and Airmen are part of something much larger. We are part of the Guard Nation.

The EANGUS Annual Conference is where much of the association's national business takes place. Delegates





MCGHEE TYSON AIR NATIONAL GUARD BASE, Tenn. — More than 60 Airmen from the Iowa Air National Guard's 185th Air Refueling Wing and 132d Wing gathered May 18-22, 2026, for the inaugural Frontline Supervisors Leadership Course, a state-developed program designed to strengthen leadership skills while fostering relationships across Iowa's two Air National Guard wings.

Hosted through TEC University, the course brought together primarily staff sergeants and technical sergeants for a week of professional development focused on leadership, communication, teamwork and personal growth. Participants took part in classroom instruction, group physical training, team-building activities and practical leadership exercises designed to prepare Airmen for increased leadership responsibilities.

A key component of the course was the deliberate integration of Airmen from both wings. Participants were assigned to mixed teams and lodging arrangements, creating opportunities to work alongside Airmen from different units,

career fields and organizations. The approach encouraged collaboration, broadened perspectives and helped build relationships across the Iowa ANG.

The course was led by Chief Master Sgt. Justin Odell, wing command chief of the 185th Air Refueling Wing, and Chief Master Sgt. David Bell, chief of the Iowa Joint Force Headquarters. Chief Master Sgt. Sarah Orwig, state command chief of the Iowa National Guard, also addressed participants during the opening day of the course.

For many Airmen, the opportunity to interact with peers from across the state proved to be one of the most valuable aspects of the experience.

"Working alongside members from the 185th was an invaluable experience," said Staff Sgt. Grace Souksavath, an aerospace medical service technician assigned to the 132d Wing. "Bringing Airmen from both wings together allowed us to learn from different perspectives, share experiences and gain insight into how other units accomplish their missions

EXERCISE TO LEAD

IOWA AIRMEN STRENGTHEN LEADERSHIP SKILLS THROUGH INAUGURAL JOINT LEADERSHIP COURSE

Story by
Staff Sgt. John Johnson

and take care of their people." The course environment encouraged participants to exchange ideas, discuss leadership challenges and gain a greater understanding of the diverse missions that make up the Iowa ANG.

"Training alongside Airmen from our other state wing has been a great experience," said Staff Sgt. Brandon Adams, a security forces specialist assigned to the 270th Contingency Response Squadron, 185th Air Refueling Wing. "We've learned about different leadership styles, gained insight into how other shops operate and discussed challenges we may face in the future."

As the Air Force continues to develop future leaders, programs such as the Frontline Supervisors Leadership Course provide emerging noncommissioned officers opportunities to build leadership skills while expanding their understanding of the broader organization they serve.

By investing in Airmen early in their leadership journey and strengthening connections between Iowa's two wings, the Iowa ANG is building a more capable, collaborative and ready force prepared to meet future challenges.



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treatment capabilities, ranging from immediate battlefield care to hospital-level treatment. "Whenever we're needed, we go out and we provide medical support to all the troops in whatever area that we're designated to be used," said Vesley. By integrating with local EMS agencies, fire departments and nursing students, Iowa Army National Guard medical personnel strengthened relationships, improved communication and gained a better understanding of each organization's capabilities.

"Getting nursing students involved to see what the Army is," said 1st Sgt. Amanda McCrary, noncommissioned officer in charge of the 209th MCAS, "telling our story and

that we are real people, we have jobs in the civilian side and we're just supporting our country overall." As a federally overseen component of the U.S. Army, the Iowa Army National Guard is dedicated to serving not just the whole nation, but the whole of the state of Iowa and its citizens.

Building relationships with civilian emergency services forges a stronger state. "When natural disaster strikes and we get called up to go and assist, it's very important that we have those relationships so that way we know and they know what to expect when working together when that happens," said Vesely. In a large-scale combat situation, Army medical professionals may be required to treat while operating in contaminated areas caused by

chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear attacks. "One of the things that we haven't practiced a whole lot is our CBRN stuff," said Vesely. "We talked about it, but we've been able to get really good training." In midwestern fashion, role players were exposed to a simulated pesticide in a scenario where a crop duster released chemicals over civilians working in a cornfield. Medics with the 209th MCAS trained alongside firefighters in Grundy to treat the contaminated patients. "When we work together it is very good," said Spc. Keider Gomez, a CBRN specialist, "sometimes civilians have better equipment than us." Through realistic medical scenarios, community partnerships and specialized CBRN training, Hawkeye River Run challenged Soldiers to

adapt, learn and lead. For many junior Soldiers and new leaders, the exercise served as their first opportunity to operate the unit's medical capabilities in a field environment which built confidence and experience needed for future missions at home and abroad.



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cont'd from Page 10

For Iowa, having 30 members in Daytona meant Iowa had representation in those conversations.

It also gave our delegation an opportunity to listen. Every state faces challenges. Some are unique. Many are remarkably similar. Recruiting, retention, readiness, benefits, employer support, family readiness and taking care of our people do not stop at the Iowa border.

When enlisted leaders from across the country gather in one location, they can compare what works, identify what does not and learn from one another. Sometimes the best idea an organization brings home from a national conference does not come from a microphone or PowerPoint presentation. It comes from sitting next to another NCO and asking one simple question: How are you doing it in your state? That conversation can be worth the entire trip.

One of the conference's greatest opportunities was direct engagement with some of the nation's most senior military and enlisted leaders. Senior Enlisted Advisor to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff David L. Isom addressed attendees on the opening day and later joined a senior enlisted panel alongside Senior Enlisted Advisor to the Chief of the National Guard Bureau John Raines, Air National Guard Command Chief Master Sergeant Joshua Moore and Army National Guard Command Sergeant Major James Kendrick. Isom's message centered on a reality every Guard member understands: the National Guard must continue adapting to an increasingly complicated world without losing sight of the

people who make the organization work.

He highlighted the National Guard's State Partnership Program and the relationships Guardsmen have built with partner nations around the world. Today, the program includes partnerships with more than 100 nations developed over three decades. Those relationships provide something that cannot simply be purchased.

National Guard Soldiers and Airmen often serve in their organizations and communities for decades. That continuity allows Guardsmen to develop lasting relationships with international partners in ways few other organizations can duplicate. When crises occur, those relationships already exist.

Isom also emphasized that technology and modernization continue to change warfare at an extraordinary pace. The force

preparing for tomorrow cannot assume that the equipment, tactics or systems that worked yesterday will remain sufficient. But modernization cannot become exclusively about buying new equipment. The military must also invest in training, tactics, readiness and people. Isom reinforced that point through a principle familiar throughout the special operations community: Humans are more important than hardware.

That statement should resonate with every enlisted leader. Equipment matters. Technology matters. Modernization matters. But none of it matters without trained, disciplined and motivated Soldiers and Airmen capable of employing it. The same applies to quality of life, medical care, administrative support and family programs. Those issues are sometimes treated as separate from operational readiness. They are not. Taking care of people is readiness.

preparing for tomorrow cannot assume that the equipment, tactics or systems that worked yesterday will remain sufficient.

Chief of the National Guard Bureau Gen. Steve Nordhaus and Senior Enlisted Advisor John Raines reinforced the operational demands facing today's force when they addressed conference attendees.

At any given time, tens of thousands of National Guard Soldiers and Airmen serve missions overseas and throughout the United States. The National Guard continues to respond to wildfires, floods, severe weather and other domestic emergencies while simultaneously supporting overseas deployments, border missions, national security requirements and commitments around the world.

That operational tempo places enormous responsibility on the
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cont'd from Page 15

enlisted force. Raines challenged NCOs to remain the standard bearers for discipline, accountability and individual readiness. That responsibility cannot be outsourced.

Commanders establish priorities and provide direction, but NCOs create readiness every day.

They enforce standards.

They train Soldiers and Airmen.

They know their people.

They identify problems before those problems become crises.

They ensure equipment works.

They develop the next generation.

And when the nation calls, they

make sure their formations are ready to move.

For Iowa's attendees, that message carries directly back to our formations.

Whether an Iowa Guard member serves in a combat arms unit, maintenance section, medical organization, recruiting team, flight line or headquarters, readiness begins at the lowest level.

It begins with leaders who care enough to enforce a standard.

Professional Development Beyond the General Session The conference also provided professional development opportunities throughout the four-day event.

Sessions included senior enlisted panels, command-team engagements, component

breakouts, mentoring opportunities and discussions designed to expose Guardsmen to leaders and perspectives outside their normal organizations.

It is easy for any organization to become comfortable with the way it has always operated. National conferences break some of those barriers by putting leaders from different states, components, career fields and experiences in the same room.

Every state approaches recruiting, retention, readiness, professional development, family support and organizational challenges differently. Some states have solved problems Iowa may still be working through. Iowa has solved problems other states are struggling with. The conference gives both sides the

mentoring opportunity to learn.

A conversation between two NCOs from different states can produce an idea that improves a program, eliminates an unnecessary process, changes how a leader approaches a problem or gives someone the confidence to try something different when they return home. That exchange of ideas remains one of the conference's greatest strengths.

The Expo Hall added another dimension by connecting Guardsmen and senior leaders with industry partners developing equipment, services and resources for the force. Those conversations matter as technology increasingly changes how the United States prepares for and fights future conflicts.

The people who operate, cont'd on Page 19



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cont'd from Page 17

maintain and employ military equipment should have a voice in conversations about what the future force requires. The EANGUS conference creates an environment where those conversations can occur.

Not every meaningful conversation happened behind a podium. Florida's hosts built the conference around opportunities for camaraderie and connection, including Welcome Night at Beachfront Park, the Battle of the Beach Fitness Challenge, Junior Enlisted Night at a Daytona Tortugas baseball game, All-Area Hospitality Night at the Daytona Bandshell and the closing Final Lap Dinner. Pre-conference activities also included golf, while a shooting competition brought Guardsmen together with local law enforcement.

Those events are fun, but they also serve an important purpose. Relationships matter. The National Guard consists of 54 states and territories, thousands of communities and hundreds of thousands of individual Soldiers and Airmen. Most will never serve together.

But when they meet through organizations such as EANGUS, they begin building networks that can last throughout their careers.

A Soldier from Iowa may meet an NCO from Texas, Florida, California or Puerto Rico and discover that they share the same problem.

Years later, one phone call may connect those two states again. That is how professional networks grow.

That is also how the Guard Nation becomes more than a phrase.

Those relationships become especially important when states respond together to natural disasters, deploy alongside one another, share solutions to common problems or collectively advocate for Guardsmen on Capitol Hill. You cannot surge trust.

You build it before you need it.

The EANGUS National Conference provides one of the best opportunities in the National Guard to do exactly that.

Daytona is finished. Now Iowa should start getting ready for Palm Springs, California. The 56th EANGUS National Conference is scheduled for

August 8–11, 2027, and Iowa should plan now to make its presence even stronger. If you have never attended an EANGUS National Conference, 2027 is your opportunity.

If you attended Daytona, bring someone new with you. Bring a young Soldier or Airman who has never seen the Guard outside Iowa. Bring an NCO who wants to become a better leader. Bring someone with an idea that deserves a national audience. Bring someone who wants to understand how decisions made in Washington ultimately affect the Soldier or Airman standing in an Iowa armory. Bring someone who wants to build relationships with Guardsmen from across the country. Most importantly, bring someone who will come home and put what they learned to work.

Iowa sent 30 to Daytona.

Palm Springs should be bigger.

The National Conference is an opportunity to see the scale of the organization we belong to, meet the people fighting for enlisted Guard members on Capitol Hill, hear directly from the leaders shaping our force and understand that an Iowa Soldier or Airman's voice can

reach far beyond our state. The National Guard continues to operate at a pace few generations of Guardsmen have experienced. Our Soldiers and Airmen respond to emergencies at home, support communities across the country, maintain partnerships around the world and stand ready to deploy when the nation calls.

At the same time, they balance civilian careers, families and the responsibilities that come with being Citizen-Soldiers and Citizen-Airmen. Organizations such as EANGUS ensure those people have a seat at the table.

Thirty Iowans went to Daytona representing one state, but they joined thousands of voices representing one enlisted force. They returned with new relationships, new perspectives and a responsibility to put what they learned to work.

Now it is time to build on that momentum. Get ready, Iowa.

August 8–11, 2027. Palm Springs, California. Whether you are a young Soldier or Airman just beginning your career, an NCO leading from the front, a senior enlisted leader shaping the future of the force, a retiree who still wants to serve or a family member who has supported the Guard from behind the scenes, there is a place for you in the EANGUS mission.

Daytona showed what happens when the Guard Nation comes together. Next year, let's show Palm Springs what Iowa brings to it.



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READ OUR STORY

2025 ANNUAL REPORT / 2026 OBJECTIVES

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.

IOWA NATIONAL GUARD

2025 ANNUAL REPORT | 2026 OBJECTIVES



FROM THE ADJUTANT GENERAL

To the Citizens of Iowa,

I am honored to reflect on the tremendous accomplishments of your Iowa National Guard, and to share our continued focus for the year ahead. The men and women of the Iowa National Guard—your friends, neighbors, and co-workers—have once again demonstrated their commitment to serving both state and nation with professionalism, courage, and selfless dedication.

This past year, the Iowa National Guard continued to answer the call in support of our nation's defense and global stability, with nearly 2,000 Soldiers and Airmen mobilized or deployed overseas. Our Airmen also remained heavily engaged here at home, with hundreds providing critical support to Air Combat Command and Air Mobility Command directly from our bases across Iowa.

These mobilizations, along with our strategic partnership with the Republic of Kosovo, demonstrate the National Guard's enduring commitment to protecting American interests, strengthening relationships with our partners and allies, and contributing to peace and security around the world.

Our organizational focus begins with our people. We are developing Soldiers and Airmen of character, competence, and confidence who embody the values of service, integrity, and teamwork. By investing in our people, we strengthen our ability to accomplish any mission, whether it's supporting our citizens during a state emergency or deploying overseas in defense of our nation.

... strengthen our combat readiness, increase our people are well trained and cared for. We are creating opportunities for professional military growth and the resources they need to thrive.

... of our service members and their families. We are investing in readiness programs, mental health services to foster resilience, belonging, and long-term success.

... We and its citizens. Your unwavering support for the trust and confidence you place in the Iowa National Guard remains "Always Ready" for

Stephen E. Osborn
Maj. Gen. Stephen Osborn



In times of CELEBRATION and REMEMBRANCE...



The Iowa National Guard Honor Guard carries out some of our most tradition-centered and technical responsibilities. From folding and presenting the flag to supporting casket movements, sounding taps and posting the colors, they approach each task with steady, deliberate precision. Their work preserves the standards of military honors and reflects the respect owed to those who served and to the families who supported them.

"As members of the honor guard, we are entrusted with folding and presenting our country's colors to the family of a fallen veteran on behalf of the president and a grateful nation. This is a solemn duty, as we are the last to honor their service. Duty, honor, country."
— the silent service members of the IANG Honor Guard Team

In 2025, the Iowa Army National Guard Honor Guard performed:

- 1,342 Military Funeral Honors
- 98 Retired Full Military Funeral Honors
- 7 Color Guard Events
- 3 Reinstatement Full Military Funeral Honors



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185TH MEMBERS IN RAGBRAI 2026

Story by
Airman Nia Hamilton

The Register's Annual Great Bicycle Ride across Iowa is a seven-day cycling tour across the state that is held annually. It is the oldest, longest and largest recreational bicycle tour in the world.

Many Airmen from the 185th Air Refueling Wing will be participating this year, and while there is an Air Force Cycling Team, some choose to ride on their own teams or even by themselves.

Master Sgt. Jason Smith, the Inspection Coordinator of the 185th's Inspector General office, will be riding with a group of his friends for RAGBRAI.

He started cycling when he was younger to save money on transportation and he found that he really enjoyed it. It also offers a strong sense of community, with him riding alongside a group of about 20 people, which is one of his favorite parts of RAGBRAI.

"I get to see friends I haven't seen for a year," said Smith. He has participated in RAGBRAI for years and said that he started purely out of interest. "I thought, why not?" said Smith.

Master Sgt. Shane Meendering, the Cyber Systems Operations Noncommissioned Officer in Charge, said that he enjoys meeting new people and the camaraderie of RAGBRAI.

Meendering got into cycling through Smith and was a part of his team in 2025.

Although he will be riding alone this year, he is still looking forward to the experience and the challenges he will face.

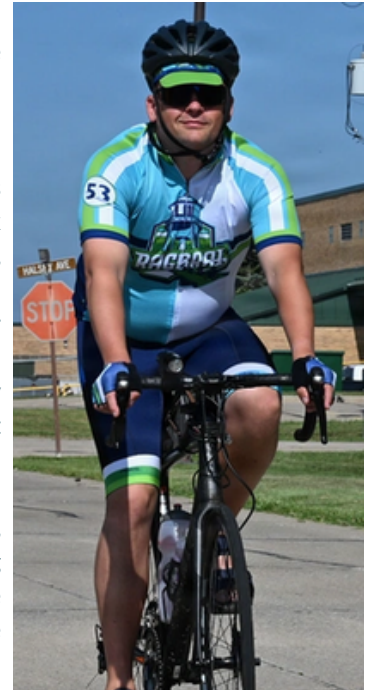
"It's a good teacher for resilience," said Meendering. Tech. Sgt. Anthony O'Tool, a 185th ARW fuels management specialist, shared that he enjoys RAGBRAI because he gets to see old friends and have a good time.

Along with camaraderie, he likes cycling because it's good cardio, and RAGBRAI helps him train

for his physical fitness test. "It gets me ready for the run," he explained.

As they prepare to ride across Iowa, these Airmen look forward to challenges, camaraderie and accomplishment. For participants from the 185th ARW, the ride is an opportunity to build resilience and connect with others.

Whether riding with friends, meeting new people or riding alone, RAGBRAI offers unique experiences that keep people coming back every year.





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