

# NIPSTA

## Northeastern Illinois Public Safety Training Academy

### US Army North Trains at NIPSTA

The US Army North evaluated the South Carolina National Guard at NIPSTA from July 19 to July 29.

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### EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

It is my sincere pleasure to welcome you to the NIPSTA Newsletter. This inaugural issue provides our Board of Directors with an introduction to the dedicated individuals that are diligently working to support our growing organization. Here you will find a diverse group of professionals who have established themselves as true specialists in their respective fields.

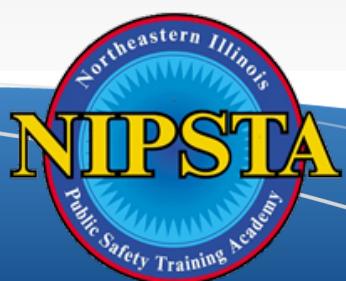
Together they represent the vision of the organization's founding members who intended to establish a progressive place of learning and professional development for devoted public safety personnel.

This month marks my completion of four years of service to NIPSTA. While we have collectively moved through a period of change and stabilization, this moment in the organization's history has the feeling of a fresh start. Each of the disciplines on which we focus now has a Program Director or Manager to lead its expansion. I have asked this leadership to develop new courses, establish unique relationships and lean into the challenges facing our industry. As this issue illustrates, NIPSTA continues to mature in depth and breadth. I am confident that our leadership team will facilitate this progress on your behalf. Please reach out to them with your ideas and support.

With appreciation for your confidence and endorsement,

Jill Ramaker

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### DATES

October 1: Fire Apparatus Engineer

October 1-5: Rope Technician

October 8-12: Vehicle and Machinery Technician

October 10-11: Hazmat Incident Command

October 15: Engine Company Operations

October 15: Basic Operations Firefighter

October 15-19: Trench Technician

October 22-26: Hazmat Technician

## INTENSIVE AND COMPREHENSIVE TRAINING

The US Army North evaluated the South Carolina National Guard at NIPSTA from July 19-29. Over this 10-day period, members of the US Army were assessed in all Technical Rescue Training disciplines such as vehicle and machinery, confined space, trench, collapse and rope. Trainees donned full HAZMAT isolation suits with respiratory protection, to meet specific standards (i.e. operating at night, readiness as a weapons of mass destruction rescue group). They were responsible for setting up their own camp daily and often worked until well past midnight. Over 100 people were on site each day. This yearly evaluation is required to maintain status as a rescue group. While this was their first time at NIPSTA, we hope they return next July. NIPSTA's TRT staff, administered by Ken Koerber and Jered Milton, was on site every day to assist with support logistics, equipment operation and overall site safety.



**Pictured:** The National Guard troops are working on medical treatment of a contaminated victim.



**Left:** The National Guard is working on a vehicle extrication and stabilization scenario.  
**Right:** The view from the outside of the medical treatment/decontamination (decon) zone.

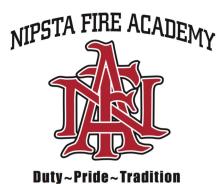
## ROUND-THE-CLOCK PRACTICE



## MEET OUR DIRECTORS AND MANAGERS

There are many areas of leadership under the NIPSTA umbrella. They include: Fire and Technical Rescue, Center for Security and Life Safety, Law Enforcement, Center for Disaster Emergency Medicine, Hazardous Materials and Public Works and Candidate Testing.

**Ken Koerber:** Ken serves as the Program Director for NIPSTA's Fire and Technical Rescue curriculum, where he has been involved for over 15 years. Prior to taking the Director position, Ken served as Program Coordinator and was a founding member of NIPSTA's Basic Operations Fire Academy. He is currently a Battalion Chief with the Deerfield-Bannockburn Fire Protection District, serving them for 28 years. In addition to his NIPSTA duties, Ken was a member of the Illinois Urban Search and Rescue Task Force (IL-TF-1) for over 10 years as a Rescue Team Manager and has numerous FEMA certifications. These certifications include Heavy Equipment Specialist and Task Force Safety Officer. Ken graduated from Southern Illinois University with a Bachelor of Science in Fire Service Management.



**Joe Bass:** As NIPSTA's newest Fire Program Manager, Joe has joined the team in order to meet the growing demands of the fire training programs. Joe has been with the Deerfield-Bannockburn Fire Protection District for 21 years. He is currently a Lieutenant/Paramedic with responsibilities for both Firehouse Quality Control and Pre-Plans. He was a member of the Division 3 Technical Rescue Team for 17 years and a Firefighter/Paramedic with the Village of Northfield for 13 years. He spent 10 years as a Management Assistant for the Wilmette Fire Department, where he worked on Accreditation, ISO Rating, Annual Reports, Firehouse Database Quality Control, Inspections and Special Projects. He earned a Bachelor of Arts in History from St. Cloud State University and a Bachelor of Science Summa Cum Laude in Fire Science from Columbia Southern University.

Beginning in 2019, NIPSTA will launch a new **Fire Officer Academy** designed to prepare a new generation of fire officers for leadership challenges. Course offerings will include: Company Fire Officer, Advanced Fire Officer, Fire Department Incident Safety Officer, Fire Service Instructor, Basic Fire Prevention Officer, Advanced Fire Prevention Officer, Fire Investigator and Arson Investigator.



**Jered Milton:** Jered is the Technical Rescue Training Program Manager. He has been involved with instructing and course development since the Fire Academy started in 2009. He assisted in creating the physical fitness program and several smaller programs within the Fire Academy. These included ladder, ventilation and hose instruction. In

the fall of 2016, he was appointed Advanced Firefighter Program Coordinator and Rope Program Coordinator. Those programs have since been redesigned to meet the new OSFM standards. In the spring of 2018, he was appointed Program Manager of all Technical Rescue programs and will oversee the overhaul of those as well. Jered has served the City of Des Plaines for over 14 years and is currently a Firefighter/Engineer and Acting Company Officer. In 2010, he was appointed as a member of the MABAS Divisions 1 and 3 Technical Rescue Teams. In addition to his work at NIPSTA and in the City of Des Plaines, Jered works for Elevated Safety and Harken Inc., where he teaches and trains at height work and rope rescue for the private industry. Jered graduated from the University of Illinois in Urbana-Champaign with a Bachelor of Arts in History.



**Kerry Murakami:** Kerry is the Program Director for NIPSTA's Law Enforcement Training Division. Kerry has spent the past 25 years as a patrolman for the Morton Grove Police Department. In addition, he has been a Training Instructor for Morton Grove since 1995, specializing in combative and defensive tactics along with scenario-based training. He is also a Range Instructor. Kerry has been instrumental in developing NIPSTA's inaugural VirTra Training Program.



**Patrick Jesse:** Patrick is the Hazardous Materials Training Program Manager. He has been involved with instructing public safety and industry personnel in various disciplines for 15 years. Patrick is currently a Lieutenant with the Chicago Fire Department and has worked in EMS, Fire Suppression and Rescue and Special Operations over his 18 years with the CFD. Prior to his promotion as Lieutenant, Patrick was assigned to Squad 2 where he responded to fire, hazardous materials, pin-in accidents and water rescues. Since his promotion, Patrick has been assigned to Airport Operations relief and spends the majority of his time as a Lieutenant on the Hazardous Incident Team. Patrick holds undergraduate degrees in Chemistry from Southern Illinois University in Edwardsville and Biology from DePaul. He has graduate degrees in Biology from the University of Illinois in Urbana-Champaign, Threat and Risk Management from the University of Chicago and Public Policy and Administration from Northwestern University.

# CANDIDATE TESTING AND PUBLIC WORKS

**Steve Redmond:** Steve is the Program Director for both Candidate Testing and Public Works at NIPSTA. Steve is a Lieutenant with the North Maine Fire Protection District, where he's served for 25 years. He was also with the Antioch Fire Department for 10 years and the Round Lake Fire Department for 7 years. He was a member of the Technical Rescue Team at North Maine Fire Protection District for 17 years and currently serves as the department's mechanic, Quarter Master and SCBA Manager. Steve joined the instructor ranks at NIPSTA in 2004 and has been instrumental in developing the public works training division for our organization.



**Public Works includes:** Snow Plow Driver Training, Trench Training, Confined Space Training, Flagger Training and IAPD Driver Training.



**Beth Ciolino:** Beth is the Director of the Center for Disaster and Emergency Medicine (CDEM). She has been a paramedic for the Chicago Fire

Department for the last 15 years and currently holds the rank of Ambulance Commander. During her last assignment, she was responsible for four platoons of crews that responded to over 7,500 emergency calls. From 1997-2005, she served as a Firefighter/Paramedic for the River Grove Fire Department. From 2004-2014, Beth was an adjunct faculty member and Lead Instructor for the EMT-Basic program at Triton College.



**Mark Wold:** Mark is the Program Director for the Center for Crisis Leadership. Mark is a retired Lieutenant with 25 years of service for the Glencoe Department of Public Safety. During his tenure with Glencoe, Mark served on the Northern Illinois Police Alarm System Emergency Services

Team (NIPAS EST) for 15 years and started the Tactical Emergency Medical Support Team (TEMS) in 2000. Mark is also an Illinois Professional Emergency Manager with experience in developing emergency operations plans, continuity of operations plans and exercise development. He joined NIPSTA in 2016 and has been instrumental in the development of the Advanced Disaster Management Simulator-Command System (ADMS-COMMAND) curriculum as well as overseeing the Incident Command Program.