

Indiana Guardsmen come together for annual training exercises

EDINBURGH, Ind. – More than 3,900 Indiana National Guard soldiers descended on Camp Atterbury, the southern Indiana post approximately 30 miles south of Indianapolis, on Monday, August 1, to begin their annual training.

The training will focus on 76th Infantry Brigade Combat Team soldiers in a field-training exercise designed to certify platoon proficiency in coordination with First Army and a warfighter exercise so they can hone their command and control techniques, react to virtual battlefield scenarios and test their interoperability with other commands.

“These events prepare units for their deployments and trains staffs to be functional and live-fire validated at platoon level,” said Col. Robert D. Burke, the 76th Brigade commander. “These two complimentary events set us up for getting trained and prepared for the combat training center.”

In 2017, the 76th is slated for training at Fort Polk, Louisiana, the Joint Readiness Training Center.

For this year though, active-duty, Reserve and National Guard soldiers from across the country are coaching, teaching, training and mentoring the Hoosier Guardsmen of the 76th.

“So what’s neat about this is no matter what you do, we’re all held to the same tasks and standards,” said Burke. “We all learn from each other no matter what flavor service you are. It makes us a better Army, regardless of component.”

The 101st Airborne Division acting senior commander, U.S. Army Brig. Gen. Scott E. Brower, visited 76th soldiers as they geared up for the warfighter Wednesday, and he agreed with Burke about active-duty and reserve-component soldiers working alongside one another

“We get better by working together and doing what’s best for the nation,” said Brower addressing 76th soldiers in their field headquarters. “We’re happy to be working with you.”

The Indiana Guardsmen, from units throughout the Hoosier State, are from the 38th Infantry Division and its brigades, the 76th, with more than 2,900 soldiers, the 38th Combat Aviation Brigade and 38th Sustainment Brigade.

The exercises provide the 76th Brigade soldiers a chance to do their military occupational specialty and train as a collective unit.

“These collective training events bring it all together, to come full circle,” said Burke. “Every one of these soldiers are doing their MOS. They’re all executing their jobs, the jobs they’re assigned to do.”

The training is scheduled to last until Aug. 20.