

Joint Forces Headquarters
INDIANA NATIONAL GUARD
OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS
2002 South Holt Road
Indianapolis, Indiana 46241
317-247-3222

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: October 10, 2007

For additional information contact: Lt. Col. Deedra Thombleson, Public Affairs Officer:
317-247-3105.

Release #10092007 - 1

Lilly Endowment presents major gift to Indiana National Guard

The Adjutant General of the Indiana National Guard, Maj. Gen. R. Martin Umbarger, has announced that Lilly Endowment Inc. will provide a \$570,000 grant to support the Indiana National Guard Relief Fund and the Indiana National Guard Families First Initiative.

Both projects provide support to Indiana National Guard Soldiers, airmen and their families in time of need.

State Family Program Director, Maj. Cathy Van Bree, said the financial support will be used to provide the kind of services most needed to sustain families of the Indiana National Guard.

"There are times when we Soldiers need to be able to say, 'I have a problem and I need help,'" said Van Bree. "It's part of being a leader, making sure that every resource is called on when our families need help."

A press conference was held this morning (Oct. 10, 2007) at the Indiana National Guard Joint Forces Headquarters, 2002 S. Holt Road. Representatives of the Endowment and other grantees described the projects in the Maj. Gen. Ahner Auditorium.

Maj. Gen. Umbarger noted that Lilly Endowment has been a leader in providing support for service members from Indiana who have faced an operational tempo not seen since World War II.

"We work very hard to make sure our Soldiers and airmen are prepared to meet our commitments," said Maj. Gen. Umbarger. "If a Soldier's family is facing an insurmountable circumstance that weighs on that Soldier, then we are less effective."

Maj. Gen. Umbarger describes efforts like the gifts from the Endowment and the projects they support as force multipliers, community support that strengthens the Indiana National Guard and provides greater capabilities.

(more)

Indiana National Guard/2

"The Soldiers and airmen of the Indiana National Guard are fully aware of the tremendous support we receive from communities all across the state," said Maj. Gen. Umbarger, "and they are very grateful; I'm very grateful."

According to Maj. Van Bree, there remains more to do. If you would like to support the fund, please make contributions to:

Indiana National Guard Relief Fund, Inc.
Hoosier Trust Company
Attn: Connie Allman
9339 Priority Way, West Drive, Suite 130 Indianapolis, IN 46240