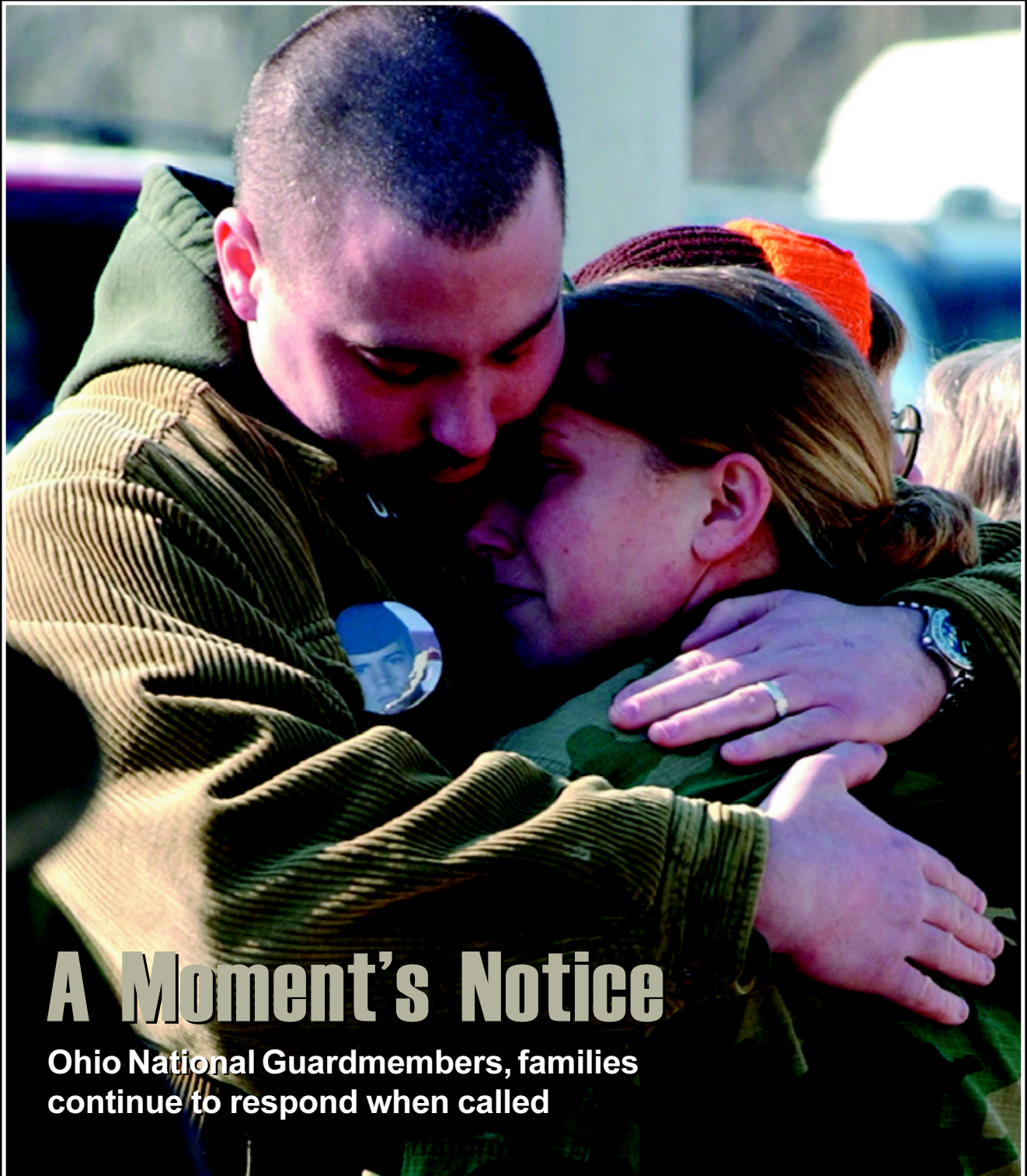


# BUCKEYE GUARD

MAGAZINE OF THE OHIO ARMY AND AIR NATIONAL GUARD  
WINTER/SPRING 2003

Noble Eagle / Enduring Freedom

Pull-out Supplement Inside



## A Moment's Notice

Ohio National Guardmembers, families  
continue to respond when called



Photo by 121st Air Refueling Wing Visual Information

# Mission Essential

Ohio's 121st Air Refueling Wing is key in national defense strategies. Here, SrA Dan Petry repairs the vertical stabilizer on the tail of one of the unit's KC-135 Stratotankers. See pages 7-9.

# BUCKEYE GUARD

Volume 27, No. 1

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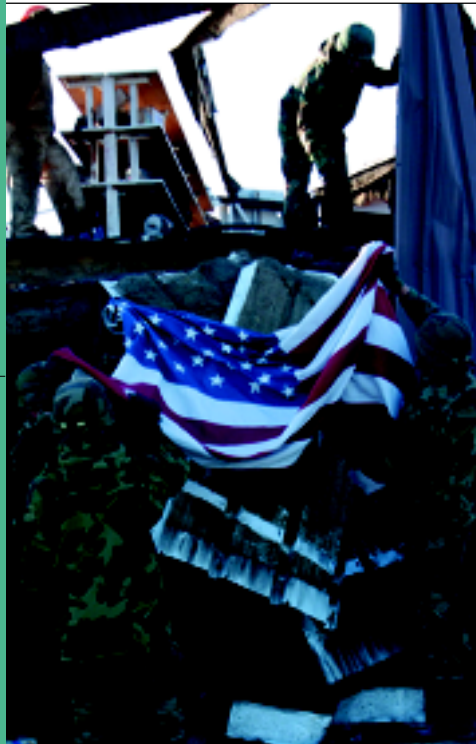
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SrA Elizabeth Slater / 180th Fighter Wing

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Courtesy photo

**The 52nd Weapons of Mass Destruction-Civil Support Team participates in training exercises which test their response to victims of chemical attacks. See pages 26-29.**

## ABOUT THE COVERS



**FRONT:** Richard Reuss hugs his wife, Pfc. Kristen Reuss, 135th MP Company, prior to the unit deploying in support of Operation Enduring Freedom Feb. 27. *Photo by Spc. Haraz Ghanbari/HQ STARC (-)*

**BACK:** Soldiers from Company A, 612th Engineer Battalion, clean up the carnage left behind when a tornado leveled the engineer maintenance building in Van Wert County last November. *Photo by SrA Elizabeth Slater/180th Fighter Wing*

# Guard readiness challenge is three-fold



BY BG RONALD G. YOUNG  
ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GENERAL, ARMY

Each *Buckeye Guard* issue features a historical vignette provided by retired Col. Judge Robert Walker, a 37th Infantry Division veteran. Many of these vignettes recount battlefield heroics and accomplishments of members of the Ohio Army National Guard (OHARNG) in war. They reflect the professionalism and abilities of the citizen-sol-

diers of Ohio for the past 200-plus years. Today, we continue that legacy based on our readiness as evidenced by our highest operations tempo since World War II.

Simply put, our “readiness” can be boiled down to three equally important areas: personnel readiness (MOSQ, NCOES, OES), challenging training and *personal* readiness.

In 1999, the Ohio Army National Guard set out on a mission to improve readiness, and hence our relevance, by embarking on Buckeye Force XXI, which laid out our **personnel readiness** goals. At that time, Ohio ranked 46th in personnel readiness out of the 54 states and territories. We exceeded the goals we set, and today Ohio ranks fourth out of 54 states and territories in personnel readiness. It was a daunting task for the sixth largest Army National Guard state in the nation.

This accomplishment allowed us to focus on collective **training** that in the past had been lacking due to squads, platoons and companies being short the qualified soldiers required to carry out our missions. Our efforts paid off following the tragedy of Sept. 11. Battalion-sized units such as the 148th Infantry were able to deploy with the required personnel when they were mobilized just three weeks later. There are few like-sized units—active, Guard and reserve—that could have met that challenge. In all, 10 company-sized units in the OHARNG were mobilized for Operation Noble Eagle. As you read this, the 372nd Maintenance Company and a liaison cell from the 37th Armored Brigade that will be supporting the 4th Infantry Division (Mech.) have deployed to the U.S. Central Command area of operations. The 112th Engineer Battalion activated more than 300 soldiers to provide security at Ohio Air National Guard bases, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base and Youngstown Air Force Reserve Base. However, as Maj. Gen. Paul Sullivan, assistant adjutant general for Air, laid out in this column in the last *Buckeye Guard*, this is just the beginning of the

global war on terrorism, and we can expect to see more units and personnel mobilized in the coming years.

The challenge to maintain the readiness we have achieved all across the board continues. We still have a requirement to recruit quality young men and women into our ranks. We still must plan, resource and execute challenging training to maintain a tactical edge to our readiness. Never before in our history have we been in a position to respond when called, with *ready* units. I have the utmost confidence that we will continue to achieve our recruiting and retention goals. That is only one third of the battle in the readiness challenge. We will continue to push the noncommissioned officer corps to execute challenging training and mentor junior officers. The officer corps must lead by example, and accept nothing less than absolute mission accomplishment. As we have seen before, when our units are properly resourced and training is well-planned, our leaders are capable of executing missions.

Simply put, our “readiness” can be boiled down to three equally important areas: personnel readiness (MOSQ, NCOES, OES), challenging training and *personal* readiness.

The final piece of the readiness triad is **personal** readiness, the ability of our soldiers to have their personal affairs in order when they mobilize. With the mobilization of more than 2,500 Ohio Army Guard personnel to date, we have learned a number of lessons that have been passed on to our entire organization. When the country mobilizes the National Guard, we mobilize the servicemember, their family and their employer. We do our part to ensure the soldier has the proper equipment to execute the mission, and the information necessary to take care of things at home and at work. Some units will have advanced notice for deployments to locations such as Bosnia, Kosovo or the Sinai. Others will have only days versus weeks or months. *The time for preparing yourself for mobilization is now.* Take the time to prepare your family by ensuring that when you are mobilized, you will know how the bills will be paid, who in the unit family readiness group your spouse needs to get in touch with, and address any potential financial challenges should you be mobilized. Help educate your employer about the Ohio Committee for Employer Support for the Guard and Reserve. Provide your employer with some of the many fact sheets available about ESGR from the [www.esgr.org](http://www.esgr.org) website, and if they are deserving, recommend them for a “My Boss is a Patriot Award.” Make sure that if you are deployed that you stay in touch with your employer if you have the means to communicate with them. Work with family and friends to help pick up the slack at home while you’re gone. We know that our soldiers who are personally prepared to mobilize have higher morale and can execute their mission knowing their family is well take care of.

Finally, let me tell you how proud I am of every soldier in the Ohio Army National Guard. We’ve come a long way on our road to increasing readiness. The sense of purpose in all we do is evident in our ability to meet our ultimate goal: *to respond when called, and be ready!* ■

## Enlisted Association hosts state, national conferences

A Call to Arms...a rather ominous phrase for any person that has served in the military. The prospect of large-scale deployments has not loomed larger since Desert Storm. Unprecedented numbers of National Guard troops are being mobilized. Our hearts and prayers are with them and their families.

Unfortunately, as the number of troops activated increases, the number of volunteers available to support your Enlisted Association decreases. And, as Uncle Sam would say, "I NEED YOU!"

So what can you do? Support the Ohio National Guard Enlisted Association (ONGEA) and plan to attend the Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States (EANGUS) Conference in August, which will take place in Toledo.

This year's state conference took place May 2-4. There, we presented awards, recognized excellence and enjoyed fellowship with the enlisted family of Ohio, but we also focused on the serious need to find personnel to serve on our executive board.

If you would like to submit a nomination for an elected position and/or volunteer on a committee, contact me at (937) 605-9203 or [FleegerJohn@netscape.net](mailto:FleegerJohn@netscape.net). If you want more information about next year's ONGEA Conference, contact Conference Chair Brad Hesson at (419) 409-0613 or [hessonb@wcnet.org](mailto:hessonb@wcnet.org).

The EANGUS National Conference is set for Aug. 17-20, with a golf tournament planned for Aug. 16. To get registration information for the conference and/or golf tournament, visit the EANGUS website at [www.eangus.org](http://www.eangus.org) or contact Phil Wesley at (419) 472-0586 or [Phil-Toledo@worldnet.att.net](mailto:Phil-Toledo@worldnet.att.net). There are guardmembers that have the talent and experience needed to assist

Team Toledo in this massive undertaking. Please contact Conference Chair Larry Ice at [l5ice@aol.com](mailto:l5ice@aol.com) or (419) 476-6036 to see how you can help.

Finally, if you're not a member of ONGEA, now is the time to join the force. If you are a member, share the wealth and recruit your fellow unit members. Our strength is in our numbers, and every one of you counts. This is your association.

**JOHN FLEEGER**  
ONGEA PRESIDENT

## Cavalry troopers planning overseas reunion for late May

The Border Legion 2003 Reunion will be held in Germany from May 28 to June 1. The reunion will center on Fulda, with separate events taking place in Bad Hersfeld and Bad Kissingen.

The reunion is open to all past and present troopers who served with the 11th and 14th Armored Cavalry Regiments (and supporting units) along the East-West German border.

Contact Glenn Snodgrass, at (703) 676-2672 or [JGS525@aol.com](mailto:JGS525@aol.com) or Don Snedeker at (703) 676-4019 or [donald.c.snedeker@saic.com](mailto:donald.c.snedeker@saic.com).

**DON SNEDEKER**  
FALLS CHURCH, VA.

## Commander offers insightful deployment perspective

"Good morning young man, how are you?"

"Fine Sir."

"What-cha got there?"

"Oh, uh, this is my guinea pig, Squeaky, Sir."

"You're not going to try to sneak Squeaky on the C-130 are ya?"

"No Sir, I'm just trying to find one of the families to adopt him before I leave."

"Listen son, if you can't find anyone, let me know and I'll watch him for you until you get back."

"Great Sir, thanks, and I have another one and a rabbit too,"

"No problem, just let me know."

That's how my morning started; the morning before the 323rd MP Company's departure to its mobilization station and then on to a vacation spot overseas. And the sad part is that this young man very easily could have been my son. He was all of 18 and looked like he was still a freshman in high school. Bright-eyed and excited about going down

range. But first, he needed to find some adoptive parents for his pets.

The unit had received its short notice alert followed immediately by the mobilization order, and in a matter of four days, soldiers and families had to get their lives together to prepare for a separation that may last up to a year, potentially longer. They had been deployed already for a year and some of the soldiers for six months before that. And who says the Guard is just one weekend a month and two weeks in the summer? I feel very badly for these soldiers, and I'm humbled by their willingness to serve. But I am deeply honored to be their battalion commander.

My staff coordinated the farewell ceremony, which was a real tear-jerker to say the least. Amidst all the flurry of activity and the ceremonial good-byes, it was the little observations that struck me. For example, there was the soldier who just returned from basic training and AIT four days before. He was called and told to show up with everything; he thought he was coming to drill. And as Brig Gen. (Ronald G.) Young (assistant adjutant general for Army) told him, "Private Eduards, this is going to be one long drill."

What intrigued me the most was that almost every single mother, father, wife and husband that I talked to expressed how proud they were of their soldier. There were no regrets, even if the soldier had just returned. Sure, there were tears and lots of hugs, children holding onto their departing parents for dear life and one, very young soldier running around at the last minute with two guinea pigs and a rabbit.

But in the end, the soldiers were called and they responded, like the professionals they are. They are indeed the heroes, the patriots. And this same kind of thing is happening all across the state, to many different units, to many soldiers and many families and probably a few guinea pigs and a rabbit or two as well.

I hope and I pray every day for the soldiers' safe return. No one knows for sure what the future holds. But based on what I saw at the 323rd MP Company, I'm confident in our soldiers and in our families. They will make it through these challenging days.

**LTC MICHAEL ORE**  
731ST TROOP COMMAND

### OHIO NATIONAL GUARD

## Historical Highlights



The Cleveland Grays, now the Ohio Army National Guard's 112th Engineer Battalion, served on the honor guard detail for the funerals of two U.S. presidents—President Lincoln in April 1865 and President Garfield in September 1881. **RETIRED JUDGE (COL.) ROBERT D. WALKER / 37TH INFANTRY DIVISION**



MSG Bob Haskell / NGB

The National Guard's new Winston Cup stock car rolls out for its first race, the Budweiser Shootout at Daytona International Speedway in Florida.

## National Guard 54 debuts on NASCAR circuit

Millions of fans have screamed themselves hoarse while watching stock cars, gleaming with familiar names and numbers, compete in Winston Cup races nationwide. Now a new contender seeks their approval.

Crowds got their first look at a brand new red, white and blue Ford emblazoned "National Guard 54" when NASCAR's premier racing circuit roared to life Feb. 8 for the 2003 season at the Daytona International Speedway in Daytona Beach, Fla.

Twenty-year racing veteran Todd Bodine, 38, drove the new car that is bearing this country's colors and the National Guard name for a new team, BelCar Racing. The National Guard is the primary advertiser. The car's number, 54, represents the 50 states and four territories where Army and Air Guard units are located.

"I feel like I'm driving for the whole country," said the younger brother of Winston Cup star Geoff Bodine before racing in the 70-lap Budweiser Shootout. "The car is red, white and blue. It's like I'm driving the American flag," Bodine said.

Bodine started eighth among 19 cars and was 13th in the pack of 18 that finished the race. The field included Dale Earnhardt Jr., who started last and finished first; defending Winston Cup champion Tony Stewart, who finished 15th; and Jeff Gordon and Jimmie Johnson.

The directors of the Army and Air

National Guard were among the 75,000 fans who flocked to the 25th annual Shootout, which was run under the lights and on prime-time television for the first time.

"NASCAR is a team sport and a family event. That's why it's exciting to be a part of it," said Lt. Gen. Roger Schultz, Army Guard director, who built and drove his own stock car for a couple of seasons when he was a young man in Iowa.

"It's a way to reach the American people and tell the Guard's story. And NASCAR fans are very patriotic, very patriotic."

"So many Americans are watching these cars, and they will see that red, white and blue car," said Lt. Gen. Daniel James III, Air Guard director, while taking in his first stock car race. "Once again, the National Guard is connecting with the communities." AMERICAN FORCES PRESS SERVICE

## Millions of Americans show support to troops

Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Gen. Richard B. Myers, thanked Americans for their outpouring of support to their armed forces.

"I want to express my gratitude to the American people for sending their online thank-you note to America's servicemembers, thanking them for defending our nation's freedoms," Myers said during a Pentagon media briefing in February. He said 3.7 million people to date had visited Defend America, [www.defendamerica.mil](http://www.defendamerica.mil), and signed its online thank-you note.

Defend America is the Defense Department's official website for news on the war on terrorism. Along with coverage of top national security leaders, the site also features up-to-date photographs, information on weapons and equipment, personal profiles and human-interest features.

The website debuted shortly after U.S. troops went into Afghanistan in response to the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. Its online thank-you note was posted in May 2002, Military Appreciation Month.

"Now that people are finding out about

the note, more are signing every hour," he said. "It gives them a way to show how strongly America supports her sons and daughters in uniform." DoD officials are working out details of how to make the electronic "signatures" available for servicemembers to see. AMERICAN FORCES PRESS SERVICE

## New MREs coming soon

Pepperoni and barbecue chicken pocket sandwiches have been approved for the Meal, Ready-to-Eat.

The shelf-stable sandwiches were first developed by the Department of Defense Combat Feeding Program at the Army Soldier Systems Center in the mid-1990s as a ration to enhance soldier mobility. They require no refrigeration or freezing, or utensils or heat source before eating, although they can be warmed with a flameless ration heater.

"We've combined shelf-stable bread that now supplements the MRE with meat into a lightweight, identifiable, eat-out-of-hand food," said project officer Dan Nattress.

Shelf-stable sandwiches are comparable in size, calories and appearance to "Hot Pocket" brand sandwiches found in grocery stores. The major difference is in processing that allows the food to meet the Combat Feeding Program's minimum shelf

life of three years at 80 degrees Fahrenheit or six months at 100 degrees Fahrenheit.

The sandwiches passed soldiers' taste tests and meet Food and Drug Administration requirements for food safety, said project officer Michelle Richardson.

Other varieties under consideration are a pizza pocket with Italian sausage and pepperoni



Sarah Underhill / AFPS

The new barbecue chicken pocket sandwich MRE.

slices in a tomato sauce, sliced beef in a barbecue sauce, tuna or chicken salad, ham and cheese, and peanut butter and jelly.

"The number of breakfast items available to the warfighter is very limited and not highly acceptable," said Richardson, who has proposed cream cheese-filled bagels with and without fruit fillings, sausage and cheese biscuits, breakfast burritos with bacon and eggs in a tortilla wrap, and breakfast pizza. Prototypes are scheduled to be ready this year with production planned for 2004. AMERICAN FORCES PRESS SERVICE

# 'Ready Campaign' meant to better prepare America for terrorist attack

By Kathleen T. Rhem  
American Forces Press Service

Americans should stay informed of world events, but never surrender to fear, "because fear is the terrorists' most effective weapon," Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge said.

Ridge recently launched his department's "Ready Campaign," saying that even though officials can't predict an attack, ordinary citizens can do things to better prepare in case there is one.

The multiyear, multimedia information campaign was designed "to build a more prepared nation, one family, one neighborhood, one community at a time," Ridge said in a nationally televised address to the American Red Cross chapter in Cincinnati.

"The threat of terrorism forces us to make a choice: We can be afraid, or we can be ready," Ridge said. "And today

America's families declare we will not be afraid and we will be ready."

The secretary recommended three main steps for families to take: Make an emergency preparedness kit, make a communication plan, and be informed.

Emergency preparedness kits should include such items as three days' worth of nonperishable food and water, flashlights, a battery-powered radio, extra batteries, a first aid kit, and an adequate supply of required medications.

Officials recommend families with infants and young children keep an extra supply of diapers, infant formula and specialty foods on hand.

Of his recommendation to stash some duct tape and plastic sheeting to seal off

living areas in case of a biological or chemical attack, Ridge explained, "Experts tell us that a safe room inside your house or inside your apartment can help protect you from airborne contaminants for several hours, and that could be enough time for that chemical agent to be blown away.

"We would not recommend these measures if they did not make a difference," he said. "All the same, we hope you never have to use them."

An emergency communication plan is equally vital. "Think about this: How often is every member of your family in your house at the same time?" Ridge said. For most families, not often, he posited. He suggested families,

work places, schools and communities devise a plan and make sure all members know how to get in touch with each other.

Keeping informed of the situation and the best course of action to take will also help families stay safe. "An emergency is

not time to plan, it's a time to react," Ridge said. "So be informed. Different types of attack require different responses."

He suggested individuals visit the Homeland Security Department's new website at [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov) or call 1-800-BEREADY for more information on how best to respond to emergencies.

The secretary acknowledged a raised threat level can cause more stress on families and on emergency workers, but it is necessary to focus people on what steps to take.

"Whatever the threat level may be on any given day, every family and every citizen will know that they have done their job if they take the time to be prepared," Ridge said. ■

*"We can be afraid, or we can be ready...and today America's families declare we will not be afraid and we will be ready."*



—Tom Ridge  
Homeland Security Secretary

SPRINGFIELD

## Command profile



Thomas W. "Tom" Pape  
Call sign "Pappy"  
178th Fighter Wing

Age: 54

**Traditional Guard Position:**

178th Fighter Wing Commander

**Full-Time Occupation:**

178th Fighter Wing Commander

**Hometown:** Pickerington, Ohio

**Family:** Married to Susan (Loring)

Pape; children Jessica (25) and Jeremy (26)

**Most recent achievement:**

got an "A" in a night class at Clark State Community College

**The last good movie I saw was:**

Antwone Fisher

**The books I'm reading are:** *Holes*

and *Ohio Real Estate Law*

**My most prized possession is:**

family photo albums and the memories they bring.

**Heroes:** my family

**I'm better than anyone else at:**

knowing that I'm not—hopefully

**I'd give anything to meet:**

not to meet, but have, dinner with my parents and family

**Three words that best describe me:**

Open, honest and dedicated

**If I could leave today's guardmembers with one piece of**

**advice it would be:** Whatever you are doing today, should have been done yesterday, and can wait until tomorrow

## ONLINE RESOURCES

The American Red Cross's recently developed online publication, "Homeland Security and You: A Guide to Disaster Preparedness," is just one resource families can use to help prepare themselves for each level of the Homeland Security Advisory System, the color-coded system that depicts the current risk of terrorist activity. Visit these websites:

**American Red Cross:** [www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org)

**Civil Air Patrol:** [www.cap.gov](http://www.cap.gov)

**Citizen Corps:** [www.citizen corps.gov](http://www.citizen corps.gov)

**Department of Homeland Security:**

[www.dhs.gov/dhspublic/](http://www.dhs.gov/dhspublic/)

**Federal Emergency Management Agency:**

[www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov)



Eric Mansfield on the Akron PAX 23 television set.

## Newsman and soldier, Mansfield ready to respond at moment's notice

By Spc. Haraz N. Ghanbari  
HQ STARC (-)

Television spotlights hang from the ceiling. A satellite-controlled camera and teleprompter generate a news script. It is 6:30 p.m. and Eric Mansfield is on live TV, reporting news to the greater Akron area.

A typical workday for the Army National Guard captain begins at 10 a.m. when he arrives at the PAX 23 TV station in downtown Akron. Sitting down at his desk, Mansfield checks the morning newspaper, the radio stations and his e-mail for possible story ideas for the day.

As a managing editor, reporter and anchor, Mansfield oversees the content of the newscast. At 10:45 his news team has a meeting to decide what stories will be covered for the evening news. News comprises about 13 minutes of a 30-minute broadcast, while sports, weather and commercials fill in the remaining time.

Mansfield sees the military and the news business as having several things in common.

"You start everyday with nothing. You have to meet those deadlines," Mansfield said. "When six o'clock comes you've gotta be ready, whether you are ready or not you have to be up there in front of the camera and ready to give the news."

Growing up, Mansfield said he wanted

to be a morning radio disc jockey. After attending basic training and advanced individual training to become a military police officer, the Akron native started college at the University of Dayton and studied journalism.

After dabbling in both radio and TV during his freshman and sophomore years of college, Mansfield decided to pursue a TV career. "Dayton was perfect because it was a small journalism program, but yet in a big enough city that it had three television stations," Mansfield said.

By his junior year of college, Mansfield was reporting for the CBS affiliate WOIO Channel 7 in Dayton. He went on to pursue internships in Dayton, Akron and at ESPN.

"People turn to television when there is a major event," Mansfield said. "When you become part of bringing that information to them, it is an adrenaline rush you don't get anywhere else."

The decisions made during the team's morning meeting are not concrete. What may be deemed the biggest news story of the day might not be by mid-afternoon and may be completely out of the newscast by 6:30 p.m. "Any given day in TV news the whole world can get turned upside down," Mansfield said. "Fifteen minutes from now I can be up there on that set and be live for the next 12 hours because something has happened.

"It is like being a doctor on call in the

middle of the night," Mansfield said. "You have to get up whenever the news happens—I always have the cell phone on and always have the pager on."

Mansfield recognizes that his role in the National Guard may require just as an immediate of a response.

"Crisis can strike our nation or state at any time and I'm proud to say that I'm ready to do my part if called," Mansfield said. "The toughest part of serving in the National Guard is never knowing when you're going to be called to service, but that's why we're here."

When reporting on military events, Mansfield tries to educate the public on the military's function. As an Army officer he tries to educate the military about the civilian media. "The media does a great job about promoting good stories and showing good images of the military," Mansfield said. "The media should be allies of the National Guard."

Despite interviewing three presidents, numerous celebrities and covering major sporting events, one of the most memorable stories during Mansfield's 10-plus years as a journalist was a piece on the "vomit comet," a DC-9 airplane used by NASA to train astronauts.

"We're in a DC-9 diving towards the earth and you create weightlessness. They (NASA) take up very few journalists, but Larry Baker (a photojournalist) and I got to go up," Mansfield said. "You end up getting sick but it was a tremendous experience."

The story Baker and Mansfield did was aired nationally on the weekend edition of NBC's Today Show.

The numerous awards he has earned display the fruits of his labor. He was awarded two Emmys, one for Outstanding Live Reporting and the other for Outstanding Service Reporting. In 1999, he earned a first-place award from the Cleveland Press Club and an honorable mention from the Associated Press for a story on the Doug Prade murder case. In 2000, the Cleveland Press Club awarded him a second place award for his coverage of the Teresa Andrews murder in Ravenna.

Regardless of the endless demands placed on him as a journalist and a military officer, Mansfield enjoys both of his careers. "On drill weekends, I can be knee-deep in mud at the Ravenna Arsenal, and then showered and in a suit reporting the evening news." ■

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** *Mansfield was recently deployed with the 371st Support Group in support of Enduring Freedom.*





A C-5 Galaxy undergoes refueling by the 121st Air Refueling Wing.

# PULLING UP TO THE PUMP

Photo by SSgt Douglas Nicodemus / 121st ARW

**Story by Tech. Sgt. Greg Rudl  
121st Air Refueling Wing**

It doesn't fly as precisely as the Thunderbirds in their trademark six-plane formation, or as powerfully as a Canadian F-18 Hornet banking away from the crowd at full afterburner, or as authentically as a P-51 Mustang tailing a Japanese Zero. Actually, it didn't fly at all during the Cleveland Air Show last Labor Day weekend. Nonetheless, hundreds, if not thousands, waited in line to tour it—a sleek, gray KC-135 Stratotanker from Columbus' 121st Air Refueling Wing.

Members of the 121st were on-hand acting as tour guides—helping spectators understand the classic bird's mission.

"What airplane is it and what does it do?" is the first question they ask," said Maj. Bill Roach, a pilot for the Columbus unit. When he explained that the KC-135 gasses up other aircraft while airborne, many civilians were surprised.

"Most people who come through the aircraft don't know what we do," said boom operator Tech. Sgt. Joe Semeraro. "So when they get back to the boom pod, if I don't tell them, they probably leave the jet thinking, 'OK, it's just another military aircraft with some seats on the side.'"

In the warm and dimly-light boom pod area at the back of the plane, he answered questions and showed photos of in-flight refueling, explaining the 121st's core mission.

"They see the pictures and it brings some reality to it," he said.

The boom pod sits below floor level and is where a boom operator like Semeraro lays down and operates the boom (the long, cylindrical device protruding from the back of the plane, where planes connect to get refueled).

He explained that the plane can transfer about 1,000 gallons a minute, but that can vary, depending upon the type of plane being refueled. The aircraft can hold 200,000

pounds of JP-8 jet fuel in 10 different compartments throughout the plane.

Even though women have made great strides in moving into military jobs dominated by men, a female in a flight suit still attracts attention, especially from the general public. Just ask 2nd Lt. Heather Arehart, who just finished pilot training. Being a role model for young girls doesn't bother her though.

"I love it when I hear moms telling their daughters, 'See honey, you can be a pilot too—she's a girl.'"

She eagerly told them about what it's like being a female pilot, as well as the benefits of being in the Guard, like paid college tuition.

What air show faithfuls couldn't do that day was see the plane in action—watch it fuel another while traveling at hundreds of miles per hour, thousands of feet off the ground. That privilege came to a few fortunate Civil Air Patrol kids earlier last summer.

## Going on a refueling mission

Back at Rickenbacker Air National Guard Base in Columbus, the home of the 121st, a group of local Civil Air Patrol youth ranging from ages 10 to 16 sat in an auditorium listening to a pre-flight safety briefing by boom operator Master Sgt. Paul Emler. Being careful not to talk over their heads, he explained emergency procedures and what mid-air refueling is all about.

"Today we'll be flying over some four or five southern states, hooking up with a C-17," he said. The crew will practice connecting and disconnecting with the C-17 Globemaster, from the 315th Airlift Wing, South Carolina ANG, Charleston.

The 121st allows groups like the CAP to ride along on refueling missions. They're called orientation flights, and are given to groups like ROTC, employers of National Guardsman and civic leaders. Such flights were suspended after 9-11 and only resumed during the summer of 2002.

After waves from a metal-detector wand, the kids took a short bus ride out to the plane and boarded. The jet taxied, took off and climbed. The roar of Pratt and Whitney turbines filled this grayish-green tunnel, so Emler passed out ear plugs. The stuffy air smelled faintly of burnt jet fuel. Bundles of wires and duct work lined the ceiling.



Photo by 121st ARW Visual Information

Glossy wooden floorboards hid fuel bladders below.

Once the captain gave the OK, curious kids dressed in fatigues and combat boots walked with cameras up and down the length of the aircraft with emergency oxygen bottles dangling from their shoulders.

The plane neared the rendezvous point, where refueler meets refuelee. Emler's friendly demeanor took on a more urgent tone as he walked to the end of the plane to the boom pod. It was time to execute the mission. He's the last in a chain of hundreds of support people whose efforts made this moment possible. He put on a faded blue corduroy baseball cap and went to work like so many times before.

"I'm somewhat superstitious, I never fly without it." No wonder why it's so worn, in his 16-year career he's logged more than 5,000 flying hours.

Emler said that refueling can get to be pretty routine until energetic visitors like the CAP members show up. "They make us appreciate our efforts more," he said.

Just how important is air refueling to the Air Force?

"Air refuelers extend the range of aircraft by increasing the amount of time they can remain airborne and by increasing their payload," said former Operations Group Commander Ronald Albers. "They can take off light on fuel with more munitions and can refuel once airborne." The Air Force uses two refueling aircraft: the large KC-10 and the smaller KC-135.

The 121st ARW provides its services worldwide, refueling just about everything, everywhere. It has refueled prototypes like the YF-22 Raptor off the coast of California and B-1B bombers over the Atlantic heading to the Middle East. The wing has deployed several times to Geilenkirchen Air Base, Germany, to support NATO operations and participated in military training exercises like Northern Edge in Alaska, where approximately 10,000 troops participate from all over the world.

Back inside the KC-135, CAP kids waited in line to get a chance to lay next to the boom operator as he refueled the C-17 Globemaster.

Looking out the boom pod window, one could see the mighty C-17 slowly fly up. It's the newest cargo aircraft to enter the airlift force; it's claim to fame is landing a lot of cargo on small run-

**Unit maintenance personnel inspect the boom of a KC-135 refueling aircraft.**

## HISTORY OF AIR REFUELING

**1918** Lieutenant Godfrey L. Cabot, a U.S. Navy Reserve pilot, began snaring bags of sand positioned on floats as a test of the viability of putting fuel on ships in such a way that aircraft could grab it on nonstop transatlantic flights.

**Nov. 21, 1921** A wing walker with a five-gallon can of gasoline strapped to his back, climbed from an airborne Lincoln Standard aircraft to a JN-4 aircraft (biplane) and poured the gasoline into the tank of the second aircraft. This Long Beach, California, publicity stunt is considered the first "air-to-air" refueling on record.

**April 20, 1923** Two Army Air Service De Havilland DH-4Bs performed the first in-flight hose contact.

**January 1929** In a test of both the practical value of air refueling, and crew and aircraft endurance, a modified Atlantic (Fokker) C-2A, the "Question Mark," established a world duration record of 150 hours, 40 minutes, and 15 seconds almost 6 days of non-stop flying and the equivalent of 11,000 miles.

**1948** SAC (Strategic Air Command) determines that the existing hose-type fuel transfer equipment used for air refueling was not compatible with evolving jet aircraft. Boeing was asked to provide a better air refueling system, one that could provide faster flow rates at higher altitudes and higher airspeeds, eliminating the need for receivers to decelerate and descend to lower altitudes to conduct air refueling operations.

**Feb. 26, 1949** AB-50 from Carswell AFB, Texas, was refueled four times by KB-29 tankers at various points and circled the globe. The nonstop flight took approximately 94 hours, covered 23,108 miles, and clearly demonstrated SAC's long-range offensive capability and highlighted the importance of air refueling.

**Sept. 1, 1950** The flying boom joined the active inventory on a KB-29P at Biggs Field, Texas. Introduced by Boeing, it was capable of transferring fuel at three times the rate as the hose-type system, and at higher altitudes and airspeeds.

**Early 1950s** Air Force develops two different and incompatible methods of air refueling: the flying boom method for SAC and the hose-drogue method for TAC

**1957** KC-135s began to enter the inventory.



Photo by SSgt Douglas Nicodemus / 121st ARW

## A 121st boom operator TSgt Kevin J. Black refuels a C-5 Galaxy.

ways. Air turbulence from the KC-135 shimmied the C-17—only natural when flying at about 400 mph. Its engines wobbled. The plane came in closer and closer and almost filled the entire window. The pilot's name tag could almost be read. Boom operator Tech. Sgt. Kevin Cartwright pressed a button on the joy stick and a metallic cylinder slid out from the flying boom. It found a receiving port just behind the cockpit of the C-17 and locked in. Cartwright pressed another button and began pumping gas.

The KC-135 carried only 70,000 pounds that day; 20,000 of that was off-loaded during the mission.

Talk about a reliable aircraft with longevity. The KC-135 started as a commercial 707 passenger plane. In 1954 the Air Force purchased the first 29 of its future 732-plane fleet. The first aircraft was delivered to the Air Force in 1957, the last in 1965. Even though the planes that the 121st fly are 40-plus years old, they have seen numerous modifications and overhauls like quieter, more-powerful and fuel-efficient engines.

Cartwright looked over and said, "hold on." Suddenly, the C-17 disconnected and dropped, shooting out the back. The boom's fins changed angle, raising it up abruptly. The metallic cylinder extracted. What just happened?

Cartwright leaned over calmly and said, "It's called a breakaway. We practice it often."

The maneuver sees the KC-135 accelerate and climb while the receiver does the opposite. It's done whenever the planes come too close so as to prevent a collision.

The C-17, now much smaller and barely vis-

ible through the boom's window, started creeping back for more practice.

Practice that day, but after 9-11, the unit's refueling mission was in great demand. As part of Operation Noble Eagle (ONE), it flew four sorties per day, refueling combat air patrols over cities on the east and west coasts.

"The 121st flew nearly 27 percent of all ONE refueling sorties for the six-month period following Sept. 11, and is still flying them today," said Col. John Tuttle, operations group commander, in September.

In about a nine-month period after the 9-11 attacks, the unit logged more than 3,500 flying hours and flew almost 800 sorties—about four times more than were flown during the same period the year prior. It maintained aircraft on "24-7" alert. During the same time the wing was the lead tanker unit for Operation Northern Watch—flying out of Incirlik, Turkey, to maintain the Iraqi no-fly zone.

## Cockpit changes

On the other end of the plane, the door to the cockpit was open during this orientation flight. The kids saw the pilots in action and checked out the many gauges and electronic displays, feeding their dreams of someday flying.

Inside, pilot Lt. Col. Ruben Padro sat in the navigator chair, just behind the two pilots, writing into a notebook. Being a senior pilot, his job was to evaluate them on their takeoffs, landings, navigation abilities and those breakaways.

"Every crewmember in the Air Force has

to have a flight evaluation every 17 months. For pilots, they must demonstrate the ability to not only fly the airplane, but accomplish the primary mission—in our case air refueling," Padro said.

"If a pilot passes his evaluation, he's good for another 17 months. If he fails, then the evaluator pilot gets together with the person's squadron commander and they design training to correct any deficiencies," he said.

Padro performed some navigational duties as well. He eyed a small radar screen, toggling from screen to screen, stopping at one that showed a Doppler radar that he used to scan for any bad weather in the plane's path.

This cockpit has seen some changes in the past few years. Old displays from the 1960s have been replaced by digital ones. The main change is the loss of the navigator position due to a conversion called "Pacer CRAG" in 1999. It allows the aircraft to fly with just a pilot, co-pilot and boom operator. The upgrades meant new avionics systems which included four multifunctional displays, two flight management systems and color weather radar. Pacer CRAG derives its name from the program's name "Pacer" and the acronym for Compass Radar and Global Positioning System. It's also known as the "glass cockpit."

Does this mean that all 121st navigators have been retrained? Not so, according to Maj. Douglass Meador from 121st Operations Support. He said the unit still has 10 qualified navigators on staff.

"Three aircrew are needed to fly a mission," he said. "However, a navigator could be required for a special mission." A "navigator suite" can be installed and a navigator called in for unique missions.

Eleven-year-old Caleb Schaadt stared at many of the new Pacer-CRAG cockpit changes. He's only been in a military aircraft at museums and air shows.

"Me and my brother want to join the Air Force and fly F-16s," he said out of earshot of the refueling pilots.

With the in-flight refueling mission so pivotal in U.S. military operations, as with ongoing missions Noble Eagle and Enduring Freedom, as well as the war in Iraq, the 121st has entered a new steady state of operations, according to Tuttle.

"The 'old days' of one weekend a month and two weeks for summer camp per year are over," he said. "While the new steady state is not specifically defined, we should not expect our current tempo to go down. It is recognized that there is much greater capacity in Guard units than has been realized in the past." ■

# Ohio Air National Guard



## Airman of the Year

### SrA Shelly A. Cruse

Information Management Journeyman,  
123rd Air Control Squadron, Blue Ash

Senior Airman Shelly A. Cruse graduated with honors from Princeton High School in 1998 and graduated with a 98 percent academic average from the Information Apprentice course. She received both the John L. Levitow Award and the Leadership Award while attending Airman Leadership School. Cruse volunteered both to provide administrative assistance in support of Operation Noble Eagle and to travel to the 128th ACS, Volk Field CRTC, Wisc. There, she mastered a training database just months after undergoing radiation and chemotherapy after the removal of a brain tumor.



## NCO of the Year

### Tech. Sgt. Joseph E. Onesto

Services Craftsman  
121st Air Refueling Wing, Columbus

Tech. Sgt. Joseph E. Onesto joined the 160th Air Refueling Group/160th Services Group in 1992 after serving in support of Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm. In 2000, Onesto was hired as a temporary AGR as the Vice Services Readiness Technician with duties that included Unit Training Manager, Unit Deployment Manager and Honor Guard Administrator. On Sept. 11, 2001, Onesto immediately activated the Services Control Center and followed all recall procedures and emergency actions in the absence of the full-time services technician. Onesto participates in many 121st Air Refueling Wing activities including the annual golf outing, the 121st Military Ball, Family Day and Base Honor Guard.



## Sr. NCO of the Year

### SMSgt Kevin M. Gadd

Support Branch Superintendent,  
121st Air Refueling Wing, Columbus

Senior Master Sgt. Kevin Gadd joined the 160th Air Refueling Group in 1991 after active-duty service as a Communications Specialist. While attending Ohio State University, he worked full time in the Base Communications Center until 1993, when the 160th merged with the 121st. Gadd is currently the Support Branch Superintendent for the 121st Communications Flight where he is responsible for motivating, mentoring and training communications specialists. He is currently leading two teams which are augmenting active-duty forces. He also serves as a member of the Air Force Association Advisory Board for Air National Guard Affairs. Gadd is married with two sons, Michael and Joseph.



## 1st Sgt. of the Year

### SMSgt Richard A. Schuller

Security Forces Squadron 1st Sgt.  
179th Airlift Wing, Mansfield

Senior Master Sgt. Richard A. Schuller's career began with an active duty-tour at England AFB, La., where he was named Base Airman of the Month. He was promoted below-the-zone to sergeant and later was named Base Airman of the Month and Base Airman of the Year at Elmendorf AFB, Alaska. Schuller joined the 179th Security Forces in 1982, serving as Law Enforcement Flight Chief and Resource Protection Manager, and he was recently promoted under the Exceptional Promotion Program. Schuller volunteered for the 1996 Olympics, Operation Buckeye Express and the Base Honor Guard, and he also serves his local church and the Richland County Emergency Management Agency.



## 2nd Lt. of the Year

### 2nd Lt. Matthew H. Zelnik

Services Flight Commander  
180th Fighter Wing, Toledo

In 1986, 2nd Lt. Matthew H. Zelnik joined the 160th Security Police Flight in Columbus. In addition to his security duties, Zelnik served as a professional military education instructor with the Noncommissioned Officer Preparatory Course, Airman Leadership School and the NCO Academy Distance Learning Program. He earned a bachelor's degree from Regents College in 1996. Zelnik was commissioned in February 2001 and was recognized as Distinguished Graduate from the Air National Guard Academy of Military Science. Zelnik and his wife, Penny, have two young daughters, Madison and Marissa.

# OHIO'S BEST

The best soldiers, airmen, noncommissioned and junior commissioned officers in the Ohio Army and Air National Guard were selected and announced earlier this year.

The people chosen were deemed among the best and brightest in their career paths from among the 15,000 men and women in the Ohio National Guard.

## Army Guard changes state 'Soldier of the Year' board

The State Selection Board for the First U.S. Army's Noncommissioned Officer (NCO) and Soldier of the Year Awards Program experienced significant changes in 2002. In addition to the traditional personal appearance board that was standard through 2001, nominees were required to participate in an Army Physical Fitness Test (APFT) and a hands-on Common Task Training (CTT) test. They were required to wear a Battle Dress Uniform (BDU) with field gear, an Army Physical Fitness uniform and a Class A dress uniform for their participation in the selection board process. The program was conducted at Beightler Armory on Dec. 14.

Master Sgt. Pamela Gray, assistant to State Command Sgt. Maj. Craig R. Huffman said the all-day event started at 7 a.m. with the APFT, continued with breakfast, then half of the nominees proceeded to the personal appearance board and half proceeded to the CTT. After lunch, the nominees switched and completed the board requirements by 4:30 p.m.

Gray also noted the tasks nominees were tested on were taken from the state-issued 2003 training year CTT list. The nominees were given the opportunity to study up on three of the tasks—"Perform First Aid to Prevent or Control Shock;" "Protect Yourself from Chemical/Biological Contamination Using Your Assigned Protective Mask;" and "Issue a Warning Order Resection." "Employ a Claymore Mine" was a task given to the nominees without notice.

Gray said the new selection board process allowed 200 possible points to be obtained by the nominees. One hundred possible points could be obtained in the board questions portion, 50 points from bearing and appearance, 30 from the APFT and 20 points from the CTT. She also said the AGR and traditional boards were combined in 2002 allowing for one State NCO and Soldier of the Year among full-time and part-time Ohio Army National Guard servicemembers.

The state command sergeant major said the changes were made to the state selection board in part to make the process more competitive and battle-focused.

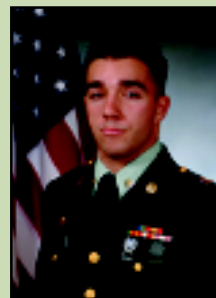
"I wanted to bring the Ohio Army National Guard more in line with the First Army West NCO and Soldier of the Year Boards," Huffman said. "I want our soldiers to have a chance to compete and

## Ohio Army National Guard

### Soldier of the Year

#### SPC Raymond L. Nagley

Carpentry and Masonry Expert  
Co. C, 216th Engineer Battalion  
Walbridge

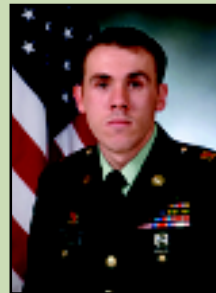


Spc. Raymond Nagley knew early on that he wanted to be a soldier in the Ohio Army National Guard. Between his junior and senior years in high school, Nagley graduated as the Soldier of the Cycle from Basic Training. At his Advanced Individual Training, he was named honor graduate, earning the Commander's Award for Excellence and a Physical Fitness Badge. Currently, he is a freshman art student at the University of Toledo, where he hopes to earn a bachelor's degree in order to teach.

### NCO of the Year

#### SGT Robert A. Scott

Tank Commander  
Co. C, 1-107th Armor Battalion  
Stow



After serving on active duty for five years, during which time he performed peacekeeping missions for the United Nations in Bosnia and Haiti, Sgt. Robert A. Scott joined the 1-107th Armor Battalion. In addition to his many achievements, such as earning a Presidential Unit Citation, Scott received the Ohio Distinguished Service Medal for saving another's life by performing the Hiemlich Maneuver. He was instrumental in writing a pre-basic training program for the 1-107th, which is being implemented statewide. He is currently working as a Strength Maintenance NCO in the Cleveland area.

win....I want to set them up for success," he added.

In addition to the personal appearance board, the APFT and the CTT portions of the selection board, the First Army West competition also requires nominees to complete an Individual Weapons Qualification.

Huffman was concerned with making the changes to the process at first, but ended up being "very pleased" with the end result. He said the process was challenging and would create success for Ohio's NCO and Soldier of the Year as they moved on in the competition towards the First Army Board in Atlanta later this year.

"The competitors were hyped up. They were excited by the changes and how it was conducted," Huffman said.

"The overall assessment of the process by the nominees is that it was more competitive, they got to meet the competition and it created esprit de corps among themselves," Gray said.

Huffman was also impressed by the quality of competitors appearing before the 2002 State Selection Board. "If we had a squad with those individuals, we'd have the best squad in the whole Army," he said. SGT BOB BARKO JR / HQ STARC (-)

# Maintaining its



SrA Elizabeth Slater / 180th Fighter Wing

**ABOVE: Soldiers from Alpha Company, 612th Engineer Battalion, assist with hazardous material clean-up. BELOW: Soldiers retrieve bags of mulch after a tornado leveled the engineer maintenance building in Van Wert County.**

## Fall Tornadoes

Nearly 100 Ohio National Guardmembers were called to state active duty to help local agencies recover from rare fall tornadoes that swept through northwest Ohio Nov. 10, killing five people.

Guardmembers from Alpha Company, 612th Engineer Battalion, St. Mary's, reported to Van Wert on Nov. 11, assisting both county and Ohio Department of Transportation workers in debris removal. Two days later, soldiers from Charlie Troop, 2-107th Cavalry Squadron, Sandusky, were activated to assist the Ottawa County Sheriff, the Port Clinton Police and the Catawba Island police in traffic control and security of the tornado-damaged areas.

"Soldiers that provided support are from the affected areas. They know the communities and feel a deep sense of pride in their mission," said Maj. Gen. John H. Smith, Ohio adjutant general.

Port Clinton Mayor Tom Brown said he appreciated the help of the Ohio National Guard. "The men of Troop C gave our law enforce-

ment a much-needed break. We could not have recovered without them," Brown said.

Estimates compiled by the American Red Cross in Ohio indicate more than 500 homes were damaged by the tornadoes and 171 were destroyed. President Bush declared six northwest Ohio counties disaster areas, making victims of the tornadoes eligible for federal aid. Of the 17 Ohio counties affected by the storms, Hancock, Ottawa, Paulding, Putnam, Seneca and Van Wert suffered the brunt of the damage.

Gov. Bob Taft and Ohio Emergency Management Agency Director Dale Shipley toured the state soon after the tornadoes hit to survey the carnage they caused. Taft vowed to assist Ohio citizens as much as possible.

"I want to assure the people impacted by the tornado that I will do everything within my power to help them recover and rebuild as soon as possible," Taft said. "I also want to commend the people in the hard-hit communities for coming together to help each other in this tragic time."



Lori King / The Toledo Blade

# Dual Mission



MSG Bob Mullins / 196th MPAD

**Members of the 216th Engineer Battalion cleared roadways in Scioto County after winter storms downed or damaged about 40 percent of the trees in the area.**

## Winter Storms

In February, more than 200 members of the Ohio National Guard were mobilized to assist in recovery efforts in southern and eastern Ohio counties as a result of winter storms that struck the state over the President's Day weekend.

Elements of two engineer battalions from the Ohio Army National Guard responded to a call for help from southern Ohio. During a mid-February storm, Lawrence and Scioto Counties received freezing rain which coated the trees in the area with up to an inch and a half of ice.

Rural roads in the area—mostly narrow and hilly—were impassable because of trees which had snapped or been uprooted by the weight of the ice. Local township trustees surveyed the damage and put out the call to county officials for help. Soldiers from A, B and HHC of the 216th Engineer Battalion began recovery efforts in Scioto County Feb. 20, fewer than 24 hours after receiving tasking from the Ohio Emergency Management Agency. A second request from emergency management officials brought 62 soldiers from Companies A, B and C of the 612th Engineer Battalion to Lawrence County on Feb. 22.

"We saw what had happened and knew it would be too big an undertaking," Symmes Township Trustee Donnie Myers said. "We had just begun to clear a few roads when the Guard arrived."

Temperatures hovered below freezing and

more than 15,000 people were without utilities. Advance recon teams from the Guard surveyed the damage and had a plan in place when the main Guard elements arrived. After initial safety briefings, each battalion increment split into several teams, each focusing on priority areas first. Each team was accompanied by a medic in case of injury.

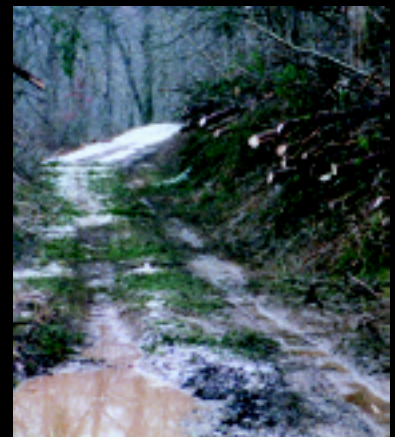
"We basically had to go in with chain saws and MW24C front-end loaders and cut a path through the trees that had blocked the roadways so that emergency and power company vehicles could move around," said 1st Lt. Eric Norton, executive officer for B Company, 612th Engineers.

Officials in hard-hit areas of southern Ohio estimated that at least 40 percent of all trees were either down or had been damaged. Complicating the matter were several miles of power lines that had been knocked down by trees.

"All troops showed perseverance, dedication and a 'can-do' attitude throughout this clean-up mission," said 1st Lt. Dan Courtemanche, B Company commander, 216th Engineers. The 216th cleared a total of 80 miles of township roadways in Scioto County and also aided Jackson County. The 612th cleared more than 18 miles of township roadways before mission's end.

*Continued* ►►

*As the nation continues to fight the global war on terrorism both at home and abroad, the Ohio National Guard remains committed to both its federal and state missions. Even with many units deployed in support of Operations Noble Eagle and Enduring Freedom, Buckeye guardmembers responded to the state's call for help, providing much-needed assistance during weather emergencies in November and February.*



MSG Bob Mullins / 196th MPAD

**Guard engineers cleared rural roadways by cutting and removing fallen trees.**

◀ Continued from page 13

In Eastern Ohio, the Air National Guard's 200th RED HORSE Squadron, Port Clinton, joined forces with several emergency teams after a severe winter storm dumped about 27 inches of snow in the Ohio River basin. Fear of flooding due to ice-jams and an overwhelming number of impassable roads resulted in a desperate need for manpower and equipment in several counties.

The storm began the morning of Feb. 16, and Belmont County Commissioners declared a state of emergency two days later. The governor's office responded quickly to the call of emergency and nearly 70 airmen were immediately activated. The squadron's main task was to remove snow so that local residents could get out of their homes.

"There are a lot of rural areas in need of assistance," said Tech. Sgt. Steve Lindo, 200th Red Horse crew leader. "We have a big job to do...helping the communities is what we do."

The large deposits of snow left thousands of residents stranded.

"Their effort is greatly appreciated," said Nancy Lofton, Blaine Township resident. "Going anywhere in this snow has been a nightmare, I am so happy to see these guys making such an improvement."

According to Deployment Liaison Officer Lt. Col. Edgar Thompson, without the squadron's assistance, it could have taken local officials up to 10 times as long to clear the roads and prevent any possible flooding. The unit cleared nearly 600 miles of roadway during their week-long deployment, working 12-hour days for several days.

"We've been out here since 7 o'clock this morning shoveling snow and loading it into a dump-truck and then transporting it to a location that wouldn't cause a flood," said Senior Airman James Matzek, heavy equipment operator.

The squadron's days were long and cold, but they stayed focused on getting the task completed so they could

get back home to their families.

"The faster we get done, the sooner we can get home," said Senior Airman Chris Waynar, heavy-equipment operator. "Luckily we recently obtained new equipment, which is making this job a lot easier."

Guard officials take pride in Ohio soldiers and airmen responding to the needs of the state.

"Although more than 15 percent of our

Ohio National Guard forces are performing federal missions in support of Operations Noble Eagle and Enduring Freedom, when called for this state emergency, we are equally prepared and responding with ready units," said Maj. Gen. John Smith, Ohio adjutant general.

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** Master Sgt. Bob Mullins and Sgt. Jessica McMillen of the 196th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment contributed to this article.



SGT Jessica McMillen / 196th MPAD

**TOP: Members of the 200th RHS remove snow from rural areas to prevent flooding. ABOVE: Heavy equipment operators clear snow from roadways. RIGHT: SrA Chris Waynar, along with other unit members, worked 12-hour days to get the job done.**





# Grayling a constant in Army Guard ATs

Story by Master Sgt. Bob Mullins  
and Spc. Chad Menegay  
196th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Whether it's the first experience for someone fresh out of boot camp or the last annual training exercise of a soon-to- retire guardmember, many soldiers of the Ohio Army National Guard equate "AT" to spending two weeks at Camp Grayling, Mich.

Located in central northern Michigan, just outside the town of Grayling, the training site is the largest military installation east of the Mississippi River and the nation's largest National Guard training site. More than 20,000 soldiers from Michigan, Ohio, Indiana and Illinois train each year at the site, to include regular Army and reserve units.

Deeded to the state of Michigan in 1913, Camp Grayling has seen soldiers train and march off to war for all of the nation's major engagements in the last 83 years. Many of these troops have been National Guard members.

During his 42 years of service to the Ohio National Guard, retired 1st Sgt. Barry Galvin said he spent "many, many" camps at Grayling.

"Training at Grayling in the early sixties was a test," he said. "There were no buildings, just tents, and it was very difficult to keep warm during the winter months." Regardless of the circumstances, though, Galvin said he always loved the training. "(Camp Grayling) has been essential to the efforts of the National Guard, with its varied environment, to help train and prepare troops for the future."

The terrain features, climate and varied facilities that characterize the reservation's 230-square miles provide for every conceivable type of training including artillery and aviation.

"Training opportunities are limited only by the imagination," said Col. Greg Wayt, chief of staff for the Ohio Army National Guard. He noted that Camp Grayling is especially suited for lanes training, combined arms training, gunnery field crafts and basic soldier skills training. "Collective training can be accomplished by any organization within the OHARNG at Grayling."

The timeline for each training mission is critical because units are limited to a two-week cycle and many exercises are interlocked with other units. While many units set up in the field immediately upon arrival



SPC Chad Menegay / 196th MPAD

**A member of the 1484th Transportation Company mans a defensive position during annual training at Camp Grayling, Mich.**

at Grayling, others posture in the otherwise vacant buildings on post in order to provide support as well as command and control.

"Camp Grayling is a distinct advantage to the National Guard," said Command Sgt. Maj. Robert Jennings, 237th Personnel Services Battalion. "It's a training area where character and morale come together when whole units can be together performing their mission. The role of each soldier becomes defined and each unit also becomes an active partner in the success of the greater picture."

Since 9-11, "homeland security" and "homeland defense" have been added to the military vocabulary, and servicemembers of all branches were given a new reason to exceed training standards.

With many of its units activated in the last 18 months, the Ohio National Guard has become more aware of its role in world peace, and training has become more intense. Political and civic leaders, too, have taken more of an interest in learning about what Ohio soldiers do.

During AT-2002, dozens of "VIPs" visited Camp Grayling under the Ohio Guard's Center of Influence (COI) program. These visits foster awareness of issues unique to the Guard—such as recruiting and retention, budget analysis, training needs, edu-

cation and deployments.

"I like to visit with soldiers and see how units are improving," said Bill Willoughby, who serves as a civilian aide to the secretary of the Army. "The Ohio National Guard is at such a high level of proficiency, that it's being asked to take on the role of active-duty units."

According to Brig. Gen. Ronald G. Young, assistant adjutant general for Army, more than 1,300 Ohio National Guardmembers have been mobilized to active-duty status since the war on terrorism began.

Through COI visits, attendees experience what military life "in the field" is all about. Last summer, they flew in UH-1 "Huey" helicopters, ate MREs (Meals, Ready-to-Eat) for lunch, rode in humvees and drove bulldozers at the engineering sites. They also watched demonstrations of advanced weapons systems such as engineers' cratering charges and the Avenger air defense artillery system.

"I have more respect for the National Guard after being here today," said Valarie Johnson, legislative aide for state Rep. Christopher Redfern and first-time visitor to Camp Grayling. "I got to see what different units do. The experience was wonderful." ■

# Battling missions on

Story by 2nd Lt. T. Douglas Kin  
and Capt. Nicole Gabriel  
237th Personnel Services Battalion

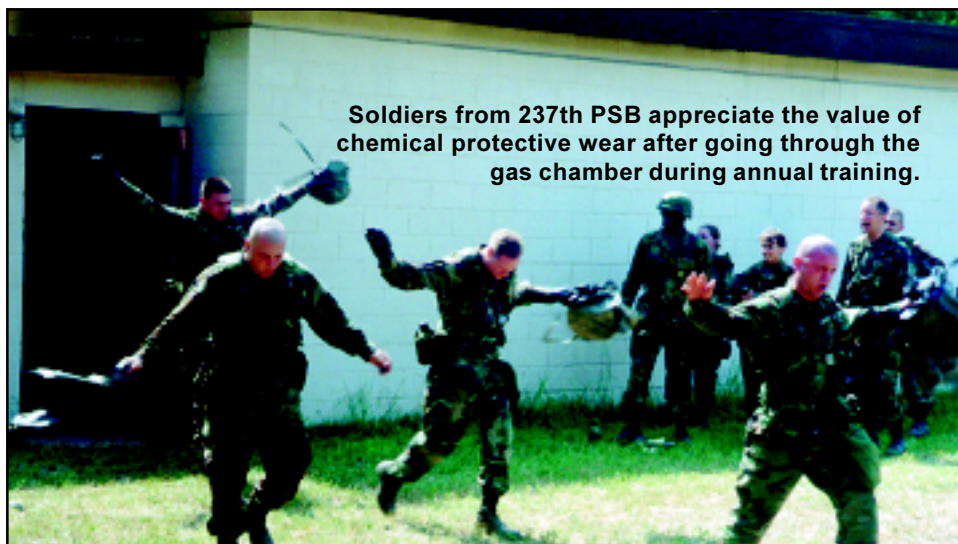
**I**t has long been military doctrine to train to fight on two fronts simultaneously. The 237th Personnel Services Battalion proved this is, in fact, possible, performing a highly successful two-front annual training at Fort Dix, N.J., last August.

Soldiers from the battalion headquarters and the 337th and 437th Personnel Services detachments flew on a C-130 to Fort Dix Aug. 10. The battalion mission was twofold: support the 1079th Garrison Support Unit's Soldier Readiness Processing (SRP) Center operations and simultaneously conduct a 10-day field training exercise.

The 237th soldiers provided administrative support for the 1079th GSU, which was activated last year as a result of the Sept. 11 attacks, processing Servicemember's Group Life Insurance Election and Certificate forms (SGLV-8286), Emergency Data cards (DD Form 93), identification tags and medical alert tags.

"These forms are extremely important to deploying soldiers," battalion commander Lt. Col. Jane Lengel said. "The SGLVs indicate a soldier's beneficiaries and how much those beneficiaries will receive in the event the soldier dies in the line of duty. The DD Form 93 indicates whom to contact in case of an emergency and who will receive a soldier's unpaid benefits and allowances. If this information is not accurate or up-to-date, it could have devastating results for a soldier's family if something would happen to the soldier while deployed."

Soldiers from the battalion's personnel



Soldiers from 237th PSB appreciate the value of chemical protective wear after going through the gas chamber during annual training.

services detachments reviewed soldiers' Military Personnel Record Jackets (MPRJ) for correctness and made needed changes to the DD 93s and SGLVs. They also inspected identification and medical alert tags, and created new ones when necessary.

Over the course of 10 days, detachment personnel processed more than 700 records for soldiers deploying to Saudi Arabia, Afghanistan, Kosovo and other theaters. One soldier, Sgt. Duane England, of the 337th PSD, assisted at the Mobilized Unit In-processing Center (MUIC), the first stop for all deploying units leaving from Fort Dix. A select group of soldiers also performed a special mission inputting the battalion personnel medical records into the Army's Medical Readiness Processing System (MEDPROS).

The detachments rotated between the SRP and a field site, where they conducted collective and individual training. The training included advance and



SPC Harris L. Jenkins / 437th PSD

**SPC Darin Hobson, 237th PSB, prepares to man a defensive position during a field training exercise.**

quartering party operations, setting up a unit area and establishing a unit defense. The soldiers set up tents and camouflage,

# two fronts

established a battalion operations center, ran mess operations from the unit's Mobile Kitchen Trailer and dug two-person fighting positions. In addition, soldiers donned their protective masks and tested their NBC skills in the gas chamber.

"The field training was a great motivator and morale booster," battalion Command Sgt. Maj. Robert Jennings said. "Our soldiers performed exceptionally. They really responded positively to the challenging training—despite the intense heat, which reached Category V almost every day we were in the field. I couldn't have been more impressed by their performance."

Soldiers trained on critical war-fighting skills such as building fighting positions, camouflaging their self and their equipment, establishing listening and observation posts, processing enemy prisoners of war and communicating via tactical radios. Essential military occupational skills were also a training priority.

Junior noncommissioned officers and future NCOs trained and developed leadership skills that will be critical during wartime.

Spc. Bonnie Hoh was one of those put into a leadership position during annual training.

"This annual training was the biggest and

hardest challenge I have faced in my military experience," Hoh said. "I learned what I didn't know about what my sergeant did for us."

The field exercise also gave the new battalion staff an opportunity to work together and train on the Military Decision-Making Process, also known as MDMP. Each evening, the staff briefed the commander on the day's training and the SRP's administrative and logistical operations.

The battalion staff briefed its higher headquarters' commanders, 371st Corps Support Group commander Col. Rufus Smith and then-commander of 73rd Troop Command, Brig. Gen. Robin Timmons, during two VIP visits.

"Overall, it was just a great AT," Lengel said. "It was an operational and a logistical challenge, but our soldiers did a super job supporting the real-world mission at the SRP and MUIC, completing the MEDPROS mission and conducting a 10-day FTX. And, most of all, it was a *safe* AT. I couldn't ask for a better collective training as a battalion commander." ■



**RIGHT: SGT Shelley M. Stebbinskolb, 337th PSD, updates the personnel records of a soldier preparing to deploy overseas.**

SPC Harris L. Jenkins / 437th PSD

## ONG PSB first to use medical records software

The words "missing shot record" have struck fear into the hearts of many a soldier. We've all had it happen, either to ourselves or a fellow soldier: You're in the midst of an annual medical screening or physical, and your coveted shot record comes up "missing in action." You wince because you know what's coming next—several painful vaccinations.

Thanks to the Army's new Medical Readiness Processing System (MEDPROS), that will soon change. In the near future, unit commanders will have access to their soldiers' medical readiness status from a centralized database.

Soldiers of the 237th Personnel Services Battalion played a critical role in the future of MEDPROS for the Ohio Army National Guard during their annual training at Fort Dix, N.J., in August. The 237th PSB served as the Army Guard's test battalion to measure the feasibility of having units input the critical medical information into the database.

In addition to supporting the Soldier Readiness Processing Center operations and conducting a 10-day field training exercise, the 237th Personnel Services Battalion became one of the first units in Ohio to successfully use MEDPROS.

"It's a big advantage for the soldiers," Spc. Mary Cornell of HHD, 237th PSB said. Cornell was one of seven soldiers who entered information from the battalion medical records into the database.

Spc. Bonnie Hoh of the 437th Personnel Services Detachment attended a train-the-trainer workshop conducted prior to annual training by Detachment 6. Hoh trained five 237th soldiers on the system.

The team reviewed the battalion's medical records to determine which data it could enter, entered the data and performed a self-audit to check the accuracy of their work. The team processed approximately 200 medical records in less than a week.

"The MEDPROS mission was challenging and meaningful training for our soldiers," battalion commander Lt. Col. Jane Lengel said. "It will improve the readiness of our battalion and, ultimately, the state's readiness."

"It was a good experience," Cornell said. "I learned how to read shot records, and I felt like I did something valuable for my unit and the state." **CPT NICOLE GABRIEL / 237TH PERSONNEL SERVICES BATTALION**

# SAFETY: PRIORITY #1 FOR ALL UNITS DURING ANNUAL TRAINING

## 237th PSB Soldiers S.E.T. Safety Standard

Remembering the acronym S.E.T. (Snap-Extend-Tighten) just may save your life, say soldiers of the Ohio Army National Guard's 237th Personnel Services Battalion.

"Safety was our top priority during annual training," said Lt. Col. Jane Lengel, the battalion's commander and the person credited with coining the phrase. "We wanted to make sure each soldier understood the importance of buckling up properly."

Master Sgt. Fred Swartz, the battalion's maintenance NCO, was tasked with educating soldiers on the proper fit of the humvee belt. "It was surprising how many of our soldiers didn't know how to correctly fit the belt," he said.

The belts currently installed in many of the humvees don't perform like those in civilian vehicles, he explained. There is no shoulder harness and the belt doesn't automatically tighten across the wearer. Swartz said that it's not enough to just snap together the two

ends—you must also remove the slack by extending the belt and tightening it across the lap. Thus the acronym S.E.T.—Snap, Extend, Tighten.

During AT, the battalion's simultaneous training challenge was to conduct extended field operations, process mobilizing soldiers' records and bring soldiers home safely. "We were testing the limits of our soldiers' capabilities, but safety was not something we were willing to compromise," Lengel said.

"The S.E.T. acronym was something that could be easily remembered," Lengel said. "And the soldiers had fun with it which reinforces learning."

The unit designed a S.E.T. poster and plans to put together an entire statewide safety program around the concept, to include vehicle magnets and wallet-size cards. Brig. Gen. Ronald Young, assistant adjutant general for Army, was briefed on the concept and sees a definite benefit.

"It is a proven fact that wearing seatbelts saves lives. The Ohio Army Guard family



lost a soldier this past summer in a humvee accident at Camp Grayling. Every indication points to the lack of proper wearing of the seatbelt as a major reason for the soldier's death.

"My goal is to never lose another soldier, especially in situations that are preventable. Seatbelt safety, S.E.T., leadership and individual soldiers will help keep us safe and secure in the future." **CSM Robert Jennings / 237th PSB**

## Safety Glasses Prevent Tragedy for 2-174th ADA Guardsman

Instead of a surprise party, Sgt. Randy Hebb got the surprise of his life on his 33rd birthday, when a .50-caliber machine gun round exploded in his face during annual training at Camp Grayling last summer.

Hebb, an Avenger system repairman with the 2-174th Air Defense Artillery Battalion, was participating in weapons qualifications training when the explosion took place. "We (Avenger repairmen) go out on the line when they're firing, and if anything goes wrong, we go up there and work on it. Our job requires us to fix problems as they occur on the range," he explained.

According to Hebb, a round was jammed, and they were using a device to pull the bolt back. "I've dealt with the same problem a hundred times before and never had anything like this happen," he said. "I had one of my guys helping me. He was actually screwing the bolt back. As the bolt was going back, it cocked the bolt. Then, with the sear broken, it wouldn't hold the firing pin back. So the firing pin struck the primer on the round while it was not in the chamber. I just happened to look under, to see if the round was extracting, and that's when it blew up."

Hebb sustained only mild injuries as the round detonated. He had his Kevlar helmet on, which provided protection for

his head. He was also wearing his Army-issued safety glasses. The shaded lenses are not currently an Army-regulated requirement for repairmen on the range.

"Nobody ever made us wear them—I just wore them because I like them," Hebb said. "The directions say they'll take a .50-caliber round at 450 feet-per-second.

"Those glasses saved my eyes. I'm lucky I had them on," Hebb said. "I was cut up on top, at the end of my nose, and down below (the glasses). Now, we're all wearing them on the range. I'd say it's the most important thing now—that, and your Kevlar."

Two days after the accident, Brig. Gen. Kenneth Robinson, then-commander of the 16th Engineer Brigade, met with Hebb.

"We had a very serious incident that could have been life-threatening," Robinson said. "However, due to Sergeant Hebb's ability to safely perform his mission, he sustained only minor injuries. That is what I call 'doing right things right,' and earned him both a State Safety Impact Coin and my personal General Officer Flag Coin."

Hebb also received a minor lesion on his index finger from the hot round. The medics responded quickly and treated him at the range. "We went right back out there on the line, after they let us start firing again," Hebb said. "I never left the range." **SPC Chad Menegay / 196th MPAD**



CPL Bryan Hockensmith / 1-134th Field Artillery Battalion

A soldier from the 1-134th Field Artillery Battalion gives a 'thumbs up' as he rides an M109 howitzer tracked vehicle into the field at Camp Grayling, Mich.

# In the Battle Zone

'Reality of war' experienced during training mission

I sit in the darkness, the forest surrounds me like a fog. Broken moonlight streams through the trees. A light mist hangs just above the ground.

I glance down at my watch and push the illumination button; it reads 2300 hours.

It is my time to move.

I grip my weapon firmly and slowly rise from my position. As I creep forward, I can see the other members of the team on either side of me. Their silhouettes against the moonlight make them look like ghostly figures floating through the woods.

Every step I take is with caution. Avoiding limbs and twigs, I try to keep the noise to a minimum. The crunching of the leaves under my feet sound deafening to me, shattering the serene stillness of the night.

The darkness of the forest stretches out in front of me.

Suddenly, from nowhere, a light illuminates everything and a high-pitched whistle pierces my ears.

In a moment of terror I realize that I have sealed the fate of the entire team. I have hit a trip flare and completely given away our position.

I look up and can see clearly now from the light of the flare. Fifty yards in front of me is a bunker. I hit the dirt and, just as

I bury my head into the sand, the night erupts into a torrent of fire and smoke.

I look up and see flashes from the two squad automatic weapons manning the bunker. The roar from these belt-fed guns is deafening. Sporadic M-16 fire sparks out from the darkness, briefly lighting up pockets of the darkened woods. Two flares explode overhead, turning the night into day.

I pop a purple smoke and heave it towards the bunker. It explodes and spews forth a cloud of cover. I jump up and take off into the darkness. The limbs and branches tear at my face and clothes.

That's when I hear it—a high-pitched scream that can only mean one thing: artillery.

I turn and hear someone in the distance shout, "INCOMING!" I look to my left and see an abandoned foxhole. I drop to the forest floor and roll into it.

It is deeper than I thought, and I fall about four feet to the sandy bottom. I land with a thud and the air previously inhabiting my lungs takes an instant vacation.

Overhead the whistling stops and for a split second I think it's a dud. Then the compression hits me, followed by the deafening sound of the explosion.

Sparks fly everywhere followed by a

thick cloud of acrid smoke. The smell of burnt powder fills my nostrils and makes my eyes water.

I stand and peer over the edge of the foxhole. Someone sends up a green flare and the night is once again illuminated.

Smoke is drifting over the battlefield. The report of gunfire in the distance echoes through the trees.

Through the smoke I can barely make out the dark forms of two advancing figures—their approaching shapes visible only by the light from the flares and the sporadic star clusters being fired into the night sky.

I bring my weapon to bear, pressing my cheek against the stock. The advancing soldiers move closer and I can see them clearly now. Twenty yards, now 10, the distance between us lessens with every passing second.

I hold my breath; sweat drips from the end of my nose and onto my rifle.

They are close now; I can clearly make out their facial features and read the writing on their uniforms. I tighten my grip and slowly squeeze the trigger.

Fire and smoke leap from my weapon.

The two soldiers jump, realizing they've just been hit. One falls to his knees, dead instantly. His body falls to the wet forest floor in a pile. The other soldier takes off toward his fighting position. I jump up and take careful aim. I squeeze off another burst from my M-16, and the fleeing enemy doubles over and grinds to a sliding stop.

Everything is quiet, hell has come and gone, and the forest has returned to its peaceful serenity. Suddenly in the distance a shout goes out: "CEASE FIRE!"

It's over. The dead soldier at my feet stands and heads back toward the source of the cease fire command. I follow close behind. The troops assemble in front of the command post tent and our after action review begins.

The soldiers I shot were my friends; the ammunition we fired were blanks; and the artillery was done with simulators. The knowledge gained, however, was very real.

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** *Cpl. Bryan Hockensmith, public affairs representative for 1-134th Field Artillery Battalion, wrote this article based on one training mission that took place during Operation Vigilant Dragon, the battalion's annual training period at Camp Grayling, Mich., in July 2002.*



371st Corps Support Group  
readies soldiers for battle in the desert

# ATTACK ON MOHAVIA

By Master Sgt. Bob Mullins  
196th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

**S**oldiers from the Ohio National Guard deployed last summer to the country of Mohavia, where hostile forces of a neighboring country presented a serious threat to U.S. allies. Tennessee's 278th Armored Cavalry Regiment was called to fight the enemy forces, and Ohio's 371st Support Group was tasked with providing logistical support.

Though "Mohavia" exists only on paper and the scenario was completely staged, the training that took place at the National Training Center (NTC), Fort Irwin, Calif., was for keeps.

Four major battles took place between the 278th ACR and the opposing forces during the two-week exercise. The challenge for the 371st, however, started well before and lasted long after the hostilities took place. Support of the combat forces only can be accomplished with a successful pre-deployment plan, the actual deployment of assets and re-deployment to home station upon completion of the mission.

The 371st, headquartered in Kettering, was responsible for providing the friendly forces with all the necessary equipment, rations, maintenance, fuel, water, ammunition, medical and personnel support.

Support group personnel supervised the arrival of 278th ACR equipment, which was delivered by railcar and flatbed trailer. This was offloaded and transported 41 miles to the staging area, where inspections were performed to ensure that all equipment was mission-ready. The list of necessary vehicles—some drawn from pre-positioned assets at Fort Irwin—included 1,968 wheeled and 433 tracked vehicles. Multiple Integrated Laser Engagement System (MILES) and Global Positioning Satellite (GPS) transmitters and radios were installed on the entire inventory in order to track and monitor every soldier and each piece of equipment.

"Soldiers who have never had the opportunity to deploy to another theater of operations now have a better idea about the roles and responsibilities of a corps support group," said Col. Michael McHenry, then-commander of the 371 Corps Support Group. A total of 305,380 pounds of ice was distributed, 26,550 A meals, 7,200 Heat-and-Serve meals and 239,448 Meals-Ready-to-Eat (MRE) were served during the operation.



**Rigorous inspections took place on all pieces of equipment before being sent to the staging area.**

Unlike past operations, the 371st CSG Headquarters was located many miles from Fort Irwin, making the training experience even more realistic.

Each base of operations was secure, and a tactical environment existed during the entire rotation. Simulated casualties were a daily reality, making it necessary to replace lost soldiers. Demonstrators, suspicious packages and frequent irregularities provided a constant requirement for the attention to detail from all soldiers. Late night and early morning meetings were a necessity for updates and assignments to ensure that support was sustained and adequate.

"This training experience has made each and every soldier more technically and tactically proficient in the conduct of our duties," McHenry said. "It is essential that we continue to participate in future CTC exercises."

Operation Cardinal Strike, as it was dubbed, involved more than 5,800 National Guard soldiers from Ohio and Tennessee, as well as California, Pennsylvania, Texas, Maryland, Iowa and Alabama. In addition to the 371st, other Ohio units included the 737th Maintenance Battalion, 372nd Maintenance Company and the 1485th Transportation Company—all of which have since deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. ■

# Mission of mercy becomes benchmark for Guard

By 1st Lt. Shannon Scherer  
179th Airlift Wing

While the Central American country of Belize may be praised for providing free healthcare to its 250,000 residents, a tight \$9.2 million health budget and poor economic conditions makes it tough for most nationals to obtain proper medical care.

Last summer, members of the 179th Airlift Wing Medical Squadron tried to close the gap by deploying 47 medical personnel who were prepared to conduct basic triage, medical examinations, dental, optometry and audiological care, and provide health and wellness services as well as dispense medications as necessary.

"We are limited in our knowledge and our medications," said Majorie Parks, from the Belize Ministry of Health. "This exercise allows people the chance to see doctors and get medications (when they) otherwise might not have had that opportunity."

While the Guard has supported MEDRETEs (medical readiness training exercises) in impoverished nations for years, this was the first time for the medical professionals from the 179th. And they did so with flair, taking it upon themselves to arrive better-equipped than any unit has in the past.

"Most units deploy with \$30,000 in medications and supplies," said Senior Master Sgt. George Velez, MEDRETE team chief. "We brought \$300,000 worth."

The impressive fact is the 179th received only \$33,000 from 12th Air Force, the command and control headquarters for all medical squadron readiness exercises. The rest of the supplies and medications were added through donations and the work of Tech. Sgt. Tom Koehler.

Koehler prepared for the deployment for three months, working with local Mansfield companies, churches, national pharmaceutical companies and non-profit organizations to raise the additional materials.

"I called Heart-to-Heart and Interchurch Group, along with Med Central Health Systems, Riverside Hospital, Benco Dental and Toytime to donate items," Koehler said. "I could have gotten more, but I just wasn't sure what to bring."

Members of the 179th tried to determine what was needed based on the after action reports of units who participated in past MEDRETE exercises.



**TOP: LtCol Richard Byrom conducts a dental exam with the assistance of SrA Chris Varney. ABOVE: The 179th treated nearly 300 children each day during their deployment to Belize.**

More than 8,000 eyeglasses were donated as part of Operation Cyclops and from VOSH Ohio, Volunteers in Optometry to Serve Humanity and more than 5,000 toothbrushes and tubes of toothpaste were donated as well. The unit deployed all this along with vitamins, combs, hearing aides, a 450-pound dental chair and nearly 1,000 toys and books to give to the local children.

The 179th Medical Squadron Logistics Flight—otherwise known as the Med-Log Dogs—prepared, packed and palletized 15 tons of equipment for shipment to Belize on a C-130 Hercules. Two aircraft delivered the equipment and personnel on July 26 and brought them home on Aug. 10.

The number of patients treated and procedures performed totaled more than 6,000 for the squadron during the two-week stretch—well above expectations.

"We saw 100 people within the first hour," said Tech. Sgt. Shane Sterner, laboratory technician. They treated almost 300 children a day and radio announcements helped spread the word that help was available.

"This is a good thing; it feels good," Sterner added.

A few problems did arise during the deployment to include low amounts of ecoli in the local water supply, but the language barrier proved to be the most frustrating. Though five squadron members spoke Spanish fluently, a few locals offered to help translate for them.

Antonio Perez came for treatment on the first day and came back as a translator after that. "I like to help and like to be able to help my people," he said.

Providing assistance in a real-world situation seemed to appeal to most, if not all, members of the squadron.

"I'm glad this was my first deployment," said Senior Airman Marianne Wilson, medical technician. "I've heard the other deployments are just training...I'm glad we came here so I can actually provide medical care."

For the most part, the treatments were nothing out of the ordinary...dental extractions, vision problems, and treatment for lice and worms. However, the unit's dental professionals did perform a procedure believed to be a "first" for the National Guard: the application of temporary sealants to help limit future tooth decay.

"Other Guard units wrote in their after action reports (that) they wished they could have done this treatment," said Col. Ronald Stanich, squadron commander and dentist. "So Lt. Col. Richard Byrom (dentist) came prepared with a plastic bonding material. This is the first time we know of that a Guard unit has been able to do this."

Byrom brought enough material to treat at least 100 children. He also brought items donated by Med Central as well as equipment loaned to the unit by Ashland Dental Clinic. According to Byrom, most units are not equipped to deploy drills, suction, compressors and other needed materials. Through the outpouring of community support, the 179th was able to exceed the amount of aid normally provided during humanitarian missions.

"I hope we are setting the standard for other units that follow us," Stanich said. ■



## LTG Gen. Roger C. Schultz

As director of the Army National Guard, Schultz guides the formulation, development and implementation of all programs and policies affecting the Army National Guard. He assumed this position on June 1, 1998. Prior to this assignment, Schultz served as the Deputy Director for Military Support on the Department of Army staff and Deputy Adjutant General of the Iowa National Guard.

# An Interview with LTG Roger C. Schultz

**Q** What are your expectations and goals for today's Army National Guard members, and how well do you think soldiers are meeting them?

**A** Expectations and goals for the Army National Guard today are to meet, satisfy and accomplish our nation's military defense requirements. The Army National Guard is accomplishing every one of the tasks that we have been assigned.

**Q** What are the main things that National Guard leaders at the state and national level must do for their soldiers? Have you noticed things that leaders need to be doing that aren't being done currently, or areas for improvement?

**A** Leaders at the state level and national level need to look after soldiers—need to care for soldiers; need to look after our families—need to care for families. It is kind of a special way today with the deployment schedules that we all have. We also need to look after our employers—I am talking about those that employ our members of the Guard. As you know, most of our soldiers don't serve full-time on active duty.

So the essence of my message to the leadership has always been and will continue to be to care for soldiers. Look after them. Challenge them. Prepare them for their mission and, in a significant way, that means preparing them for war.

My sense is that leadership across the Guard is really doing very well. Are there areas that we can improve? As far as I am concerned there are always areas we can improve. Communication is one. What is going on? What do we expect? What are the standards? What are the tasks? What are the areas that need some attention before a unit would deploy, for example, on short notice?

So with or without significant—meaning extended—preparation time, the question for the leadership in the Guard today is "How ready are we?" And that is the challenge we have. My focus for the leadership is: *Get your units ready.*

BY SPC HARAZ N. GHANBARI ♦ HQ STARC (-)

**Q** What is the condition of Army National Guard end-strength (personnel manning) and readiness, today? What are the main challenges the ARNG faces in terms of retention and improving readiness, especially with the increased likelihood of more units being deployed stateside and overseas?

**A** We are right at 348,500, so we are very close to the target that we need to be by the end of the year. The target is 350,000. An ongoing challenge is to schedule the predictability of master requirements. When will units deploy? When will they come back? How long are they going to be home before perhaps being asked to serve again in a deployment mission? So I think that is the challenge—outline enough predictability in the schedule so that soldiers, families and employers today understand the requirements.

**Q** What are the main roles of the National Guard in today's national and global defense strategy? How has 9-11 and the subsequent War on Terrorism affected those roles? Do you see the National Guard's role expanding over the next few years? Will today's National Guard force be able to handle additional areas of responsibility and duties?

**A** The Sept. 11 attacks have altered our nation's focus...our nation's security focus...our nation's military focus. And, accordingly, the attacks have altered our National Guard focus. By that I mean we are looking more closely at defense of the homeland. What does that mean? Well, we have thousands of units around the Guard today, many are on active duty. We have thousands of soldiers around the Guard today, many of whom are on active duty. So the message in terms of the September 2001 attacks, as it translates to what we are doing today, we are still carrying on that mission. It has altered our nation and our focus in this journey. So the Guard responds to our nation's military defense needs by serving at home and by serving in deployed theaters.

I think the Guard is ready for expanding roles—new missions. Emerging requirements that perhaps haven't even been fully described yet. So the Guard is fully prepared to adjust, to change, to begin anticipating requirements of the future. So far we have satisfied the mission demands that we have been assigned—we the soldiers, the units across the Guard—now deployed around the world.

For example, the Army National Guard had soldiers and units in 84 countries around the world last year—some on contingency operations, some for forward-deployed missions and some for combat mis-



MajGen John Smith and LTG Roger Shultz 'talk shop' over dinner.



sions as well. So my sense is the Guard is prepared to respond to the emerging missions. Without a doubt, soldiers are very, very capable in the Guard today—extremely qualified.

**Q** *On Jan. 11, an active-duty officer took charge of the Ohio Army National Guard's 2-174th Air Defense Artillery Battalion, located in McConnellsville. What are your views on integration and what it can do as part of the Total Army concept?*

**A** Well, today we refer to the Army as an organization that is fully integrated. When I talk about Lieutenant Colonel (Lorenzo) Mack, he has now joined the Ohio Guard. So while he was an active component soldier prior to his arrival in Ohio, he is now a member of the Ohio Guard and will serve as the commander of that battalion during his tour here.

The significance of what went on there...at that change of command ceremony, is it (was) history in the making in Southeast Ohio. It has to do with a soldier coming off active duty with a career of air defense related experience assignments. He is now arriving at that battalion, without a doubt, qualified to lead that battalion.

Not a thing (will change) in terms of the battalion's priorities. So integration is another step in the journey—this is soldiers across the components of the Army getting to know one another—developing a sense of trust and confidence in one another and our skill and ability to perform against all kinds of odds and adversity. In peacetime and in war, have the battalion ready.

**Q** *What has been the best part/most memorable aspect of your tenure in the Guard and/or as director?*

**A** Most memorable is noncommissioned officers looking after me when I was young. I will complete 40 years here (in February), but that is not the point. It is not about me. What is significant about it is I finished my first three years. That is NCOs looking after a young soldier who needed some help—needed a little counsel, needed a mentor, needed to be guided some.

That is the strength of the Guard. Soldiers in the ranks, well led. That is what makes the Army special today. The theme "Soldiers on point for the nation." Every person makes a difference is what I am talking about. That is the essence of the message, serving this nation after all. And those citizens who we serve expect nothing less.

**Q** *Regardless of rank, what can each individual guardmember do to help the National Guard prosper and successfully perform its ever-expanding missions? If you could leave today's guardmembers with one piece of advice, what would it be?*

**A** Perform your job. Prepare yourself to do the best that you can. Serve with pride. Help others that are less fortunate. Help those around you that perhaps don't have the skill that you do or perhaps look after a soldier in a new and special way.

Now as far as my advice for soldiers across the Guard, it would be to simply prepare themselves for their duty. And when I say that, what I am really asking them to do is join the team. Be part of the team and focus on the mission. Look for ways to make the unit better, the battalion better, the battery better. It all comes by living the Army values. A piece of counsel from me to soldiers across the Guard—live the values. It starts with loyalty and you walk down that set of disciplines. One of the strengths of our organization today—soldiers in the ranks. They are the heart and soul of who we are, and they are the reason we get things done and are able to accomplish the mission we have been assigned. In every case, soldiers in our units have to meet the mission set. What is my message to soldiers? It all starts with you. ■

## ENGINEERS HAVE A BALL



**LTC Joe Knott presents an Ohio flag to LTG Roger Schultz at the 216th Engineer Battalion Military Ball.**

**D**irector of the Army National Guard Lt. Gen. Roger C. Schultz took time out of his schedule to attend the 216th Engineer Battalion's first military ball, held Jan. 11 in Columbus.

Hosted by Lt. Col. Joseph L. Knott, commander, 216th Engineer Battalion, and Command Sgt. Maj. Verna Henderson, battalion command sergeant major, the group gathered to reflect on past accomplishments while looking to future mission possibilities.

The battalion's lineage dates back to March 24, 1942, during World War II when the 216th's parent unit, the 14th Ordnance Battalion was constituted. The unit was awarded the Meritorious Unit Commendation for their efforts in the European Theater including campaigns in Normandy, North France, Rhineland, Ardennes-Alsace, Central Europe, New Guinea, Air Offensive-Japan, Guadalcanal, North Solomons and Luzon.

The battalion was redesignated as the 38th Ordnance and allotted to the Ohio Army National Guard on Aug. 14, 1946. The unit was redesignated on Sept. 1, 1959, as the 216th Engineer Battalion.

Having the mission of providing general engineering, with limited mobility, counter mobility and survivability tasks, the unit deployed earlier this year to the Republic of Panama. While in-country, the unit's mission was to assist in the construction of three schools and three clinics, while providing medical and dental services to Panamanians located in remote mountain regions.

Schultz reaffirmed to the battalion that he is keeping his eye on them.

"What I encourage units to do is to be prepared. Get the team ready. Know what the mission is. Live the purpose of the unit—live the sense of purpose. Families are part of our team, employers are part of our team," Schultz said. "We are rallying to the cause, rallying to the mission, rallying to what we have before us today—and it is for the Guard to help with our nation which is at war."

After Schultz concluded his remarks, Knott, on behalf of the battalion and the Ohio Army National Guard, presented Schultz with a framed flag of the State of Ohio.

Knott and Henderson presented several awards to unit members, as Schultz participated in personally awarding some of them. **SPC HARAZ N. GHANBARI / HQ STARC (-)**

# TAKING IT TO THE STREETS

By Spc. Michelle Morgan  
HQ STARC (-)

The steady thump of batons striking shields marked each measured step of the formation as it steadily advanced toward barricades of broken tricycles, jagged boards and battered furniture. Jeering taunts hissed from doorways accompanied by rocks and bottles thrown over shields. But nothing could stop the advance of the Ohio Army National Guard.

Though the rocks were actually large balls of tape and the bottles were empty and plastic, civil disturbance training took on an entirely new perspective for the soldiers of the 1-147th Armor Battalion after spending a drill weekend at Fort Knox's Zussman MOU (Military Operations in Urban Training) Complex last October.

Civil disturbance training is an annual requirement for units with a "street mission" in their operations plan, according to Maj. Lance Armbruster, battalion operations officer. "We can't close down city streets to train, so this is the first time these soldiers have trained in such a realistic environment."

Zussman MOU, a Mounted Urban Combat Training Site (MUCTS), closely resembles a deserted, walled city in a war zone with ravaged houses, an embassy, school, soccer arena and various other structures, each filled with remnants that



**Soldiers donned in riot gear attempt to penetrate barricades and detain mock rioters in a recent civil disturbance exercise at Fort Knox, Ky.**

citizens would leave behind—battered books and desks in the classrooms; old, torn clothing in the closets; broken toys; refrigerators in the kitchens; and cars on the roads and in driveways. The walled city, specifically designed to withstand

tank maneuver in combined arms operations, provided these Ohio soldiers with their first opportunity to perform civil disturbance training using force-on-force in a city-like environment instead of wide-open spaces.

Before the soldiers could take to the streets, they spent the morning learning different facets of riot control. Though most of it was considered refresher training, the classes included use of a riot baton; correct formations to penetrate or move a crowd; isolating and securing an area; extracting casualties; use of force; use of chemical agents and gear; and laws about citizen arrest.

Afterward, the rules of engagement were explained and the soldiers split into the "good guys" and "bad guys." Only then were they ready to put their training to the test.

Companies of 'rioters' took over two key intersections in the city and ransacked the already ravaged buildings, dragging everything from broken refrigerators to battered desks into the streets to create barricades to stop the 'Guard' from successfully completing its mission.

While the rioters looted, two civil disturbance teams received last-minute safety reminders before picking up their batons then donning protective headgear and shields. The situation they were entering was explained and the march began.

The thump of baton against shield and the steady chant of "back, back, back" got the



adrenaline of the crowd pumping before the formation appeared. The mob hurled their rocks, empty plastic bottles and insults in retaliation.

When the Guard formation reached the blockade, the real training began.

Rioters shoved against shields and tried to grab batons when the Guard began clearing a path to advance. Forcing themselves between the soldiers, the protestors did anything they could think of to break the formation.

Tension was high even though there was no real fear of physical threat. The Guard had to get the streets cleared, and the mob resisted enough to make the task daunting.

"It was hard to hold the line, hard to see what was going on around me, hard to hear commands and follow orders," Spc. Nicholas Wilcher said. "I know my own guys aren't going to hurt me (like a real rioter could), but it was still easier said than done."

The first scenario was the simplest: disperse the crowd and detain anyone who was able to break through their ranks. However, to do that, the team had to go through barricades, get past angry rioters and listen for commands through all of the noise and distractions—all the while maintaining formation or switching formations to try to force the crowd to disperse.

"The first time training force-on-force like this was harder than it seemed. It gave us a more real-world perspective," said Sgt. Sean Daniel. "The next run through we are going to take more seriously. Not that we weren't taking the training seriously, it just wasn't as easy as I thought it would be."

Once the crowd dispersed, the civil disturbance teams regrouped for a quick After Action Review before they faced the next riot scenario.

"Initial training needs to be followed up with subsequent training immediately to correct obvious deficiencies," said Sgt. Trevor Wilson.

That theory was proven as the day pro-



**Soldiers from the 1-147th Armor Battalion take turns playing good guys and bad guys in an urban warfare scenario as part of civil disturbance training.**

gressed, the missions became more complex and the skill of the teams improved. The first civil disturbance teams were ready for the toughest scenario yet, securing a building where the mayor, his wife and staff were being held hostage, then extracting them from an angry mob that had overrun the city. During the extraction, they also had to rescue fellow soldiers who had been captured. By the time the mayor and his wife were taken to safety, the Guard had gained confidence in their leaders and their own ability to accomplish the mission.

Then it was time to switch. The good guys became the angry mob, and the angry mob suited up as soldiers.

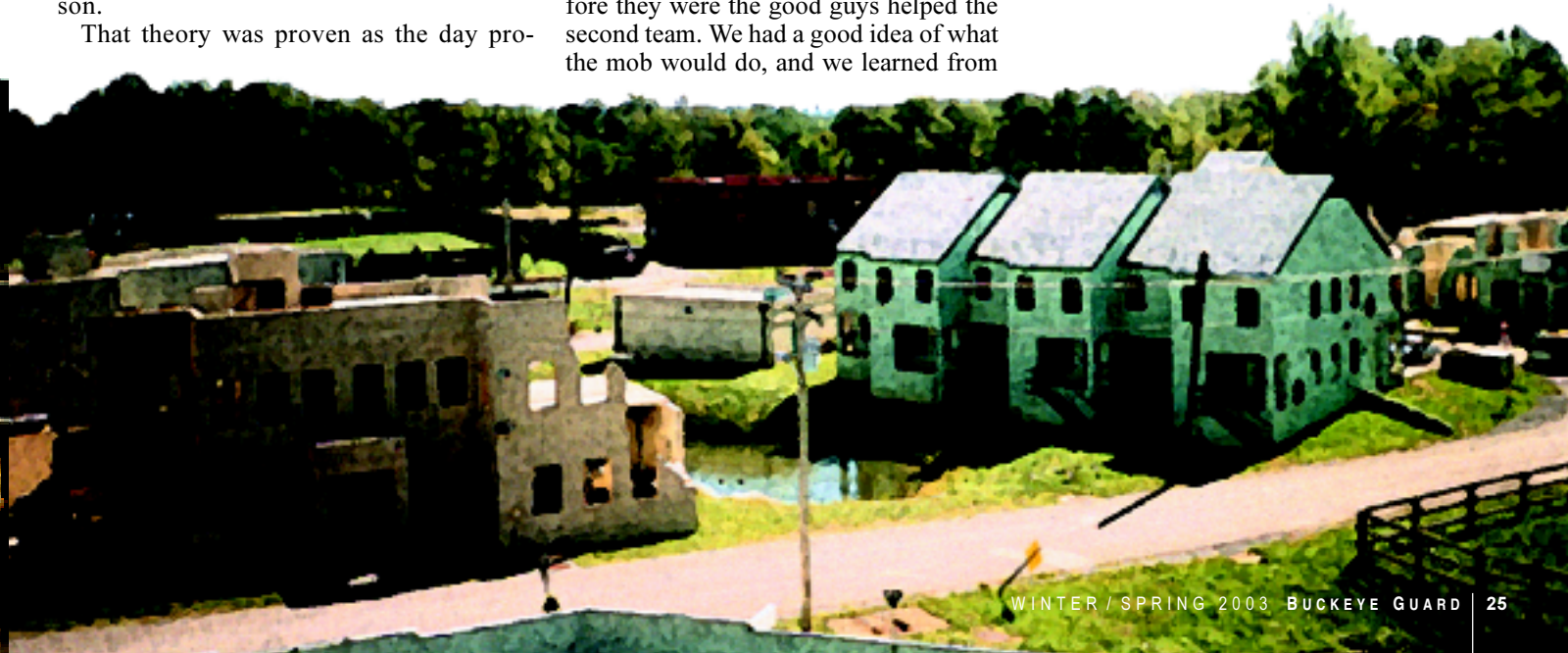
"Being a member of the angry mob before they were the good guys helped the second team. We had a good idea of what the mob would do, and we learned from

the first group's mistakes," said Sgt. Rick Lee after his company's first attempt to disperse the crowd.

By the end of the day, the soldiers were exhausted, but confident in their ability.

"They commented on how intimidating it was initially to encounter a group of screaming people who were throwing objects and resisting authority...and that there was so much noise that they could not hear their squad leaders," Armbruster said.

"Eventually, the confidence gained from repeated exposure to these high-stress situations improved command and control (and) enhanced cohesion which allowed the friendly forces to succeed." ■



# Training exercises incorporate realism, interagency cooperation

Story by James A. Sims II  
Adj. Gen. Dept. Public Affairs Office

On a sunny, 85-degree day, more than 40,000 patrons including thrill-seekers, families and children have come to Cedar Point, one of America's premier amusement parks. Many of them plan to get a scare from riding "Demon Drop," one of the park's main ride attractions.

However, lurking just off the northern Ohio shore of Lake Erie are terrorists who have seized control of a ship transporting chlorine. Their plan is simple—run the ship aground and detonate it, releasing deadly gas throughout the crowded park.

Those who were simply looking for a quick thrill soon find themselves scrambling for their lives. Within minutes of the explosion, more than 5,000 people lay dead on the park's grounds and several thousand more are experiencing life-threatening pulmonary edema and distress.

Nearly 20,000 others would be affected but were able to scramble to safety in the maelstrom, as legions of agencies including the U.S. Coast Guard, local fire and police and the Ohio National Guard's 52nd Weapons of Mass Destruction Civil Support Team (WMD-CST) team move in to provide assistance.

Fortunately, the scenario that unfolded was not real. It was actually a tabletop exercise to test and evaluate various emergency response components within the Ohio National Guard, the Coast Guard's Ninth District, National Guard Bureau, FBI, American Red Cross, Ohio Emergency Management Agency and the key stakeholder, Cedar Point. "Operation Demon Drop," aptly named for one of the park's most popular rides, was conducted last summer in Sandusky. It was the first time a broad-based response community from the United States and Canada was assembled to address the complexities of a WMD attack in the Great Lakes region.

"This was an excellent opportunity for us to review how local, regional and national resources, in conjunction with the Ohio National Guard, would respond to a WMD attack," said Brig. Gen. Ronald G. Young, assistant adjutant general for the Ohio Army National Guard.

The goals of the exercise were to discuss federal, state and local agencies' ability to respond to an emergency of such magnitude. Groups looked to identify opportunities to share resources, establish communication protocol during emergency events and identify jurisdictional boundaries.



Photo illustration by Steve Toth / AGOH-PA

The Coast Guard coordinated the three-day training session, the result of a year of planning with the Ohio National Guard, FBI, Royal Canadian Mounted Police and Cedar Point officials.

Since the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, disaster training has become increasingly more common among emergency response agencies.

"Two years ago this type of interagency training would have never occurred, but since 9-11, no scenario is out of bounds," said Col. Jack Lee, deputy chief for military support, Ohio National Guard.

Prior to the exercise, the Coast Guard's Atlantic Strike Team provided Incident Command System (ICS) training courses leading to certification of more than 50 participants. In addition, the Coast Guard's Public Information Assist Team (PIAT) provided Joint Information Center (JIC) training which conveyed the critical need for providing accurate and timely public information and techniques for efficient media management.

"The level of cooperation and attention to detail needed in a situation like this is incredible. This training has really shown us where we need to focus our energies," said Robin Innes, public relations director for Cedar Point.

On the day of the exercise, participants were issued either a player or facilitator packet and broke out into their assigned sections to focus on addressing various critical issues. The facilitators began the exercise by reviewing the scenario and introduc-



Courtesy photo

**LEFT: An illustration portrays the destruction simulated during “Operation Demon Drop.” ABOVE: A mock disaster at Paul Brown Stadium in Cincinnati requires efforts from local fire departments. RIGHT: The American Red Cross trains to respond to mass casualty incidents.**

ing questions created to orient the group toward the issues associated with their respective section. “They have raised some good questions today, now we just have to find some creative solutions,” said Benny Higgenbotham, battalion chief with the Sandusky Fire Department, who met with a group in the unified command room where aerial maps of the park and lists of potential resources were displayed.

To develop a greater appreciation for the type of direction and support that may be required as regional incident commanders, senior state and federal officials observed the exercise. “It is critical that we work together,” said Maj. Gen. John H. Smith, Ohio adjutant general. “No one single agency has the resources necessary to meet every need.”

After the exercise, participants discussed issues that surfaced during the event and identified shortfalls. This was an important first step toward improving the agencies’ collective response capabilities.



Courtesy photo

“Operation Demon Drop was developed to identify issues and address the prospect of responding as one force,” said Maj. Gen. Raymond F. Rees, then-acting chief, National Guard Bureau, who was on-hand to witness the exercise.

“Have we thought of everything? Probably not...but we are a lot more prepared than before this exercise began.” ■

# Chemical collection, analysis heart of WMD-CST mission

By Sgt. Bob Barko Jr.  
HQ STARC (-)

More than 200 law enforcement, fire, medical and emergency management personnel watched as a convoy of eight dark blue vehicles pulled into the parking lot of Victory Research and Development Center, a chemical company with a number of Department of Defense contracts. Camouflage-clad drivers and passengers dismounted, quickly moving into place like the parts of a well-oiled machine.

More than one onlooker wondered aloud, “Who the heck are these guys?”

“These guys” were team members of the Ohio National Guard’s 52nd Weapons of Mass Destruction Civil Support Team, who were called on to deal with unknown chemical agents that had been released by terrorists who had broken into the usually quiet compound.

Mahoning and Columbiana County Emergency Management Agencies determined the situation had deteriorated beyond the point of negotiation when the terrorists killed a hostage and attacked the EMA command post. EMA officials ordered the county Crisis Response Team (CRT)—made up of various local law enforcement departments and the FBI—to storm the complex. After the CRT secured the building it was further determined that the county Hazardous Materials (HAZMAT) team was not equipped to deal with the unknown chemical agents that had been set loose at the scene.

It was the 52nd’s job to collect and analyze samples of the unknown substances and report their findings to the local authorities.

This training exercise, dubbed “Operation Homeland Warrior,” was designed to allow the 52nd, the county HAZMAT teams, the CRT and the fire departments to respond to a situation in a chemical environment. Fire Chief James Dorman, incident commander for the exercise, said “trade secrets” hidden by the company’s



president also were introduced into the scenario. He noted that these “unknowns” and their potential adverse reactions with other chemicals stored at the site made the scenario even more realistic.

According to unit standards, the 52nd’s first entry down range should occur no more than one and a half hours after the edge of the “hot zone” or the area of contamination is determined. The first priorities include setting up both the communications and operations centers.

“It’s our objective to be (operational) within 30 minutes of site selection,” said Sgt. Noah Bellamy, the 52nd’s commo NCO. He worked feverishly to get the Unified Command Suite (UCS) communications van up and running in 24 minutes, setting a new unit record. Bellamy explained the van had the capability of maintaining contact with the down-range teams and other groups working at the site, and that it also provided telephone, Internet, e-mail and any type of radio communication via satellite uplink.

“We also have constant commo with Beightler (the state headquarters),” Bellamy said.

The UCS communications van also sup-

**ABOVE: A survey team member is checked for contamination. TOP RIGHT: Chemical agents are analyzed for identification. RIGHT: SGT Noah Bellamy is responsible for setting up internal and external communications.**

plies the unit’s on-site power with a 15-kilowatt generator, enabling bright halogen lamps to light a path between the van and the team’s operations center.

According to Senior Master Sgt. Kelly Ruff, 52nd first sergeant, the ops center keeps a chronological record of the unit’s activities, can track weather patterns and project chemical plumes as well as research the agents that the unit may encounter in order to aid in analysis.

The ops center stays in constant contact with the survey teams while they’re down range via two-way radio, carefully keeping track of the chemical specialists that are the heart of the 52nd’s mission.

Each member of a survey team receives a pre-entry physical that determines if they are fit enough to don the 50-plus pounds of equipment that make up the Level A protective suits worn into the hot zone. The equipment includes an air tank, and the suit

# 52nd Weapons of Mass Destruction Civil Support Team



located near the building and examining the chemical storage room inside the building.

After the briefing, the “Homeland Warrior” survey team heads into the hot zone. Made up of members of the 52nd as well as local firefighters, the team looked like they stepped right out of science fiction movie with their gas moni-

tors, radiation meters, digital cameras and chemical detection kits. A back-up team stands by in case a survey team member is injured or cannot complete the mission for some reason.

“The initial survey into the hot zone gives the 52nd an idea of what they’re dealing with,” said Lt. Col. Scott A. White, unit commander. After the first sweep, the team returns, goes through the decon line, medical exam and a back-brief to prepare the next team traveling into the hot zone, White explained. Samples would be collected on a second trip, he added.

Sixty minutes passed quickly and the survey team soon moved towards the decon line.

“Typically you see a wet decon, but we are using a dry decon because the hazard was initially identified as water reactive. If you’d spray somebody down and they had chemicals on their suit, it would burn the suit,” White explained.

Once the back brief was completed, a second entry into the hot zone was initiated. Within an hour, the second survey team returns with liquid samples of the chemical hazard, bringing it to the unit’s Dismounted Analytical Laboratory Platform. This state-of-the-art mobile lab contains a database capable of identifying in excess of 200,000 chemicals. The database is pre-set up to identify chemical warfare agents.

“In approximately 20 minutes, it will tell us what we are dealing with,” said White, who noted lab technicians also wore Level A suits and they would remain at the highest protective level until the hazard could be identified.

The manner in which the 52nd proceeds

after the samples are collected and analyzed hinges on the lab’s findings, White said.

“We give advice to the incident commander based on that information. For instance, if it’s Sarin, a chemical agent, then it becomes an FBI issue because it’s a terrorist incident and you’re dealing with a weapon of mass destruction,” White said. The team works under the incident commander whether it’s a local, state or federal agency.

“The incident commander on the local level can call the team directly and either talk to myself or my deputy. We’re the only two that can actually release the team to respond,” White said.

White’s deputy is Maj. David E. Seitz, who also served as incident liaison during this exercise. “This is a lot more realistic than (local law enforcement and fire personnel) are used to. We try not to take any short cuts by training to time, versus training to standard. It puts a lot of faith in the team; (first responders) see how we operate and that is what’s important,” Seitz said.

“We do this 24-7 and it pays off. CST’s in general are the only full-time units in the National Guard. It’s one of our strengths that we don’t have a wartime mission,” Seitz said. “It’s good to come out and work with these guys, to work with everyone on an exercise before an actual incident.”

Dorman strongly agreed.

“A really good thing about this (exercise) is we haven’t worked with our CRT before and we haven’t worked with the 52nd before,” he said. “We’re seeing each other’s faces for the first time so if this really happens, we...won’t be strangers to each other.” ■



is completely sealed to protect the wearer from the unknown hazards.

Before the team suits up and enters the hot zone, however, they are given a mission briefing by Army National Guard Sgt. 1st Class James G. Dyer, the unit’s recon NCO. Dyer gives the survey team instructions pertaining to general safety in the hot zone as well as the specific objectives of this mission.

“Don’t change the position of the room. Leave the lights on or off, doors open, etc., and watch out for shock hazards,” Dyer cautioned. He also gave the survey team four tasks to accomplish during their entry: setting up an M-22 Chemical Agent Detector, identifying labels on barrels located in the hot zone, checking out a truck

The 52nd Weapon’s of Mass Destruction-Civil Support Team, one of 32 teams nationwide, is made up of four Air National Guard and 18 Army National Guard personnel. Each member completes more than 850 hours of training and is required to stay with the 52nd for three years. Army Guard soldiers deny eligibility for promotion through SATP during their tenure with the unit. For more information, call (614) 336-6499.



**ABOVE:** Battery I, 1st Light Artillery, sets up a Civil War encampment at the Veterans Meet. **RIGHT:** Local Boy Scouts dispose of unserviceable flags at a flag retirement ceremony.



## Soldiers honored by Newark, weekend-long veterans meet

By Sgt. Bob Barko Jr.  
HQ STARC (-)

The veterans of Licking County were honored last fall when the Newark Bicentennial Commission dubbed the community's 200th birthday, Sept. 20, "Veterans Appreciation Day."

"If it weren't for the veterans providing the freedoms for our country and our people, we wouldn't be 200 years old today," said then-Newark Mayor Frank Stare during opening ceremonies at Sixth Street Park. Stare gave credit to veterans who got involved with community projects and civil organizations after completing their military obligations. "They helped build Newark to what it is today."

The Ohio Army National Guard supported the event by providing a color guard from the 211th Maintenance Company, a performance by the 122nd Army National Guard Band and the ceremony's keynote speaker, Assistant Adjutant General for Army Brig. Gen. Ronald G. Young.

Like the veterans being honored, Young noted that today's servicemembers are serving in a war to defend the freedoms of our nation.

"The events of 9-11 have given rise to a fresh appreciation to those in uniform," Young said. "Since September (2001), both young and old have instinctively turned to our military as the symbolic, yet very real source of national strength. But sometimes, even in times of national crisis, we overlook the sacrifices of those who came before us."

"So, even in the midst of war, we stop to say thank you. Thank you to all those veterans who have gone before us. Your determination, your readiness, your willingness to go where you were needed, when you were needed, and serve, are potent symbols of liberty, justice and hope for freedom-loving people worldwide."

With "Veterans Appreciation Day" serving as a springboard, retired Army Master Sgt. Edward L. McDonald rallied many veterans organizations together for a weekend-long Veterans Meet. Set up at Newark's T.J. Evans Park, the meet began Friday night and lasted through Sunday.

"This meet was for all veterans living in the state of Ohio and served to unite all of us in a common bond, regarding veterans issues," McDonald said. "There are groups like the Navy Mothers—they have very few members and their voice is small—but, if you put them together in a large organization, it will be a

larger voice under one umbrella to increase the power (of veterans) to lobby government."

Battery I, 1st Ohio Light Artillery, a Civil War reenactment unit, set up an encampment and cannon emplacements at the park, and the 211th helped out once again by providing tents and a water buffalo for the event. Local points of interest including the Sherwood-Davidson House, Heisey Museum and Webb House Museum displayed exhibits that tied into the meet. Buses took participants to the Veterans Appreciation Day ceremony Saturday morning, and additional speakers, including state Sen. Jay Hottinger, addressed the meet's participants in the afternoon, after they returned to the park.

"We've had a lot of men and women who have been willing to sacrifice, put their lives in harm's way and go





**ABOVE, LEFT:** Guardmembers observe presentations during Newark’s “Veterans Appreciation Day,” sponsored by the community’s Bicentennial Commission. **ABOVE, RIGHT:** Stephen Jett reels in a large catfish during the Veterans Meet. **ABOVE:** Veterans attend “Veterans Appreciation Day” activities at the Heisey Museum in Newark.

private to the highest general—to join us, because they’re all veterans to us,” he said.

Attendees such as Jack Alvis, an 80-year-old World War II veteran, seemed grateful for the recognition and the assistance available to former members of the armed forces. “Thank goodness I never had to kill anybody; it still took me two or three years to get back to (living) something like normal,” said Alvis, who was a machine gunner during the invasion of Normandy.

McDonald was happy with the turnout, estimating about 200 participants, including many residents from the Ohio Veterans Home in Sandusky. He also was pleased with the interaction that took place between all the organizations that attended. “Veterans have a powerful voice, especially when we get everyone together,” McDonald said.

“Our ultimate goal is to combine all of the veterans groups,” said George Healy, a Red Cross volunteer and a Korean War veteran. He said the Veterans Crisis and Outreach Center of Licking County was also supporting the event.

Troops 2 and 11 of the Boy Scouts of America prepared meals throughout the weekend and conducted a flag retirement ceremony Saturday evening. Battery I fired their cannons both evenings, and a POW-MIA remembrance ceremony took place Friday night. Recreational activities included observing the various displays, socializing with other attendees and fishing at a nearby pond—all of which helped McDonald accomplish his second goal of the meet, “getting to know each other.”

“I feel it’s excellent for the first event,” he said, adding that plans have already begun for 2003, scheduled for Sept. 18-21. ■

overseas to defend this great country of ours,” Hottinger said. “In spite of all our problems and mistakes that we’ve made, we are, absolutely without a doubt, the greatest and best country in the world. I know all of you have proudly worn our nation’s colors and defended our flag and for that, I say thank you very much.”

In addition to local and state dignitaries expressing appreciation to the veterans, Rocky Rollison, a representative from TRICARE, was on-hand to inform the group about services available to them.

According to Rollison, TRICARE helps veterans pay their medical bills—including prescriptions—and assists with administrative issues related to social security, Medicare and Medicaid. “We invite all current soldiers and veterans—from a no-stripe



Courtesy photo

**Members of the 269th Combat Communications Squadron, Springfield, recently celebrated the unit's 12th year in partnership with Horace Mann Elementary School.**

## 269th CCS completes 12th year in Adopt-A-School program

Springfield's 269th Combat Communications Squadron recently celebrated its 12th year in partnership with Horace Mann Elementary School.

During the 2001-2002 school year, eight unit members tutored 16 students in reading, spelling and math. They spent two hours a week with the students, and concluded the year with a "Shadow Day" which allowed the students to visit the base and observe their tutors on the job.

Over the last 12 years, unit members have participated in various activities to support the school. In addition to supporting the school's OhioReads tutoring program, unit members installed TV brackets, worked the Spring Festival, assisted in Olympic Day activities and set up shelving.

The school maintains a bulletin board at the unit and hosts "Appreciation Luncheons" for unit members. The partnership continues this year, with the time invested considered "time well spent." **CMSGT DANIEL SCHETTER / 269TH COMBAT COMMUNICATIONS SQUADRON**

## Ohio tops in National Guard, wins 2003 ACOE award

The Ohio Army National Guard was honored as the overall winner of the fiscal year 2003 (FY03) Joint Guard/Reserve Components Army Community of Excellence (ACOE) Program held in Orlando, Fla. last September. The ACOE Award is the military equivalent of the Malcom Baldrige Award in the business, education and healthcare communities, and was created in 1988 to recognize achievements in overall performance improvement within the federal sector.

The Ohio Army National Guard's submission was selected as the top entry from 21 other Guard/Reserve applications and received \$500,000 in May at the ACOE Awards Ceremony in Washington D.C. The OHARNG submitted its first packet for this competition in FY02, earning a trophy for 12th place, the title "Rookie of the Year" and a \$25,000 cash award.

The FY03 win allowed the Ohio Guard to participate in the "Top 10" International, Department of the Army (DA) Competition for the same reporting period. As the national representative of the Guard/Reserve, the

OHARNG received a "site visit" Jan. 11-16 from a team of DAACOE examiners to "validate and verify" information, facts and data contained in the packet. Winners of the DA competition were announced in late March 2003, with the first-place winner earning \$3.5 million, awarded at the Pentagon in May. ACOE dollars are predominately expended for soldier "quality of life" programs within the organization.

Under the leadership and guidance of Assistant Adjutant General for Army Brig. Gen. Ronald Young and Chief of Staff Col. Gregory Wayt, the planning and preparation of these packets have been critical to the Ohio Army National Guard's continuous improvement program, organizational alignment, and its journey to performance excellence and "World Class" status. **MSG LARRY J. HALE / STATE QUALITY ADVISOR**

## ONG continues support of Red Ribbon Campaign

A team from the Ohio National Guard's Counterdrug Task Force visited 12 schools throughout the state to distribute Red Ribbons and deliver the "Freedom is Drug Free" message to school children.

The Oct. 23 visit to Buckeye Valley West Elementary in Ostrander was typical of such visits. Principal Andy Miller and his students were treated to an impressive show as a humvee led the group to the fence surrounding the school's athletic field. They soon heard the heavy thump of helicopter

blades and, within moments, the children could see it flying toward their school.

"Are they going to land here?" was a question asked by many of the children as the UH-1 "Huey" began to circle the field. After the copter touched down and the blades stopped turning, four soldiers climbed from the helicopter and were quickly enveloped in a sea of children.

Small hands rose into the air to ask questions about the inner workings of the Huey. Meanwhile, the humvee was guided on to the field and soldiers led a parade of students through the vehicle. The students climbed through doors and stuck their heads out of the turret and rear hatch, getting a first-hand feel for the military workhorse.

"I want to be a soldier when I get big," was the remark made by more than one student as they inspected the vehicle.

The team, led by Chief Warrant Officer 3 Mickey Cales, distributed the coveted Red

Ribbons. In a scene more akin to a concert or a sporting event, the students began to ask the team members to sign their ribbons, pieces of paper and even their hands. One of the young students remarked he would have their ribbon laminated. The soldiers reminded the youngsters to be sure to remember what the ribbons stood for and not to do drugs. **SGT BOB BARKO JR. / HQ STARC (-)**



Courtesy photo

**MajGen John Smith (right) receives the ACOE Award from Director of the ARNG LTG Roger Schultz in Washington D.C.**

## Ohio National Guard leads mission in Panama

National Guard soldiers from across America shed their winter clothes and traveled south to Panama to participate in New Horizons '03 in the western highlands of Chiriqui province.

Spearheaded by the Ohio National Guard, Joint Task Force Chiriqui constructed schools and clinics and conducted medical exercises for the rural villagers in the remote mountain area along the Costa Rican border.

"I'm looking forward to getting the equipment out to Chiriqui and getting to work," said Capt. Dave Lambert, Joint Task Force Chiriqui logistics officer and member of the Ohio National Guard, prior to the deployment kick-off. Lambert ensured that all necessary equipment, material and supplies to support more than 500 soldiers for the four-month project all arrived at the right place at the right time.

Army National Guard soldiers from 21 states deployed to Panama to conduct the exercise. A full-time contingent of soldiers stayed for the duration of the exercise, providing continuity for others who cycle through. Members of JTF Chiriqui worked with their Panamanian civilian counterparts to accomplish the projects.

For the people of this remote region, the “thunder” of heavy machinery was heard as National Guard troops provided educational and medical benefits that will last for years. **SFC TOM ROBERTS / ARMY NEWS SERVICE**

## Family Readiness prepares workshops, state conference

The Family Readiness Office is sponsoring regional training workshops for Family Readiness Group (FRG) leaders and assigned military liaisons. These workshops are designed to train the leaders of the FRGs in roles and responsibilities of FRGs, organizing a FRG, managing a FRG, communications and fund-raising. Two workshops remain this year, one is in Mansfield on June 28 and the other is in Lima on Aug. 10.

The State Family Readiness Conference was May 2-4 this year. There were educational classes on youth coping skills, reunions, deployments and household budgets. The weekend was not limited to adults; there were activities for the children of soldiers during the weekend as well. This was truly a family event.

For more information on the regional training workshops, contact the State Family Readiness Office at (800) 589-9914. **CHAPLAIN (1LT) JIM SIZEMORE / STATE FAMILY READINESS OFFICE**

## “Tail” of Toledo on display

“A copy of an official F-16 tail will be on display for all future 180th Basic Military Training (BMT) trainees to see in the future,” said Command Chief Master Sgt. Roy Swanson, 180th Fighter Wing, Toledo.

Air National Guard Command Chief Val Benton requested that all Guard and Reserve units provide mission-essential equipment, that best represented the unit, to display at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas, where all airmen begin their military career.

The 180th’s F-16 tail, a scale replica, will now be on permanent display in a BMT classroom. Swanson presented the F-16 tail to Chief Master Sgt. David Morris, Air Force Reserve Liaison, at the Worldwide

Command Chief Conference held at Lackland last year. **MAJ THOMAS GEE / 180TH FIGHTER WING**

## Mansfield-based company helps 179th

Imagine being deployed halfway around the globe, supporting wartime operations around the clock, and the sewer system provided by the host country backs up. Suddenly, about half the restrooms in your compound can’t be used and raw sewage floods the place, baking in the 130-degree temperatures and adding an entirely new fragrance to the desert air.

Thirty-two members of the 179th’s Civil Engineering Squadron didn’t have to imagine this unpleasant scenario, they lived it.

“We were literally drowning in sewage,” said Maj. Denise Boyer, commander of the team’s deployment in Al Dhafra, United Arab Emirates, in support of Operations Southern Watch and Enduring Freedom. “Something had to be done.”

After numerous attempts by host nation contractors to repair the system’s submerged pumps led nowhere, Boyer and Chief Master Sgt. Ken Wolf, the deployed team’s facility chief, came up with an idea that involved Gorman-Rupp Pumps, which is headquartered in Mansfield.

Rather than replace the submerged pumps, Wolf designed a “lift station” configuration which placed the pumps above ground, posing much less of a risk to maintenance personnel during repair work. After contacting the company’s headquarters, Boyer and Wolf learned there was a Gorman-Rupp distributor about two hours away from them and that it had the components that Wolf specified. Air Force funding was arranged and, in a few days, new pumps were on-hand. Working with the host nation, the 179th’s CE team went to work, completing the new lift station in short order.

“We weren’t worried about problems in the future,” Wolf said. “Gorman-Rupp pumps are the Cadillac of the industry.”

“This is just another example of what the Air National Guard brings to the fight,” said Lt. Col. Jay Williams, 179th Civil Engineering Squadron commander. “We have branches and roots in our communities that enable us to be innovative in ways that many active-duty units can’t.” **SSGT BETH DUBINA / 179TH AIRLIFT WING**



Courtesy photo

**CCMSgt Roy Swanson (left), 180th Fighter Wing, presents a unit F-16 tail to USAF Reserve Liaison CMSgt David Morris (center) at the 2002 Worldwide Command Chief Conference at Lackland AFB, Texas as State CCMSgt. Richard A. Smith looks on.**

## Ohio nets big wins in ANG '02 Softball Tourney, preps for '03

Hosting the 37th Annual Air National Guard National Softball Tournament is one thing, winning three out of five divisions and coming in second in the other two—that’s altogether amazing!

Sixty-four teams from across the country descended on Gator Alley Softball complex just outside the city of Dayton to compete in the ANG Nationals Aug. 7-11, 2002. Teams competed in five divisions of play: Men’s Open, Women’s Open, Men’s 35-and-over, Co-Ed and Men’s 45-and-over.

Ohio Adjutant General Maj. Gen. John H. Smith addressed the coaches meeting and wished all the teams “good luck.” Col. Richard Lohnes, vice commander of 178th Fighter Wing, threw out the ceremonial first pitch, while F-16s from the 178th gave a great Opening Day fly-by. With that, the games began and ran for three straight days.

Here’s how Ohio fared: second place in the Men’s 45-and-over division; second place in Women’s Open; first place in Co-Ed, keeping the team’s National Championship title; first place in Men’s 35-and-over, going undefeated to win this division for the first time since 1994; and first place in Men’s Open, the “Grand Daddy” of the ANG Nationals.

The tournament returns to Dayton Aug. 6-10, 2003, which will coincide with the 100th Anniversary of Powered Flight and Ohio’s Bicentennial. For more information, visit the event website at [www.geocities.com/angsoftball02](http://www.geocities.com/angsoftball02). **CMSTGT CHRIS MUNCY / 251ST COMBAT COMMUNICATIONS GROUP**



SMSgt Larry Wilson / 179th Airlift Wing

**The 179th Airlift Wing Choir performs at the Renaissance Theater in downtown Mansfield.**

**Guard choir brings sound of music to Mansfield area**

Over the roar of the C-130 engines their voices sing the songs of freedom. Their songs commemorate fallen heroes, ring true with American pride and move audiences throughout the state. They are the members of the 179th Airlift Wing Choir.

Their jobs vary in scope and skill, but they share a common voice led by Col. Willis Waldron, support group commander. Waldron, with more than 15 years of experience with the Mansfield Symphony Chorus, organized the choir in October 2001 with a mere seven choristers.

The choir now consists of more than 18 choristers from various areas in the wing.

“We are a mix of full-time and traditional members. What a great way to come together as a diverse team,” Waldron said.

The choir has increased in popularity since its inception in late 2001 and is currently the only known formalized Air National Guard choir in the country. Some of their major performances include the “Let Freedom Reign” ceremony at the Renaissance Theater in downtown Mansfield on Sept. 11, 2002, the Governor’s Annual Memorial Day Wreath-Laying event at the Ohio Statehouse, the Ohio Veteran’s Hall of Fame Class of 2002 Induction ceremony and the unit annual awards banquet.

“Our hopes for the group are high—stratospheric,” Waldron said. Waldron wants to see the choir perform at Air National Guard conventions and work closely with the color and honor guards.

Members of the choir enjoy performing and are called upon often to volunteer their talents, however they are careful to bal-

ance their commitments. “All of our people maintain busy schedules; for now we’re trying not to overbook,” Waldron said.

Senior Master Sgt. Richard Schuller, Security Forces Squadron first sergeant, is one of those busy vocalists. Although he is responsible for the morale and welfare of more than 80 troops, he makes time for the choir. “I think it is important to represent our base in a positive way. I feel like I’m giving something back,” he said.

Like Schuller, Master Sgt. April Roberts, recruiter, juggles a busy schedule but

is committed to promoting the Ohio Air National Guard through song. “I am so proud when I go out there and sing in that uniform,” she said. Roberts looks forward to future engagements and found the Air Force choir that sang at the championship Fiesta Bowl inspirational. “I thought to myself ‘we could do that.’” And with the choir’s “stratospheric” goals, one day, they just may. SSGT SHANNON PARKS / 179TH AIRLIFT WING

**Wolf paves way to USAFA**

One of the most prestigious ways to earn a commission in the Ohio Air National Guard is attending the Air Force Academy. And that is the goal for Senior Airman Karlton J. Wolf of the 179th Airlift Wing, Mansfield, who is currently a student at the United States Air Force Academy Preparatory School.

“I’m at the top 15 percent of my class and I’m a tutor,” Wolf said. “(I was) looking forward to May when my admission to the Air Force Academy was confirmed.”

Wolf, who wanted a military career and a college education, joined the Air National Guard for the scholarship program even before he graduated from high school. He nearly completed his first year in college when he learned about the Air Force Academy’s “Leaders Encouraging Airman Development” program during his squadron’s commander’s call.

The LEADs program is one of two methods to be selected for the AF Academy, according to Command Chief Master Sgt. Richard A. Smith, who has known Wolf most of his life and encouraged him to pursue a commission. “Karlton and my son, Richie, are best friends; they were Eagle

Scouts together,” Smith explained.

According to Smith, selection for the academy can be accomplished through political means, with a congressional appointment, or through the LEADs program, in which commanders recommend qualified candidates.

“The political method takes more than a year,” Smith said. “The competition is harder because many high school students within 11 counties are seeking appointment for only one spot.” Smith further explained that the LEADs program eliminates the political process. “The competitors are all military members and selections is based upon their commander’s recommendation.”

“The process required many steps, and I had many people helping me,” Wolf said. “I did not share my intent with my parents until I was certain of my potential selection to the academy.”

“It was my extreme pleasure to recommend Senior Airman Karlton Wolf for acceptance into the United States Air Force Academy,” said Col. Ronald Stanich, Wolf’s squadron commander. “Senior Airman Wolf was an outstanding member of the 179th Medical Squadron. He displayed unsurpassed integrity, maturity and leadership qualities. I feel that Senior Airman Wolf will make an out-

standing officer and leader for our country in the United States Air Force.”

“I was excited to learn about my potential selection,” Wolf said. “I’m glad for the prep school. I’m getting a free education for one year while preparing for the academy and earning an income.”



**Wolf**

The prep school enrolls 225 students. Those who

successfully complete the course requirements are selected for the academy. MSGT EALNOR GREY / 178TH FIGHTER WING

**JOG can turn lives around**

During a speech given at a Jobs for America’s Graduates (JAG) National Student Leadership Conference in Washington D.C., Ashley Davoli, then a Teays Valley High School senior, explained how the Jobs for Ohio Graduates (JOG) program transformed her life and gave her the impetus to join the military.

“JOG has shown me that coming from a broken home and troubled environment cannot keep me from accomplishing anything I set my mind to,” said Davoli, member of A Company, 216 Engineer Battalion, Chilicothe.

The No. 1 mission of JOG is graduation.

Davoli, once a prime candidate to become a high school drop-out and member of the Juvenile Corrections system, instead became a JOG success.

Abandoned by her mother to her stepfather's family, Davoli said she hated her fellow students for daring to have parents and security, didn't trust anyone, hated everyone and hated being alive. When she heard about the JOG program offered in her high school, she decided to give it a try.

The program targets at-risk kids and teaches basic life skills or "competencies" needed to get, then keep, a job.

"We do exercises to build their confidence," said Randy Darst, JOG Specialist at Teays Valley High School. "We teach them leadership skills, teamwork, public speaking, human relations and much more."

These same basic skills and competencies are highly valued by the military.

"JOG was instrumental in her decision to join the military. The Guard was a way for her to replace emptiness with structure and security," said Harold Callum, district JOG supervisor.

Davoli's transformation was so complete that by her senior year she had gone from feeling like an outsider to the president of her school JOG chapter, then she joined another organization that would value her hard-won basic life skills—the Ohio Army National Guard. SPC MICHELLE MORGAN / HQ STARC (-)

## ONG celebrates first with Berio promotion

The first Hispanic believed to achieve the title of sergeant major in the Ohio National Guard was promoted to that rank last October.

Edwin Berio was promoted to sergeant major during a promotion ceremony Oct. 1, 2002, at Beightler Armory in Columbus, where he is assigned as the operations sergeant major to the Ohio Army National Guard Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations and Plans Col. Matt Kambic.

Kambic said he chose Berio for the position because he is technically proficient and focused on mission accomplishment. "Sergeant Major Berio will do outstanding work in helping the Ohio Army National Guard continue its commitment to excellence," Kambic said.

The promotion coincided with Hispanic Heritage Month, which honors the diverse peoples of Spanish-speaking backgrounds who have come to the United States from more than 20 countries.

Berio began his military career by enlisting in the Puerto Rico National Guard on Aug. 4, 1978. He served with Company B, 2nd Battalion, 65th Infantry for one year before relocating to Ohio and joining the Ohio Army National Guard.

In 1984 Berio was selected for an Active Guard/Reserve (AGR) position as the operations assistant for 166th Infantry, Headquarters Battalion in Columbus. During the next 20 years, Berio took on several responsibilities throughout various units in Ohio, including first sergeant with HHD, 1-134th Field Artillery, HHD STARC operations NCO and assistant to the state com-



Todd Cramer / AGOH-Photo Lab

**On the day of his promotion, SGM Edwin Berio (center) proudly wears his new rank while flanked by daughter Mariel and son Edwin Jr.**

mand sergeant major. Before being selected as the operations sergeant major on July 14, 2002, he was the mobilization readiness noncommissioned officer for the operations and training section of HQ STARC (-).

"The biggest thing for me is just the pride," Berio said. "There is a certain prestige of being called a sergeant major."

"When I came to Ohio 20 years ago, it seemed like I was the only Latino in the community," he said. "Now there is a great Latino population on the west side of Columbus."

"I hope that my accomplishment shows them that everyone has the same opportunities, regardless of ethnicity."

A 2002 graduate of the U. S. Army Sergeant Majors Academy at Fort Bliss, Texas, Berio has earned several awards and decorations during his military career including the Army Meritorious Service Medal with two oak leaf clusters, the Army Commendation Medal with three oak leaf clusters, the Ohio Award for Merit with the number three device, the Ohio Commendation Medal and the Ohio Special Service Ribbon.

When not at work, Berio enjoys spending time with his family. He has two sons that are in the military. Cpl. Edwin Berio Jr., is a supply sergeant assigned to the 16th Engineer Brigade of the Ohio Army National Guard; he also is an AGR soldier. Pvt. Matthew Berio is an active-duty soldier who specializes in automated logistic computer operation. Berio's daughter, Mariel, is a dermatologist assistant. SPC HARAZ GHANBARI / HQ STARC (-)

## Make 'em laugh



US Air Force photo

**TSgt Chuck Juhasz, of Toledo's 180th Fighter Wing, enjoys a visit from Robin Williams while recovering from surgery in Incirlik Air Base, Turkey. The comedian visited troops on a USO-sponsored visit.**

## Reserve Pay for 4 Drill Periods

Unofficial Copy (Effective Jan. 1, 2003)

### YEARS OF SERVICE

	<2	2	3	4	6	8	10	12	14	16	18	20	22	24	26
<b>Grade</b>															
O-10	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1610.36	1618.28	1651.92	1710.56	
O-9	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1408.48	1428.76	1458.08	1509.28	
O-8	996.60	1029.24	1050.88	1056.96	1083.92	1129.16	1139.64	1182.52	1194.84	1231.76	1285.20	1334.52	1367.44	1367.44	1367.44
O-7	828.12	866.56	884.40	898.56	924.12	949.44	978.72	1007.92	1037.20	1129.16	1206.84	1206.84	1206.84	1206.84	1212.92
O-6	613.76	674.28	718.52	718.52	721.28	752.16	756.28	756.28	799.28	875.24	919.84	964.44	989.80	1015.48	1065.32
O-5	511.68	576.40	616.32	623.80	648.64	663.60	696.36	720.40	751.40	798.92	821.56	843.88	869.28	869.28	869.28
O-4	441.48	511.04	545.16	552.76	584.40	618.36	660.60	693.52	716.36	729.48	737.12	737.12	737.12	737.12	737.12
O-3	388.16	440.04	474.96	517.80	542.60	569.80	587.44	616.44	631.48	631.48	631.48	631.48	631.48	631.48	631.48
O-2	335.36	381.96	439.92	454.76	464.16	464.16	464.16	464.16	464.16	464.16	464.16	464.16	464.16	464.16	464.16
O-1	291.16	303.00	366.24	366.24	366.24	366.24	366.24	366.24	366.24	366.24	366.24	366.24	366.24	366.24	366.24
O-3E	0.00	0.00	0.00	517.80	542.60	569.80	587.44	616.44	640.84	654.80	673.92	673.92	673.92	673.92	673.92
O-2E	0.00	0.00	0.00	454.76	464.16	478.92	503.84	523.12	537.48	537.48	537.48	537.48	537.48	537.48	537.48
O-1E	0.00	0.00	0.00	366.24	391.16	405.60	420.36	434.88	454.76	454.76	454.76	454.76	454.76	454.76	454.76
W-5	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	689.24	712.88	760.44	760.44
W-4	401.08	431.48	443.88	456.08	477.08	497.80	518.80	539.28	560.48	580.80	601.60	621.92	643.00	663.76	685.00
W-3	366.28	381.60	397.24	402.36	418.80	437.56	462.32	477.40	502.92	522.08	541.12	560.20	568.84	587.60	606.40
W-2	322.20	340.60	356.68	368.40	378.44	399.08	419.80	435.20	450.20	460.52	477.32	494.12	510.80	527.64	527.64
W-1	284.52	303.80	323.40	333.48	355.00	370.96	385.12	400.92	411.36	427.12	442.76	454.60	454.60	454.60	454.60
E-9	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	475.24	486.00	499.60	515.60	531.64	557.44	579.24	600.84	634.32
E-8	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	396.72	408.16	418.84	431.68	445.60	470.68	483.40	505.00	517.00	546.56
E-7	275.80	301.04	312.52	323.76	335.52	355.72	367.12	378.44	398.72	408.84	418.48	424.36	444.20	457.04	489.52
E-6	236.08	259.68	271.16	282.28	293.88	320.12	330.32	341.64	351.56	355.08	361.28	361.28	361.28	361.28	361.28
E-5	216.72	231.16	242.32	253.80	271.60	286.92	298.24	304.44	304.44	304.44	304.44	304.44	304.44	304.44	304.44
E-4	200.36	210.64	222.04	233.24	243.20	243.20	243.20	243.20	243.20	243.20	243.20	243.20	243.20	243.20	243.20
E-3	180.92	192.28	203.84	203.84	203.84	203.84	203.84	203.84	203.84	203.84	203.84	203.84	203.84	203.84	203.84
E-2	172.00	172.00	172.00	172.00	172.00	172.00	172.00	172.00	172.00	172.00	172.00	172.00	172.00	172.00	172.00
E-1>4	153.44	153.44	153.44	153.44	153.44	153.44	153.44	153.44	153.44	153.44	153.44	153.44	153.44	153.44	153.44
E-1<4	141.96	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

## National Defense Service Act impacts National Guard

President Bush signed the National Defense Authorization Act for 2003 into law Dec. 2 during a ceremony at the Pentagon. The act actually allows DoD to spend money released under the 2003 National Defense Appropriations Act, which Bush signed Oct. 23.

Under the two bills, servicemembers received at least a 4.1 percent pay raise which began Jan. 1, 2003. Many mid-level NCOs and officers received a pay jump of between 5.5 percent to 6.5 percent. The act continues special pays and bonuses for active-duty and reserve personnel and expands special pays given to high-demand military specialties. It also increases the bonus awarded to prior-service personnel.

The budget supports an active-duty end strength of 1,389,700 with the Army set at 480,000, the Navy at 375,700, the Marines up slightly to 175,000 and the Air Force pegged at 359,000. The overall strength of the reserve components is unchanged from fiscal 2002 at 864,558.

The act authorizes \$7.3 billion for counter-terrorism programs throughout the services and directs DoD to set up National Guard civil support teams in all states and territories. The teams provide medical and technical advice in the event of a terrorist attack involving weapons of mass destruction. **AMERICAN FORCES PRESS SERVICE**

## Thrift Savings Plan earns money for guardmembers

The National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2001 extended Thrift Savings Plan (TSP) participation rights to members of the uniformed services, including those serving in the National Guard.

The TSP is a defined contribution tax deferred savings plan sponsored by the federal government. It is very similar to a 401K plan available in the private sector. It allows members to contribute up to 7 percent of base pay and up to 100 percent of any special pay or incentive pay. These amounts are subject to certain limits.

TSP is an excellent way for any eligible servicemember to save money for retirement. It is very tax efficient because it allows members to save pre-tax dollars direct from their pay, automatically.

In turn, these dollars grow tax-deferred. The funds can then be withdrawn at age 59 1/2, in the form of a lump sum or as a retirement income.

It is important to understand "open season," which is the period of time in which members may sign up for the TSP deductions from their paycheck. The open seasons are from May 15 to July 31, and from Oct. 15 to Dec. 31. To enroll, one needs to complete a form TSP-1 (election form) and it is also suggested that one completes a TSP-3 (designation of beneficiary). These may be obtained from unit orderly rooms or through the TSP website at [www.tsp.gov](http://www.tsp.gov).

There are five TSP investment choices: **G Fund**-Government Securities Investment Fund; **F Fund**-Fixed Income Index Investment Fund; **C Fund**-Common Stock Index Investment Fund; **S Fund**-Small Capitalization Investment Fund; and **I Fund**-International Stock Investment Fund.

To get a better understanding of the different investment funds, it is suggested to visit the TSP website at [www.tsp.gov](http://www.tsp.gov). The more put into the TSP, the more one will get out of it. Likewise, the sooner one starts the better it will be for them. Starting with a small deduction is fine, because a contribution always can be increased at a later date.

For more information, contact James Flynn, regional director of the Armed Forces Benefit Association, by phone at (877) 965-8886 or via e-mail at [jzflynn@aol.com](mailto:jzflynn@aol.com).

## TRICARE benefits improve for RC

Members of the reserve component who are called to active duty for more than 30 days are now eligible for TRICARE, the same as any active-duty servicemember. Families of these individuals are also eligible, but sponsors need to register their family members in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System. For more information about medical care, dental care and other benefits for reserve component members and their families, interested parties may visit the TRICARE website at [www.tricare.osd.mil/reserve](http://www.tricare.osd.mil/reserve). The website for the TRICARE Dental Program is [www.ucci.com/tdp/tdp.html](http://www.ucci.com/tdp/tdp.html).

### ONGSP APPLICATION DEADLINES

Fall term, July 1  
Spring semester/Winter quarter, Nov. 1  
Spring quarter, Feb. 1  
Summer term, April 1

It is the sole responsibility of a student/guardmember to turn in a completed application to the **Ohio National Guard Scholarship Program** office, located at the Adjutant General's Department, 2825 West Dublin Granville Road, Columbus, Ohio 43235-2789, by the deadlines listed above.

This must be done prior to each term a student attends school.

For more information, call (614) 336-7032 or toll-free (888) 400-6484.

# Ohio Guard one step closer to being true 'Army of One'

Story by Sgt. Jessica M. McMillen  
196th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

The soldiers of the 2-174th Air Defense Artillery (Avenger) Battalion said farewell Jan. 11 to Lt. Col. Michael Bish after four years of dedicated leadership, and participated in a history-making ceremony, welcoming Lt. Col. Lorenzo Mack as their new commanding officer.

It marked the first time an active-duty officer assumed command of an Ohio Army National Guard unit, as part of the Army's Command and Staff Integration Program (CSIP).

The CSIP offers a unique opportunity for reserve component officers to command active-duty units, and likewise, active-duty officers to command Army Reserve and National Guard units.

"I realize I have been blessed with an opportunity, and I am aware I have large shoes to fill," Mack said. "I stand by you today as a soldier and the luckiest lieutenant colonel in the Army."

As Bish's replacement, and the cornerstone of a monumental occasion, Mack was introduced by Bish as "the perfect person to lead this unit to the next level."

And that's just what Mack intends to do. He recently returned from a seven-month deployment to Afghanistan, where he served as the chief air defense officer for Coalition Joint Task Force-180. There, his principal duties included coordinating air defense assets and providing an Air Missile Defense Warning System (AMDWS) air picture for component commands and 19 coalition partners throughout the area of operations.

During Operations Desert Shield/Storm, Mack served as a battery commander with the 3rd Armored Division. Other assignments include battery commands and staff positions in Wachenheim, Germany, as well as with the 82nd Airborne Division and XVII Airborne Corps in Fort Bragg, N.C.

A Sumterville, Ala., native, Mack was commissioned through Tuskegee Institute with a bachelor's degree in business



**ABOVE: LTC Michael Bish (center) relinquishes the duty of commander of the 2-174th ADA to active-duty LTC Lorenzo Mack (right). RIGHT: First U.S. Army Commander LTG Paul Inge offers his advice to incoming commander Mack.**



SPC A. Weber / 196th MPAD

administration, and later earned a master's degree in business management from Webster University.

Though Mack has a distinguished military background, he said this assignment would be challenging due to current world events.

"I am very humbled and thankful to be part of such an illustrious unit," Mack said. "It is a great and wonderful experience, however, it's not about me. It's about the 435 soldiers in the unit and I am glad to be here."

"The (officer integration program) is important to Ohio because during these days and times, all we have to do is watch CNN to see soldiers from all branches of service moving around the world," said Lt. Gen. Paul Inge, First U.S. Army commander, in attendance at the ceremony. "The active component of the Army cannot complete the mission themselves, it requires reserve component participation and support. It is most important that the active and reserve comp-

**LEFT: LTC Michael Bish relays a heartfelt farewell to the troops of 2-174th Air Defense Artillery, his command for the last four years.**



SPC A. Weber / 196th MPAD

ponents, National Guard and Reserves, all understand each other and are comfortable working together because we are all serving the same country."

Before Mack officially took command, Bish said good-bye to the Avengers on a positive note after he was awarded a Meritorious Service Medal and an Ohio Distinguished Service Medal. Under his watch, the Avenger Battalion went from 80 to 100 percent assigned personnel strength.

"We are greatly indebted to Lieutenant Colonel Bish for his contributions throughout the last four years," said Maj. Gen. John H. Smith, state adjutant general. "A good commander like this one lives and dies for the men and women of his unit."

The commitment and loyalty Bish felt toward the unit was evident as he thanked the troops repeatedly and left them saying, "when the 2-174th is in the area, I guarantee 'clear and friendly skies.'" Bish left his post in McConnellsville to assume the position as director of information management for the Ohio Army National Guard. ■

# After the Storms

PAGES 12-14



SrA Elizabeth Slater / 180th Fighter

Wing

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