

# BUCKEYE GUARD

MAGAZINE OF THE OHIO ARMY AND AIR NATIONAL GUARD  
FALL 2007

Ohio Army National Guard  
Recruiting & Retention

**Soldiers earn \$3 Million thru GRAP**

- GRAP-0 launched for ARNG
- Dale Jr. joins Guard team
- Patriot Chopper unveiled

Pages 17-19

**PLUS**

## WHEN CALLED, WE RESPOND

37th Infantry Brigade Combat Team prepares for deployment

## HELPING HAND DOWN SOUTH

OHARNG medical personnel travel to Ecuador

## TOP OF THE SKY

121st Air Refueling Wing team wins AMC Rodeo



# LINEAGE LINK UP

COMPANY B, 1-145TH ARMOR REGIMENT & HHC, 237TH SUPPORT BATTALION

**STATION:** Cleveland (Woods King Armory)

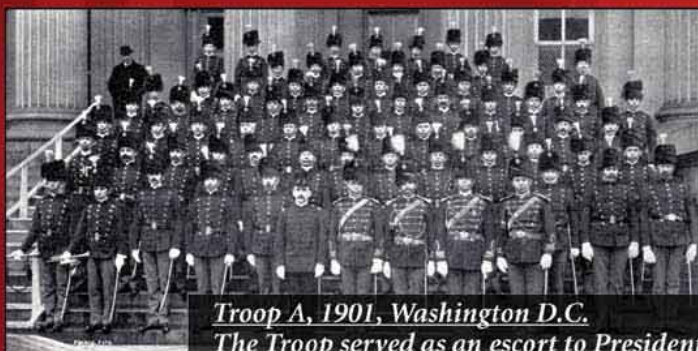
**DATE and PLACE OF BIRTH:** October 10, 1877, Cleveland, Ohio

**PARENT UNIT:** 1st Cleveland Troop

**CAMPAIGN CREDIT:** World War I - Lorraine 1918, World War II - Central Europe, Northern France, Rhineland

Following violent strikes in Cleveland during 1877, a group of the city's socioeconomic elite organized an independent militia company called the 1st Cleveland Troop. The troop joined the Ohio National Guard in 1887 and became the nucleus for Ohio's post-Civil War cavalry and today's 107th Cavalry Regiment. During World War I the troop converted to field artillery in order for Ohio to receive the 37th Division. During World War II the troop traded in horses for armored cars and conducted reconnaissance missions in Europe. Following the war the troop was split into two units and served as part of the 107th Armored Cavalry Regiment until 1993. During the War on Terrorism descendent units, B/1-107th Cavalry Regiment and 372nd Maintenance Company served in Iraq and Afghanistan and carried with them the proud history of the "Black Horse Troop." One hundred and thirty years later the First Cleveland Cavalry Association continues the legacy as the veterans group for Ohio's cavalry.

Lineage Link Up is a new feature to the Buckeye Guard and will become an recurring section of the magazine. Each installment will feature a different unit and provide a snapshot into the history, lineage and heraldry of our units.



Troop A, 1901, Washington D.C.  
The Troop served as an escort to President McKinley during his inauguration ceremony.

During the first meeting the troop decided to adopt a dress uniform that was closely modeled upon a Hussar uniform, popular among European cavalry units. It was described as a chasseur jacket of dark blue cloth trimmed with black silk braid. Trousers were light blue cloth with a yellow stripe down the outer seam. Dress headgear was a black bear-skin busby. The troop wore this dress uniform until World War II.

Photo courtesy of the First Cleveland Cavalry Association



Troop A through the years:  
First Sergeant, Troop A, 1888 (from left); Private, Battery A, 135th Field Artillery, 1918; Lieutenant, Troop A, 107th Cavalry, 1938; Private, Troop A, 1st Squadron, 107th Armored Cavalry Regiment, 1960s; Sergeant, Company B, 1st Battalion, 107th Cavalry Regiment, 2004.

# BUCKEYE GUARD

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roll call

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Winter, **October 15**

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COURTESY PHOTO

Retired COL John Jenkins (right), a former member of the 37th Infantry Division, places the historic 37th Division shoulder sleeve insignia on 1SG Charles R. Edwards of Company A, Special Troops Battalion, 37th Infantry Brigade Combat Team. Through Army transformation, the 37th Armor Brigade was redesignated as the 37th IBCT, which will deploy overseas in early 2008 wearing the "Buckeye" Division patch. See page 16 for more on the 37th IBCT's preparation for deployment.

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## ON THE COVER

**A BANNER YEAR FOR OHIO ARMY NATIONAL GUARD RECRUITING AND RETENTION:** This year the Ohio Army National Guard exceeded its recruiting mission, partly due to the highly successful Guard Recruiting Assistance Program (GRAP), which marked a milestone with more than \$3 million distributed for successful recruiting referrals since the inception of the program. Now, through the GRAP-Officer program, people can earn several thousand dollars for each successful referral of a qualified officer. **Cover design by Sgt. Daniel Henderson / Ohio Army National Guard Recruiting Marketing Office.** See pages 17-19 for a recruiting news round-up.



on the web @ <http://www.ohionationalguard.com>

# Being ready is our duty

by Brig. Gen. Matthew L. Kambic  
"Powerhouse 6"  
Assistant Adjutant General-Army

**W**hen called, we respond with ready units! This is the vision of the Ohio National Guard. It is a simple, yet, powerful call to action for all of us serving within the Ohio Army National Guard. For our leadership team, it means we have to establish a clear set of expectations, so Soldiers and leaders at every level of the organization know what is expected to make our vision statement a reality. Our vision statement makes it clear that, regardless of who calls us, the President or the Governor, we are going to respond and we will do so with forces that are fully manned, fully equipped and well led.

To clearly illuminate the priorities of the Ohio Army National Guard, we developed our Strategic Imperatives. The Ohio Army National Guard has four strategic imperatives and this article will describe and explain the significance of each. The imperatives include Homeland Security/Homeland Defense, Readiness, Support to the Global War on Terror and Transformation.

**HOMELAND SECURITY / HOMELAND DEFENSE.** Defending the homeland is the No. 1 priority of the National Guard. Serving the citizens of the Great State of Ohio is the No. 1 priority of the Ohio Army National Guard. To support this priority, we must produce ready units to respond to floods, tornados, snow emergencies, or any other natural or man-made event that will require the genius, talent and resources of the Ohio Army National Guard. Our Adjutant General says it best: being ready to serve the citizens of the state is about maintaining the trust between our citizens and our Guard. Producing ready formations means we will never fail our fellow citizens.

**READINESS.** Readiness encapsulates the ideas associated with a "Ready Unit." Simply stated, it starts with the manning of our formations (110% of assigned strength), Duty MOSQ Qualification (85%), qualified and trained leaders (OES and NCOES), Readiness, however, is a holistic concept that embraces the idea of taking care of our Soldiers (by building strong, well-led formations), producing and sustaining our outstanding family readiness programs (to ensure we always include and embrace our families), and effectively participating in our Employer Outreach Program (which further supports our Soldiers and generates more ambassadors within our communities).

**GLOBAL WAR ON TERROR.** The Ohio Army National Guard has mobilized and deployed forces in support of numerous requirements associated with the GWOT. More than 8,600 Soldiers have served in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, Operation Enduring Freedom, Noble Eagle, and operations in support of the EUCOM Commander. The Soldiers of the Ohio Army National Guard have added many new chapters to the distinguished history of our State's Guard. The price has been significant; nine of our Soldiers have made the



**Defending the homeland is the No. 1 priority of the National Guard. Serving the citizens of the Great State of Ohio is the No. 1 priority of the Ohio Army National Guard. To support this priority, we must produce ready units...Producing ready formations means we will never fail our fellow citizens.**

ultimate sacrifice and another 94 Soldiers are recipients of the Purple Heart.

The continued reliance on the Reserve Components means the Ohio Army National Guard will continue to deploy formations in support of the GWOT. We have spent a lot of time over the last nine months talking about the new mobilization policy and the implementation of the Army Force Generation (ARFORGEN) Model. The Army Executive Council will be developing strategies to drive our training to prepare units as they cycle through the ARFORGEN Model and become available for possible mobilization.

**TRANSFORMATION.** On Sept. 1, 2006 the Ohio Army National Guard embarked on the largest transformation of our force structure since World War II. I must report to you that it is my belief that the leadership throughout the depth of our organization performed magnificently in setting the formations and meeting the needs of each individual Soldier impacted by the change in force structure. A great deal of work has been done regarding our equipment. More than 3,700 pieces of equipment have been turned in or issued during the past year. Much work remains, however, as 2,200 of pieces of equipment have yet to be turned in or issued. Additionally, there is still a great deal of work to be done in completing the Duty MOS Qualification training required to move our organization back to pre-transformation DMOSQ levels. Every leader needs to work hard to get their Soldiers Duty MOS Qualified to achieve the highest levels of readiness possible within our formations.

So here's the deal...we in the Ohio Army National Guard produce ready units so we can help our Army fight and win our Nation's Wars and we can defend the homeland. Transformation is the call to action to effectively manage the change associated with our force structure to ensure we always maintain ready units!

The Ohio Army National Guard is an outstanding organization. You make it that way. Your talent, your genius, and your contributions are what make the Ohio Army National Guard so capable and so respected by our fellow citizens. I am proud to serve with each of you and I look forward to working together to meet the challenges of the days ahead.

"IT SHALL BE DONE"! **BG**

### Traditional Guard Soldiers sought for casualty notification, assistance

The Department of the Army and the National Guard Bureau have completed an agreement that will now allow traditional Guard officers (O-3 minimum), warrant officers (W-2 minimum) and noncommissioned officers (E-7 minimum) to be funded to perform casualty assistance and notification duties. This also applies to traditional Guard chaplains and includes pay, allowances and travel.

As a result, I need to compile a roster of traditional Guard Soldiers who can be called upon with extremely short notice to perform these duties. I prefer to utilize personnel who can voluntarily avail themselves to these duties. Individuals will need to get trained in the near future.

In the mean time, all traditional Guard officers, warrant officers and NCOs in the grades indicated above may volunteer to place their names on a roster of traditional Guard casualty notification and assistance officers.

Those interested need to let me know the following: complete name and rank; home address; all phone numbers that can be used to contact them (starting with the primary number first); willingness to perform casualty notification (usually a one-day duty); and willingness to perform

casualty assistance (can take two to three weeks to complete). They will also have to ensure their Class A Uniforms are in good order.

I may be contacted at (614) 336-7236 or [homer.rogers@us.army.mil](mailto:homer.rogers@us.army.mil) (CHECK)

**LTC HOMER C. ROGERS, JR.**  
**JOINT FORCE HEADQUARTERS - OHIO**

### VA suicide hotline now operational

To ensure veterans with emotional crises have round-the-clock access to trained professionals, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has begun operation of a national suicide prevention hot line for veterans.

Veterans need to know these VA professionals are literally a phone call away. All servicemembers who experience the stresses of combat can have wounds on their minds as well as their bodies. Veterans should see mental health services as another benefit they have earned.

The toll-free hot line number is 1-800-273-TALK (8255). The hot line will put veterans in touch—any time of the day or night, any day of the week, from anywhere in the country—with trained, caring professionals who can help. This is another example of the VA's commitment to provide world-class health care for our nation's veterans,

**DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS**  
**COMMUNICATIONS OFFICE**

### DVD project will honor all Ohio Army National Guard GWOT veterans

The Ohio Army National Guard has recently launched a program to capture the history and honor the 9,000 men and women of this organization who have served in the Global War on Terrorism. "Remember My Service" is an interactive historical record of a unit's deployment as told by the Soldier. Each project includes one or more discs' in a hardbound book "casing" with Unit information on the spine front cover and is presented to each Soldier at no cost. Blank pages are also inside the book for Soldiers to collect messages and contact information from other unit members.

"Remember My Service" is a division of Story Rock Electronic Publishing based in Salt Lake City, Utah. The company is the world wide leader in multimedia yearbooks in the K-12 educational market and has been involved in the military market since 2006. The DVD yearbooks not only offer the familiar pictures and stories associated with the printed page, but also provide the added benefit of video, music and the inter-activity of the Internet.

Each DVD includes a complete roster of the unit along with photographs and short biographies of each soldier. Video messages from the unit's leadership and photographs and stories of the unit performing their mission are all part of the final product as well.

The first step is ensuring every Soldier is accounted for on each roster. Reaching out to Soldiers still in the guard to get their story is relatively easy. However, finding those who are no longer in uniform will require some investigative work.

Estimates are that approximately half of those who have deployed are no longer in the guard, due to normal expiration in term of service or transfers to other states and branches of service. The best way for Soldiers out of the guard to get involved in the program is to contact their old unit or local readiness center to provide their contact information for a project officer to reach them. If a person finds this difficult they may make contact with the Adjutant General's Department through the command historian's office and they will pass along the information to the respective project officer. You may reach the historian's office by contacting me at (614) 336-7311 or [joshua.mann@us.army.mil](mailto:joshua.mann@us.army.mil).

Individuals should provide their name, last rank held, unit and period of deployment and a phone number or e-mail address for the project officer to contact them.

**SSG JOSHUA MANN**  
**JOINT FORCE HEADQUARTERS-OHIO**

## HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHT



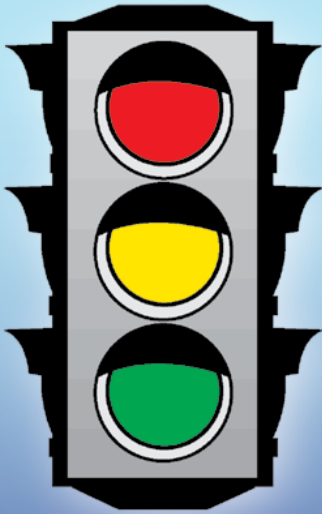
COURTESY OF OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY DEPT. OF ATHLETICS

### Vic Janowicz—Ohio State football star, guardmember

In 1950 Vic Janowicz won the Heisman Trophy as a halfback at The Ohio State University. Woody Hayes said that Janowicz "epitomized the triple-threat football player." Janowicz passed up opportunities to play in the NFL to become a double-threat "citizen-soldier": enlisting in the 37th Quartermaster Company in 1951. The following January, the all-American entered federal service when the 37th Infantry Division was sent to Camp Polk, Louisiana. While in service Janowicz was active on numerous division athletic teams, to include being well-known as an outstanding boxer. Janowicz was released from the service in late 1952 to pursue a baseball career with the Pittsburgh Pirates and returning to the football field in 1954 with the Washington Redskins. Submitted by Staff Sgt. Josh Mann, OHARNG Historian

**Keeping your employers  
in the know is one key to  
a successful deployment**

reaching  
to communities to employers  
OUT  
Russell P. Galeti Jr




## ARE YOU RED FOR THE POST DEPLOYMENT HEALTH REASSESSMENT?

Is your AKO stoplight **Red** for My Medical Readiness?  
Is AKO telling you that you are due to complete your  
Post Deployment Health Reassessment (PDHRA)?  
Want to know how to fix this?

The PDHRA seeks to identify proactively potential health issues before they become chronic conditions. The PDHRA provides education, screening, assessment and access to care for a wide variety of questions and concerns that Soldiers may have about their health after they return from deployment. Soldiers who redeployed from a combat zone more than 90 days ago are eligible for the PDHRA. Just follow these simple directions:

Option 1: Begin PDHRA online and complete it over the phone. You may complete the PDHRA online through AKO by going to <https://apps.mods.army.mil/mwde/secure/AKOFForms.asp> and logging in with your AKO username and password. You must then call 1-888-PDHRA-99 to discuss your responses with a healthcare provider.

Option 2: Complete PDHRA entirely over the phone.  
If you do not have access to a computer or AKO, you may call 1-888-PDHRA-99 and complete the entire assessment over the phone.

 **Questions?** Visit <http://www.virtualarmory.com/mobiledeploy/PDHRA> for more information.

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*Russell P. Galeti Jr. is public information officer for employer and community outreach at the Adjutant General's Department, and also a member of the Ohio Army National Guard.*

# Military pay earned while out of state now exempt from state income taxes

## legislative look with johann klein



Johann Klein is legislative liaison for the Adjutant General's Department

COLUMBUS

## Command profile



**CSM Robert Jennings**

147th Regiment (Regional Training Institute)

Age: 52

**Full-Time Position:** public information manager for the Ohio Department of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities

**Hometown:** Reynoldsburg, Ohio by way of Reno, Nev.

**Family:** wife, Evelyn; daughters, Shuree, Kalisha, Tamara, son, Robert Jr.; stepchildren, Milo and Erica

**When I was younger, I wanted to:** fly airplanes, drive fast cars and date beautiful women (but who doesn't?)

**Most recent achievement:** over the last year I have had the opportunity to represent the Ohio National Guard, the U.S. Military, and particularly the NCO Corps in the fledgling democracies of Hungary and Serbia

**The last good movie I saw was:** *Talk to Me*, starring Dom Chedale

**The books I'm reading are:** *The Measure of a Man* by Sidney Poitier and *The Wind in the Willows*, by Kenneth Grahame

**My favorite recreational activity is:** golf and quiet evenings at home with my wife

**The one thing I treasure most:** My family and being there for them when they need me

**Heroes:** My late grandfather, who taught me the true measure of a man

**Nobody knows I'm:** not fond of heights (that's pretty much what derailed my aviation career)

**The three words that best describe me:** caring, committed, loyal

**If I could leave today's guardmembers with one piece of advice it would be:** Take advantage of every training opportunity the military gives you — the skills we learn in the military are very valuable in the civilian job market

**Sooner State welcomes enlisted members to 36th annual conference in Oklahoma City**

OKLAHOMA CITY—Soldiers and Airmen voiced concerns and questions about everything from equipment shortages and homeland defense to training, education and insurance during the annual conference of the Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States.

The weeklong, late summer conference in this Midwestern city drew about 2,000 Army and Air National Guard.

The annual conference—this year’s was Aug. 11-15—serves as a forum for members and supporters of the National Guard to further professional development, discuss current issues pertaining to the quality of life of Soldiers and Airmen, and develop resolutions that can be passed on to state and federal legislatures, according to Ohio Air National Guard Chief Master Sgt. Randy Dunham, a member of the 179th Airlift Wing and president of the Ohio National Guard Enlisted Association.

“This conference is the culmination of a year of hard work by Association leadership,” Dunham said. “It also marks the beginning of a new year by allowing us to plan our agenda for the next 12 months and put into action our goals and objectives for next year.”

At the conference, many topics are brought to the floor, including uniforms, veterans’ treatment, benefits, equipment shortages, recruiting and retention, and equal opportunity considerations for all servicemembers.

“By being here, junior enlisted can make a difference,” said Sgt. Jessica F. Sowers, a finance noncommissioned officer with Joint Force Headquarters-Ohio who attended this year’s 36th annual conference. “It’s important that junior enlisted experience how many of our benefits are gained. This conference shows us that.”

Ohio was well-represented by senior leadership with both of the state’s top enlisted advisers in attendance.

“The goal of EANGUS is to provide all Soldiers and Airmen additional benefits and a quality of life than we currently have,” said Command Sgt. Maj. William L. Gilliam, state command sergeant major for the Ohio Army National Guard. “EANGUS does a great job of pushing those items to the top.”

Chief Master Sgt. Chris Muncy, Ohio’s command chief, is also a strong supporter of EANGUS. As a past president of the Ohio chapter, he understands the

importance of strong membership.

“It lends much more credibility to our organization when our leadership goes to Capitol Hill and says they’re representing 80,000 enlisted members instead of 40,000 members,” he said. “That’s why we need our senior NCOs encouraging our junior enlisted to support our professional organizations.”

From its inauguration, the voice of EANGUS has been heard on Capitol Hill through the campaigning of vigorous interest groups, according to information provided by EANGUS. Since it was formed in 1972, guardmembers have benefited in many forms, including health insurance, pay increases and bonuses.

EANGUS—or more accurately its subordinate state-level organizations—has accomplished much on an individual state basis too, granting educational scholarships, low cost home loans, and group life insurance.

For more information on ONGEA and EANGUS, call (800) 486-2216 or go to [www.ongea.org](http://www.ongea.org). **PFC EUNICE ALICEA VALENTIN / 196TH MOBILE PUBLIC AFFAIRS DETACHMENT**

**Navy admiral Mullen takes reins as chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff**

WASHINGTON—Navy Adm. Michael G. Mullen took the helm Oct. 1 as the 17th chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, vowing to work to give servicemembers “clear direction, outstanding equipment and focused policies” to accomplish current missions and prepare for future ones.

Mullen, who succeeds Marine Corps Gen. Pace as chairman of the Joint Chiefs, Mullen promised to reset, reconstitute and revitalize the military, especially the ground forces, to confront this challenge, while balancing risks around the globe to prepare for the future. **EANGUS PUBLIC AFFAIRS**



SFC ERICK STUDENICKA / NATIONAL GUARD BUREAU

**Ohio Army National Guard LTC Joseph Knott (right) receives the Headquarters, Department of the Army Pace Award from Joyce Morrow on July 27 in the Pentagon Building in Arlington, Va. Knott is the first National Guard Soldier to win the award in its 45 years. He won the award based on his work in 2006 on the Army Compatible Use Buffer Program.**

**Ohio’s Knott lands picks up Army’s Pace Award for program work**

ARLINGTON, Va.—The award on the office wall will look good for many years to come.

But the true reward for Lt. Col. Joseph Knott, who became the first National Guard Soldier to win the Pace Award from Headquarters, Department of the Army, on July 27, is the knowledge that the results from his superior work in 2006 that led to the award will endure forever.

The award recognizes an Army staff officer whose personal efforts have made a contribution of outstanding significance to the Army.

Knott, 46, received the award, presented annually to an officer assigned to Headquarters, Department of the Army, for his work as the program manager for the Army Compatible Use Buffer Program.

The program establishes buffer areas near Army and Army National Guard installations to protect endangered species and natural landscapes and to prevent incompatible development in the vicinity of military installations.

The buffers significantly reduce the impact of encroachment on Soldier training and military-equipment testing.

“These buffers are forever,” said Knott, a full-time Soldier from Cincinnati, Ohio. “The thousands of acres that the Army and its partners have preserved can never be changed. That’s the law. Our grandkids can walk onto that land in the future, and it’s going to be the same as it is today.” **SFC ERICK STUDENICKA / NATIONAL GUARD BUREAU**



Landers



# Military training helps Airman nab robbery suspect

By 2nd Lt. Samantha Howell  
178th Fighter Wing

**S**PRINGFIELD—Traditional Guardmember isn't always part-time job.

Although Senior Airman Robert T. Bragg is a traditional, part-time Guardmember, he considers his job in Ohio Air National Guard's 178th Fighter Wing Security Forces a full-time responsibility.

"Being in the Guard may be considered a part-time job because of the amount of income earned as a traditional Guardsman, but it is nowhere close to a part-time job," Bragg said. "Every time you go out in public or talk to someone, you are representing the Guard, the Air Force and the entire military. People will make judgments about the military by the contact they have with people who are currently serving."

His commitment to duty was apparent on the afternoon of Aug. 21, 2007, an otherwise normal hot summer day. Bragg was heading to the Department of Motor Vehicles when two men asked him for directions. He noted that the men were dressed in long sleeves and long pants despite the hot weather.

After running his errand, he returned home and was sitting on his front porch when he heard gun shots, yelling and screaming. He saw the two men from earlier running down the street wearing ski masks and carrying guns. Bragg told his mother to call 911, grabbed his personal weapon—he holds an Ohio concealed carry license—and chased after the suspects.

Bragg, who earned distinction as honor graduate of the June 2004 security forces technical school, placing in the top five percent of his class in academics and physical training scores, identified himself as a security police member and challenged the suspects.

While one of the suspects lay down and followed Bragg's orders, the other ran away. Bragg was able to find out the names of both men, where they lived and that they had



COURTESY PHOTO

**SrA Robert T. Bragg (left), a member of the 178th Fighter Wing Security Forces Squadron, was called upon to use his military law enforcement training in his civilian life when he apprehended a suspect in a convenience store robbery. His brother, XXX (pictured above) is also a security policeman with the 178th.**

robbed Covaults Grocery and Meat Market, a convenience store in Dayton, Ohio. He held the man until police arrived.

"It was very important to stop the suspects even though I wasn't on duty because it is exactly what any other concerned citizen would have and should have done," Bragg said. "My training kicked in and I didn't have time to think or plan out my actions. I had the means and the know-how to take control of the situation.

"There is no doubt that my military training helped me take action. When I came off the front porch, I was crouched low to the ground and remained tactical even though I was running

at full speed. My security forces training in challenging a suspect played a big role, as well as other training. Without that training things may have happened differently," he added.

Bragg is a senior at Wright State University majoring in financial services. He plans to graduate with his bachelor's degree in March 2009. He is also a part-time, state-tested nursing assistant at Graceworks Village in Centerville. **SG**

Have a  
good idea  
for a story?

*Citizen Spotlight* is a feature aimed at highlighting the unique civilian occupations, hobbies, endeavors and other off-duty interests of Ohio National Guardmembers.

These types of stories call attention to the well-rounded Citizen-Soldiers and Airmen who make up the organization, and are balancing family, work, life and their military commitments.

Please e-mail story ideas to [buckeye@tagoh.gov](mailto:buckeye@tagoh.gov), or call (614) 336-7003.

A church bell tower provides a historic backdrop during one of the Ohio Army National Guard Medical Detachment's missions in Ecuador.

GUAYAQUIL, ECUADOR—AS THE PLANE LANDED IN EARLY HOURS OF MAY 20, A GROUP OF SOLDIERS FROM THE OHIO NATIONAL GUARD AND FIVE OTHER STATES GRABBED THEIR GEAR AND PREPARED FOR THEIR TWO-WEEK MISSION.

THE OHIO NATIONAL GUARD MEDICAL DETACHMENT WAS IN ECUADOR ON A STAND ALONE MISSION TO HELP THE PEOPLE AND PROVIDED REALISTIC TRAINING FOR THEIR SOLDIERS.

ECUADOR, FROM THE SPANISH WORD "EQUATOR" HAS ABOUT 13 MILLION PEOPLE SPREAD OVER 22 COUNTIES AND FIVE PROVINCES.

THIS WAS NOT THE MED DET'S FIRST MISSION, BUT IT DIFFERS GREATLY FROM OTHERS PREVIOUSLY CONDUCTED IN PANAMA AND HONDURAS BECAUSE, UNLIKE THOSE JOINT TASK FORCE MISSIONS, THE MED DET WAS THE ONLY UNIT ON THE GROUND.

# Welcome to Ecuador

## Medical unit heads south to provide health care in Ecuador

**V**IENTICUATRO DE MAYO, Ecuador—Low rolling clouds begin to lift from the foothills of the Andes as two Soldiers with the Ohio National Guard lower the U.S. colors in a small schoolyard amid a gathering of American and Ecuadorian troops and civilians including the U.S. ambassador to Ecuador, Linda Jewell.

They were assembled for the closing ceremonies of a two-week medical readiness training exercise (MEDRETE) conducted by the Ohio Army National Guard Medical Detachment.

These types of missions are multi-purpose, improving diplomatic relations, helping impoverished people in the region and providing Soldiers and medical workers with realistic training, explained Maj. Steve Arrington, a nurse with the detachment.

"We always hope that other nations will see us in a good light," said Col. Terry A. Johnson, the detachment commander. "We do know that the Ohio National Guard has done a lot of good in South America."

The team of 34 Soldiers from five states converged in Houston for a five-hour flight

to Guayaquil, Ecuador where they took a three-hour bus ride to the neighboring city of Porto Viejo.

"It's difficult for people not from our unit, but they've all come together really well," said Sgt. 1st Class Kristine Cope, the noncommissioned officer in charge. "Everyone's handling it very well."

Among the main concerns for the mission was security at the sites in Porto Viejo, Rocafuerte, and Veintiquatro de Mayo in the growing instability of South America.

Soldiers were not allowed outside the post at night, and the team was under the constant protection of the Ecuadorian Army. This took the coordination of both National Guard and active duty force protection personnel, said 1st Sgt. Robert Cahill, in charge of force protection.

"We go in and talk with police and local government. Then we go to the people and find out what is really going on," said a Soldier whose job was to monitor and report on the regional social climate. "Every morning we talk to the colonel and recommend what he should and



SPC Jason Hart of the Ohio Army National Guard Medical Detachment, performs eye exams in a school near Porto Viejo, Ecuador, as a native girl watches him closely.

**STORIES AND PHOTOS BY  
CADET ZACHARY R. FEHRMAN  
196TH MOBILE PUBLIC AFFAIRS  
DETACHMENT**

shouldn't do."

The exercise went on without any incidents at any of the sites and with good relations developing between the nations.

"They've really opened up to us. They are very friendly and very respectful," Cahill said. "They're happy to see us here, and happy to be here."

The MEDRETE began at each site at 8 a.m. and ran until 4 p.m. or until the supplies ran out.

"We always use schools, they're central and everyone knows where they are," said Col. Wayne Richardson, commander of U.S. Military Group-Quito, who acts as a liaison between the U.S. and Ecuadorian government. "Plus, it also allows us to treat the kids first."

In order to provide as much medical care as possible the team brought doctors, dentists, veterinarians, an optometrist and a pharmacist and were augmented by local civilian and military care providers.

"It's a good thing for the country to see us working together," Richardson said. "Because they can't see the progress ambassadors are making each day behind closed doors."

Each day more than 1,000 people were seen by National Guard Soldiers or local civilian and military doctors.

"From a doctor's prospective 'wow,' is all I can really say," said Capt. Mark Clutter, a physician's assistant. "Americans have no idea what it's like for these people."

Because the sites varied so much, there were different needs and demographics in each city.

"It's always a learning process because the diseases, ages, and premonitory conditions (those which occur before the onset of disease) differ at each site," said Capt. Benjamin Weitzel, a pharmacist with the 452nd Combat Support Hospital in Milwaukee.

When the two nations' colonels exchanged colors during the closing ceremonies, 11,000 people had passed through registration in 10 days and countless numbers of animals had been treated for rabies and worms in the neighboring countryside.

"My number one goal is to provide excellent training and realistic mission opportunities for my Soldiers," Johnson said. "As a commander, I'm always glad when I can pair the two." **CG**

**To view an image gallery of the exercise in Ecuador, visit [http://www.ohionationalguard.com/pao/gallery/equador\\_07\\_index.htm](http://www.ohionationalguard.com/pao/gallery/equador_07_index.htm)**



**Dentist Col Mark Waller and SPC Stephanie Shelton, a dental technician, work diligently on an Ecuadorian woman as her child sits quietly in her lap.**

## **Dentists, technicians put in long hours**

**P**ORTO VIEJO, Ecuador—Young Ecuadorian children stand peering in over the edge of a barred window of a one-room school building captivated by Soldiers working inside as children and their parents form a line in the sun, waiting to enter.

Dentists and technicians from the Columbus-based Ohio Army National Guard Medical Detachment were in Ecuador to conduct a medical readiness training exercise (MEDRETE), pulling dozens of teeth from the local residents.

"Our mission is to provide as much palliative care as we can, meaning basically, extraction," said Col. David M. Schlaak, a dentist with the U.S. Army Reserve's 452nd Combat Support Hospital in Milwaukee who joined the mission to provide dental care. "We can render treatment with limited need for follow-up."

The team arrived and began work each day at 8 a.m., often working several hours and treating dozens of patients without a break.

Despite the barriers in culture and language, certain things are universal.

"The kids are always first. Just like in the states, parents want the best care and treatment for their kids first," said Col. Mark Waller, a dentist with the 452nd, as he dropped a recently extracted tooth in the biohazard bin and wiped the sweat from his brow.

The exercise benefited not only the U.S. medics, but also provided much-needed training and experience for host-nation dentists, "We've kind of looked over each other's shoulders," said Waller, who has worked as a dentist in the Army and in civilian practice for more than 20 years. "Really they're well trained, they just don't have the years of experience that Dave and I do."

"It's always rewarding to train the host nation," Schlaak added as he cleaned his instruments and prepared for the next patient. **CG**

2LT Tate Atkinson (right) of the 437th Military Police Battalion, calls in medical support for a Soldier hit by a simulated improvised explosive device during annual training at Camp Grayling, Mich. Soldiers trained on proper site security skills.



## MPs spring into action during air assault

Story and photo by Spc. Ryan A. Cleary  
196th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

**C**AMP GRAYLING, Mich.—A UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter comes in hard, delivering onto the scorching sand 16 Soldiers who are already taking fire from enemy combatants working intensely to disrupt their insertion.

The Soldiers, assigned to the 437th Military Police Battalion, worked quickly to set up a perimeter around the landing zone June 16 as the aircraft evacuated and evaded the ensuing fire fight. As the opposing forces continued their assault, Soldiers from the battalion's 323rd and 585th Military Police Companies progressed toward their objective to safeguard a tactical defense position nearby.

"I think this was a great opportunity to integrate aviation assets while training on our mission-essential tasks," said Capt. Audrey Latorre, commander of the 323rd. "The purpose of this mission was to become proficient at critical site security."

Battalion troops in the operation were playing the roles of both the OPFOR and defensive force.

"The MPs are going to have 38 Soldiers and the OPFOR is going to have 17 Soldiers," said 2nd Lt. Aaron Barrett of the 323rd, who was officer in charge of the OPFOR. "The OPFOR's mission is to take over the critical site after second platoon secures it."

MPs and OPFOR from the 437th were inserted by Blackhawk separately. After inserting, OPFOR planted boobytraps along the road where MPs would be marching two hours later. While OPFOR set up their defenses and prepared for the attack, other OPFOR troops fired on the MPs attempting to insert at the landing zone.

"The benefit of the aviation aspect is that it's a resource we often can't use. Motivation was high because of it, and that motivation drove the Soldiers

to complete the mission," said Sgt. 1st Class Jeff Shuster, part of the 585th and noncommissioned officer in charge of the day's mission.

"It's just a good method of delivering them to the fight," said Col. Michael Beasley of Powell, Ohio, deputy commander for the 73rd Troop Command. "It's a challenge to the NCOs and a tough decision-making venue. Annual training is the highlight of everything we train for as it puts the maximum stress on both the officers' and NCOs' leadership."

After insertion, the MPs moved toward the critical site. Situational awareness was critical as the Soldiers encountered the boobytraps emplaced by the OPFOR. Real-life medical support was required when three Soldiers suffered from heat casualties during a road march.

With temperatures rising above 90 degrees, heavy emphasis was put on hydration as Soldiers marched the sandy,

mile-and-a-half road in full gear, and seemed to feel the full effects of the heat. The sun-cooked sand was deep and unstable and walking through it demanded maximum effort from the Soldiers.

"There's no doubt this was a difficult task. We don't usually do foot marches, but the motivation shown in this environment speaks volumes about the platoon. The NCOs have held the soldiers to high standards and they've performed with highest results," Shuster said.

As the Soldiers reached the critical site they had only minutes to secure it before the OPFOR initiated their assault. The MPs engaged from the perimeter as the battle begun and Soldiers utilized the firepower of their M-249 squad automatic weapon which kept the OPFOR at bay.

"It's a refresher from the skills I learned in basic. Security tasks are something that everyone needs to experience," said Staff Sgt. Chris Kramer of the 585th. **86**

## Top Hungarian Army NCO trains with Ohio National Guard

To view various downloadable image galleries of the Annual Training 2007, visit [http://www.ohionational-guard.com/pao/news/2007%20AT\\_photo\\_index.htm](http://www.ohionational-guard.com/pao/news/2007%20AT_photo_index.htm)



CSM Janos Zsoter (left), the highest-ranking noncommissioned officer in the Hungarian Army, talks with CSM William A. Myers of the 371st Sustainment Brigade during annual training in June at Camp Grayling, Mich.

Story and photos by Spc. Diego J. Robles  
196th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

**C**AMP GRAYLING, Mich.—The Hungarian Army’s senior noncommissioned officer, Command Sgt. Maj. Janos Zsoter, visited Ohio National Guard troops in June during their annual training exercise here.

The visit was part of a Soldier exchange through a National Guard Bureau-level initiative that pairs state National Guards with developing countries. The State Partnership Program was started in 1993 following the collapse of the Soviet Union when many of these former Eastern Bloc countries began moving toward democratic governments.

The program has since expanded to include other developing nations, mainly in South America and Africa.

Zsoter and Ohio’s top enlisted Soldier, Command Sgt. Maj. William L. Gilliam, have exchanged visits on several occasions. This visit was geared toward strengthening the senior NCO corps in Zsoter’s native Hungary.

On June 12, Zsoter spent the day with Command Sgt. Maj. William A. Myers of the 371st Sustainment Brigade, who introduced Zsoter to the top enlisted soldiers in his brigade.

Zsoter visited the Ohio National Guard’s new Virtual Convoy Operations Trainer (VCOT), which was fielded in November 2006. The VCOT is a 50-foot trailer with multiple hardware components like machine guns, steering wheels and a fully-rotating turret as well a simulator that mimics urban combat in the Middle East like many cutting-edge video games. The lead VCOT instructor, Sgt. 1st Class Sammie L. Paden, said the simulator is capable of presenting many different scenarios to troops depending on a commander’s needs.

Zsoter observed troops training on the VCOT and their

subsequent after action review. He and Myers also tried out the simulator as driver and gunner, respectively. The two discussed the numerous possible scenarios the VCOT can generate and how Soldiers can apply the skills and knowledge gained to the Global War on Terrorism.

“I am here to see how you operate, how you train, how you fix mistakes and it’s much more interesting for me because I learn,” Zsoter said.

Myers told Zsoter he had a special treat for him and introduced him to Cpl. Nick J. Cooper of the United Kingdom Reserves’ 124th Recovery Company. The British soldier—a mechanic who was training with Ohio troops during annual training as part of a U.S.-British exchange program—and Zsoter discussed recovery operations as a Humvee was extracted from a sand dune at Camp Grayling’s simulated forward operating base, run by the 371st Sustainment Brigade.

Zsoter’s trip highlighted the importance of the NCO in the U.S. Army and how both Ohio and Hungary can compare cultural and doctrinal differences and similarities, Myers said. Zsoter said he will take back all his experiences with the Ohio National Guard NCO corps and share them with his military. He also expressed affection for the senior noncommissioned officers from whom he learned so much.

“The sergeants’ major professionalism and what they showed me was (great), especially Command Sgt. Maj. Myers, who is a really great leader, NCO and human,” Zsoter said.

Gilliam reciprocated his Hungarian counterpart’s remarks.

“Ohio is a lucky state to have such a great partnership with Hungary,” he said. **AG**

# Farewell, good friend

## Ohio Army National Guard bids adieu to its last two 'Huey' helicopters



A Ohio Army National Guard UH-1H "Huey" helicopter flies through a water cannon Sept. 7, during a farewell ceremony on the Rickenbacker Army Enclave for the state's two remaining Hueys. To watch a video news story that complements this article and view an image gallery with downloadable photos, log onto <http://www.ohionationalguard.com>.

SSG KIMBERLY SNOW / 196TH MOBILE PUBLIC AFFAIRS DETACHMENT

Story by Sgt. Benjamin Cossel  
196 Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

**C**AMP GRAYLING, Mich.—As you went about your daily routine during annual training this year and the familiar “womp-womp-womp” sounds of helicopters filled the air, you should have stop for a moment and turn your head toward the sky. Scattered amongst the Blackhawks, Chinooks and Kiowas buzzing about you would have noticed two UH-1H Iroquois reliably doing what they’ve done for more than 35 years.

Hollywood’s infatuation with the Iroquois, known in common vernacular as the “Huey,” and exemplified in such movies as “Apocalypse Now” and “We Were Soldiers,” has planted the image of the Huey as firmly in the American psyche as the tank and the M-16 machine gun. As the sun set on AT 2007, so too, would that iconic image of Army aviation take its final ride for the Ohio Army National Guard in a Sept. 7 flight stages out of Army Aviation Support Facility # 2 located at Rickenbacker Air National Guard Base.

“The Huey is what’s called legacy technology,” said Col. Rick Hall, the state Army aviation officer for Ohio.

“It doesn’t have redundant systems, it doesn’t have near the lift capability of the modern aircraft, it doesn’t have enough range and it doesn’t do as well in a crash as modern aircraft,” Hall said.

Hall explained that the Army has been in

the process of phasing out the Huey for several years but that Ohio resisted releasing their Hueys for as long as possible. “The state doesn’t have enough Blackhawks, so frankly, we’ve used the Hueys to fill out our fleet.”

Hall estimates that at their peak, the Hueys numbered about 120 in service. The last two flew with Company B, 1st Battalion, 137th Aviation Regiment, until their retirement in September.

“It’ll be a sad, sad day when these birds finally go away,” said Columbus, Ohio resident Sgt. 1st Class Robert Baker, a Huey mechanic with Company B, during AT in June.

With 33 years in the military, all in the aviation field, Baker has worked on nearly every aircraft fielded since his days as a private.

“The Huey is dependable and fun — you just don’t have to worry about it, it’s a mechanically sound aircraft,” Baker said.

Besides being reliable, he said there was no other aircraft he preferred flying more. “You could just throw open the doors and see the whole world,” Baker said. That sentiment apparently filled others as people constantly stopped Baker to ask for rides in the Huey.

“We’ve taken so many people up in this aircraft. VIPs, governors, even General Kambic (Brig. Gen. Matthew Kambic, Ohio’s assistant adjutant general for Army) loved it. So many people have gone up in

the Huey and they all just love it.”

With the end of his flying days in the Hueys looming, Chief Warrant Officer XX Brian Michael, a pilot with Company B maintained a pragmatic attitude during annual training.

“I’ll be a little sad to see them go, but they’ve served their purpose. Time to move on to bigger, better and faster aircraft,” Michael said.

After having flown Huey missions in the jungles of Vietnam, Michael seemed the perfect choice to fly these aircraft in their final days. During annual training the Huey was used for Bambi bucket fire fighting operations, range sweep and medical evacuation missions, but Michael remembers well when the Huey was the king of the air during the Vietnam War.

“The Huey was the perfect aircraft for the mission in Vietnam,” said the Columbus, Ohio based Michael.

Michael stopped to consider all the different missions he’s flown in the Huey; rescue operations during the blizzard of 1978 in northern Ohio, casualty evacuation and resupply operations during mud slides in north-central Ohio in 1989.

“Those state operations, the ones where we were actually helping people, saving lives, those were some of the best,” Michael said.

This past September, the two remaining Hueys were released from the Ohio Army National Guard, transferred to their new homes.

One of the Hueys went go to the Colorado National Guard to continue service, the other went to Texas where it will be refurbished for foreign sales. **SG**

# A chance to touch history...

Story by Senior Airman David Conrad with Senior Airman Kristin Crain  
121st Air Refueling Wing Public Affairs

## AF Heritage Week: Gathering of Mustangs and Legends



Zach and Marty Ertel from Columbus, check out one of Zach's favorite P-51s at the Gathering of Mustangs and Legends Sept. 28 at Rickenbacker International Airport. It was Zach's first air show.



## Rickenbacker hosts keystone event to celebrate Air Force's 60th anniversary

**C**OLUMBUS—James Denman was one of the first to arrive at Ohio's Rickenbacker International Airport for the Gathering of Mustangs and Legends, a four-day air show hosted in conjunction with Air Force Heritage week.

Denman set up his chair six hours before the first plane took off. "I just want to make sure I hear their engines as they take off; I've really missed that sound," Denman said. With the roar of those engines came a flood of memories.

Under the wing of a P-51 Mustang, Denman's mind wandered to his wife, old friends, and a life as a P-51 mechanic in the United States Air Force. Time has taken all of them away from the 85-year-old retired master sergeant, but at the air show he smiled through a heavy tear.

"The P-51 was the first plane I ever worked on, and this weekend is bringing back everything. It's overwhelming; I don't know what else to say," said Denman as he used a metal folding chair as a cane and walked slowly to the show's grandstand Thursday morning.

Rickenbacker International Airport, now home to both civilian and Ohio Air National Guard aircraft, once was an active-duty Army Air base where Denman worked for 28 years as a mechanic on the P-51, the legendary long-range fighter that escorted bombers to their targets during World War II and helped the Allies gain air superiority.

He joined more than 250,000 spectators who came from around the world to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the Air Force in an air show that was promised as a "once in a lifetime aerial celebration."

Under the blue skies that held out for the long weekend, 10-year-old Oliver Anderson, a self-proclaimed air show connoisseur, said the Gathering soared well above its hype.

"I've been to six air shows now, and this is by far the best," said Anderson, who flew from Illinois with his dad to see the show. "It's just so much bigger than anything I've ever seen before."

There were 82 P-51 Mustangs, and a variety of other new and old war birds both on display and demonstrated. Static displays and aerial performances included Air Force bombers, fighters, refuelers and cargo aircraft.

Two-year-old Zach Ertel, of the Columbus area, said he really liked the "blue one," and pointed to a row of more than 50 planes in front of him; many of them blue.

"If it's a plane, it's his favorite," his father Marty said.

The show celebrated both the heritage of the older war planes and the new fighters

SRA KRISTIN CRAIN / 121ST AIR REFUELING WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS



**TOP LEFT:** The U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds perform during the Gathering of Mustangs and Legends air show at Rickenbacker International Airport. *Photo by SSgt Douglas Nicodemus, 121st Air Refueling Wing Multimedia Center.* **LEFT, SECOND DOWN:** Roscoe C. Brown Jr. (right), former commander of the Tuskegee Airmen, swaps stories with Betty Blake (left), one of the original Women Air Force Service Pilots (WASPs). *Photo by 2ndLt Erika Wonn, 121st Air Refueling Wing Public Affairs.* **LEFT, THIRD DOWN:** Six new servicemembers begin their enlistment in the Ohio Air National Guard Sept. 29. They are reciting their oath of enlistment under the guidance of airshow performer John Klatt (second from right), who flew for 16 years as an Air National Guard pilot, and BrigGen Tom Botchie, 121st Air Refueling Wing Commander. *Photo by SSgt Douglas Nicodemus, 121st Air Refueling Wing Multimedia Center.* **BOTTOM LEFT:** Air show patrons line up to see one of the 121st Air Refueling Wing's KC-135 Stratotankers. *Photo by SSgt Douglas Nicodemus, 121st Air Refueling Wing Multimedia Center.*

with daily flyovers of F-22s and F-16s soaring, wing-tip to wing-tip, with P-51s.

### Old Stories

The crowd was just as diverse as the aircraft.

Among a group of elementary school kids with grandparents and teenagers with funnel cakes, were more than 50 legendary Mustang war pilots who gave speeches and autographs throughout the weekend, including Roscoe C. Brown Jr.

Brown called the event, which was hosted next door to the Air National Guard's 121st Air Refueling Wing, "a real high point" in his life.

Rickenbacker used to be called Lockbourne Army Air Base. The once active-duty Air Force base was home to the Tuskegee Airmen, the first all-black military unit in the United States who garnered national attention and awards for their impressive combat record in World War II. Brown was their commander.

"This is a very bittersweet time for a lot of us," he said. "Here we are forced to think about all the people we lost, but at the same time we're also very proud to have played a role in making this country the way it is today. I told my son this morning: the world has really changed."

Brown said he enjoyed reflecting with old pilots and friends, watching flights and sharing stories over the weekend. "And most of (the stories) were true," he joked.

Next to him, retired P-51 pilot Bob "Punchy" Powell said "some people call us heroes, or legends, but we don't consider ourselves as heroes of any kind. We were just kids... who did what they had to do. I looked up legend in the dictionary and it just means old."

Jeff Michael, 66, never served in the military but said people like Brown and Powell have his heart.

For Michael, it was simply his love for flying that brought him and his P-51 named "Obsession" to the air show from Florida.

"I'm like a kid in the candy store here, I can't get enough of it," he said after putting some of his belongings in Obsession's cockpit so he could walk around.

He bought the plane for \$300,000 in 1986. Someone offered him \$1.2 million for it Saturday.

"It's my life though: I don't own Obsession, it owns me," he said. "The plane actually didn't even have a name when I first bought it, but I kept hav-





ing to fix things and so eventually my wife told me, 'You're obsessed with that thing.' And then it did (have a name)."

Don Brindle, 73, took a picture of the Mustang and said it reminded him of being a kid.

"So many things I forgot and haven't thought about in years, they are all just flooding back right now," said Brindle, who grew up in Erie, Pa. "Like newsreel movies, when I was a kid. I loved to watch the war flicks, especially."

"I didn't know that," his wife Joyce said.

Brindle has never owned a plane, but grew up two blocks from an airfield where P-51s used to land during World War II.

"There is nothing more nostalgic than the sound of those engines. I was between 6 and 10 during the war," Brindle said. "I was at that impressionable age, and I would sneak down every week to watch these planes from the fence line. Man, I almost forgot about that."

And then there was Marvin Richardson and his son David who flew in from Dallas and San Diego, respectively. Minutes before the Thunderbirds took-off for their daily demonstration, the Richardsons perused a booth selling model airplanes.

"We reunited just for this," David said. "I grew up in San Diego, and with all the air bases we have there, you just grow up with a love for planes. We will be out here until they kick us out Sunday."

Marvin said that "every third person" on his plane into Columbus from Dallas was a person coming to see this air show. "You just can't pass something like this up," he said.

### New beginnings

About 72 recruits gave their oath of enlistment to the United States Air Force on Saturday, just prior to the Thunderbirds show. The enlistment was one of the largest this year.

"I'm excited, but as his mother I'm really nervous too," said Liz Blackstone, whose 17-year-old son, Jacob, was part of the group.

Jacob hopes to get a position in security forces for the Air Force after boot camp. He is still a senior in high school.

"He's just so young," Blackstone said. "But it feels like the right thing, and I am beyond proud of him. He's been saying for years that he wanted to join, though, so I can't say I'm surprised."

Six recruits also joined the 121st ARW. With an Air National Guard gift bag in hand, Layton Ackley wished he was one of them.

"Unfortunately I'm only 12," he said. His 19-year-old sister Julienne Ackley took the oath the day before. "I can't believe she's joining. I think it's crazy, good crazy that is; I'm really proud of her."

The unit commander met with the enlistees' families and was pleased that their oath could correspond with the air show.

"This has been an amazing opportunity to see the P-51s alongside their contemporary counterparts and to meet the men and women who served our country so courageously for the last several decades," said Brig. Gen. Thomas M. Botchie, 121st ARW commander.

"It is so important for people to hear their stories. These legends are heroes and we are lucky to have so many of them at Rickenbacker. The legend continues." **86**

*EDITOR'S NOTE: For more on the 2007 Gathering of Mustangs and Legends at Rickenbacker International Airport, log onto [www.gml2007.com](http://www.gml2007.com)*

## Air show's P-51s have Ohio connection

Story by  
Lt. Col. (ret.) Tom Hitzeman  
178th Fighter Wing

**C**OLUMBUS—The Ohio Air National Guard has a direct historical connection to the Mustangs and Legends. Three of Ohio's four flying wings were originally formed around Mustang fighter squadrons from the World War II 357th Fighter Group.

Formed in December 1942, the 357th was shipped to England in November 1943. Temporarily assigned to the 9th Air Force, the group found its permanent home as the first fighter group of the 8th Air Force to be equipped with the P-51 Mustang. In February 1944, the 357th moved to Station F-373, near Leiston and Yoxford, England, three miles from the North Sea. They became known as the "Yoxford Boys" following a radio broadcast by the infamous Nazi propagandist Lord Haw Haw "welcoming" the 357th to the war.

The 357th entered combat on Feb. 11, 1944, and claimed a permanent place in history as the second highest scoring fighter group in the 8th Air Force and third highest overall in the European Theater of Operations (ETO). The 357th claimed 595 aerial victories over the Luftwaffe (mostly single-engine

fighters) and another 106.5 destroyed on the ground in only 15 months of combat. The 357th boasted more aces (42) than any fighter group in the ETO, scored the highest single-day victory record of 55.5 fighters destroyed in air-to-air combat and shot down the most jet fighters (18.5).

Following 15 months of occupation duty, the 357th was inactivated 20 Aug. 1946 at Neubiberg, Germany. The following day, the 357th and its three squadrons were renumbered and transferred to the Ohio National Guard. The 357th became the 121st Fighter Group, the 362nd Fighter Squadron became the 162nd Fighter Squadron, the 363rd Fighter Squadron became the 164th Fighter Squadron (now 164th Airlift Squadron), and the 364th became the 166th Fighter Squadron (now 166th Air Refueling Squadron).

For more than 60 years, the three Ohio descendent units of the 357th have carried on the legacy of the Yoxford Boys. The



SRA KRISTIN CRAIN / 121ST AIR REFUELING WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Jeff Michael brought his P-51 'Obsession' from Florida to be a part of the 2007 Gathering of Mustangs and Legends.

tails of F-16s at the 162nd continue to carry the characteristic red and yellow checkerboard band that formerly identified the P-51s of the 357th. Pilots and air crew of the 164th and 166th still wear unit patches similar to their World War II heritage units, as do members of the 121st, who continue to wear the same unit patch design of the 357th. On two occasions the 162nd and its parent 178th Fighter Wing have hosted 357th reunions in Springfield, including the last formal 357th reunion, held in September 2001. **86**

# ‘Buckeye’ Brigade Combat Team readies for GWOT deployment



**SFC Steven M. Defrank of the 37th Infantry Brigade Combat Team utilizes his M-16 rifle to maneuver through concertina wire during pre-mobilization certification in June at Camp Grayling, Mich.**

## Under new policy, Ohio first to certify own Soldiers prior to mobilization

**By Staff Sgt. Turay Jr.  
37th Infantry Brigade Combat Team**

**C**AMP GRAYLING, Mich.—This summer’s annual training was perhaps the toughest, yet most significant many 37th Infantry Brigade Combat Team Soldiers have experienced in their military careers.

During the three-week annual training in June at Camp Grayling, the brigade conducted pre-mobilization training in preparation for its deployment to Southeast Asia. Despite scorching heat that at times reached 95 degrees, the troops labored through the intense training, completing the 109 Soldiering tasks that are required before they deploy.

Typically, National Guard units complete the tasks at the mobilization station. However, in an effort to cut down on the time Soldiers are away from home, the Army has tasked deploying units with conducting most of the training at their home stations.

As a result, most National Guard units will deploy for 12 months, instead of past years when troops could be away from families for up to 18 months, including four months at the mobilization station. The 37th IBCT will spend two fewer months at their mobilization station because of the training, Zulfer said. The 37th IBCT is the first Ohio unit to conduct such training under the new Army policy.

No one was exempt from completing the tasks. Many staff officers and senior noncommissioned officers who had not been in the field or trained on basic Soldiering skills for years got in the trenches as well.

The training included first aid, combative, convoy driving and reacting to improvised explosive device as well as familiarization with every weapon in the modern Army, said 1st Lt. Richard Cordero, Headquarters and Headquarters Company’s executive officer.

“I’ve been in the guard for 16 years,” Cordero said. “Of all the ATs I’ve done, this was the best because it allowed Soldiers to be Soldiers. We set them up for success.” **SG**

## Warfighter exercises help prepare 37th IBCT for potential scenarios

**By Staff Sgt. Ismail Jr.  
37th Infantry Brigade Combat Team**

**F**ORT LEAVENWORTH, Kan.—For months before the 37th Infantry Brigade Combat Team received mobilization orders to deploy in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, they began preparing for war.

In January, all 38th Infantry Division brigades, including the 37th IBCT, spent two weeks conducting Warfighter exercises at Fort Leavenworth. Some 2,000 Soldiers—including more than 140 from the 37th—participated in the Battle Command Training Program (BCTP).

“It was a great opportunity to learn all the pieces and capabilities of the new brigade,” said Col. Richard Curry, commander of the 37th IBCT, which stood up last fall. The brigade is slated to deploy to the Middle East in early 2008.

“The most important aspect was a chance for the brigade’s senior leadership to work together in an operational environment and to have the staff work together and learn together,” Curry said.

The primary objective of the mission was to fight the brigade under the new transformation command, said Lt. Col. Corwin Lusk, the brigade’s operations officer. The first few days of the mission were spent ensuring communication equipment worked properly. That was followed by a full-scale computer-simulated war, Lusk said.

They used a simulated unmanned aerial vehicle to receive live feed of what the battlefield would look like in a real-world situation. Based on the images and the situation, leaders had actionable intelligence they used to call for indirect fire and the like.

“The brigade did really well,” Lusk said. “We kept the (opposing forces) pretty much tied up.”

During the exercise, the 37th was evaluated on how well they fought, how well they integrated the different war fighting functions, how quickly they analyzed information and reacted and formulated a plan.

The experience the leaders gained is invaluable, Curry said.

“It provided us with the focus we needed to move the brigade forward, and we have confidence to deploy and conduct our mission,” he said. **SG**



**MAJ Bill Costello (left) and MAJ Louie Moore of the 37th IBCT work during the Warfighter exercise earlier this year.**

# R&R

Compiled by  
Diane Farrow  
R&R Marketing Director

## WHAT'S NEWS IN

- \$3 million earned
- dale jr. joins the team
- grap-o launched
- extend to defend perks
- buckeye designs chopper
- recruiting wins in fy07
- kilo company activated
- veterans wall escorted

### Ohio Soldiers earn \$3 million through G-RAP



SFC Mark Hobbs (from left), PV1 Alex Spence and SPC Ian Spence hold a \$2,000 check representing G-RAP money earned by Ian Spence.

When Pvt. Alex Spence enlisted in the Ohio Army National Guard, his brother, Spc. Ian Spence, earned an easy \$2,000. For the Ohio Army National Guard, Alex's enlistment marked the 1,500th recruit to sign up under the National Guard's grassroots recruiting initiative called the **Guard Recruiting Assistance Program** or "G-RAP."

Since G-RAP's inception in December 2005, Ohio National Guard Soldiers across the state have earned a total of \$3 million helping to put their friends, relatives, classmates and coworkers in uniform. The program has been highly successful in Ohio, which ranks No. 2 in the nation for the number of active recruiting assistants.

"Alex was looking at joining the Marines, but he saw what I was doing, and that I was getting college paid for, so he was willing to listen to what the Guard had

to offer," Ian said.

With his enlistment, the younger got a \$20,000 enlistment bonus, student loan repayment, the Ohio National Guard Scholarship Program, which pays 100 percent state college tuition, and federal and state Montgomery GI Bill benefits, which add up to \$509 a month. This is in addition to the monthly paycheck he will earn for attending one weekend of training a month.

"He got the whole package," said Sgt. 1st Class Mark Hobbs, a recruiting command team leader in Cincinnati, the city the Spence boys call home.

A criminal justice student at Cincinnati State, Alex chose to join his brother's unit, Battery A, 1st Battalion, 174th Air Defense Artillery Regiment, because it would let him stay close to home to finish his degree.

Being a single guy living on his own, Ian admits the money offered through the G-RAP program really helps out. "I'm not an aggressive RA, I just talk to people about the Guard when the subject comes up. After being in (the Guard) for six years, I draw from personal experiences and talk about the benefits that can help. I know because I used all the benefits."

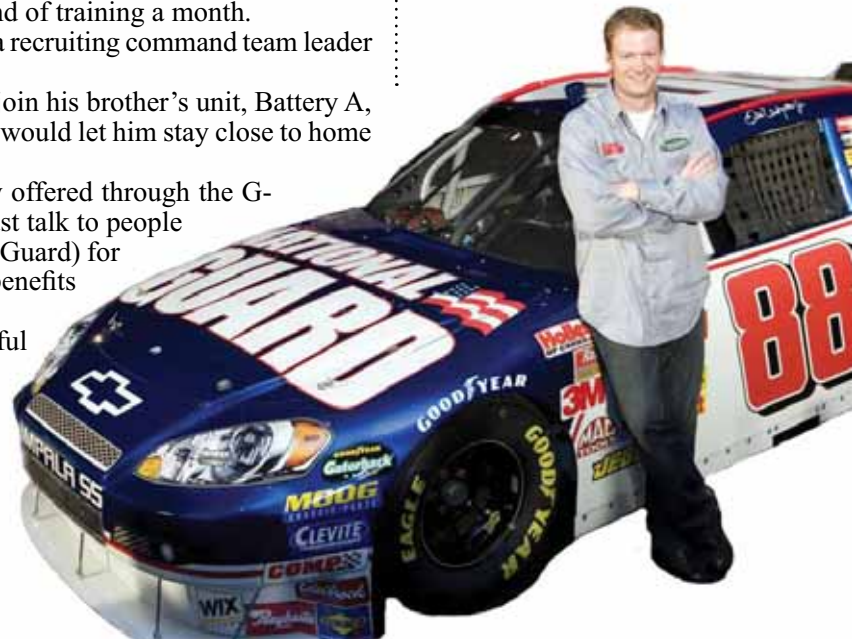
Ian's laid-back approach to G-RAP has proven to be successful so far, he has earned an extra \$8,000 in the last year.

Asked whether he will jump on the G-RAP bandwagon, Alex said, "Yes, I can already think of a few friends who should join."

DIANE FARROW / RRC Marketing Office

### Junior to drive Guard Show Car

AMP Energy drink and the Army National Guard will co-sponsor **Dale Earnhardt Jr.** when the popular stock-car driver joins Hendrick Motorsports for the 2008 NASCAR Sprint Cup Series campaign. Earnhardt will drive the No. 88 AMP/National Guard Chevrolets next season, racing for the first time in February at Daytona International Speedway. "(Dale Jr.) is authentic, talented and focused on victory, which mirrors what America's National Guard Soldier is all about," said Lt. Gen. Clyde A. Vaughn, director, Army National Guard. **GXOnline.com**



## WHAT'S THE PAYOFF FOR GRAP-O?

- ▶ \$2,500-\$3,000 for non-critical officers and warrant officers
- ▶ \$3,500-\$6,000 for Company & field grade specialty branch
- ▶ \$7,500 for medical doctors
- ▶ \$1,000 kicker for branch-qualified prior service officers

## Introducing GRAP-Officers

In mid-August, the National Guard Bureau announced the implementation of the Guard Recruiting Assistance Program-Officer (GRAP-O), which means Recruiting Assistants (RAs) can earn between \$2,500 and \$7,500 for accessing a creditable applicant into the OHARNG Officer Corps, based on branch and type of accession. In addition, there is a \$1,000 kicker for up to a total of \$8,500 if the Officer is a branch-qualified prior service Officer. The initial G-RAP program, introduced in December 2005, did not provide monetary incentives for Recruiter Assistants who referred applicants interested in officer positions.

"GRAP-O is another force multiplier for the Ohio Army National Guard," said Maj. Neal O'Brien, Officer Strength Maintenance Manager for Ohio Recruiting and Retention Battalion. "It is our hope that it will help Ohio fill some of its officer vacancies, especially in our field grade positions."

An ARNG member eager to become a GRAP-O RA completes the same application pro-



cess as for G-RAP. The Officer training module ensures RAs understand the selection process for the Officer branches. In addition to basic branch Officers, GRAP-O encompasses Medical Students, Seminararians, Officer Candidates, and Warrant Officer Candidates for creditable accessions.

Officer-specific GRAP-O RA applications, training, and promotional materials for RA Officer efforts are now located on the Docupak web site, [www.guardrecruitingassistant.com](http://www.guardrecruitingassistant.com). Questions regarding GRAP-O can be referred to Maj. Neal O'Brien, OHARNG RRC, at 614.376.5014 or Ms. Julie Hall, Docupak, at 866-566-2472. **DIANE FARROW** / RRC Marketing Office

## Incentives to stay in Guard

The **Extend to Defend** program helps to give re-enlisting Soldiers the recognition they deserve.

Soldiers will receive a gold-embossed black leather binder containing a certificate of recognition, a framable copy of the Soldier's Creed, an Extend to Defend challenge coin, and, if they are married, a certificate of appreciation and challenge coin for their spouse. Soldiers who re-enlist for a minimum of six years will also receive a blue National Guard hoodie sweat shirt. This program is managed by battalion-level career counselors. **GXOnline.com**



The placement of hand grenades on the frame of the "Patriot Chopper" was one of PV1 Joe Scheible's ideas.

## Ohioan helps design chopper

- **Pfc. Joseph Scheibe**, an RSP Soldier assigned to Echo Company, Recruiting and Retention Command, was one of four Soldiers who won a National Guard Bureau-sponsored contest to design a "Patriot Chopper."
- The resulting bike was designed based on ideas submitted by all four Soldiers.
- The custom-designed, Guard-sponsored bike, which was unveiled on Sept. 27, was the first of three bikes to be built by **Orange County Choppers** (OCC) for the National Guard.
- Metalworker Paul Teutul Sr. and son Paul Teutul Jr. founded OCC in New York in 1999 and quickly shot to fame when their show, "American Chopper," debuted on the Discovery Channel in 2002.
- The unveiling ceremony was highlighted when Paul Sr. made his grand entrance on the bike, coasting in coolly and revving the engine to the enthusiastic cheers of the crowd.
- The winning Soldiers were in awe. "To be a part of something like this is pretty cool stuff," Scheibe said. "We went to the OCC shop in New York last month, and we saw pieces and parts of the bike. But to see it

finished was just really cool." The "American Chopper" episode televising the National Guard's "Patriot Chopper" will air in January 2008. **NATIONAL GUARD BUREAU PUBLIC AFFAIRS**

## '07 great year for Recruiting

The Ohio Army National Guard (OHARNG) ended its fiscal year with 10,400 Soldiers. The state's recruiting goal for this fiscal year, which ended Sept. 30, was to enlist 2,100 new Soldiers; the **OHARNG enlisted 2,152 Soldiers.**

"The Ohio Army National Guard has enjoyed great success in recruiting this fiscal year" said Lt. Col. Chip Tansill, commander of the recruiting and retention battalion. "India Company, which is comprised of 13 counties in northwest Ohio, closed out its FY07 mission of 169 accessions on June 13 and closed out the year with 232. This team made mission all 12 months - a first in state history for recruiting. What a great accomplishment!"

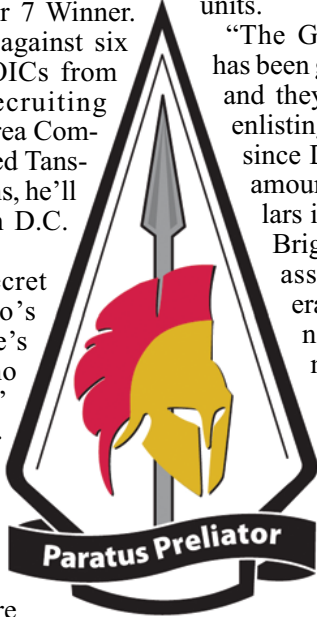
It's no coincidence that two Soldiers out of this area earned esteemed titles for their efforts. Sgt. Jeremy Allnut was named the state's top recruiter and will be recognized as one of the

Chief's 54 in Washington D.C. in December. Since this was his first full year of recruiting, Allnut also earned the title "Rookie of the Year" for enlisting a total of 35 Soldiers. Likewise, India Company 1st Sgt. Jason Sutherland was selected as Ohio's Master 7 Winner. "He'll compete against six other Area NCOICs from our RRAC (Recruiting and Retention Area Command)," explained Tansill. "When he wins, he'll be recognized in D.C. as well."

What's the secret to Team Toledo's success? "There's no magic pill, no genius involved," said Sutherland. "Recruiting is about luck - they generate their own luck by talking to a lot of people. The more people you talk to, the more enlistments you'll get. Allnut made his own luck by working his a\*\* off."

Sutherland said what motivates his Soldiers to succeed is strong leadership. "When I first started as NCOIC, I let them know my expectations - I don't like to lose. I know they are not going to make mission every month, but I know when they are giving everything they got. If they screw up, I'll reprimand them - if they do well, they get recognized. It's about loyalty and commitment. All my guys know I will fall on a sword for them, and they would do the same for me."

Along with successes in production, the Ohio Army National Guard has held the top spot in all 54 states and territories for the last six months in "Ship Rate" - the measure of recruits sent to basic training compared to those who come back to their units qualified. This achievement is due largely to the fine-tuning of the



Recruit Sustainment Program (RSP), initiated by the Ohio Army National Guard in fall 2005. The program allows the recruiting command to manage new recruits until they complete the schooling required to qualify them for duty in their assigned units.

"The G-RAP program also has been great for our Soldiers, and they have responded by enlisting 1,500 new recruits since December 2005 - this amounts to \$3 million dollars in their pockets," said Brig. Gen. Matt Kambic, assistant adjutant general for Army. He also noted that Ohio, with more than 5,500 Recruiter Assistants, has been ranked No. 2 in active RAs since July.

"But even with all of these great successes," he added, "our recruiters will continue to push for additional enlistments to help shape the quality of our force in the future." **CPT MARSHALL JACKSON / ADJUTANT GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT PUBLIC AFFAIRS**

## New RSP unit joins OHARNG

As a testament to the Ohio Army National Guard's continued recruiting success, the Recruiting and Retention Battalion launched its newest Recruit Sustainment Program (RSP) company during an Aug. 26 activation ceremony.

**Kilo Company**, located in Coshocton, is the Ohio Guard's tenth RSP company to be established in the past three years. Each RSP Company's mission includes training and preparing their region's newest recruits for the successful completion of Initial Entry Training.

The Kilo Company event

included the unit's official activation ceremony and a reception and open house which gave the community, its leaders and the recruits' parents an opportunity to meet the Kilo Company Soldiers, observe their training and tour the facility.

"We probably had 100-130 parents attend," said Kilo Co. 1st Sgt. Eugene Randolph. "The parents are so glad their kids are able to gain true military knowledge and benefit from the program before they actually go to Basic. I think they feel more reassured that we're truly preparing the recruits for success in the military," he added. **SFC TRACY BALLOG / RRC Marketing Office**

## I Company helps escort Veterans Wall

Bikes of all types, trikes and even scooters made their way from around the state and beyond to escort "The Vietnam Traveling Memorial Wall" to Napoleon Harley Davidson on Aug. 16. Petro Fuel Station was the staging area for veterans and patriotic citizens who arrived to honor and remember those that served and still serve this

great country.

The escort departed in true military fashion with the "advance party" led by Rolling Thunder, followed by a host of local military organizations, as well as current Ohio National Guard members with their families and friends. A team from India Company, Ohio Recruiting Command, provided the lead and trail vehicle for the "main body" of more than 4,000 bikers with their patriotic F-350s. A small personal aircraft circled the convoy as if providing overhead cover along the 30-mile trek.

The convoy traveled Interstate 75 North to state Route 6 West, into Napoleon where pride was abundant throughout the small towns in the heartland. Folks lined the streets and their front yards, all stood waving or holding a flag; even farmers paused in the fields from their daily chores to pay their respect.

Sgt. 1st Class Charlie Arnett, India Company, reversed being part of the "Ride of Pride" as well as manning a display at the Memorial Wall through Aug. 19. "Being a uniformed member took on extra special meaning," he said. **JACKIE DODGE / I Company, RRC**



Co. I of the Recruiting and Retention Battalion, Toledo, set up a National Guard recruiting display at the Traveling

“It reinforces how easy it is to make improvised explosive devices.”

—Lt. Col. David Seitz, commander of the Ohio National Guard's 52nd Civil Support Team



PHOTOS COURTESY OF NEW MEXICO TECH/EMRTC

**LEFT: Students of an Incident Response to Terrorist Bombings (IRTB) class look at evidence they collected after witnessing an explosion in Socorro, N.M. ABOVE: Shawn Kelley, lead instructor for the IRTB class, stands in a crater where a car bomb was detonated. Members of the Ohio National Guard's 52nd Civil Support Team (Weapons of Mass Destruction) attended his IRTB class there Sept. 17-21.**



## Civil Support Team learns terrorists' methodology behind bomb-making

Story by Spc. Chad Menegay  
196th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

**S**OCORRO, N.M.—Members of the Columbus, Ohio-based 52nd Civil Support Team (Weapons of Mass Destruction) traveled to Socorro, N.M. Sept. 17-21 to attend the Incident Response to Terrorist Bombings class offered by the Energetic Material Research and Testing Center, a division of the New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology.

The goals of the course are twofold—first, to equip first responders like the 52nd with the skills and knowledge needed to prepare for and react safely to terrorist attacks involving energetic materials, and second, to train the trainer. They also want to equip the students to train others in their respective departments and communities.

Although the class has traditionally been comprised mainly of police officers and firefighters, instructors said recently, Guardmembers also regularly attending.

“More CSTs are signing up for and attending both here and the suicide bombing course,” said Shawn Kelley, lead instructor for the IRTB class. “They feel that this information is beneficial and useful in recognition of IEDs (improvised explosive devices), in counter measures, in stand-offs—the word is getting out.”

Lt. Col. David Seitz of Gambier, Ohio, is commander of the 52nd. He said the material covered in the class was particularly relevant to his unit's mission.

“To be situationally aware of the variety of things that can be turned into an IED is really important, like a wristwatch bomb, a jewelry bomb—it doesn't have to look like three sticks of dynamite with a clock attached to it,” he said. “I've started telling my fellow (CST) commanders that the school is well worth it.”

New Mexico Tech, as the school is familiarly called, is an engineer college that works in conjunction with EMRTC's 40-square mile,

mountainous field testing laboratory, ideal for blowing up bombs.

“The mountains act as natural backstops, permitting many explosive experiments and gun firings,” Kelley said. “Everything goes up instead of going out into the community.”

The class watched explosions of many different combinations of energetic materials, the last of which was a 300-pound car bomb they helped to assemble.

“It goes beyond just seeing the devices,” Seitz said. “You get to handle them and know how they're made. It reinforces how easy it is to make improvised explosive devices.”

Many of the students said they appreciated the knowledge and experience that the instructors brought to class. One instructor was involved in search and rescue efforts at the Pentagon Sept. 11, 2001 and another at Oklahoma City April 19, 1995. Much of their teaching emphasized how to think like a terrorist.

“In order to defeat the adversary, you must appreciate, learn and think like the adversary,” Kelley said. “Otherwise you will never understand which way they're going to come at you.”

“The more dastardly the instructors think, the better the training is,” Seitz said.

Seitz said this class would aid his unit best in its work with bomb squads as CST survey members often go into potentially dangerous environments right alongside them.

“This is going to give us the ability to ‘talk the talk’ with the bomb squad because we understand more about their job and what they look for,” Seitz said. “We always try to have them with us to do entries, but there are times that they aren't going to be there, and anything I can do to enhance the safety of the team is on the top of my list.”

Kelley said the training is important for CSTs because there is a ‘fair to good’ chance that explosions will be used as a dissemination device.

“For them to be able to recognize that there are explosives as they come upon a situation—and what to do or what not to do—is important for the safety of CST members, especially the survey teams,” he said. “Anybody that's going downrange to rescue victims should have the training of identification, recognition and notification of potential explosive devices or bomb-making materials.” **BG**

# Ohio's CERFP team undergoes certification process at exercise

Story and photo by Spc. Chad Menegay  
196th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

**C**AMP ATTERBURY, Ind.—Ohio's Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, and High-yield Explosive Enhanced Response Force Package, or CERFP, underwent an external evaluation Aug. 11-17 directed by U.S. Army North.

Upon successful completion of this EXEVAL, designed by the National Guard Bureau, the Ohio CERFP will be certified to respond to a terrorist attack, natural disaster, chemical spill or pandemic.

About 200 National Guardmembers comprise the four elements of the Ohio CERFP: command and control (73rd Troop Command out of Columbus), search and extraction (1194th Engineer Company, Chillicothe), decontamination (637th Chemical Company, Kettering), and medical (composed mainly of the 121st Medical Group (MDG), Columbus, plus Airmen from the 178th MDG, Springfield, 179th MDG, Mansfield, and 180th MDG, Toledo).

The event marked the first time a CERFP was evaluated on each element.

"The CERFP brings a physical component that other units or agencies cannot," said Jack McCartt of Army North, incident commander during the exercise. "It's not as much of a technology-based job; there's a lot of physical moving of heavy objects. The CERFP brings the manpower and know-how to handle a mass-casualty event; it fills a big void."

Response International Group (RIG), a first responders' consultant and training company out of Oklahoma City, brought rocks and wood to construct simulated collapsed buildings or "rubble piles" with tunnels, rooms, basements and mannequins to simulate victims. **SG**

*For an extended version of this article, go to <http://www.ohionationalguard.com/pao/news/20070907a.htm>. To view an image gallery of the exercise, visit [http://www.ohionationalguard.com/pao/gallery/cerfp\\_campatterbury\\_index.htm](http://www.ohionationalguard.com/pao/gallery/cerfp_campatterbury_index.htm).*



The 121st ARW team returns to Rickenbacker Air National Guard Base after earning several honors in the 2007 Air Mobility Command Rodeo.

# Top of the sky



## 121st ARW team earns first-place honors in AMC Rodeo competition

Story by Capt. Karen O'Neill  
 Photos by Staff Sgt. Douglas Nicodemus  
 121st Air Refueling Wing

An 18-person team from the 121st Air Refueling Wing recently competed against more than 55 U.S. and international military teams and returned home as winners.

Attracting spectators from around the world, the bi-annual Air Mobility Command's Rodeo took place July 22-28, 2007 at McChord Air Force Base in Washington.

The Ohio Air National Guard team was awarded three trophies - best KC-135 air crew, best KC-135 air refueling crew and best KC-135 post-flight inspection - once again proving that they are the best of the best among their peers of active duty, National Guard and Reserve. They placed first for flying in the tanker category, which included the KC-135 and KC-10. The air crew, headed by Aircraft Commander Maj. Jim Camp and co-pilot Capt. Nick Hupp, led the crew to this year's top-place finish.

Their overall fourth-place finish in the tanker category included air refueling, cargo loading, maintenance preflight and postflight inspection, fuel servicing, daily observations and home station check scores, and three security forces events that included weapons, tactics and combat endurance.

"We're very proud of this year's team and what we've accomplished. It's an honor to represent the 121st, the Air National Guard, and



SSgt Troy Taylor (left) and TSgt Brian Breining develop a plan during a Rodeo event where Airmen were tested on a variety of security forces-related skills.

the state of Ohio," said Maj. Dave Johnson, team commander.

The 121st was the only National Guard unit to compete in the KC-135 category.

Rodeo is the Mobility Air Force's international competition. It focuses on readiness and features airdrop, air refueling, and other events showcasing security forces, aerial port, maintenance and aeromedical evacuation personnel.

The security forces team competed in rigorous events that tested their combat skills, rules of engagement in military operations other than war, physical endurance and tactical knowledge.

"We came here with little experience and tested our combat efficiency. With our high operations tempo and missions to Iraq, we took lessons learned from the competition and applied them to squadron training," said security forces team member Staff Sgt. Troy Taylor.

The support they received from their

teammates while competing in each event was awesome, Taylor said. The security forces events were the most physically demanding of the competition, he added.

Tech. Sgt. Steve Rood led the 10-member maintenance team to the top score among KC-135 postflight inspection teams.

Competing aircraft included the C-17 Globemaster III, C-5 Galaxy, C-130 Hercules, C-160 D, KC-10 Extender and the KC-135 Stratotanker. Rodeo provides a forum for Airmen and international partners to share the best of tactics and techniques. The last biennial competition took place in June 2005 after a five-year hiatus due to the increase in the operations tempo in support of the Global War on Terrorism.

The competition's ultimate goal is to develop and improve techniques and procedures that enhance air mobility operations. Spirited competition furthers that aim, while strengthening the mutual goals and bonds of friendship between teams. **AG**



# 121st Civil Engineering Squadron hits the field: Airmen gain hands-on experience off site

By Tech. Sgt. D. Clare  
121st Air Refueling Wing

**A**IR NATIONAL GUARD REGIONAL TRAINING SITE, FORT SMITH, Ark.—There's only so much training Airmen from the 121st Civil Engineering Squadron can accomplish from their home at Rickenbacker Air National Guard Base in Columbus, Ohio. To accomplish their global mission, it's mandatory that the troops get down and dirty at another location.

That's why the unit deployed to the Regional Training Site (RTS) here.

"There's only so much we can do during a [unit training assembly]," said Lt. Col. Mike Troxel, the unit commander. "This is an invaluable experience. We're able to complete mission essential equipment training on equipment we don't have at home station. So when the troops get a chance to come out, they really immerse themselves in the experience."

From building barriers and operating aircraft arresting systems to securing bases, purifying water and maintaining generators, the training allowed the civil engineering troops to perform mission essential operations. The assigned tasks are critical when they deploy. When called to duty, the engineers keep forward operating bases up and running. They also prepare the unit for future operational readiness inspections and a pending Silver Flag test, where the unit will be analyzed on their ability to establish a bare base in a simulated combat environment.

"Many people in the wing think of CE as base maintenance. They don't necessarily understand the full scope of our capabilities," Troxel said. "When the troops are able to get out here and get hands-on experience in their career field, morale soars. They love to get out in the field and do the unique jobs they joined the Guard to do."

Following the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, civil engineering units were among the first military units to deploy in support of the Global War on Terrorism. Since the unit's return from Pakistan in 2002, the unit has experienced a turnover rate of about 40 percent.

The deployment here was a first for many young troops, Troxel said. Senior leaders were able to impart experiential knowledge and provide leadership training for these new engineers.

"You saw a lot of mentoring out here. You saw the older guys

in the unit working one-on-one and in small groups with the younger troops. That accelerated the learning process," said Senior Master Sgt. Bob Lazear, facilities manager.

"Giving these younger folks experience on the equipment is so important. But, in my opinion, one of the most important things we gain is a sense of camaraderie. We face some serious challenges out here that force us to think outside the box. We learn to work together to come up with solutions – we develop trust between the ranks," said Tech. Sgt. Eric Forte, one of the troops who deployed to Pakistan.

Between classes on weapons handling, troop leading, convoy security, work party security and more, the troops responded to simulated contingencies. In these scenarios, the base came under attack from ground and air, convoys encountered mock improvised explosive devices, and reconnaissance teams repelled enemy aggressors.


Paintballs and props added to the realism of the training.

Severe thunderstorms tightened the event schedule, but leaders altered training to make the most of every available opportunity. Cold weather and constant rain made the training more challenging, and the Airmen consistently worked through storms and mud.

"I'm so proud of these troops. When you get to see them out there and you know they're motivated and excited to do their jobs, you know you have some people who are going to be able and do any task the Air Force asks them to do," said Chief Master Sgt. Darrell Harding, the unit's senior enlisted advisor. "We know we have some of the best people in the Air Force in this unit. And when they get out in their element and go to work, they prove their quality as a team and as individuals."

RTS leaders said the unit's ambitious training schedule reflected leadership's desire to ensure the engineers are ready for war.

"Civil engineers know that if we're not proficient, when we go overseas someone will get hurt," said Senior Master Sgt. Gary Skelton, RTS manager. "The CE troops from the 121st (Air Refueling Wing) are ready for any task the Air Force could assign them. We know this training will help them be an essential weapons system at home and at war.

They're a knowledgeable group of people and a credit to the total force." 

**TSgt. John Polzer climbs a utility pole during the 121st Civil Engineering Squadron's training mission earlier this year in Fort Smith, Ark.**



SGT DOUGLAS NICODEMUS/  
121ST AIR REFUELING WING MULTIMEDIA CENTER



SSG KIMBERLY SNOW / 196TH MOBILE PUBLIC AFFAIRS DETACHMENT

**A nameplate honoring Ohio Army National Guard Sgt. 1st Class Daniel B. Crabtree, killed in action June 8, 2006 near Al Kut, Iraq, is displayed on the Memorial Wall at Meadows Memorial Plaza, Fort Bragg, N.C. A May 24, 2007 memorialization ceremony added 42 names to the plaza's Memorial Wall, 37 from Soldiers killed in the past year in the Global War on Terrorism.**

**Special Forces Memorial Wall adds Ohio Special Forces Soldier to its marble**

FORT BRAGG, N.C.—The Soldier stood proudly at attention, their chests pushed out, backs rigid and chins held high. Family members sat silent, respectful, an occasional tear trickling down a cheek, flinching as they recognized the name of their loved one. The roll call, followed by the tolling of a bell, announced the name and unit of each of 42 fallen heroes.

The vibrant blue North Carolina sky belied the somber occasion May 24 as hundreds gathered here to pay respects to 37 Soldier killed in the past year while fighting in the Global War on Terrorism and five Soldier from the Korean War. Lt. Gen. Robert W. Wagner, commanding general of U.S. Army Special Operations Command, addressed the gathering.

“Where do such men and women come from? It is by no means accident or chance,” Wagner said. “They come from strong families and strong communities of character, of strong traditional values and work ethic. They come from your homes and your hearts.”

Among the families he referred to was that of Sgt. 1st Class Daniel B. Crabtree, a weapons sergeant assigned to the Columbus, Ohio-based B Company, 2nd Battalion, 19th Special Forces Group. Nearly a year had passed since they learned their elite troop had been killed in action June 8, 2006 while on a combat patrol near Al Kut, Iraq.

Like the other gold-star families attending, they had traveled to the Meadows Memorial Plaza at the home of the U.S. Army Special Operations Command to honor their Soldier and see his name inscribed in the marble of the Memorial Wall. Dedicated in 1969, the wall holds the names of 1,007 troops—every special operations

Soldier killed in combat since the Vietnam War.

“Just seeing these families going through the same thing is helpful,” said Kathy Crabtree, Daniel’s widow. “Especially with the other spouses, you don’t have to say anything. They know.”

Friends and unit members rallied around the Crabtrees, having become part of the extended gold-star family over the past year. They exchanged stories and lent mutual support.

Staff Sgt. Kurt M. Pleiman, another of Crabtree’s close friends and team members, said time has done little to lessen the pain of losing his friend. But he said being around people who knew him and sharing stories is helpful in the healing process. He recounted a story about meeting a friend of

Crabtree’s recently while he was out of town at a training event.

“I was in Youngstown at drill and an Air Force Reserve guy came up to me,” Pleiman said. “He noticed my patches and asked me if I knew Dan. It turned out he went to high school with Dan. We talked a while. It was nice to talk to him about Dan.”

Many of his friends, family members and comrades referred to Crabtree as a dedicated family man who maintained a healthy sense of humor.

“He could always lighten a tense situation,” Meyer said. “He would make a wisecrack if things got too serious. And he had this laugh he would always do...” Meyer smiled, mimicked a goofy laugh and looked off as if envisioning his friend.

But nearly all remembered Dan for his dedication to service. His father, Ronald W. Crabtree, a retired Air Force senior master sergeant, spoke of his son’s love for the Army and his devotion to duty. He said his son’s heart was in the military. His mother agreed.

“He loved the Army since he was born,” she said. “He was training as soon as he was walking. He put holes in everything with the BB gun he used for target practice. He broke my car window. When he was in Boy Scouts, he considered it part of his military training.”

Long after the ceremony concluded, friends and family members of the fallen Soldier lingered, waiting their turn to place a rose at the base of the wall, touch their Soldier’s name or do a “rubbing”—place a piece of paper over the name, and rub a

pencil over it to take home as a memento. Others gathered in groups, sharing stories, tears and hugs. Wagner also remained and mingled with the families he said “nurtured the Soldier and turned them into true American heroes.”

Often, tears mixed with and were sometimes replaced by laughter. Crabtree’s mother, Judy Ann, his brother, Bill, and sister, Debbie L. Evans, showed off tattoos that all had got in Dan’s honor.

“We hope our Danny is laughing,” Judy said with a laugh. “Because he did not like tattoos!” **SSG KIMBERLY D. SNOW / 196TH MOBILE PUBLIC AFFAIRS DETACHMENT**

**ADA Soldiers compete in adjutant general's matches for first time**

CAMP PERRY—Members of C Battery, 1st Battalion, 174th Air Defense Artillery Regiment “Cyclones” from Bellefontaine competed in the Adjutant General’s Combat Rifle Championships Aug. 18-19 here.

The primary team—led by Staff Sgt. William Wahler, Staff Sgt. Michael Vondran, Sgt. Shawn Carter, Sgt. Joshua Hayes and Spc. Joshua Laird placed second in the Maj. Gen. Harry “A.J.” Feucht Match. C Battery was also represented by an alternate team consisting of Staff Sgt. Michael Vondran, Sgt. Sean Roberts, Sgt. William Haskin and Spc. Andrew Green, who competed well against numerous seasoned teams.

The primary team not only placed second out of a field of seasoned teams, but they defeated the Michigan regional team (which went on to win the regional championship) during the plate match. The plate match was a timed event during which competitors sprinted 100 yards to their weapon, which was placed 200 yards from the 10 target plates. Teams were given 40 rounds for this event, and the C Battery primary team completed the event in 43 seconds with 18 rounds unexpended. **C BATTERY, 1-174TH ADA UNIT PUBLIC AFFAIRS**

**Transportation units benefit from battalion-wide weapons training**

CAMP PERRY—Transportation companies from all over Ohio recently gathered at Camp Perry, as it hosted Ohio’s largest Army National Guard battalion for three full days of training. More than 500 Soldier of the 112th Transportation Battalion trained side-by-side, completing individual weapons qualification, and Virtual Convoy Operations Training (VCOT).

Cooperation across the companies created a smooth path to qualification; in most cases, a Soldier spent only two hours from zero to individual rifle qualification. The Camp Perry facilities provided an excellent opportunity for computer-assisted exercises as 112th Soldiers tested their targeting skill during Engagement Skills Training (EST), which simulates M-16 rifle action with the coordination of video “up” screens and air-powered dummy M-16A2s.

Individual skills were pooled in role playing during Virtual Convoy Operations Training (VCOT). Participants acted as driver, gunner or vehicle commander on multiple simulated Humvees, operating in a virtual video-driven convoy. The Soldiers responded to convoy commander instructions, practicing convoy defense and moving under enemy fire.

“We were able to achieve a number of training goals,” said Sgt. 1st Class Steven Grim of the 1487th Transportation Company. “It was a great opportunity for my Soldiers to interact and train with Soldiers from the other five transportation companies. Whether it was relieving range safeties or providing coaches, I saw a lot of teamwork out there this weekend.”

Soldier experienced two new wrinkles in the M-16A2 qualification at Camp Perry this year—new firing points and a new firing position. In re-

sponse to unit After Action Reports (AARs) identifying numerous target obstructions on the range, the state installed new platforms to provide a better view of the firing line.

“The Army is basing its training on current operations, responding to new tactics and lessons learned,” said 1st Sgt. Linda Young, battalion operations NCO. “Soldiers in Iraq are using the combat kneeling position in defending their convoys and mission operations, so it has been inserted into our weapons qualification to increase soldier familiarity.”

Based on all weapons systems, 92 percent of the battalion’s Soldiers qualified on their weapons. There were two expert shooters—Spc. Christopher Cogswell of the 1484th Transportation Company fired 40 for 40 on the M-16, and 1st Lt. Bruce Neighbor of the Headquarters Company fired 30 for 30 on the 9 millimeter. **2LT SCOTT DETLING / DETACHMENT 1, 1487TH TRANSPORTATION COMPANY**

### First military police school MOS class graduates from Ohio’s RTI

RICKENBACKER AIR NATIONAL GUARD BASE—MOS Training Class 191-31B10 graduated July 2 July from the 147th Regiment (Regional Training Institute) here.

This was the first (and largest) military police military occupational specialty (MOS)-producing training class ever to graduate from an Army National Guard program of instruction.

The training was conducted in two phases; with 60 students graduating from Phase I, and 55 students graduating from Phase II.

Soldiers came from 11 states: Ohio, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Texas, Virginia, Maryland, Indiana, Missouri, Illinois and Minnesota. **SFC DONALD VOGEL / 147TH REGIMENT (REGIONAL TRAINING INSTITUTE)**



TSGT BOB JONES / 179TH AIRLIFT WING

Friends and family gather July 9 at the 180th Fighter Wing in Toledo to Airmen returning from an overseas deployment.

### Toledo-based Airmen return home after supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom

TOLEDO—Hundreds of family members, friends and retirees gathered in anticipation of the arrival of their deployed Airmen July 9 at the 180th Fighter Wing aircraft maintenance hangar here.

More than 200 men and women of the 180th returned home after serving a two-month deployment in Iraq.

“It was a great patriotic spirit at the ramp,” said Lt. Col. Scott Reed, commander of the 112th Fighter Squadron.

While deployed, the 180th members conducted flying operations in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and fulfilled a federal mission as part of a U.S. Air Force Aerospace Expeditionary Forces rotation.

“This is the completion of another tour,” Reed said. “A challenging time, but one with a real sense of accomplishment and amazing courage and strength was displayed by our people.”

Reuniting with family was on all unit members’ minds.

“This was great,” said Tech. Sgt. Scott Kuzmaul from the maintenance group. “There is nothing better than family.”

“I’m very proud of what we’ve accomplished and I’m happy to be with family,” said Master Sgt. John Kelly, a flight line expediter. “My daughter Jessica was born on May 3 and I had to leave right after she was born. But we have a wonderful support group of family and friends who helped us.”

Several returning troops commented about how the group’s cohesiveness helped them through the deployment.

“It is easier to be away from home when you are with your Air National Guard family,” said Tech. Sgt. Todd Copic, maintenance group member. **LT COL THOMAS GEE AND TSGT. ANNETTE KORNASIEWICZ / 180TH FIGHTER WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS**

### Honoring Hispanic American heritage



STEVE TOTH / ADJ. GEN. DEPT. PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Henry Guzman (center) receives an eagle statue from CW3 Carmen Davis (left), state equal employment manager, and MajGen Harry “A.J.” Feucht, Ohio assistant adjutant general for Air, in appreciation for his Sept. 17 address at Beightler Armory to mark National Hispanic Heritage Month. Guzman, a Vietnam veteran, is currently director of the Ohio Department of Public Safety.



TODD CRAMER / ADJ. GEN. DEPT. PHOTO LAB

**Relatives of deceased MG Robert S. Beightler stand in front of a historical display in his namesake armory in northwest Columbus. They visited the armory after a Sept. 28 ceremony to dedicate a historical marker in his hometown of Marysville.**

### Hometown honors one of Ohio's great Citizen-Soldiers with historical marker

MARYSVILLE—In 1911, an Army captain watched as a young man named Pvt. John Paul Sellers fired his weapon on the ranges of Camp Perry, Ohio, while training with their local National Guard company. Impressed with the young, crack shot, the captain asked him to join the regimental rifle team. There was only one problem with his request—the uneasy man standing before the captain wasn't Sellers.

In fact, Sellers wasn't even at Camp Perry that day. Instead, Robert S. Beightler, a civilian who agreed to stand in for his friend at summer training, stood nervously before the captain. Unable to continue the ruse, he came clean with the officer. Rather than send him to the guard house, however, he instead offered Beightler an enlistment in the Ohio National Guard. He accepted and was sworn in as a private, bringing to close this bizarre event and launching the military career of one of the most distinguished generals that Ohio has ever produced.

As a tribute to this accomplished Soldier, the citizens of Marysville, Beightler's hometown, dedicated a historical marker in his honor on Sept. 28.

"It makes sense, we need to do something for this great National Guard general," said Eric Phillips, chief executive officer for the Union County Chamber of Commerce.

The marker was placed at the southeast corner of 5th and Main Streets in downtown Marysville. This is the second time Marysville has recognized its hometown hero. In 1969, 5th Street was named General Beightler Way and

a permanent sign was hung near the intersection. However, in 1999, the sign, which had become aged, was removed when the city updated its streetscape.

In 2001, when the Ohio National Guard approached the City of Marysville about building a new armory in the city, Phillips began researching the Guard's history in the community and Union County and realized something needed to be done.

"We applied for a grant from the Ohio Historical Society and were one of 10 recipients that received

\$750 toward the marker," Phillips said. The remaining cost of the \$2,500 marker was covered by the city and multiple veteran service organizations in the community.

After rising through the enlisted ranks, Beightler was commissioned as a lieutenant in 1911 and served on the Mexican Border from 1916 to 1917. During World War I, he dutifully served as an adjutant with the 166th Infantry Regiment although he really wanted to command a rifle company. However, his performance as the regiment's adjutant was considered indispensable to the operations of the organization by Col. Benson Hough, the regimental commander.

Following the war, he excelled in both military and civil affairs. After holding several engineer positions with the state he started his own contracting firm in 1930 and was appointed director of highways in 1939. In the Guard, he served in various regimental, brigade and division staff positions, including a stint with the war department general staff.

In 1940, he was named commander of the 37th Division on the eve of its entrance into federal service. For the next 17 months, Beightler worked to get the "Buckeye" division ready for combat, while at

the same time fighting off critics who felt a National Guard officer was not fit to command a division.

When the war ended in 1945, Beightler had successfully led his division through five years of active service including 592 days of non-stop combat on New Georgia, Bougainville and Luzon. The 37th earned the nickname "Heavyweight" and carried the reputation as one of the best Army divisions in the Pacific. Beightler himself was rewarded with a regular army commission and was the only National Guard division commander to sustain his command from start to finish.

His post-war assignments varied, but were highlighted by his 1950 appointment as commanding general of the Ryukyus Command and deputy military governor of Okinawa. In 1952, Beightler suffered a severe heart attack and was forced to retire from the Army. He returned to Ohio and oversaw the construction of the Ohio turnpike, retiring in 1962. He died on Feb. 12, 1978, from his ninth heart attack and was laid to rest at Oakdale Cemetery in his hometown of Marysville.

The marker is near the recently completed Union County Veterans Monument and Veterans Memorial Hall—all of which are part of a movement to revitalize downtown Marysville, Phillips said.

An exhibit of Beightler's personnel and military items—currently on display at the Ohio Adjutant General's Department at his namesake armory in northwest Columbus—is currently available for viewing. **SSG JOSHUA MANN / JOINT FORCE HEADQUARTERS-OHIO**

### Recognizing Rudi's retirement



SSGT DOUGLAS NICODEMUS / 121ST AIR REFUELING WING MULTIMEDIA CENTER

**Chief Master Sgt. Rudy Dalton (right), command chief master sergeant for the 121st Air Refueling Wing, receives a minuteman statue from MG Gregory L. Wayt, state adjutant general, during an Oct. 13 retirement ceremony. More than 700 guardmembers, Soldiers friends and family members attended the event.**

**Ohio Air National Guard's most senior chief master sergeant retires**

SPRINGFIELD—Chief Master Sgt. Daniel E. Schetter, of the 269th Combat Communications Squadron and the senior ranking enlisted member of the Ohio Air National Guard, retired July 1 after nearly 40 years of service.

Schetter was promoted to “chief” in December 1984 at the age of 35 years old, one of the youngest ever to be promoted to that rank. He enlisted in the Ohio Air National Guard in October 1967 as a member of the 269th Combat Communications Squadron and has served his entire military career with the 269th.

He has received numerous awards and decorations during his career. Schetter has deployed to seven different countries, including Kuwait in 2002-2003 in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

During his career, Chief Schetter attained 13 consecutive outstanding ratings on command communications security (COMSEC) inspections—an Air Combat Command record. During this 26-year inspection span, he was also requested to perform countless staff assistance visits to other active-duty and Air National Guard units as they prepared for their command COMSEC inspections.

Schetter was involved in six operational readiness inspections, nine unit compliance inspections and several other special inspections. During his tenure, his areas received no grade lower than an “excellent”.

With retirement, Schetter plans to continue coaching women’s basketball at Cedarville University, spending time with his six grandchildren, and travel with his wife, Sheila. **178TH FIGHTER WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS**

**Hundreds attend Ohio Fallen Heroes Memorial dedication this summer**

SUNBURY—A patriotic crowd of hundreds stood behind Ohio’s “Gold Star Families” June 30 as the national anthem played under a baby-blue sky. Many sported red, white and blue bandanas, hats or T-shirts, and some sat on American flag-themed lawn chairs. Signs reading “Defend Our Freedom,” “Support Our Troops,” “Proud to be American,” and “God Bless the U.S.A.” were interspersed throughout the crowd.

All were gathered for the Ohio Fallen Heroes Memorial dedication in remembrance of 169 Ohio Soldiers who had died in the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Gold Star Families—those of Soldiers killed or missing in action—received special invitations to both the ceremony and a catered dinner that followed. Some family members took the opportunity to share their experiences with one another and socialize with political and military dignitaries, such as U.S. Rep. Patrick Tiberi of Columbus’ 12th district, state Rep. Jon Peterson of Delaware, Ohio, and Maj. Gen. Gregory L. Wayt, Ohio adjutant general.

“This generation has been called upon to protect the liberties and the freedoms that we enjoy in this country,” Peterson said. “They have responded willingly and honorably. These patriots have become part of a list of honored American citizens which are printed on the pages of our nation’s history.”

A solemn temper overcame the crowd, many visibly weeping, as Mark McVicker, father of deceased Marine Lance Cpl. Daniel M. McVicker, spoke at the podium. Daniel McVicker died Oct. 6, 2005, from an improvised explosive device while conducting combat operations near Al Qaim, Iraq.

“Back there in the ninth row (of white-stone memorial crosses),” McVicker said, “that’s the only ground my son’s ever going to own, but it’s in Sunbury... the heart of Ohio. Thank you all.”

The land for the memorial was provided by the village of Sunbury. The Ohio Fallen Heroes Memorial, at an estimated cost of \$450,000, has been constructed, funded and maintained by volunteers and donors. A courtyard showcases the service flags of each military branch, a POW/MIA flag, a bronze silhouette of the M-16 with helmet and boots and an eternal flame that was lit before the crowd during the ceremony. A chapel and a brick walkway were also recently constructed.

The Ohio Fallen Heroes Memorial, Inc., a non-profit corporation, has plans for an Ohio Fallen Heroes Memorial Scholarship Fund for the children of the fallen troops.

Those wishing to donate or volunteer are encouraged to visit [www.ohiofallenheroes.org](http://www.ohiofallenheroes.org).

“The important work of defending freedom is not without a tremendous cost,” Tiberi said. “These Soldiers volunteer to put themselves in harm’s way to protect us. We owe them our respect. We owe them our gratitude for their sacrifice.” **SPC CHAD MENEGAY / 196TH MOBILE PUBLIC AFFAIRS DETACHMENT**



COURTESY PHOTO

**1LT William Epley (center) is congratulated by LTC Jeffrey Gouhin (left), 112th Transportation Battalion commander, and COL Daniel Tack, 371 Sustainment Brigade commander, for receiving the General Douglas MacArthur Leadership Award and the Ohio Distinguished Service Medal.**

**Epley earns state-level MacArthur award, keeps battalion string alive**

NORTH CANTON—Gen. Douglas MacArthur once said: “Duty, Honor, Country... Those three hallowed words reverently dictate what you ought to be, what you can be, what you will be.” At the 112th Transportation Battalion, company grade officers for three consecutive years have been honored with being selected as the state’s nominee for the award which bears his name.

First L. William Epley, commander of the 1484th Transportation Company, was selected as the 2006 Ohio nominee for the Gen. Douglas MacArthur Leadership Award. Epley was recognized not only for his excellence as an officer, but for being a leader in his community, too. Outside of his command duties, Epley is a full-time training officer at Ravenna Training and Logistics Site.

“The 112th Transportation battalion is very proud of the fact that for the past three years, the state nominee for this prestigious award has come out of this battalion,” said Lt. Col. Jeffrey Gouhin, 112th battalion commander. “All three of these individuals are ‘top shelf’ officers who have deployed to war.

The MacArthur Leadership Award is presented each year to company grade officers of each branch of service. It is highly competitive and only the finest officers are considered. Epley was preceded by Capt. Patrick Hinton in 2005 and Capt. Doug Wilhelm in 2004 and. While none of these nominees was selected as the national winner, each placed in the top 10. **2LT SCOTT DETLING / DETACHMENT 1, 1487TH TRANSPORTATION COMPANY**

## Rickenbacker personnel flight offers Common Access Card services

COLUMBUS—The 121st Air Refueling Wing Mission Support Flight, located on the first floor of Building 887 at Rickenbacker Air National Guard Base, offers Common Access Card services to current and retired servicemembers, based on the following guidelines:

- **Air National Guard personnel**  
Tuesday-Friday, 8-11 a.m., and 1-4 p.m.  
Unit training assemblies (UTA) weekends, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., by appointment only
- **Army National Guard personnel**  
Wednesdays, 1-4 p.m.  
121st UTA Sundays, 1-3 p.m., by appointment only
- **Retirees and dependents**  
Wednesdays only, 8-11 a.m., 1-4 p.m.

The ID card office is closed on Mondays. For appointments, call (614) 492-4173/3461.

In the event that 121st personnel are unable to provide customer service for ID cards, please refer to the following website for additional locations to obtain ID cards: <http://www.dmdc.osd.mil/rsl/owa/home>. **121ST AIR REFUELING WING MILITARY PERSONNEL FLIGHT.**



## AAFES to giveaway deluxe Disney Vacation, Harley Davidson

DALLAS—The Army & Air Force Exchange Service (AAFES) is partnering with Disney watch maker Seiko Instruments to offer military Families an opportunity to experience the magic of a Disney vacation with an exclusive, military-only sweepstakes.

The winner of the “Disney Sweepstakes” will receive a vacation for four, including five-day-four-night deluxe hotel accommodations, airfare from any city in the world and a four-day pass to a Disney World amusement park, all with an estimated value of \$10,000.

“This family-friendly giveaway is sure to ignite the imaginations of holiday shoppers who will be coming to the BX/PX over the next few months,” said AAFES’ Chief of Communication Lt. Col. Dean Thurmond. “Opportunities like this sweepstakes reaffirm AAFES’, and its vendor partners’, commitment to military Families.”

Now through Dec. 24, exchange shoppers

can enter to win the “Disney Sweepstakes” at BX/PX locations worldwide. No purchase is necessary to enter and entrants do not have to be present to win. The only requirement to enter is a military identification card authorizing contestants to shop at AAFES (see entry forms for complete details).

The “Disney Sweepstakes” drawing will take place in February 2008. AAFES will award prizes within 30 days of the drawing.

In another opportunity for servicemembers, Jeweler Sandberg & Sikorski and AAFES) are partnering to give military shoppers an exclusive opportunity to “chew up the horizon” with a 2008 Harley-Davidson 1200N Nightster. Popular for its unique design and low seat, the Nightster is one of Harley-Davidson’s newest additions to the Sportster family.

“Diamonds and Harleys may not seem to have a lot in common, but both categories offer terrific examples of how AAFES is actively supporting military Families,” said AAFES’ Chief of Communications Lt. Col. Dean Thurmond. “From finding the perfect ring for budget-conscious newlyweds to ensuring new riders have the personal protective equipment and information needed to safely operate a motorcycle, military shoppers know this command is committed to meeting their diverse and dynamic needs.”

Customers can participate in the 2007 Harley-Davidson Sweepstakes at BX/PX locations

worldwide Oct. 12 through Dec. 24, 2007. No purchase is necessary to enter and entrants do not have to be present to win. The only requirement to enter this and other AAFES contests is a military identification card authorizing contestants to shop at the exchange (see entry forms for complete details).

The 2007 Harley-Davidson Sweepstakes drawing will take place in January 2008. AAFES will award prizes within 30 days of the drawing. **AAFES COMMUNICATIONS**

## ‘Gifts from the Homefront’ popular way for people to support deployed troops

DALLAS—Cold drinks, phone cards and sweet snacks. During the holidays, these are a few of troops’ favorite things.

In fact, Soldiers, Airmen, Marines and Sailors shopping at some 50 military Post and Base Exchanges throughout Operations Enduring and Iraqi Freedom last December picked up more than 400,000 bottles and cans of tea, coffee and energy drinks, 61,471 phone cards and 54,253 marshmallow treats and peanut butter cups.

“You don’t have to get fancy or exotic to make the holidays a little easier for troops far from home,” said the Army & Air Force Exchange

Service’s Senior Enlisted Advisor Chief Master Sgt. Bryan Eaton. “Sometimes a cold drink and a friendly voice on the other end of the line is all a servicemember needs to temporarily go from the war zone to a comfort zone.”

While most of the popular items troops pick up at the exchange are often locally available at any “big box” retailer, packing and shipping boxes of Frappuccinos and meat snacks (of which troops consumed 54,198 of the 25 cent variety last December) thousands of miles isn’t always the most affordable or practical option.

“The AAFES team has been supplying troops with these items for more than five years now,” said Eaton. “Our experience has taught us a lot about getting products half way around the world in one piece.”

Today, any American can leverage exchange operations across Iraq, Afghanistan and Kuwait on behalf of deployed troops with a gift certificate that can be redeemed at any of 55 BX/PX facilities. Available at [www.aafes.org](http://www.aafes.org) and 877-770-4438, “Gifts from the Homefront” gift certificates can be sent to individual service members (designated by the purchaser) or distributed to “any service member” through the Air Force Aid Society, American Red Cross, Coalition to Salute America’s Heroes, Fisher House, Navy-

Marine Corps Relief Society, Operation Homefront,

Operation Interdependence® or USO.

Available in denominations ranging from \$5 to \$50, the American public has sent 92,907 “Gifts from the Homefront,” totaling nearly \$2 million, since the military exchange gift certificate effort began in March 2003. **AAFES COMMUNICATIONS**

### ONGSP APPLICATION DEADLINES

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

It is the responsibility of each individual student-guardmember to hand deliver or mail 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. You may also renew your application online at [www.ongsp.org](http://www.ongsp.org).

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



SSG RUSSELL L. KLIKA / CAMP ATTERBURY PAO

SGT Erica Winkel of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 371st Sustainment Brigade, maneuvers around an obstacle during an individual movement techniques (IMT) course as part of a three week pre-mobilization train-up at Camp Atterbury, Ind. The 371st is scheduled to deploy overseas in support of the Global War on Terrorism early next year.

# Guard Snapshots

TOP RIGHT: Members of the 1486th Transportation Company, Ashland, were in attendance at a motorcross event during the 2007 Ashland County Fair, in conjunction with a veterans appreciation day. RIGHT: 1LT Bruce R. Hubert, assigned to the Springfield-based 237th Support Battalion (Forward), Rear Area Operation Center, embraces his son, Jacob, Oct. 19, during his unit's welcome home ceremony. Hubert is one of about 30 troops who returned from a yearlong deployment to Mosul, Iraq, in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. BELOW RIGHT: LtCol Steve Nordhaus (from left), Col Mark E. Bartman, 180th Fighter Wing commander, Lorin Sonnenberg and LtCol Scott Reed, 112th Fighter Squadron commander, unveil the memorial Sept. 8 for LtCol Kevin Sonnenberg, who died in Iraq on June 15, 2007. LtCol Sonnenberg's widow joined 180th FW leaders to dedicate a building at the Toledo Air National Base in his memory.

SRA MATTHEW KING / 180TH FIGHTER WING MULTIMEDIA CENTER



CHRIS RUSSELL / THE COLUMBUS DISPATCH



Members of an Ohio National Guard funeral detail carry the casket of U.S. Rep. Paul Gillmor—who represented Ohio's Fifth Congressional District in Northwest Ohio—out of the Ohio Statehouse following a memorial service Tuesday, Sept. 11, 2007, in Columbus

SGT ANDI MOTLEY / 1486TH TRANSPORTATION COMPANY



SSG KIMBERLY SNOW / 196TH MOBILE PUBLIC AFFAIRS DETACHMENT

# Historic Rickenbacker air show highlights Air Force Heritage Week

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A P-51 Mustang aircraft (top right) flies in formation with modern day F-15, F-16 and F-22 fighter jets at the Gathering of Mustangs & Legends air show in September at Rickenbacker International Airport, attended by an estimated 150,000 people. This once in a lifetime event honored the people and plane which played a major role in achieving victory over Germany in World War II and celebrated the Air Force's 60th Anniversary during Air Force Heritage Week events Sept. 24-30.

SSGT DOUGLAS NICODEMUS / 121ST AIR REFUELING WING MULTIMEDIA CENTER

# BUCKEYE GUARD

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