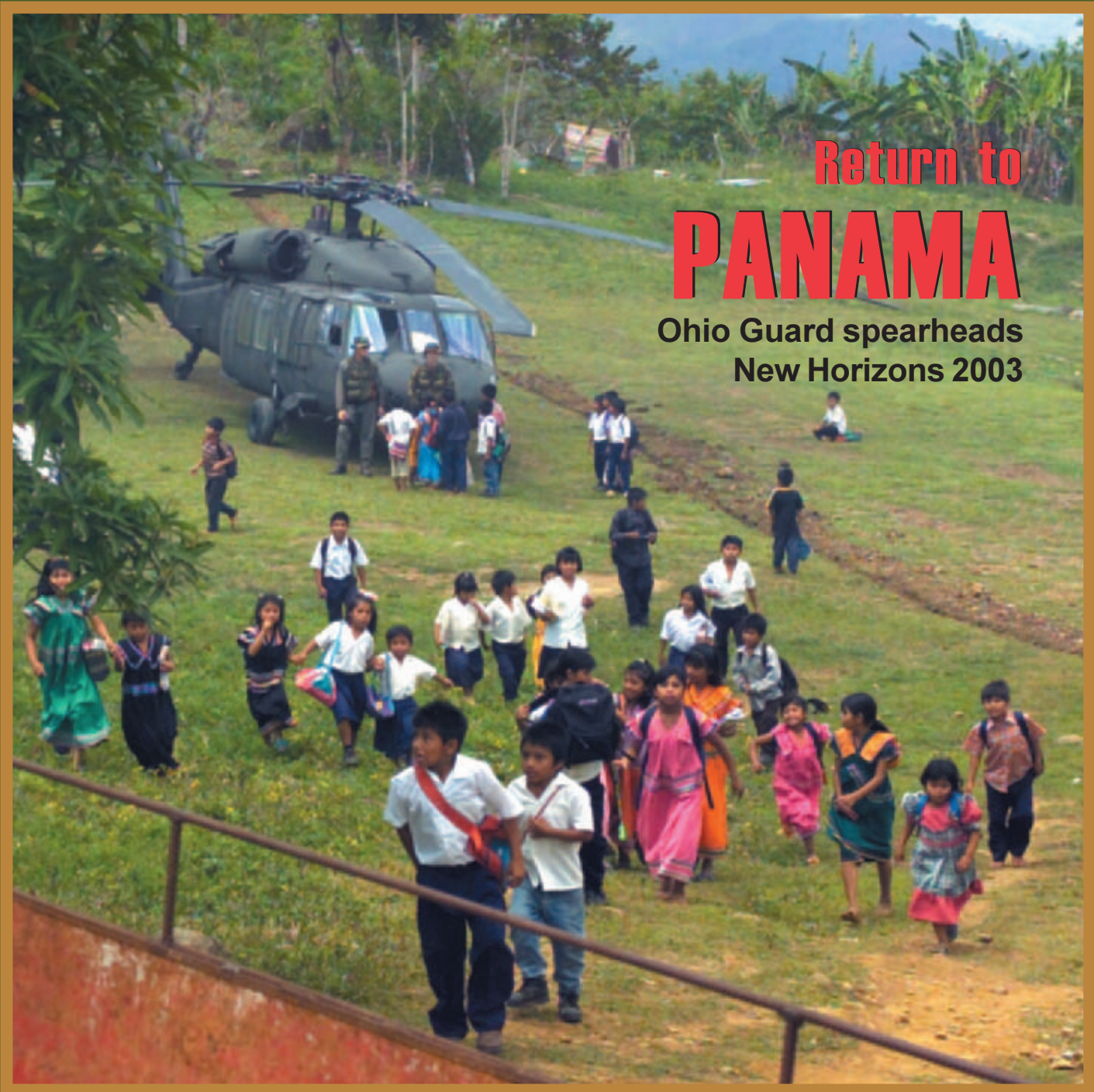


BUCKEYE GUARD

MAGAZINE OF THE OHIO ARMY AND AIR NATIONAL GUARD
SUMMER/FALL 2003



Return to
PANAMA
Ohio Guard spearheads
New Horizons 2003

LET THE RACE BEGIN

YOU CAN WIN WITH
A SCHOLARSHIP



BEAT THE DEADLINE

SUMMER 1 APR

FALL 1 JULY

SPRING SEM WINTER QRT 1 NOV

SPRING 1 FEB

BUCKEYE GUARD

Volume 27, No. 2

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Guardmembers and their families are encouraged to submit any articles meant to inform, educate or entertain *Buckeye Guard* readers, including stories about interesting Guard personalities and unique unit training. E-mail us at buckeye@tagoh.org. Deadlines are:

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SGT Jessica McMillen / 196th MPAD

Contents

Summer/Fall 2003

FEATURES

- 7 Return to Panama**
Ohio troops provide humanitarian relief to 'Bridge of Americas.'
- 14 National Guard Transformation**
LTG H Steven Blum mandates consolidation of Army, Air HQ.
- 16 Operation Iraqi Freedom**
Ohio operations tempo remains high for war on terrorism.
- 24 Grueling Grayling**
Army Guard units conduct variety of missions at Camp Grayling, Mich.

An Ohio Army National Guard Black Hawk helicopter completes a training mission at Camp Grayling, Mich. See page 25.

DEPARTMENTS

- 2 Command focus**
Recently appointed Command Sgt. Maj. Bill Gilliam discusses priorities for enlisted force.
- 3 Feedback from the field**
- 4 National news**
- 6 Citizen spotlight**
Security Forces superintendent is prolific nonfiction author.
- 36 Buckeye briefs**
- 40 All about people**
- 44 Guardmember benefits**



SPC Haraz N. Ghanbari / Joint Forces HQ - Ohio

Chief of National Guard Bureau LTG H Steven Blum was the keynote speaker at the Adjutants General Association of the United States conference held last May in Columbus. See pages 14-15.

ABOUT THE COVERS



FRONT: Schoolchildren from Boca de Soloy, Panama, swarm around a UH60A Black Hawk helicopter during opening ceremonies for Joint Task Force Chiriqui. *Photo by SPC Kimberly Snow / 196th MPAD*

BACK: Members of the 179th Logistics Squadron erect a general purpose tent during a deployment to the Combat Readiness Training Center in Gulfport, Miss. *Photo by TSgt Todd Cramer / 179th Airlift Wing*

Many elements to being ready for when call comes



BY CSM WILLIAM L. GILLIAM
STATE COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR

During these challenging times for everyone in uniform, the noncommissioned officers and enlisted soldiers of the Ohio Army National Guard have several areas in which we need to be particularly responsive.

The motto of the Ohio National Guard is, "When called, we will respond with ready units." We can respond. We've done it several times for the Global War on Terrorism, and with great success, for various local and national security missions within

the United States in support of Operation Noble Eagle; and overseas for Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom.

Our noncommissioned officers and enlisted soldiers need to know about the many elements which make us able to "respond with ready units" successfully, when the call comes.

First, we need to concentrate on personnel strength—soldiers are the Ohio Army National Guard's most valuable resource. We all know what we need to do to maintain and keep up our strength—our new Recruit Sustainment Program (RSP) and unit sponsorship program work hand-in-hand. Beginning this January, the Ohio Army National Guard (OHARNG), spearheaded by the Recruiting and Retention Command, is organizing, executing and supervising the RSP at eight regional sites across the state. All too often, we see non-prior service soldiers who have not been actively engaged in unit activities prior to shipping out for basic training. This program is designed to integrate quickly and give them the tools they need to be successful to complete basic training—teaching them skills such as marching and land navigation—as well as advanced individual training, where they learn their Military Occupational Specialty (MOS).

Unit sponsorship programs pair up soldiers new to a unit with exemplary veteran members to help new team members through the awkward and sometimes emotional first drill assemblies. Good or bad—the initial impression new soldiers get of our organization will be everlasting. It is up to our seasoned NCOs and experienced enlisted soldiers to make that impression a positive one.

While we meet the National Guard Bureau goal of 82 percent of Ohio's soldiers being duty MOS-qualified—meaning that the soldiers are certified to do the military job corresponding to the slot they occupy on the unit roster—we can do much better; we must be at 85 percent in Training Year (TY) 2005. I expect to see the command sergeants major work and manage their commands, and get us to 85 percent in TY04 and 87 percent or higher in TY05. We need to be vigilant in making sure our soldiers get the necessary

MOS-producing schooling, utilizing whatever resources and means (active, reserve component, inactive duty training at Regional Training Institutes, correspondence and computer-based training courses) are available and appropriate to accomplish this.

Similarly, we need to monitor the Noncommissioned Officer Education System (NCOES) even more closely than before. The need for well-trained, motivated noncommissioned officers, capable and ready to lead, is of great importance in today's military, as it always has been. Our soldiers need to be ready physically and mentally to complete their courses successfully and graduate. We cannot afford to lose one school seat during these times due to a soldier unable to meet the challenge. During TY04, my office is tracking and notifying units, through command sergeants major channels, that are exhibiting poor school attendance and completion of training. All of us must give nothing but our best when being trained to lead soldiers in war, as well as peacetime, and we can accept nothing less from the people under our watch.

The call for transformation from National Guard Bureau has seen the headquarters elements for the Ohio Army and Air National

Guard, as well as the Adjutant General's Department, begin combining their resources as they evolve into a true joint headquarters element over time. We are transforming our headquarters and our capabilities to shape our future. This is a more economic and efficient way to fight, do business and work—organizing to operate in peacetime and fight in wartime in a joint environment. We senior NCOs need to step up and be part of this great undertaking. This process can result in more resources for training being available to enhance unit readiness.

With regard to family support groups, whether a soldier is mobilized or remaining at his or her home station in Ohio, we need to keep our spouses and family members abreast of the most current Department of the Army information available. Our Ohio Guard senior leadership has done a commendable job by briefing current information they know and receive from NGB. We should never take our families for granted—our mission success depends greatly on our families' support.

I've spoken a great deal to our soldiers and airmen during my many visits at various training sites, and I want every one to know how proud I am to be the state command sergeant major for Ohio. If I could do one thing to strengthen the enlisted force even more, it would be to ask our NCO corps and enlisted soldiers to support and become members of the Ohio National Guard Enlisted Association (ONGEA), www.ongea.org, and the Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States (EANGUS), www.eangus.org. Both organizations are successful in selecting programs and taking legislative initiatives that benefit our enlisted Ohio National Guardmembers—both Army and Air—and their families. Aside from membership benefits that are already in place, including academic scholarships and life insurance, the organizations gain greater collective strength when their rolls increase with soldiers and airmen who want to make a difference.

These points I've identified will help all of us to focus on our ultimate goal—trained soldiers and airmen, prepared and ready for any contingency when called. We are well on our way to being an even more capable, relevant fighting force. Believe me when I say, we truly have the best soldiers and airmen in the U.S. military. ■

We can respond. We've done it several times for the Global War on Terrorism, and with great success...

Farmer, soldier: one man, two noble professions

For more than 200 years, America's citizen-soldiers—the National Guard—have provided support to our national security. The National Guard was founded on the concept that the defense of the community and the nation should be provided by the local citizenry. The symbol of today's National Guard soldier is an early American farmer, putting down his plow as he walks from his field with musket in hand—ready, when called to defend his community and nation.

Since the late 1980s, the roles and missions of the U.S. military have been changing. Many of the critical missions of the military have been transferred to the National Guard and reserve components.

I believe members of the National Guard are well aware of the current potential for deployment, and are fully trained to accomplish their assigned missions.

I have been a member of the Ohio Army National Guard since 1987, and know all too well the challenges of serving in the Guard, raising a family and maintaining our pottery business and organic herb farm. My wife, Margaret, and I are Morgan County Farm Bureau members and currently serve on the Ohio Farm Bureau Federation Young Farmer Committee.

Situational awareness and preparedness are the keys to being able to step out of the field and into a uniform. A full-time farmer could be devastated if he or she were called away now and didn't have a plan in place to keep the farm operation going. Crops, weather, the market, equipment maintenance and the economy are all critical factors for survival on the farm. Service in the Ohio National Guard requires a similar sense of awareness and preparedness, too. Your family must be ready and

you must have a plan in place. Ranging from financial to farming, things must be in order.

"When called, we will respond with ready units," is the motto under which the Ohio National Guard exists; the more than 15,000 men and women who serve in the Ohio National Guard continually rise to the challenge of providing ready and trained units in support of federal, state and community missions.

More important though, the National Guard is comprised of citizen-soldiers, some of them farmers, who have full-time jobs, and for one weekend a month and two weeks in the summer, make up one of our nation's most capable and trained military organizations.

MAJ GREG GUSTAFAN
2-174TH ADA BATTALION



Courtesy photo

MAJ Greg Gustafan carries on the tradition of the National Guard minuteman as farmer-soldier.

My hope is that every enlisted member of the Ohio National Guard will choose to benefit from one or both of these programs.

JOHN FLEEGER JR.
ONGEA PRESIDENT

Membership, scholarship priorities for ONGEA

I'd like to take this opportunity to inform the *Buckeye Guard* readership of two priorities of the Ohio National Guard Enlisted Association (ONGEA).

First and foremost is membership. Both our state and national associations are dedicated to promoting the status, welfare and professionalism of the enlisted members of the National Guard. They do this primarily by supporting legislative initiatives that provide adequate staffing, pay, allowances, benefits, entitlements, equipment and installations for the National Guard.

Members of ONGEA automatically become members of the Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States (EANGUS). ONGEA membership is serviced by EANGUS and runs Dec. 1 through Nov. 30 of each year.

Another priority for ONGEA is our annual scholarship program. Five to 10 scholarships are awarded each year by ONGEA and its Auxiliary.

Basically, applicants must be enrolled as full-time students at a college or business school, and must be a member of ONGEA or the dependent of ONGEA and ONGEA Auxiliary members.

Applications are now being accepted for the 2004-2005 school year.

Applications for ONGEA membership or its scholarship program can be found online at www.ongea.org. You may also call (800) 642-6642 or check any issue of ONGEA's quarterly newsletter, *The Voice*.

Guardmember's poem speaks of answering call

EDITOR'S NOTE: *Master Sgt. Matthew Luke Eyen wrote the following poem when he received the call for his unit, the 220th Engineering Installation Squadron, Zanesville, to be deployed overseas.*

What Do I Owe?

The call to duty came by telephone, 12 months in the desert, I stifled a moan

Our nation is going to war, we need communications so the jets can soar

The Air National Guard has given me much, a college degree, electronics training and such

The commitment to serve when called was clear, a promise to protect the country that we hold dear

Now, during the time before the deployments, I ponder endless details and arrangements

The thought occurs that I owe this debt, I try and steel myself, to go without regret

It is hard to leave the ones I love behind, my hope is that understanding they can find

American by birth, military by choice, now the test, am I more than just voice?

Like many before me I have to go, the seeds of freedom we will sow

"One nation under God"... I'm a believer, to serve America, I must leave her

OHIO NATIONAL GUARD

Historical Highlights



When Jonathan Wood enlisted in the 14th Ohio Volunteer Infantry Regiment in 1861, for a period of three years, he was 61 years old. He served at Shiloh, Chicamauga, Mission Ridge and other engagements as a hospital steward. **RETIRED JUDGE (COL.) ROBERT D. WALKER / 37TH INFANTRY DIVISION**

Rumsfeld says reservists 'doing a superb job'

The Defense Department's top civilian praised members of the Reserve and National Guard serving in the global war on terrorism, while acknowledging some of that force is being stretched by multiple deployments.

Members of the Guard and Reserve are "doing a superb job," Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld said recently. About 175,000 Guard and reserve members are now on active duty, Rumsfeld said, with many serving in Afghanistan and Iraq. He acknowledged that some Guard and Reserve units with specialties such as military police and civil affairs are being heavily employed—and deployed—overseas.

Rumsfeld said DoD is taking steps to rebalance the active force with the Guard and Reserve. The result, Rumsfeld remarked, should be fewer call-ups of reservists, and "people will be called up less often." **AMERICAN FORCES PRESS SERVICE**

Sullivan oversees new NGB as vice chief

An Ohio Air National Guard general, who has made his mark in cockpits and at computers, has been named the sixth vice chief of the National Guard Bureau.

Maj. Gen. Paul Sullivan assumed that position Nov. 15. Legislation is pending that would change the statutory duty title to director of the Joint Staff for NGB. Until then, Sullivan will fulfill his requirements as the vice chief for the next four years, and also his new duties and responsibilities that support the bureau's transformation.

"You never complete transformation. Nothing stays as it is," said Sullivan,

whose previous job was as assistant adjutant general for the 5,000-member Ohio Air National Guard.

Sullivan is a command pilot who has logged more than 3,000 flying hours in five types of aircraft, including F-100, A-7 and F-16 jet fighters. He also owned and operated a computer software de-



Sullivan

sign company in Ohio for more than 20 years before becoming the Buckeye State's full-time assistant adjutant general for Air in April 1999. He received a degree in aeronautical and astronautical engineering from the University of Illinois-Champaign in 1969.

Sullivan is not new to NGB. He has twice served there as acting deputy director for the Air National Guard.

"I'm intrigued by the opportunity to look at the organization at large and to see if we're doing things the best way that we can," Sullivan said. "I think we have a great number of people who are doing good work. We owe it to them to enable them to move to the places where they can work most effectively for the organization.

"Hopefully it will make their lives interesting."

Sullivan and his wife, Kathie, a kindergarten teacher, have three daughters and a son. His oldest and youngest daughters, Kelly and Kara, are traditional enlisted members of the Ohio Air Guard's 121st Air Refueling Wing, Columbus. **NATIONAL GUARD BUREAU PUBLIC AFFAIRS**

National Guard meets end strength goals for FY03

The Army and Air National Guard met their end strength goals for federal fiscal year 2003, announced Lt. Gen. H Steven Blum, chief of the National Guard Bureau.

"This is what sets us apart...the ability to recruit and retain good people," Blum said. The Army National Guard's programmed end strength for the fiscal year was 350,000. As of Sept. 30, they had 351,091 members.

The Ohio Army National Guard exceeded the goal NGB set for it with a force of 10,625 at the end of the fiscal year.

The Army National Guard has achieved its end-strength mission for seven consecutive years.

The Air National Guard's programmed end strength for the fiscal year was 106,600. With the exception of FY97 and FY99, the ANG has met or exceeded its recruiting goal over the past seven years.

"The National Guard Bureau sees no indications that the homeland security mission or the war on terrorism are having any serious impact on recruiting," Blum said. **NATIONAL GUARD BUREAU PUBLIC AFFAIRS**



A1C Veronica Fullwood/U.S. Air Force

Air and Army personnel case the Combined Task Force/Operation Northern Watch guidon during an inactivation ceremony at Incirlik Air Base, Turkey.

Inactivation ceremony ends Operation Northern Watch

The Combined Task Force/Operation Northern Watch guidon was encased May 1 at Incirlik Air Base, Turkey, in a ceremony signifying the successful end to its mission of enforcing U.N. Security Council Resolutions north of the 36th parallel.

More than 100,000 U.S., British, Turkish and French airmen rotated through Incirlik AB to support ONW, which began Jan. 1, 1997. Over the years, several Ohio Air National Guardmembers have supported the operation, including airmen from the OHANG's two F-16 jet fighter units—the 180th Fighter Wing, Toledo, and the 178th Fighter Wing, Springfield—as well as the 121st Air Refueling Wing, Columbus.

The United States, England and Turkey contributed more than 1,400 troops and approximately 50 fighter, tanker, intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance aircraft to ONW at any given time. The U.S. contribution was a total-force effort, including active and reserve component servicemembers from all branches, serving 45-to-90-day tours. Despite facing Iraqi fire on nearly every mission, coalition forces never lost an aircraft to enemy fire over Iraq. **AIR FORCE PRINT NEWS**

Revamped Air Force fitness program producing results

Airmen already have been filling fitness centers and burning up running tracks in preparation for the new, tougher fitness-testing standard, which began in January 2004.

The new standard includes a 1.5-mile timed run, push-ups, crunches and waistline measurement. The new fitness plan also puts commanders in charge of the fitness of their airmen, rather than within the medical community. **AIR FORCE PRINT NEWS**

ONGSP recipients must complete grant applications, meet deadlines

Some new initiatives concerning the Ohio National Guard Scholarship Program have been announced recently, and current and would-be Guardmember participants need to be aware of these requirements in order to keep using the program.

Full-time students who want to participate in the Ohio National Guard Scholarship Program (ONGSP) now are required to complete and submit a **Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)** for each school year. Completion of the FAFSA determines eligibility for the Ohio Instructional Grant.

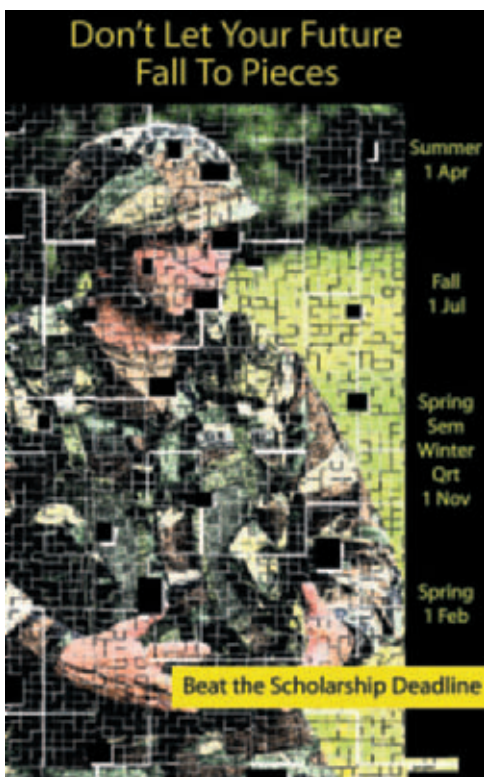
Students enrolling in a private, non-profit college or university must also complete an **Ohio Student Choice Grant Program** application each term. Those attending part-time must complete the **Part-time Student Instructional Grant** application each term.

Approval or denial of the grants will not impact a guardmember's eligibility in the ONGSP.

In addition, individuals who wish to attend a college or university and use the ONGSP must strictly adhere to the deadline dates. Late applications will not be considered. The deadlines for each term are:

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

Applications must be received in the Scholarship Office, located in the Adjutant General's Department, 2825 West Dublin Granville Road, Columbus, Ohio 43235-2789, no later than the close of business by the deadlines listed above. **Applications received after the deadline dates will not be approved.**



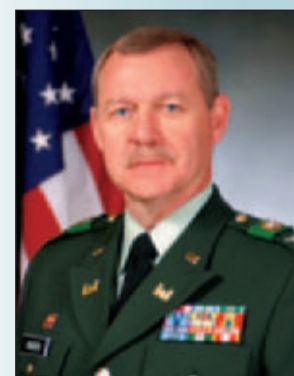
Ohio law allows for students called to active duty after Sept. 11, 2001, to retain eligibility for those academic terms missed, or could have been missed, as a result of a mobilization.

The Ohio National Guard Scholarship Program pays 100 percent of the tuition charges to state-assisted institutions and pays the average tuition charges of Ohio public universities to private schools. Scholarships are available for full-time students and part-time students who are enrolled in at least six credit hours of course work that can be applied toward an associate's or bachelor's degree. Guardmembers who enlist, extend or re-enlist in the Ohio National Guard for a six-year period are eligible for 96 units (equal to 12 full-time quarters or 8 full-time semesters) of undergraduate work

For more information, call the ONG Scholarship Office (614) 336-7032 or toll free (888) 400-6484. **James A. Sims II** / AGOH-Public Affairs Office

WALBRIDGE

Command profile



Alan Rogers
416th Engineer Group

Age: 56

Traditional Guard Position:

Commander, 416th Engineer Group
(currently deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom)

Full-Time Occupation:

Supervisory Contracts Specialist

Hometown: Springboro, Ohio

Children: A bright, pretty and energetic daughter, Kara (27)

Most recent achievement:

completion of U.S. Army War College

The last good movie I saw was:

Tears of the Sun

Heroes: the men and women of the Ohio National Guard who've put their personal and professional lives on hold to answer the call to serve.

I'd give anything to meet:

Robert E. Lee, shortly after the Battle of Gettysburg.

Three words that best describe me:

Honorable, honest and dedicated

If I could leave today's guardmembers with one piece of advice it would be:

The Ohio Army National Guard is in the best shape that I have ever seen it. However, it can still be improved if each of us, irrespective of rank, live the Army values of "Loyalty, Duty, Respect, Selfless Service, Honor, Integrity, Personal Courage."

Security expert spreads knowledge with books, articles



TSgt Greg Rudl / 121st Air Refueling Wing

MSgt Tony Jones in his office at Rickenbacker.

By Tech. Sgt. Greg Rudl
121st Air Refueling Wing

The next time you watch the show “Cops,” you might see police tactics being used from a book or magazine written by a member of the 121st Air Refueling Wing, Columbus.

Master Sgt. Tony Jones of the 121st Security Forces Squadron (SFS) has written more than 200 articles and published nine books for the law enforcement community.

“I always caution people who read my books that they’re not filled with a bunch of guns and ammunition. They talk about the tactics,” he said. Therefore, his writings are geared to law enforcement professionals rather than gun-enthusiasts in the general public. Jones, who is in the process of proofing his 10th book, has written for magazines like *S.W.A.T.*, *Police and Security News*, and even *Wired Magazine*. In addition to penning books and articles, he runs a tactical-security consulting company.

Today’s headlines supply much of his subject matter, which includes school violence and the disturbing trend of “suicide by cop.”

“That’s where somebody wants to

commit suicide, but they can’t do it themselves, so they put a police officer in a situation where the (police officer) will shoot them,” Jones explained. “And that’s happening a lot.”

A veteran of the Army, Air Force, Army National Guard and the Air Force Reserve, Jones is currently the full-time operations superintendent of the 121st SFS.

Law enforcement paraphernalia fills his office, including a black baton with a noticeable groove just past the handle. The batons are designed to break at that groove, Jones said, preventing an officer from crushing a skull. Though in the 1970s, some of Jones’ law enforcement peers hol-

lowed out the baton and inserted a steel rod—a practice Jones suggests is not tolerated anymore.

His freelance writing career started when his wife read a police story one day and looked at him and said, “You could have written that.”

“Normally, most people start in the magazine world, then matriculate into writing a book. I did the exact opposite,” he said. Jones’ first book, “*SWAT Sniper Deployment and Control*,” was published in 1994.

“The problem with my books is they’re technical...(and) the audience is not that big. I’ve made much more money writing magazine articles,” he explained.

Jones uses the Internet as well as a his personal library to conduct research. He gathers articles from various publications and draws upon them. He’s filled three filing cabinets.

He markets his stories by determining what types of topics editors are looking for. He used to “shotgun” articles—send them to many publications at one time—

but it got him into trouble once when two competing publications ran the same article.

“That gets editors very angry,” Jones said, explaining that now he “shotguns” only query letters (a pitch to an editor to write a story, article or book).

It’s clear that this 46-year-old, Waverly resident has learned how to market himself as well: he has a 10-page resume that includes biography, certifications, schools attended, military decorations, and civilian and military work history.

A self-proclaimed morning person, Jones does most of his writing at that time. He ends his day falling asleep with a book in his hands. “I have a love of books,” he said. Books in his home library number in the thousands.

Jones’ writing has curtailed significantly since Sept. 11—his position with the 121st has kept him very busy.

“Everything the guys do in the field I’m responsible for,” he said, including involvement with the al-Qaeda prisoner transports from Afghanistan to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

Considering the political climate of today, Jones predicts a flood of terrorist trials in the near future. Consequently, his 10th book is entitled “*Courtroom Security in a Post 9-11 Environment*.”

“When (prosecutors) start trying (terrorists), there’s going to be significant problems arising.”

While writing has been the primary outlet for his expertise, television producers have courted him as well.

The History Channel interviewed him for “Modern Marvels: Booby Traps,” which has aired several times this year. The Learning Channel filmed Jones and some 121st SFS members at Rickenbacker during a training session on booby traps for the show “Urban Legends,” which aired in November.

Willing to take on new challenges, Jones has begun toying with the idea of writing a fiction book, but says he needs to master the art of dialogue first.

For the time being, Jones said, “I don’t lack more projects.” ■

“Normally, most people start in the magazine world, then they matriculate into writing a book—I did the exact opposite.”

New Horizons **return to Panama**



MSG Bob Mullins / 196th MPAD

ABOVE: LTC Scott Evans, commander of JTF Chiriqui, hands out candy and gifts to a Panamanian boy during closing ceremonies for the New Horizons exercise.

Four years after the U.S. military closed its last base on the “Bridge of Americas,” the National Guard returns to provide humanitarian relief

Marking the first large-scale U.S. military presence in Panama since Fort Clayton was vacated by the Army and turned over to the Panamanian government in 1999, Ohio Army National Guardmembers spearheaded humanitarian operations conducted earlier this year under Joint Task Force Chiriqui (pronounced *Cherokee*).

Working with the Panamanian government and native civilian workers, National Guard, Reserve and active-duty servicemembers from more than 20 states participated from January to May in New Horizons 2003. It was a joint-service exercise focusing on construction of clinics and schools, as well as offering medical and veterinarian care to rural villagers in the western Panamanian highland province of Chiriqui, a remote mountainous area along the country’s border with Costa Rica.

“It was an honor to have the American soldiers in Panama again, and we thank them for all their hard work,” said Victor Guerra, Chiriqui Province Principal Chief.

New Horizons is a U.S. military-led hu-

manitarian exercise that assists several Central American and Caribbean countries in improving their infrastructure. This multinational exercise is often necessary because of damage caused by annual hurricanes and tropical storms. The servicemembers contribute by building schoolhouses, medical clinics, roads and water wells. Originating more than a decade ago, New Horizons exercises are an excellent opportunity for U.S. military personnel to train in a foreign environment while utilizing their military job skills.

Months before the main deployment began in January 2003, some Joint Task Force Chiriqui troops began working by inspecting and thoroughly cleaning all the engineer and medical equipment, as well as the vehicles and aircraft that would be used, before putting everything on a cargo ship headed to Panama. Upon arrival at the docks, soldiers assigned to the advance party unloaded supplies and equipment, and arranged transportation to the remote



MSG Bob Mullins / 196th MPAD

field locations. A base camp—which came to be known as Camp Amistad—was built and a full-time duration staff was in place to facilitate six 17-day annual training rotations (at an average of about 400 servicemembers per rotation) to be performed by engineer, support services and medical personnel.

During Medical Readiness Training Exercises, or MEDRETES, Army and Air Force medical personnel provided the local citizenry with free medical and dental care. Some residents walked for miles, and in some cases all day, to receive medical attention. Tens of thousands of citizens were seen and treated by medical personnel during the exercise's rotations.

The engineering projects in Chiriqui included building a two-room and a three-room school in Quebrada de Guabo; a three-room school in Las Lajas; a three-room school and a two-room clinic in Quebrada de Hacha; a two-room clinic in Hato Juli; and a two-room clinic in Cerro Iglesia.

The structures were primarily built for the Ngobe Bugle Indians, who live in the western hills of Panama.

Jesus DeGracia, principal at the Cerro Iglesia school, offered his thanks to the military servicemembers for their work. "(My) goal is for each of the 400 students in the school to soon see a computer," he said. "Over the coming years, students will appreciate what the United States has done for them."

Personnel supporting each rotation performed various construction tasks—preparing the site; building foundations; rough-in installation of plumbing and electrical; pouring the floors; erecting walls (and then filling them with concrete for stability); installing doors and windows; putting on roofs; finishing plumbing and electrical projects; and then landscaping the site.

Pre-engineered buildings new to Ohio Guard

As part of the Joint Task Force Chiriqui, Ohio engineer units largely dumped the traditional cement block method of construction and used a technologically advanced system developed in Canada.



SPC Kimberly Snow / 196th MPAD

ABOVE: TSgt Ron Pinckney of Seymour Johnson AFB, N.C., checks vital signs of a Boco de Soloy youth. **RIGHT:** Soldiers from Company C, 216th Engineer Battalion, install RBS walls for a school at Quebrada de Guabo.

The Royal Building Systems (RBS) Company, headquartered in Woodbridge, Ontario, has a patented wall system that has been used in more than 60 countries and countless industries. The system is known for its efficiency in time and labor management, as well as its lasting durability. The RBS system has reportedly survived Caribbean typhoons, earthquakes in Japan and Columbia, the jungle-like humidity of Central America and the frozen landscapes of Northern Canada.

The RBS system fits together like a jigsaw puzzle. The vinyl resin (a polymerized synthetic) walls consist of extruded parts that can slide and connect together on-site. The walls then remain in place after concrete is poured into them.

RBS was originally used, beginning in 1970, for building homes. It has since been used for medical centers, apartment buildings, swine facilities and schools. The Army began using the RBS system in 2002 as part of a New Horizons exercise in Nicaragua.

JTF Chiriqui 2003 marked the first time members of the 216th Engineer Battalion used the RBS system. During this exercise, the schools and the medical clinics were built using the RBS system.

"This is something new for us, but it's a pretty neat system," said Sgt. 1st Class Timothy Lewis, a carpentry masonry supervisor of C Company, 216th in Youngstown.



SPC Chad Menegay / 196th MPAD

Labor of Love

The soldiers of Joint Task Force Chiriqui deployed to Panama to build schools and clinics in disadvantaged areas in the country, and also to provide free medical and dental care to the local people. However, another element of the humanitarian mission began long before a shovel touched the ground or the first patient was seen.

Beginning in October 2002, Chaplain David Zerby of the 416th Engineer Group in Walbridge coordinated an effort to bring school supplies to students who would attend the new schools. He referred to this effort as “a labor of love.”

The supplies included notebook paper, construction paper, pencils, erasers, crayons, scissors and other items. They were donated by Ohio Army National Guard units, Family Readiness programs, airmen from Selfridge Air Base in Michigan, the Boy and Girl Scouts of America and various church groups. The supplies were assembled into individual bags, some of which were handmade.

“One lady hand-sewed 100 bags, and the others in the church group donated items to fill them,” Zerby said.

The soldiers of JTF Chiriqui also contributed to the effort by donating MREs (Meals Ready-to-Eat) and clothing items.

“We’ve collected over 1,600 MREs, plus a couple of boxes of assorted (MRE) parts,” said Chaplain’s Assistant Sgt. Percy Day, of HHC, 16th Engineer Brigade, who took charge of collecting and sorting these items.

Zerby, along with several troops from Camp Amistad who volunteered their help, took the donations to the local towns of San Felix and Las Lajas.

“I heard they were coming out here to help out the communities, so I volunteered to come,” Spc. Joshua Smith said. “It feels good to help.”

The MRE and clothing donations were taken to Padre Moses, whose ministry is centered in San Felix and encom-



SPC Kimberly Snow / 196th MPAD

Padre Moses (far right) smiles his gratitude for the donations brought to him from Chaplain David Zerby (far left).

passes all of the lowland areas of Chiriqui Province.

The padre, a tiny wisp of a man with a thousand-watt smile, has been ministering in Latin America—including Nicaragua, Honduras, Guatemala and Panama—for more than 54 years. He has been based in Chiriqui Province for the past five years and gladly accepted the donations on behalf of the local communities. He divided the items with a fellow padre who ministers to the highland areas of the province.

The soldiers then delivered the school supplies. Clara DeSanchez, principal for the new school at the Las Lajas construction site, took delivery of the items and thanked the soldiers for their generosity. For the guardmembers who helped, the beaming smiles of the schoolchildren were thanks enough. **SPC KIMBERLY SNOW / 196TH MPAD**

“The RBS structures appear to be durable and working well,” said Maj. Mike Hissom, the operations officer for JTF Chiriqui. Task Force engineers did build bathroom facilities using the traditional cement block method.

Engineers take on force protection mission

Some engineers headed to Panama not to build clinics or schools, but to build a sense of security for fellow servicemembers. Soldiers from the 612th Engineer Battalion were given a force protection mission for U.S. troops stationed at Camp Amistad, Panama, during JTF Chiriqui. Their primary mission was to provide security for soldiers and airmen at base camp, at temporary MEDRETE clinics and at various construction sites.

C Company, 612th Engineer Battalion, Norwalk, covered three of the six 17-day rotations. They prepared for the mission by conducting an intensive training regimen for four months prior to the operation, culminating in a situational training exercise at the armory before they left.

“We did a round-robin exercise and conducted sally-port exercises (entrance-way scanning checkpoint for people and vehicles),” said Capt. Donald Westfall, company commander. “We put scouts on the roof in mounted positions at the armory to perform guard duties.”

The force protection element was broken up into eight squads who



SPC Kimberly Snow / 196th MPAD

PFC Kevin Wallace, Comopany C, 612th Engineer Battalion, guards the front gate at Camp Amistad alongside a member of the Panamanian National Police.

rotated through their various duties. They guarded the base camp gate 24 hours a day on two- to three-hour shifts, and they posted roving guards at night. The squads also accompanied all convoys out to construction and MEDRETE sites, providing convoy security en route and site security upon arrival.

The soldiers also provided a quick reaction force (QRF) to respond to unforeseen threats. Occasionally, impromptu situational exercises were conducted to test the effectiveness of the QRF.

“The QRF was in place and on-site faster than we anticipated,” Westfall said. “The soldiers did an outstanding job. I was very proud of them.”

Soldiers assigned to QRF duty also received combat training familiarization classes. Chief Warrant Officer Michael Sughrue, motor warrant officer with HHC, 612th Engineers, instructed the soldiers on how to load into and deploy from UH-60A



MSG Bob Mullins / 196th MPAD

ABOVE: Panamanian teachers are forced to conduct classes outside due to overcrowded schools. RIGHT: A Guard engineer paints the door frame to a newly-built clinic. OPPOSITE PAGE: Soldiers work on the roof for new latrines at the Las Lajas construction site.



SGT Steve Johnson / 196th MPAD



SPC Chad Menegay / 196th MPAD

Soldiers, locals play ball

Local children, teenagers and adults seemed immune to the midday Panamanian sun as it beat down on the ball diamond on a Sunday afternoon. They laugh and joke amongst themselves as Latin music blares from a dilapidated, field-side concession stand, where you can buy a Coke or a cold Cerveza.

The home team and spectators wait for the arrival of the competition, and smile as the Americans pull up and pile out of the back of military vehicles.

Sweat drips off the Americans' noses; their t-shirts are already soaked. They wear numerous variations of uniform—some in the military physical training uniform, some in battle dress uniform, others in civilian workout gear.

The atmosphere is friendly and relaxed, but the air of competition cannot be ignored.

Before a mixed crowd of American troops and local residents, soldiers stationed at Camp Amistad, Chiriqui Prov-

ince, Panama, played a softball doubleheader with a local team from Santa Cruz on April 13.

The game wrapped up a tradition of softball and soccer games that began the first week of March. Organizers Staff Sgt. Carlos Garcia, 478th Civil Affairs Battalion, Miami, Fla., and Damian Armuelles of Santa Cruz tried to coordinate at least one game per rotation of soldiers.

Prior to first the game, held March 6, Armuelles addressed the U.S. ballplayers as Garcia interpreted for him. “For me it is a pleasure having you here,” he said with a smile. “I hope you are having a good time, and I hope to make this a regular game with the American soldiers.”

The American soldiers also wanted to continue the games. Maj. Todd Barstow, command judge advocate from the 416th Engineer Group, Walbridge, was one of the soldiers present for the first game. He assumed the duties of umpire and took time before the game to learn the terms in Spanish so the locals could understand his calls.

“Everybody hates the ump,” Barstow said, “but I think the locals appreciated that I used their terms. They’re really no different than American fans.”

The players and spectators all enjoyed the break from routine and the chance for some friendly competition. Sgt. John Klein of Headquarters Company, 16th Engineer Brigade, Columbus, was also present for the first game.

“It was a lot of fun; it was neat meeting the townspeople, and I thought the games were good and competitive,” he said. “There must



SPC Kimberly Snow / 196th MPAD

have been at least 100 townspeople out there to see the game.”

Spc. Luke Fausnaugh, technical engineering specialist also from the 16th Engineer Brigade, played in the softball games as well as the soccer match held April 6 at an adjacent playing field.

“The games have been great. The locals come to the games, cheer them on, cheer us on,” he said. Fausnaugh was in Panama as a member of the duration staff, who arrived in early January and did not return home until the second week of May.

“It’s been a great way to meet the locals,” he added. **SPC KIMBERLY SNOW / 196TH MPAD**

OPPOSITE PAGE: A soldier pitches a softball during a doubleheader against Santa Cruz locals. ABOVE: MAJ Todd Barstow acts as umpire in a game against local Panamanians. RIGHT: SPC Luke Fausnaugh maneuvers to score on the soccer field.



SPC Kimberly Snow / 196th MPAD



Black Hawk helicopters into both passive and hot landing zones.

“Everybody loves the training,” said Sughrue, a former helicopter pilot who was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross during his 1969-1970 tour in Vietnam. “We’ve had a very good response from the soldiers, and the flight crews are also very receptive to the training.”

The soldiers assigned to gate guard and site security worked alongside the Panamanian National Police (PNP). The PNP guarded the base camp along with the force protection soldiers and accompanied them out to the sites every day.

“Our job is making the troops at the sites and at camp feel safe, covering them like the PNPs cover us,” said Pfc. Kevin Wallace.

Sun sets on JTF Chiriqui

Ohio Army National Guard Lt. Col. Scott D. Evans, who served as commander of JTF Chiriqui, said every servicemember involved in the exercise was key to its success, regardless of the extent of their efforts. “It is the contribution of each and every soldier, both rotational and durational, that makes the mission accomplishments possible,” he said.

First Sgt. James F. Clarke, A Company, 216th Engineer Battalion, Chillicothe, was upbeat about the performance of his soldiers during their rotation, one of the last of the exercise. “My troops have done very well,” he said. “Everyone has something positive to say about what they (the soldiers) have done for the people here.”

On May 15, hundreds of Chiriqui citizens attended the JTF Chiriqui closing ceremony, where they had the opportunity to say, “thank you,” and once again bid farewell to a welcome, albeit brief, U.S. military presence.

The National Guard is slated to continue support of New Horizons through the next five years. The Guard will deploy to Honduras in February 2005, then return to Panama again in 2006 and complete its final mission in Honduras in 2008. ■

EDITOR’S NOTE: *Master Sgt. Bob Mullins, Spc. Chad Menegay and Spc. Kimberly D. Snow, 196th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment, and Sgt. 1st Class Tom Roberts, National Guard Bureau public affairs support element, contributed to this report.*

COMBAT READY



The Combat Readiness Training Center in Gulfport, Miss., was the site for a six-day deployment for the Logistics Squadron of the 179th Airlift Wing, Mansfield. The 179th Logistics Squadron does this type of deployment annually for the purpose of initial war-skills training for new members and as a refresher for other squadron members.

In addition to members of the logistics squadron, the deployment last May included two power production specialists from the civil engineers, an aerial port specialist and six members of the 179th Services Flight. Training for the main group was conducted in tent set-up, camouflage and concealment techniques, night operations and general field skills.

The deployment ended with a special tribute to Master Sgt. Duane Smeltzer, who worked full-time for the unit for the last 22 years. Because this was to be his final training exercise, Smeltzer was presented a flag during the last formation by his son, Staff Sgt. Jason Smeltzer, an equipment operator for the motor pool. The senior Smeltzer has two other children serving in the 179th, Julie, a staff sergeant in the aerial port squadron and Scott, a crew chief for the maintenance squadron. ■

Story and photos by Tech. Sgt. Todd Cramer ♦♦♦ 179th Airlift Wing





OPPOSITE PAGE, TOP: SMSgt Scott Sparks directs the off-load of equipment from a Mansfield C-130. **LOWER LEFT:** LtCol James Underwood takes a compass bearing while 1st Sgt James Boyer looks on. **LOWER RIGHT:** SMSgt Ray Swank, (front right), SMSgt Scott Sparks, TSgt Stacey Fulk and MSgt John Bryan, (left) fold the flag at the end of the deployment. **THIS PAGE, TOP LEFT:** TSgt Leo Managan (holding pole), SSgt Michelle Schiefer, MSgt Erik Bieznieks, (center), and A1C Ricky Hanrahan (left), set up camouflage netting. **TOP RIGHT:** SrA Annette Foust helps prepare a meal in the dining facility. **ABOVE:** MSgt Duane Smeltzer receives a salute from his son Jason after being presented with the flag that flew over the camp during their deployment. **LEFT:** Members of the 179th Logistics Squadron replace the tent covering on an existing frame.

Transformation of the

By Master Sgt. Bob Haskell
National Guard Bureau

National Guard transformation took a big leap forward when leaders from the 54 states and U.S. territories supported the historic initiative for changing their organization's command structure at a meeting in Columbus last May.

The National Guard's adjutants general reached consensus with the ideas put forward by Lt. Gen. H Steven Blum, the Guard Bureau's new chief, to consolidate separate state headquarters for members of the Army and Air Guard into joint, or combined, headquarters.

Adjutants General Association of the United States President Maj. Gen. John Kane said the National Guard generals agreed the time is ripe for change and that they

support the requirements for the 21st century that Blum presented during the annual AGAUS conference in May.

Blum has advocated transforming the command structures for the 460,000 members of the Army and Air Guard since becoming the Guard Bureau's 25th chief April 11, 2003.

He has emphasized that idea to members of Congress, to the national news media and to many National Guardmembers. He has also insisted that the National Guard retain its warfighting capabilities.

"Homeland defense is the National Guard's most important priority. Make no mistake about that. We have been performing that mission since 1636, and the American people expect no less of the National Guard during these trying times," said the no-nonsense Blum about the war against global terrorism.

Some 148,000 citizen-soldiers and airmen were serving in the United States and in 44 other countries, including Iraq and Afghanistan, Blum pointed out during the adjutants general meeting.

"We will continue to honor that commitment by transforming into a more efficient and accessible force," he said. "We are not going to let turf and parochialism get in the way of doing what is right for America.

"We fight jointly, and we need to train and operate on a daily basis in a joint environment so we can make the transition (from citizen to soldier) very quickly. After all, our symbol is the Minuteman," Blum said during a Pentagon press briefing May 16.

Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld also addressed jointness at the U.S. Naval Academy commencement in Annapolis, Md., May 23. "The wars and conflicts in this 21st century will not be fought by individual services—whether Army, Navy, Air Force or Marines," Rumsfeld told graduating midshipmen. "Rather, they will be fought by joint and, often, combined forces.

"You will have to think, train and exercise jointly," he emphasized, "because, let there be no doubt, that is how the wars of your future will be fought."

"We will be better understood by our active-duty counterparts," Blum predicted. "We will then be seen for what we are—reliable, ready and accessible."

Blum ordered the National Guard Bureau, which traditionally consists of a joint staff and separate directorates for the Army and Air Guard, to become a joint headquarters by last July 1. He asked the states to establish joint headquarters, and do away with state area commands for Army Guard forces, by Oct. 1 of last year.

Lt. Gen. Roger Schultz, Army Guard director, and Lt. Gen. Daniel James III, Air Guard director, will serve as Guard Bureau deputy chiefs, Blum explained. The new NGB vice chief (subsequently appointed Maj. Gen. Paul J. Sullivan of the Ohio Air National Guard) will become the chief of staff for the joint bureau, he added.

Blum is also urging the states to include members of other military components, including the Coast Guard, in their joint headquarters. He said he would do that at the Guard Bureau base in Arlington.

"We will not fund state area commands by Oct. 1 (2003). We will fund joint headquarters," Blum said in central Ohio. "The joint world is no longer a theory. It's a reality."



SPC Haraz N. Ghanbari / Joint Forces HQ-Ohio

NGB Chief LTG H Steven Blum explains how the minuteman symbolizes the transition from citizen to soldier in minutes.

GUARD

“The adjutants general accepted very favorably the things that Lt. Gen. Blum laid out for them,” Kane said. Last May, he noted they could meet the Oct. 1 deadline for reorganizing the state commands into joint headquarters.

Guard officials claim this transformation is as significant for the country’s largest military reserve force as are two other chapters of National Guard history.

One was the Militia Act of 1903, also called the Dick Act, that established federal guidelines for organizing, training and equipping the Guard in line with standards established for the regular Army. The second was the creation of the Air National Guard in 1947 that led to separate Army and Air Guard directorates.

The adjutants general, 34 of whom belong to the Army Guard, hope that forming joint headquarters that are more in line with the active forces will streamline the process for mobilizing Army Guard soldiers for federal duty.

“We don’t need to be double checked and triple checked every time our troops get activated,” said Maj. Gen. Robert Lee, Hawaii’s adjutant general. The Air Guard routinely deploys troops from their home stations, it was pointed out.

The adjutants general also heeded Blum’s proposals for improving the Guard’s capabilities for defending the homeland.

Homeland defense, Blum explained, ranges from full-scale combat operations in places like Iraq and Afghanistan, to flying combat air patrols over U.S. cities, providing security along international borders and at ports of entry, and safeguarding air bases in this country.

It reflects the National Guard’s dual role as state forces commanded by the nation’s governors and as a federal force when ordered to active duty by the president.

Blum’s proposals focus on enhancing capabilities, adding to mission-essential task lists for combat arms units, and task organizing. They include:

- ▶ Organizing chemical, biological and incident response task forces to include assets from the Guard’s 32 full-time civil support teams; enhanced medical companies that can decontaminate and treat 150 people per hour; engineer companies with special search-and-rescue equipment; and combat units trained to support law enforcement agencies.

- ▶ Expanding the Guard’s involvement in ground-based missile defense over and above the unit that is currently being formed to staff a facility that is expected to be operational in Alaska by Oct. 1 of this year.

- ▶ Creating quick and rapid Guard reaction forces that are immediately available to state and federal governments and that are trained for both combat and security duties.

These new forces can be formed with personnel and resources that are already available to the Guard, Blum said. They will not require a lot of new, expensive, sophisticated equipment.

“This will require a new way of thinking,” the Guard Bureau chief added. “Most real transformation happens right between your ears. It’s not about hardware, and it’s not about information technology. It’s about how you think. And we need to change the way we think.” ■

Ohio, others ready for change

During the Adjutant General’s Association of the United States Conference, held last May in Columbus, Chief of National Guard Bureau Lt. Gen. H Steven Blum presented a plan to consolidate two-thirds of the Guard’s 162 headquarters. Each of the 54 U.S. states and territories maintain separate Army and Air Guard headquarters, as well as an Adjutant General’s Department, the statewide headquarters for the National Guard.

“That is just too excessive,” Blum said. “We fight jointly, (so) we need to train and operate on a daily basis in a joint environment so we can make that transition (to active duty) very quickly.”

The transformation proposal was received with overwhelming acceptance by the majority of the adjutants general. Others who attended the conference expressed their views concerning the position of the National Guard.

“The Guard is not running fast enough,” said Jay C. Ferrar, vice president of external relations for Center for Strategic International Studies. “From my perspective the Guard is losing its relevancy. I’m suggesting the mission be approached differently if the Guard hopes to keep up.”

Ferrar’s provocative statements turned the mood of the conference from conversational to one of concern. The adjutants general quickly realized the importance of changing the National Guard’s role.

“If we don’t seize the day and solve the problem we are faced with, we may get a solution we don’t like,” Blum said. “Transformation begins with changing the way you think, and that change begins today.”

Blum said his experience in special operations has greatly influenced this plan because he had the opportunity to watch the goodness that comes from the synergy of joint operations.

According to Blum, what is important is consolidating three headquarters into something that makes sense for today and tomorrow, and what makes sense is a joint force headquarters.

By implementing the consolidation plan, the American people will get the best effect from their tax dollars for the defense of our nation.

“The consolidation will be a much more efficient system,” said Maj. Gen. John H. Smith, state adjutant general. “This gives us the opportunity to take advantage of both the Air and Army Guard’s capabilities.”

Ohio began the process of transformation and consolidation last June, with a meeting between the assistant adjutant generals for Army and Air. According to Smith, Ohio’s plan does not call for personnel reduction, however, some personnel may be reassigned after the consolidation begins.

“We have a common mission,” Smith said, “and we need to be joined in terms of accomplishing our mission. We will look at our vision with respect to what General Blum has proposed.” **SGT JESSICA M. MCMILLEN / 196TH MPAD**

'O-Team' takes on various missions



MSG Dave Johnson / Task Force Ironhorse Public Affairs

SPC Joshua Vandygriff, HQ STARC FWD 3, clears his weapon upon return to Camp Ironhorse, Tikrit, after an armed escort mission.

Ohio soldiers serve as liaison officers, force protection, more, at Camp Ironhorse, Iraq

Command sergeants major love soldiers, especially those who volunteer for every mission that needs completed.

When those steadfast soldiers merge into a single unit, soaring accolades follow, earning them a reputation for being reliable.

Unique names are created to describe such units.

"The O Team," said Command Sgt. Maj. Michael R. Urich, the 4th Infantry Division's G3 Operations senior noncommissioned officer, "I can count on those guys to do any job, complete high-risk missions, do them right, and come back and ask for more."

According to Staff Sgt. Barry Graham, a tanker from the Ohio National Guard, the "O Team" was coined by Urich because all the guys in the unit are from Ohio; they exhibited a strong camaraderie and displayed much enthusiasm.

Urich is not the only 4th ID member to notice the synchronized solidarity and dedication to duty displayed by the Ohio National Guard soldiers.

"Teamwork," said Donnie Robinson Sr., a civilian safety specialist for the 4th ID from Fort Hood. "Those guys are team players. That's why I call them the 'Ohio Players.'"

Whether they work under the name O-Team or Ohio Players, these soldiers are highly regarded when it comes to accomplishing any and all assigned missions.

The soldiers were selected to be LNOs (liaison officers) for the 4th ID because of their combat operations training. All the Ohio soldiers are either infantry or tankers.

"LNOs are the conduit between the combat brigades and the division," Graham said. "They are information gatherers and plot important information on the maps." Graham is from C Troop, 2nd Squadron, 107th Cavalry Regiment from Sandusky, Ohio.

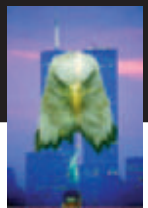
Forty-two soldiers volunteered to become LNOs for 4th ID when the call came just after Christmas 2002.

Because the 4th ID filled some of the LNO positions for Operation Iraqi Freedom internally, there were 15 soldiers who were not used strictly as LNOs. Those 15 were not about to be left out of any operation. They volunteered for every mission and task they could. The soldiers started by providing armed escort in convoys.

"We came here to become LNOs," Graham said, "but (some) of us aren't."

Operations Noble Eagle

& Enduring Freedom



MSG Dave Johnson / Task Force Ironhorse Public Affairs

SGT Brad Strickland, HQ STARC FWD 4 checks the oil in his humvee before an armed escort mission in northern Iraq.

What prompted the team to gel was when vehicles broke down during dangerous convoys from Kuwait to Iraq. The soldiers did not wait on the overworked maintenance sections of 4th ID. They took matters into their own hands and worked frantically to repair humvees and five-ton trucks without Army-issued tool kits or spare parts.

Because so many Reserve and Guard soldiers bring civilian-acquired skills to the Army, the O-Team soldiers proved to be invaluable not only as force protection experts, but as computer technicians, vehicle mechanics, forklift drivers, plumbers and electricians.

"We're handymen," Graham said. "We help people when we can."

Once the G3 section was situated at Camp Ironhorse, palatial grounds once occupied by Saddam Hussein in central Iraq, the leg-end of the O-Team was well known.

Most buildings needed repairs and basic utilities. Calls for the O-Team rang out, requesting help to improve living conditions for soldiers.

"It kind of snowballed on us," said Staff Sgt. William T. Ryan, Headquarters, State Area Command, Forward 4. "I do a lot of things in the buildings now. I've learned a lot that will help me in my civilian job in Cleveland." Ryan is an electrician by trade.

"These guys go above the normal mission," said Sgt. Dwayne A. Soblosky, an infantryman out of the 1st Brigade, 107th Armor in Stow.

"We don't quit until we get everything working," said Graham, as he tinkered with an air conditioner.

"You can throw that term, 'week-end warrior' out the window," Robinson said. "These guys show so much competence and enthusiasm for their jobs. And they have so many additional skills, they're invaluable to us."

"It's been a learning experience to have to coordinate supplies, parts and rations for 26,000 soldiers in the 4th

Infantry Division's area of operations," said Maj. Keven Clouse, a LNO who worked in division logistics. "Our area has 50 FOBs (forward operating bases) for which we maintain and sustain for supplies and transportation.

"Each FOB is like a village or small city ranging in size from 100 to more than 8,000 soldiers, airmen and civilian contractors," Clouse explained. "They require sheltered living areas, dining facilities, maintenance facilities, power generation, laundry, latrines, showers, ice and water."

Capt. Michael Berry, who resides in Powell, Ohio, worked in G-1 Personnel for

the division and task force. Berry coordinated many of the luxuries that soldiers just started to enjoy. He arranged the openings of the PXs in the area and facilitated getting the American Forces Network signal established so soldiers could watch American television shows. For fitness and recreation, he got some basketball courts built. The biggest impact, though, were the phones for morale calls.

"Calling home is the biggest morale booster there is," said Spc. Johanna B. Adams, a personnel specialist with 4th ID.

Two other Ohio soldiers, Capt. Timothy Stanton and Staff Sgt. Mike Wilson, worked as LNOs with the 1st Combat Brigade. Stanton worked the dayshift, and Wilson was the night ranger.

Stanton was notified of his pending deployment in mid-January 2003, then married wife Kristin on Jan. 24—the day before he departed for Fort Hood. He began married life scheduled to be apart from his bride for a year.

Wilson has been in the Ohio National Guard since 1993. His previous deployments include Operation Desert Storm with the 82nd Airborne Division.

The O-Team worked missions all over Iraq in support of 4th Infantry Division. Thanks to the efforts of Ohio National Guard soldiers, operations went well. **MSG Dave Johnson / Task Force Ironhorse Public Affairs**



Courtesy photo

Ohio soldiers (from left) SSG Larry Marquez, SPC Adam Mowry and MAJ Keven Clouse pose in a modified WWII Sherman tank captured from the Iraqis.

Armor troops from 1-107th head overseas

In a cramped auditorium at Warrensville Heights High School, where family and friends filled the seats and lined the walls, the Ohio Army National Guard conducted a send-off ceremony for nearly 150 soldiers.

Members of the 1-107th Armor Battalion were mobilized in early October in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Affected units included Company A, from Newton Falls; Company B, from Highland Hills; Company C, from Stow; and Headquarters and Headquarters Company, also from Stow.

Prepared to deploy to the U.S. Central Command area of operations, Ohio soldiers will serve

with the 30th Brigade from the North Carolina Army National Guard. The brigade's primary mission will be conducting security and stability operations in the region.

"The potential for America's continued greatness resides with our young men and women as it did over 200 years ago in our nation's quest for freedom," Ohio Adjutant General Maj. Gen. John H. Smith told family and friends who attended the ceremony.

According to Smith, Ohio has nearly 900 soldiers supporting missions in Iraq and Kuwait, with many of them approaching two years of combined active service since Sept. 11, 2001.



SPC Haraz N. Ghanbari / Joint Forces HQ-Ohio

Eric Garcia, son of Bravo Company Commander CPT Ferdinand Garcia Jr., waves an American flag as his dad's unit prepares to deploy in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.



SPC Haraz N. Ghanbari / Joint Forces HQ-Ohio

Smith went on to say that within the past two years, more than 4,000 Ohio Army National Guard soldiers have served extended duty in Iraq, Kuwait, Afghanistan, Bosnia, Kosovo and on U.S. soil.

"I recognize the huge sacrifice that is being asked of you, your family and your employer," Smith told members of the 1-107th. "I pledge to you my unwavering support, the support of our entire department, and I am confident that you will serve honorably."

The 1-107th was Ohio's first combat arms unit to be mobilized for

SFC Ron Norton plays with his son Devin prior to his deployment overseas.

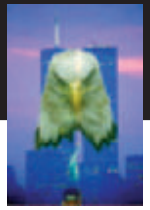
Operation Iraqi Freedom. According to Smith, this was also the first mobilization order since Sept. 11, 2001, that orders soldiers to active duty for an 18-month period instead of a 12-month tour. The additional time will be used to train the soldiers for their in-theater missions.

"Your training has prepared you for this day, and it is time for you to serve," said Lt. Col. James E. Perry, Jr., 1-107th armor battalion commander. "Over the next three or four months you'll receive further instruction on the mission and mission-specific training. Have confidence in your abilities and continue to grow as a team. Each of

you will do great."

As the auditorium emptied out, hugs and kisses were exchanged and Sgt. 1st Class Ron Norton was taking time to hold his son Devin who was born on July 3. With almost 17 years of military service, this is Norton's first deployment. Norton and his wife Elsie have devised plans to stay in touch during the deployment, keeping dad updated on Devin's latest accomplishments.

"E-mail, thank goodness, and snail mail if necessary," commented Norton on their plans. "E-mail pictures and videos and whatever we can just to watch him grow up." **SPC Haraz N. Ghanbari / Joint Forces HQ-Ohio**



Engineer group deploys to help rebuild Afghanistan & Enduring Freedom

Members of the Ohio National Guard have played a major role in the war on terrorism, deploying some 5,000 troops since the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks.

That trend continued on Sept. 15, as the Walbridge-based 416th Engineer Group became the 21st Ohio Guard unit to be mobilized in two years. About 70 soldiers from the Army National Guard unit were flown to Afghanistan for what could be a six-month deployment.

The group's primary mission is to provide command and control over engineer battalions in construction projects.

A send-off ceremony was held for the troops at the Wyndham Hotel in Toledo two days before their departure. Senior military leaders, civilian dignitaries and soldiers' families attended.



SPC Kimberly Snow / 196th MPAD



"If you need anything, even if it's socks, let us know and this community will be there for you," said U.S. Rep. Marcy Kaptur of Toledo. She presented the unit with an American flag.

The mood during the ceremony was somber but positive.

"It's tough, but this is what we do," said Maj. Barb Clemens, wife of group 1st Sgt. Ken Clemens. "I support everything that's going on. They're one of only four engineer groups in the country. You want to go with the best you have, and they're number one. I'm sure that's why they were chosen."

Soldiers' morale was high, given the circumstances, said Col. Alan Rogers, commander of the 416th. He knew it would be hard for them to leave their families, he said, and commended the troops for their dedication and professionalism.

"I'll miss not being able to play football in the afternoons with my son," said Sgt. Andrew Fausnaugh, of Freemont. "But I've trained with these people, and I believe in them. I trust these men with my life, and I know we'll be successful."

The unit's previous missions included humanitarian efforts in Jamaica, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama. It has also supported the United States Border Patrol along the California and Texas borders.

Brig. Gen. Ronald Young, assistant adjutant general for the Ohio Army National Guard, said the 416th will be very important to the reconstruction efforts in Afghanistan.

"We are playing a key role in Operations Enduring Freedom, Iraqi Freedom and Noble Eagle," Young said. "We're playing a bigger role than we've ever played before, and there's more reliance on the Guard and Reserve than ever before." **SPC Kimberly Snow / 196th MPAD**

TOP: Rep. Marcy Kaptur presents 416th commander COL Alan Rogers with an American flag. LEFT: Wives and children prepare to say goodbye during the 416th Engineer Battalion send-off ceremony.

OIF-2 calls up more Ohio units

The Ohio Army National Guard was recently hit with a second wave of deployments in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Many of the soldiers will provide relief to servicemembers who were activated in the first round of call-ups, some who have been on active duty 12 to 24 months. These units include:

612th Engineer Battalion
Headquarters - Walbridge

216th Engineer Battalion
Headquarters - Hamilton

512th Engineer Battalion
Headquarters - Cincinnati

1484th Transportation Company
Headquarters - Akron

1486th Transportation Company
Headquarters - Ashland

1487th Transportation Company
Headquarters - Eaton

196th Mobile Public Affairs Det.
Headquarters - Columbus

Co. C, 118th AS Medical Battalion
Headquarters - Westerville

These units had mobilization dates scheduled in the first week of January 2004, except for Co. C, 118th Area Support Medical Battalion, which had a report date in December. In all, this latest round of call-ups includes approximately 1,250 soldiers. This is in addition to the current 900 soldiers deployed in support of OIF-1 and 400 supporting security missions stateside.

Ohio soldier trains QRF teams

Night falls. Soldiers lay restless and uncomfortable in their fetid quarters, covered in perspiration because of the extreme heat and humidity. Finally, late into the night, soldiers approach sleep's oasis but are awakened by a loud blast. Mortars or grenades. It's time for Staff Sgt. Scott Johnson of the Ohio National Guard to launch the Camp Ironhorse Quick Reactionary Force into action.

Quick is the operative word for the nocturnal Johnson, whose Guard unit is A Company, 148th Infantry Battalion, in Xenia, Ohio. Not only must he assemble his team and move to the impact area within five minutes, but also he has to prepare them during nightly rapid-fire training sessions.

The QRF soldiers come from a myriad of jobs within the 4th Infantry Division, detailed usually for one week.

"I take what they give me," Johnson said. "Then I work with them and mold them into a team."

Because the QRF soldiers are only on duty for a short time, turnover is constant, retraining continual.

"I love the river rats," said Johnson, referring to the 502nd Engineer Company soldiers from Hanau, Germany, who patrol the Tigris River as part of their normal duties. "They do a great job. They usually stay on for an entire week, and they're already experienced (in) conducting patrols."

However, Johnson trains everyone and will not send any soldier out unprepared.



MSG Dave Johnson / Task Force Ironhorse Public Affairs



MSG Dave Johnson / Task Force Ironhorse Public Affairs

ABOVE: SPC Vande Hey (foreground) and PVT Leday serve as lookouts at Tower 3. RIGHT: SSG Johnson examines sandal tracks left by an infiltrator just outside the swamp.

"I train them in about 30 minutes, but it's a thorough, intense session. I won't send any soldier out until he's ready," Johnson said.

"Some soldiers report in a little bit apprehensive, so I work with them longer," he explained. "They may be from support or administrative jobs and aren't used to dealing with opposition forces."

Others arrive ready to rock and roll.

Johnson recalled one such soldier from a few weeks prior. "One young specialist showed up with a SAW (squad-assisted weapon) and 500 rounds. She was ready to lock and cock. I wish I could get her permanently assigned to the squad."

The overwhelming majority of soldiers come with a strong tactical background because of the training they received before they deployed to Iraq.

"Our unit trained us thoroughly before we deployed," said Pvt. Fatimah L. Leday, a signal specialist with the 104th Military Intelligence Company out of Fort Hood, Texas. "When I came on the

SSG Johnson does a practice run of a 360-degree security with QRF members.



QRF, all that training came in handy."

Johnson's teaching of infantry squad tactics and training reinforces what they were taught.

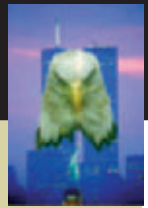
"Staff Sgt. Johnson trains us for everything we might see out here," said Spc. Rebecca L. Vande Hey, a mechanic with the 104th. "His training program is pretty accurate."

The agenda prepares soldiers for the three-phase QRF detail.

Each shift is eight hours and consists of the guard towers, slow reaction force and the QRF.

Phase one is the perimeter. Soldiers pull an eight-hour shift in the towers around Camp Ironhorse. "There are always two soldiers in each tower on duty at all times," said Johnson. "They

Operations Noble Eagle & Enduring Freedom



are the eyes that see everything that goes on outside the compound.”

Soldiers remain vigilant in the towers. Soldiers report mortar rounds and rocket-propelled grenades fired at the compound. They also report Iraqis trying to infiltrate Camp Ironhorse.

“Usually,” Johnson said, “we’ll see guys trying to scale the walls, crawl through the swamp near Tower 3 or just hang around looking at us. We take everything serious—it could be a guy preparing to conduct a hit-and-run.

“Something goes on here every night,” Johnson said. “Every single night. No exceptions. These soldiers out here are under the gun, and they perform admirably.”

When a soldier calls in that he has seen movement outside his guard tower, the QRF portion kicks in.

“Five minutes,” Johnson said. “We have five minutes to get our gear on and get to the location where the trouble is.”

Soldiers use squad tactics when the QRF looks for an assailant inside the compound.

Vande Hey recalled her adrenaline rush one night when the QRF was put into action. “We loaded into the humvee,” she said, “then went to the building to look for a man carrying a black bag. When we cleared the building, all we found was a dog.”

“Our weapons were locked and loaded,” recalled Leday.

“My squad is my weapon,” Johnson said. “When you train your squad right, that’s the best weapon you can have out here.”

Tensions run high when the QRF goes out on a possible ambush. Occasionally, anxiety is relieved because on rare instances, an amusing act occurs. “American soldiers are out here, too. At night, you can’t always tell who they are,” Johnson said.

One false alarm Johnson remembered is when the QRF assembled on some noise and movement in the bushes near Tower 3.

“We have some married couples here,” Johnson said. “That’s all I’m going to say.”

Nobody was hurt, only embarrassed.

Johnson stresses teamwork that results in safety. No members of the QRF have been injured under his tutelage.

The team also patrols the compound a couple times per week. “Patrolling the compound gives us a presence so they know we’re here,” Johnson said.

Under the watchful eyes of the QRF, soldiers at Camp Ironhorse are being protected throughout the night.

“I love this job,” Johnson said. “These soldiers are heroes.” **MSG Dave Johnson** / Task Force Ironhorse Public Affairs

Personnel specialists ease coming home



SPC Carson Chittom (from left), SSG Brian Farneth, and CW2 Richard Niehe discuss redeployment matters at work.

Planning to go home may seem a bit premature for units recently deployed to the Persian Gulf area for Operation Iraqi Freedom but, for 3rd Personnel Command (PERSCOM) Redeployment Operations Directorate soldiers, that is their mission.

“In the big picture of events, the combat mission is largely over and we’re in a stabilization phase,” said Chief Warrant Officer 2 Richard Niehe, personnel technician for the Ohio National Guard 437th Personnel Service Detachment. “Redeployment entails the safe and orderly return of combat forces.

“For the 82nd Airborne soldiers this may mean a new duty station, while for a reservist, it may mean going back to an armory and once-a-month drills.”

Much effort is placed on ensuring soldiers are processed properly, with a critical emphasis on counseling and paperwork completeness, said Niehe, who was attached to 3rd PERSCOM in Kuwait. Counseling includes speaking with a chaplain and a finance specialist to handle individual soldier issues.

“We ensure...that soldiers, many of whom may have been engaged in combat, make a smooth mental transition,” Niehe said.

With 267,000 personnel in theater, including military, civilian contractors, media and Red Cross personnel, the

redeployment mission requires considerable synchronization. The redeployment team acts as a control point for an orderly, secure flow of personnel back to their home bases.

“We count you from the day you arrive until the day you leave. We leave no one behind,” Niehe asserted.

Computers are heavily utilized to facilitate the process. Personnel specialists often enhance the computer capabilities by creating programs and databases “on the fly,”

such as the demobilization database created by Staff Sgt. Brian Farneth, a personnel specialist also from the 437th, and Sgt. 1st Class Vince Marroquin.

“I was tasked with creating a database for redeployment,” Farneth explained. “It was in development for four weeks, and now it is in operation.”

The database, which consists of Microsoft Access and Visual Basic code, can bring up data on deployed personnel, showing a checklist of items related to each other. It links to the Joint Theater Personnel Roster, an existing database of all personnel in theater. Farneth said he learned his skills at Franklin University in Ohio, where he was a student before being deployed.

“Essentially, our job is to receive the numbers of people redeploying and put them into a format with which the general can be briefed,” said Spc. Carson Chittom, personnel specialist with the 3rd PERSCOM and a student at the University of Mississippi, Oxford. “It is essentially a reporting function.” **SSG Thomas Orme** / 3rd Personnel Command

Army Guard engineers repair neglected cemetery

2nd Lt. Anita Ballash
196th MPAD

Fighting through chest-high grass, Ohio Army National Guardsmen take up a presence in a most unlikely place—a cemetery. For some engineers, this annual training is not focused on defeating an enemy, but conquering years of neglect to restore dignity to a hallowed ground.

For decades, Hillcrest Cemetery, located just north of Kentucky in lower Cincinnati, has served as a dilapidated resting place for hundreds of veterans and civilians.

"I was disgusted when I came here about how this looked," said Pfc. Courtney Campbell, of HHC, 112th Engineers. "I could tell what the other rotations did and how well they worked, but it should never be like this—especially a veterans' cemetery. People are supposed to care."

For more than eight weeks, soldiers cleared overgrowth, mowed grass, reset headstones and filled graves.

The first rotation that arrived in June dedicated the majority of their AT to removing debris and cutting overgrown grass, according to Command Sgt. Maj. Tim J. Grys, the site's duration project manager. The initial lawn mowing took six soldiers, two 20-inch lawn-mowers and a week to complete.

The soldiers in the rotation that followed did more of the same, and also began shoring up gravesites that had been eroding throughout the years.

By the third rotation in July, the engineers had the benefit of a clearer landscape, but the daunting task of resetting headstones, and filling sunken and exposed gravesites still remained.

"We've probably adjusted over 350 headstones, and I think it's really coming along well," said 1st Sgt. Ken Clemens of the 416th Engineers.

Headstones date back as far as the Spanish-American War and as recent as 1979. Although decades of neglect have obscured the 14 acres of cemetery from view, it is this very degeneration that has put this veterans' cemetery on the map and in the news.

"A woman just called me," said Vicky Earhart, assistant to the Coalition to Save Hillcrest Cemetery. "She lives in Michigan. She doesn't have any veterans that are buried here, but her mother and her grandmother are." Earhart said many people call with positive feedback after reading about what the Guard is doing.

Soldiers who worked at Hillcrest this AT also gained a sense of satisfaction from family and community responses.

"When you have people coming in here just thanking us for the work we're doing, just any ole civilian off the street coming in here and thanking us...it makes you feel good," said Spc. Jeffrey Herrle of HHC, 112th Engineers.

"It's come a long way," said Spc. Andrea Vaughn of HHC, 16th Engineers. "We've actually had people come in and put flowers on the grave markers that they couldn't see for a very long time."

Restoration of the headstones and 14-acre cemetery has not been easy. A primary



James A. Sims II / AGOH-Public Affairs

stumbling block through the years has been trying to determine who exactly owned the property, which was dedicated on April 23, 1926, as a burial ground for African-Americans.

"The federal government has not taken it over because it's not all veterans," Earhart said. "The township didn't take it over because it

Guard engineers shore up gravesites and reset headstones at Hillcrest Cemetery.

is considered an abandoned cemetery and state law prohibits the township from taking it over because it would be an undue burden on our taxpayers."

Tillman Bauknight, a member of a post-WWII associa-

tion of African-American Soldiers; Russell Jackson, an Anderson Township trustee; and Bailey Turner, of the Union Baptist Church, came together to create the Coalition to Save Hillcrest Cemetery, Inc. These men have turned years of frus-

tration and concern into an impenetrable resolve to restore dignity to individuals who have been forgotten.

Bauknight believes the government should be liable for the care of the cemetery regardless of the number of civilians buried there. "The battleships in Pearl Harbor are honoring military people who died as well as civilians," Bauknight said. "We don't make a distinction there. The difference is that these are black folks. But these are still heroes."

"Everyone's family deserves respect," said Pvt. Douglas Laner of B Co., 112th Engineers. "They all deserve a certain amount of respect and treatment for the sacrifices they made."

Pvt. Brian Bower, also of B Co., 112th Engineers, sees the restoration as a symbol of significant social change. "I think we've come a long way since we discriminated against minorities like that," Bower said.

A long way perhaps, but Bauknight in particular won't rest until Hillcrest Cemetery is maintained to the standards of Arlington Cemetery in Washington, D.C. "This is not a black issue," Bauknight said. "It is not a white issue. It's an American issue because every soldier deserves dignity."

Still, trying to generate excitement or support for the restoration hasn't been easy, Earhart admitted.

Fortunately for the new coalition, they began working with the Disabled American Veterans (DAV) national headquarters in northern Kentucky. Through DAV, the coalition was able to secure a key advocate for the Hillcrest restoration, former Miss America, Heather Renee French.

French is an avid supporter of DAV and her involvement in the Hillcrest project resulted in a \$25,000 donation which enabled the coalition to purchase the materials the Guard is using to refurbish the cemetery.

However, Earhart is quick to point out that money alone would not have been enough to transform the cemetery. "It wouldn't be done if it weren't for the National Guard," Earhart said. "There's no way we could provide the labor to do this. They're a vital part of this."

With Sept. 11 still on our minds, the war in Iraq on our heels and the suspense of impending conflicts at the door, it's more important than ever that soldiers feel that their training is a contribution rather than a requirement—a chance to express their patriotism and commitment to their country and

their comrades who have gone before them.

"After 9-11 and the war in Iraq, people are actually starting to give veterans their credit, and maybe now because of what's going on, maybe they'll keep it up," Herrle said. "Everyone here has been hoping that they're gonna maintain this so that three or four years down the line they're not going to call in the National Guard to come fix Hillcrest Cemetery again. We're hoping that it will stay well-maintained."

Earhart believes it is important that the military and civilian loved ones never fall victim to indifference again.

"I think it says a lot for the community and for everybody to remember these people who years ago were not respected because they were black," Earhart said. "Now we've got people of all races and all colors down there trying to fix something that was wrong and trying to show respect for these people whether they were veterans or not." ■

EDITOR'S NOTE: *If you would like more information about what you can do to help in the restoration and maintenance of Hillcrest Cemetery, contact Vicky Earhart at (513) 474-5560.*

Sacred Ground Restored

All gave some, some gave all.

On a clear fall afternoon members of the 16th Engineer Brigade and distinguished guests gathered at Hillcrest Cemetery to reflect on the transformation of a once-neglected ground. After more than a year of work by several civic organizations and the Ohio Army National Guard, the cemetery was restored as the final resting place for nearly 3,000 military veterans from the Civil and Spanish-American Wars, World War I and II, as well as the Korean and Vietnam Wars.

"Within these graves lie the remains of what you have now been given a new measure of dignity," said David Ray, senior minister at Parkside Christian Church. "Those who had all but been forgotten, now resting under fresh stones that remind us of their names, their service and their sacrifice."

In July 2002, the Department of Defense approved the Hillcrest Cemetery project as an Innovative Readiness Training Project for the Ohio Army National Guard. From August 2002 to November 2002 work began on the project, only to be delayed during mobilizations for the war in Iraq, with the effort restarting in July 2003 until completion in September 2003. During this time, 14 acres were cleared and seeded, two drainpipes installed to control runoff, 237 new headstones were placed and 1,750 were straightened.

"The September 11th attacks remind us, just as the veterans buried here remind us, that freedom is never free and that it does require sacrifice. It does require courage. It does require dedication," said Congressman Rob Porter. "I think the 16th Engineers have shown by restoring this sacred ground those kind of values. The men who are laid to rest here deserve to have a proper burial place and the 16th Engineers have made that possible."

As an expression of gratitude toward the Ohio Army National Guard, Porter presented an American flag flown over the U.S. Capitol on Sept. 11, 2002. The flag was presented to Brig. Gen. Robin C. Timmons, commanding general of the 16th Engineer Brigade and Maj. Gen. John H. Smith, the adjutant general of Ohio.

According to Russ Jackson, Anderson Township Board of Trustees President, a few improvements remain. He said the Hamilton County Asphalt Association offered to repave the entire driveway and construct a parking lot for the cemetery. In addition, volunteers will construct a new gateway entrance and memorial marker. **SPC Haraz N. Ghanbari / Joint Forces HQ-Ohio**



SPC Haraz N. Ghanbari / JFHQ-Ohio



James A. Sims II / AGOH-Public Affairs



TOC key in success of field artillery mission

The artillery battalion convoys into position and establishes the “line of steel.” The turrets circle and rise. A deafening boom resonates through the air. With pinpoint precision, the enemy target is obliterated. As with all orchestrations, there was a conductor to guide this symphony; in this case, it was the battalion S3.

“This has been a really good annual training for us,” said Maj. Curtis McGuire of his unit’s AT at Camp Grayling Mich., last July. McGuire is the S3 officer for 1-134th Field Artillery Battalion. “We’re being put into real-world situations and actually testing our full capabilities.”

The S3 is the heart of the Tactical Operations Center (TOC), which directs and controls the batteries on the field. Its responsibility is to develop the battle plans. The directives are passed down to them from brigade in the form of Essential Fire Support Tasks (EFST) and Essential Field Artillery Tasks (EFATS); these are developed into an operations plan that is then passed down to the batteries.

“We’re like a switchboard” said Sgt. 1st Class Dennis Loveridge, S3 operations sergeant, as he passed new intelligence garnered from the field to the S2. While the S3 is responsible for devising the operation plan, it would be unable to complete its mission if not for the intelligence section of the TOC, the S2.

“Basically, we...(compile) all the intelligence gathered from both higher level

commands and the units deployed in the field, and try to predict what the enemy would do,” said Capt. Loren Spears, 1-134th S2 officer.

The S2 and S3 collaborate during planning sessions.

Once battle plans have been developed and deployed, command and control of the battle is maintained by the Fire Direction Center (FDC), the final component of the TOC. It is responsible for coordinating the batteries’ activities on the battlefield. It is up to the FDC to determine if the batteries use digital feeds or human spotters (forward observers) out on the battlefield to spot their shots. The FDC is also responsible for knowing the status of the battlefield—which units have been destroyed, current locations of each piece of artillery and the locations of each of the forward observers.

While constant communication with field-level batteries is necessary, the TOC also acts as liaison to brigade. Awareness of unit effectiveness, casualties and enemy locations are all essential for the brigade to effectively plan the battle. Brigade also passes down orders to the TOC to call in air support and naval fire as needed.

“We are the brains. Without us, the body—the individual batteries—would be blind out there, not able to complete their mission,” McGuire said. **SPC Benjamin Cossel / 196th MPAD**

Grueling

FAR LEFT, CPT Loren Spears communicates with field batteries inside TOC. LEFT, Alpha Battery, 1-134 FA gets into position on the firing line. BELOW, PVT Sarah Kesling, 237th FSB, was promoted to the rank of E-2 by MG Greg Vadnais, 38th Infantry Division commander. Vadnais also officiated the reenlistment of seven ONG soldiers during the Camp Grayling AT. FAR BELOW, a tank signals defeat by raising its barrel high into the air. RIGHT, members of 1-137th Aviation Battalion conduct sling-load operations with a UH-60 Black Hawk. BELOW RIGHT, 838th MPs perform flag detail in addition to their 'law and order' missions.



Black Hawks fly various missions at Grayling

The Black Hawks soared the skies over Grayling, Mich., for all eyes to see during annual training this year.

Though soldiers of 1-137th Aviation Battalion flew assorted missions with smiles on their faces, they took this training seriously. The "Pale Riders" of Alpha Company, 1st Battalion, conducted several assignments, including bambi-buckets, hot-refuels, reconnaissance and sling-load missions.

The sling-load mission simulates the transport of blivetts, which are large rubber containers full of fuel, to units close to enemy lines.

The purpose of sling-loads is to set up refueling points close to enemy lines, or Forward Arming Refueling Point (FARP), for other helicopters conducting missions behind enemy lines.

When sling-loading, Black Hawk crews must also be aware of the change in power management the aircraft experiences due to transport-

ing a 3,000-pound blivett of fuel attached by a cable to the underbelly of the aircraft. The helicopter undergoes a slight lag, which increases when turning.

However, due to environmental concerns, the blivetts are only filled with water during training exercises.

"It has been nearly three years since the unit has been involved with sling-load training," said 1st Lt. Robert Walker, platoon leader. "So we are taking full advantage of the opportunity to get as much quality training as we possibly can."

The Army provides the Mission Essential Task List for each unit's training. The Pale Riders obtain the METL, decipher the information, and the company commander, platoon leader and training officer plan the drills a year in advance.

"Being able to train collectively as a unit for an extended period of time allows for a greater proficiency in task accomplishment," Walker said.

And task completion was their primary objective. Each pilot and copilot received at least three hours of fly-

time each day. It is very important for each crew member to participate.

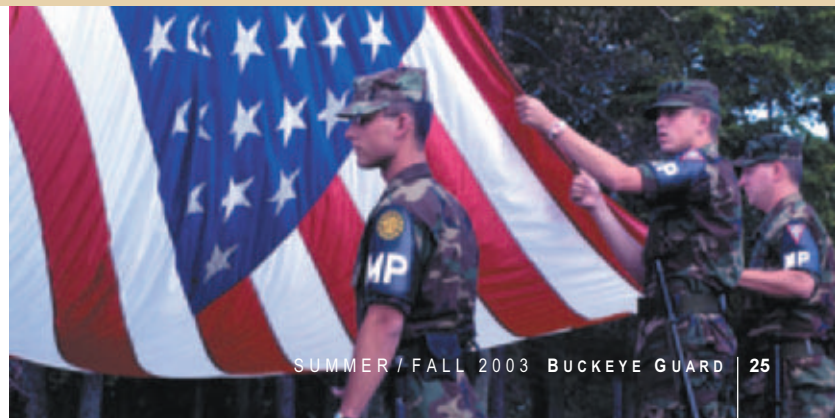
Once a year National Guard soldiers have the opportunity to conduct critical simulated missions designed to prepare them for real-world assignments.

"Pilots recently conducted missions like the one we are participating in today in Iraq in support of the war on terrorism," said Chief Warrant Officer 3 Adam Worthington, pilot.

Sling-loads also bring fuel for military vehicles and drop off medical supplies of equipment. Black Hawks can withstand hits from 23mm shells and can travel nearly 160 mph, which makes it an effective aircraft in supporting combat missions.

"The Black Hawk allows us to support troops in a manner that was never possible before," Walker said. "We take our mission very seriously and carry ourselves with the utmost pride." The Black Hawk is the Army's front-line utility helicopter, used for air assault, air cavalry and medical evacuations. **SGT Jessica McMillen / 196th MPAD**

Grayling





1-147th Armor has last AT before re-designation to air defense artillery

They have become attached to their mission. Kindred spirits and camaraderie permeates, and it's all they have ever known as soldiers.

But this year's annual training at Camp Grayling, Mich., was a mixture of excitement and sadness among the 1st Battalion, 147th Armor Battalion because it was their last.

The 1-147th is scheduled to become the 1-174th Air Defense Artillery unit in early 2004. Many positions currently held by soldiers will transfer to the newly designated unit. Some troops will re-classify their job skills. Those who can't bear to part with their passion for the armored field, the Army will give them the opportunity to transfer to a like unit. However, the majority of the soldiers are ready to confront the challenges of becoming a new unit.

"Armored units are a culture of their own," said Maj. John Zulfer, 1-147th Battalion executive officer. "It will by no means be a simple task, but there is some excitement leading up to the challenge, and since the soldiers are transferring together, it will

make the transition much easier for them."

Several years ago, the Army decided to deactivate the 1-147th as part of an overall force reduction process. The state of Ohio worked with the National Guard Bureau to find a new force structure for the battalion's nearly 600 soldiers.

Following the conversion into the ADA, the unit commanders and noncommissioned officers will have a lot to accomplish. But the Army considers the first two years after a redesignation a grace period, realizing the effect such a dramatic change will have on a unit's readiness.

The new battalion will be in a non-deployable status during the two-year period to allow all soldiers to qualify with the proper training, and become familiar with the new mission.

"This is going to be a great opportunity for us," said Spc. Patrick Heideman, tank gunner. "We'll have a chance to enhance our skills in different areas and work with new equipment."

The Army considers the 1-174th a

higher priority unit than the 1-147th, meaning soldiers will be working with more modern equipment, have access to a larger variety of financial resources for training and require more full-time personnel within their unit.

"I will miss being with a tank unit, but I'm looking forward to learning something new and having a new mission to accomplish," said Spc. Jeff Montgomery, tank crew member.

Once the unit assumes the new position, its mission will be short-range air defense. In other words, the battalion will be given a certain area of airspace that will be its responsibility to protect and defend.

Many soldiers said they will cherish July's annual training for a lifetime because it was their last as a tank unit.

"We went out there today not like it was the end, but like it was the beginning, and we had something to prove to ourselves," said tank crew member Spc. David Edwards. "Since this was our last time training as a tank unit, we really

wanted to make it count."

The battalion was initially organized in 1854 in the Ohio Militia as Guthrie Greys, an independent infantry company in Cincinnati. Since its first organization, the battalion has been redesignated more than 20 times to meet the ever-changing military needs of the federal government.

The unit participated in several campaigns throughout its lineage, including the Battle of Gettysburg, Shiloh and Kentucky in 1862. Other battles included the Lorraine, during World War I, and Guadalcanal, in World War II.

Due to the unit's lore, the Adjutant General's Department is looking to keep the 1-147th alive by redesignating another battalion with that title. But according to the soldiers of the 1-147th, they always will be the last members of 1st Battalion, 147th Armor Regiment.

"Even if the 1-147th is given to other soldiers, we will always consider ourselves part of their history," Edwards said. **SGT Jessica McMillen / 196th MPAD**

Grueling Grayling

1-148th prepares for deployment to Kosovo

On a sweltering July afternoon, a desert camouflaged M113 Armor Personnel Carrier zoomed across the "battlefield," forming dust clouds in its wake. The steel beast, with seven Ohio Army National Guard soldiers in its belly and a fully loaded .50 caliber machine gun mounted on top, then rumbled to a sudden stop.

"Dismount left!" Tank Commander Spc. Ryan Kearns shouted. The rear hatch opened. One at a time, the M16-wielding troops hastily exited the armor vehicle, yelling "1, 2, 3...." The driver raised the hatch when he heard the seventh man's number and raced behind a nearby hill. Meanwhile, the soldiers scurried to a much grassier area in the field. They laid on the ground to avoid being seen by the enemy. Their fully loaded rifles, with live ammunition, were in the ready position.

First squad of Bravo Company, 1st Battalion, 148th Infantry, was in position to attack.

The squad was participating in a "deliberate attack" squad live fire on a range during annual training at Camp Grayling, Mich. The exercise was part of battalion training in preparation for a real-world mission to Kosovo next year.

"Coming to AT, our objective was to get all the platoons (in the battalion) validated on the live-fire range," said Command Sgt. Maj. Roy D. James. This exercise was one of many requirements for the upcoming mission, he explained.

The nine-month deployment will be the

battalion's second in two years. It was called up for a year in support of Operation Noble Eagle shortly after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks. While on deployment, the battalion attempted to maintain the troops' basic infantry skills. It paid off, James said.

"The soldiers are far less rusty (at AT) than they could have been because of their training while on deployment," the sergeant major said. "...it says a lot about their enthusiasm and morale."

According to James, the 148th has not received specific orders for the Kosovo deployment, however, the peacekeeping mission will involve some security details and will require guardsmen to work alongside foreign forces.

Though some soldiers are frustrated because they returned from a deployment less than a year ago, the battalion has tried to instill in the soldiers the importance of National Guard and Reserve forces in today's Army. Especially since the 9-11 attacks, James said.

Since the country is at war, national security must come before personal needs, said Spc. Gregg Fitch, of Charlie Company. "The life of a soldier is a life of sacrifice," he said.

Meanwhile, at the live-fire exercise, Sgt. Christopher Vodenik and first squad continue to advance toward their objective. Squad leader Sgt. Craig Thomp-

son ordered his men to get in the prone firing position facing the direction of the enemy.

Vodenik, Alpha Team leader, was the point man, meaning he was at the front. He ordered the soldiers to get up and advance on the enemy.

"While moving the squad forward, I was using all my senses," said Vodenik, who bloodied his nose during his hasty exit from the armor vehicle. "I was looking out for possible enemy positions, trip wires, mines and the best route to take to reach our objective."

As the squad moved forward, soldiers continued to remain low to the ground. Suddenly, Vodenik saw the objective and the enemy. He signaled the soldiers to get on line. Without warning, the 113 APC parked on the hill fired its .50 caliber machine gun.

A smoke grenade exploded to the right, and first squad also opened fire. The soldiers continued to move forward as the symphony of machine guns rattled off.

"Cover me while I move," soldiers yelled as they advanced. Soon, the enemy was destroyed.

Because the soldiers were using live ammunition, battalion leaders stressed safety at all time, James said. "The 148th has a long history, and they are living up to it. We are still the best infantry battalion in the country." **SPC Ismail Turay Jr. / 196th MPAD**



OPPOSITE PAGE, soldiers from 1st Battalion, 147th Armor Regiment, take their final ride in an M1 Abrams tank. The battalion will transition into the 1-174th Air Defense Artillery in early 2004. **THIS PAGE, ABOVE**, SGT William Beard, of Alpha Company, 1-137th Aviation Battalion, conducts scheduled maintenance on a UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter at Camp Grayling. **BELOW LEFT**, SGT Christopher Vodenik, Alpha Team leader for Bravo Company, 1st Battalion, 148th Infantry, prepares to move his squad forward during a 'deliberate attack' squad live-fire exercise. Vodenik bloodied his nose during his squad's hasty exit from their armored vehicle. **BELOW**, a crew chief guides a UH-1 "Huey" helicopter in for a landing.



O E W N

Agencies join forces, warn public about drug, gang threats



Story and illustrations by Sgt. Bob Barko Jr.
196th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Cocaine, “Alcopops” and “Wets” are only a few of the drugs or products that are targets for a weapon in the war on drugs and violence in Ohio’s schools and communities. This weapon is the Ohio Early Warning Network (OEWN).

OEWN is a network developed for people to report emerging critical concerns related to violence and drug trends in their communities. The mission of the network is to release timely alerts, enabling parents and professionals to prevent or de-escalate emerging drug trends and precursors to violence across the state. The Ohio Department of Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services (ODADAS), the Ohio Department of Education, Ohio Resource for Safe and Drug Free Schools and Communities, and the Ohio National Guard coordinate the network.

Ohio Army National Guard Chief Warrant Officer 3 Mickey Cales, Counterdrug Task Force liaison, said anyone in Ohio could report an issue of concern to the network by using OEWN’s toll-free emergency hotline **1-866-OhioEWN**.

The information received in calls is reviewed for accuracy and validity using standards established by the coordinating agencies. The calls reflecting a significant concern are communicated to professionals in education, law enforcement and treatment/prevention agencies across Ohio via an e-mail list used by the network called a “list-serv.”

“OEWN researches tips and leads then passes that information to the proper authorities. OEWN is about intervention and prevention,” Cales said.

She said individuals wanting to be added to the OEWN list-serv can visit ebasedprevention.org or call (800) 788-7254 (option 2) and ask to be added to the list.

“Our goal is to have everyone in the state on the list-serv. Anyone...can contact us on the toll-free line to report drugs and

“OEWN researches tips and leads then passes that information to the proper authorities. OEWN is about intervention and prevention.”

CW3 MICKEY CALES

COUNTERDRUG TASK FORCE LIAISON



The contents of this 9-page alert gave members of OEWN information about cocaine such as the short-term effects and long-term consequences of cocaine use as well as Ohio’s organized response to this drug threat.

Legal products that may pose a danger to Ohio’s residents are also on OEWN’s list of targets. “Alcopops,” such as Smirnoff Ice, Barcardi Silver and Mike’s Hard Lemonade, are sweet-tasting, fizzy alcoholic beverages marketed in colorful youth-oriented packaging are an emerging trend also investigated by OEWN.

According to another OEWN alert, “Alcopops” are gateway drugs that ease young people into drinking and pave the way to more traditional alcoholic beverages.

An investigation by the Federal Trade Commission and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms has found that the manufacturers of “Alcopops” do not target under-21-year olds, however, the FTC did find that label improvements were necessary, stated the OEWN alert.

Other examples of concerns include new methods of using drugs being observed, such as “Wets” the street name for a combination of embalming fluid, tobacco, marijuana and mint leaves, sold by dealers in inner cities and upscale suburbs across Ohio. Law enforcement officers also bring increased drug traffic and increased use of a particular drug such as Ecstasy to OEWN’s attention. Suspicious activities such as emerging gang or cult activities that may threaten security in school and communities are also monitored by the network.

Fleming said OEWN has free information available in the form of videos, brochures and teaching aids to tell the public about the network and its mission.

She urged Ohio National Guard troops to become involved by being role models for Ohio’s young people, being aware of the issues of concern and by signing up for the list-serv. She also thanked Ohio Adjutant General Maj. Gen. John H. Smith for the part the Ohio National Guard plays in OEWN already.

“No small part of the network is Gen. Smith and the federal funds we receive from the National Guard Bureau,” Fleming said.

Fleming also said the initial success of OEWN was noted at the 2002 Pride World Drug Prevention Conference in Cincinnati. The network was recognized for its success in helping to protect Ohio’s children and create safer and drug-free schools and communities.

“They want to use OEWN as a template for other states to replicate the process,” Fleming said. ■

gang violence,” Cales said.

Luceille Fleming, director of ODADAS, said OEWN has already had impact in several areas of concern. She feels the network will grow stronger as more people find out about it and become involved.

“Through the efforts of Chief Cales and Mr. Canning, numerous agencies through the state including law enforcement, the Cleveland High Intensity Trafficking Area, schools, prevention and treatment organizations, the Ohio National Guard, colleges and universities, parents and concerned individuals have chosen to partner with us in sharing information,” Fleming said. Canning is the director of the Ohio Resource for Safe and Drug Free Schools and Communities.

“We trust OEWN will grow in its utility in preventing alcohol, tobacco, other drugs and violence. The more informed our public is about alcohol, tobacco, other drugs and violence prevention, the safer our communities will be,” Fleming said.

“OEWN is about community-building, relationships and trust,” she added.

One of the ways that OEWN accomplishes these goals is to issue alerts concerning recent trends in drug use in the state.

According to a June 24 OEWN alert, cocaine—in both powder and crack form—continues to be the primary drug threat in Ohio.

Special Forces meet challenges of War on Terrorism head-on

Story by Cpl. Susan James ♦ ♦ ♦ Joint Forces Headquarters-Ohio

U.S. Army Special Forces is one group that has become increasingly prolific with results on the Global War on Terrorism. More and more, Special Forces (SF) soldiers are being called upon to accomplish a variety of difficult tasks on a continuously changing landscape. The inherent capabilities associated with these soldiers make them an attractive solution in a post 9-11 world.

The Ohio Army National Guard is home to one of these elite “Green Beret” units. Company B, 2nd Battalion, 19th Special Forces Group (Airborne), Columbus, has been an essential element in the war on

“Every time we deploy, our teams need to be prepared to transition from training to conducting real-world contingency operations in theater.”

terrorism. The demand for these unconventional warriors has kept Ohio’s Bravo Company deployed throughout the world fulfilling missions, as dictated by U.S. foreign policy.

Bravo Company’s most recent big deployment was in support of Operation Joint Guardian (OJG), a Kosovo Peacekeeping Force (KFOR). KFOR is a NATO-led international force responsible for establishing and maintaining security in Kosovo. Forty-two soldiers from the company were mobilized for this mission in November 2002, under the Presidential Selective Reserve call-up, and returned home to Rickenbacker



SF soldiers train foreign armies to help develop their military defense.

Courtesy photo

Army Enclave Sept. 21, 2003.

During OJG, Bravo Company lived in Kosovo communities, performing their missions in 12-man teams. They interfaced with the civilian population as well as governmental agencies in Kosovo.

Kosovo was not a new deployment site for Bravo Company; this deployment was the unit’s second trip there in two years. These soldiers also have recently deployed to Bosnia-Herzegovina, Hungary, Poland, Kuwait and the Balkans. Like all Special Forces Groups (SFG), Bravo Company is a highly mobile unit,

ready to deploy anywhere at anytime.

“Overseas training provides these soldiers the opportunity to improve their teaching, language and small unit tactics skills. Teaching indigenous soldiers in their own country is one of the main missions of Special Forces,” said Capt. Larry Henry, Bravo Company’s A-Team 953 commander. “We just can’t get this type and quality of training in the United States. Every time we deploy (overseas), our teams need to be prepared to transition from training to conducting real-world contingency operations in theater.”

Special Forces undertake a wide variety of missions to include direct action, special reconnaissance, foreign internal defense, counternarcotics, counterterrorism,

combat search and rescue, humanitarian assistance and security assistance.

To meet the Army Mission Essential Task List (METL) training requirements for these missions, SF soldiers utilize a hodgepodge of training techniques while in a distant country. To polish up on their language skills, the soldiers interact and sometimes live with their foreign counterparts. They share small unit tactics techniques, battle drills and train each other in the use of their respective country's weapons. Many missions require the participation in combined airborne operations to instruct each other in the function and use of equipment and aircraft.

Special Forces Groups train in an array of environments, from the inhospitable desert of Kuwait to waterborne training missions in the Persian Gulf. With the instability of today's world, SFGs also have adapted to the new threat of urban warfare. The immense assortment of training atmospheres allows soldiers to practice on a wide variety of weapons systems. The desert affords the unparalleled opportunity to use sniper systems and vehicle-mounted weapons while in the urban territories, soldiers train on close-range weapons such as the M-9 pistol.

The missions SFGs are assigned to involve managing an alienated civilian population to paramilitary groups in regions with underlying tensions. Conduct of these types of operations require all soldiers to undergo additional advanced training in Special Operations techniques. The Special Forces training has provided a well-disciplined group of soldiers to meet the war on terrorism head-on.

"The Special Forces are the spear-point for the Ohio Army National Guard," said Brig. Gen. Ronald Young, assistant adjutant general for Army, as he acknowledged the tactically efficient soldiers from Bravo Company during their welcome home from Kosovo in September. ■

EDITOR'S NOTE: *SFC Jason Beardsley, Co. A, 2-19th SFG, and MSG Bob Mullins, 196th MPAD, contributed to this article.*

HAVE YOU GOT WHAT IT TAKES?

Special Forces take special troops, training

Interested in becoming a part of an elite unit? Company B, 2nd Battalion, 19th Special Forces Group (Airborne), is looking for mature soldiers and officers who want to become one of the select few to wear the coveted green beret.

Bravo Company is comprised of six, 12-man detachments, or A Teams, and an 11-man B Team. Each team can be deployed independently or the entire company can be deployed together. When broken down into team missions, the teams operate on a battalion concept as independent companies. The teams will operate as the cadre of an indigenous force battalion when deployed in the unconventional warfare role.

"I love the small team concept because it's unconventional and you must work as a team. It is a difficult lifestyle and it's not just a tab (Airborne or Special Forces) to sew on your uniform," said Staff Sgt. Nicholas Dixon, a weapons sergeant with Bravo Company.

A commitment to the unit means volunteering for Special Forces Assessment and Selection (SFAS), Airborne School and the Special Forces Qualification Course (SFQC), also known as the "Q" course. In order to be qualified to wear the green beret, each soldier must undergo this specialized and intensive training.

Once the new member passes the SFAS (Phase 1), the soldier must undergo five more rigorous phases. The second phase is field environment training specializing in small unit tactics, conducted at the remote Camp Mackall training area near Fort Bragg, N.C.

Soldiers learn individual skills training in Phase 3. The enlisted soldiers will enhance their skills by furthering their training in SF specialized areas of weapons, engineering, medical and communications. Officers learn the capabilities of the enlisted personnel entrusted to them and the detailed planning necessary for the successful

command of a team.

Phase 4 consists of one of the Army's most eccentric drills: the famed Robin Sage Unconventional Warfare Exercise. This exercise positions students, formed into an A Team, against opposing forces that are using guerrilla warfare tactics.

One of the unique qualities of SF soldiers is their ability to communicate with foreign counterparts in their respective languages. During Phase 5, soldiers learn a language specific to the regional focus of his home unit.

The final phase is Survival, Evasion, Resistance and Escape (SERE) School. The topics covered in Phase 6 focus on soldiers building confidence within themselves to contend with a real-world hostile environment.

One of the most accomplished unit types the U.S. military, the Special Forces deal with constant change and a variety of environments with a broad set of missions. It is this ability to accept and meet these challenges that makes them one of the premier groups to prosecute the National Command Authority's Global War on Terrorism. Now more than ever, Special Forces are seeing action in all parts of the world and expect to maintain a high operations tempo for the foreseeable future.

For the soldiers of Bravo Company, the transition from peacetime training activity to participating in the Global War on Terrorism is not much of a change.

For more information on the Ohio National Guard's Special Forces unit or requirements on joining, phone (614) 336-6477 or toll-free (866) 490-0019; or send an e-mail to 219sfgacob1@oh.ngn.army.mil.

Chinook added to Ohio Guard's aviation arsenal



SPC Haraz N. Ghanbari / Joint Forces HQ-Ohio

By Spc. Haraz N. Ghanbari
Joint Forces Headquarters-Ohio

As the fall season set in, with green leaves changing to the many shades of autumn, a CH-47 “Chinook” helicopter flew over a patch of woods near the edge of the flight line at Akron-Canton airport.

Silhouetted against a blue sky, the large Army green helicopter’s blades whipped through the calm afternoon wind on Oct. 17, as its crew carefully maneuvered its load—one dangling humvee.

Priced at \$17 million, the twin-turbine, tandem-rotor, heavy-lift transport helicopter, manufactured by Boeing, is the latest addition to the Ohio Army National Guard’s aviation arsenal. The new airframe is part of an Army modernization program which has a goal to equip reserve components with the same equipment as their active-duty counterparts.



SPC Haraz N. Ghanbari / Joint Forces HQ-Ohio

A CH-47 Chinook makes its debut with the OHARNG on Oct. 17.

Some of the helicopter’s capabilities include transporting troops, artillery, ammunition, fuel, water, barrier materials, supplies and other equipment. Secondary missions include medical evacuation, recovery of damaged aircraft, fire fighting, parachute drops, construction, civil development, disaster relief and search-and-rescue operations.

The helicopter has a maximum weight of 50,000 pounds, a maximum payload of 22,000 pounds, a maximum speed of 170 knots, a cruise speed of 140 knots, a maximum altitude of 20,000 feet and a range of 300 nautical miles.

“With the activation of Company G and the arrival of the CH-47 aircraft, we are poised to be an integral part of our nation’s defenses well into the 21st century,” said Col. Blaine M. Wycoff, commander of the Ohio Army Guard’s Akron-Canton flight facility. “If the remaining five Chinooks arrive in a timely manner, I fully expect this unit to be mission-capable in the next 24 months.”

The Chinook made its initial debut as an Army aircraft in 1962, and was eventually deployed to Vietnam. Boeing manufactured CH-47 A, B, and C models, before developing the D model—the model Ohio currently has. The D model’s initial deliveries took place from 1982 to 1994.

More than 160 Chinooks deployed as part of the Persian Gulf War and played an integral role completing the largest aerial assault in history.

“With Chinooks, Black Hawks and the professional soldiers who operate, maintain and support them, the state stands ready to answer the call,” Wycoff said. “Let Ohio Army aviation be the standard upon which Army aviation is to be measured.”

Since the new aircraft has arrived, pilots have been rotating to Fort Rucker, Ala., home to the Army Aviation School, or Fort Indiantown Gap, Pa., to complete a 10-week certification training program.



SPC Haraz N. Ghanbari / Joint Forces HQ-Ohio

In all, 24 pilots will complete the transition to the CH-47. Crew members will complete a five-week CH-47 mechanic transition and five-week flight engineer qualification, also at Fort Indiantown Gap.

The soldiers that comprise Company G came from Co. B, 3-126 Light Utility Helicopter Company and Troops D, E, and F of the 2-107 Division Cavalry Squadron. Company B's mission was supporting lift operations and the cavalry supported reconnaissance and security missions.

Company G, known as the "Cyclone Force," currently has 260 soldiers and is divided between two states—Ohio and New York. One hundred and seven soldiers are located at Company G's detachment based in Rochester, N.Y.

According to Maj. Anthony Digiaco, who took command Jan. 3, 2003, Company G is planning a joint annual training event for 2004 to be held at Fort Indiantown Gap. In the meantime, the unit practices sling-loading operations with concrete training loads ranging from 6,000 to 18,000 pounds.

"Company G brings tremendous capability to maneuver and support units in the state," Digiaco said. "In times of emergency, we can support the governor with mass movements of equipment and people. We can also rescue people by using the aircraft hoist and fight fires with the use of a 2,000 gallon water bucket."

The crew flying the CH-47 during its debut Oct. 17 consisted of Chief Warrant Officers John Kiel and Brian West, Sgt. 1st Class Greg Sigelmier, Staff Sgt. Dennis Geyer and Staff Sgt. Gary Sarver. ■



SPC Haraz N. Ghanbari / Joint Forces HQ-Ohio

With a C-26 airplane as background, Linda Ceneskie, widow of Ohio's former state aviation officer, COL Craig Ceneskie, officiated the ribbon cutting for "The Ceneskie Hangar," the OHARNG's new C-26 hangar.

Building dedication honors Ceneskie

A C-26 airplane resting on a rain-slicked runway provided the backdrop for a dedication ceremony Oct. 17 for the new hangar at Rickenbacker Army Enclave named for the late Col. Craig T. Ceneskie, former state Army aviation officer.

Ceneskie joined the Ohio Army National Guard in 1971 as a 19-year-old enlisted soldier, and by the time he was 20, landed a full-time job with the Guard. He went on to serve in various positions, as an enlisted soldier, a commissioned officer, a warrant officer, back to a commissioned officer and finally reaching the rank of colonel. He passed away after having a heart attack this summer.

"We are talking about a career that touched many people, many organizations," said Brig. Gen. Ronald Young, assistant adjutant general for Army. "This is kind of a tough time, but what a tribute to the career of a soldier that served us, served us well."

According to Young, Ceneskie was promoted to colonel in July of 1996 and was appointed the state aviation officer in October 1996. Young attributed much of the current success of the Ohio Guard aviation community to the relentless efforts of Ceneskie.

"It is because of Craig Ceneskie that we have this building. It is because of Craig Ceneskie that we are going to Akron-Canton a little bit later (on Oct. 17) to roll out our Chinook helicopter," Young told those gathered for the ceremony. "Today is about Craig Ceneskie and his service to our state and our country. He did a great job."

A building cornerstone marker with master aviator wings will be placed in the main entrance of the building.

"That is the most permanent part of this building," said Col. Rick Hall, current state aviation officer. "People will come and go. Fixtures will come and go, but the marker will remain until the building is no longer standing."

A second plaque commemorating Ceneskie will hang in the passenger area of the hangar.

Ceneskie's wife, Linda, and other members of his family were present for the dedication. To have a hangar named for her late husband, who was a helicopter pilot, meant so much.

"Mostly it means that they knew how hard he worked. They respected him and that was his goal—to have people respect him," Mrs. Ceneskie said. **Spc. Haraz N. Ghanbari** / Joint Forces Headquarters-Ohio

ONG Distance Learning Center partners with NASA, students

By Steve Toth
AGOH-Public Affairs

With today's ever-advancing technologies, when something (or someone) isn't physically available to you, it often still can be brought to your doorstep, in a sense.

Such was the case earlier this year when about 40 middle school-aged students who participate in the Columbus City Schools' Young Astronauts Program joined a growing number of children nationwide who have studied space science with NASA personnel—at the Langley Research Center in Hampton, Va.—courtesy of an innovative collaboration between the National Guard and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

The Ohio National Guard Distance Learning Center, located at Rickenbacker Airport in Columbus, showcased some of its technological capabilities as it hosted an hour-long video-teleconference led by NASA scientists.

In addition to observing a presentation on comets, students learned about the many technology applications NASA originally developed for its manned space programs. Many of these technologies eventually found their way into everyday life—including rubber-soled shoe tread, fire detectors and ultraviolet ray-blocking sunglasses.

Students had the opportunity to ask the scientists questions through microphones at computer workstations that were up-linked along with the video feeds. Questions posed included queries about comets and asteroids, as well as space exploration and potential careers with NASA.

Sixth-grader Jodie Wilson learned that NASA offers many employment opportunities aside from being an astronaut—including doctors, lawyers, educators, communications and multimedia specialists, engineers, chemists and physicists.

This rare learning opportunity was possible through the National Guard's Distributive Training Technology Project (DTTP). It is a program which began a few years ago as an advanced distributed learning, information delivery and communications system—designed to enhance the Guard's readiness capabilities and fulfill related missions, according to information provided National Guard Bureau.

Another mission of the DTTP is to explore public-private partnerships involving the "shared use" of DTTP resources. The NASA classroom project is exemplary of that mission, an extension of the Guard's role of serving the communities in which its units are located.

"Through our activities with organizations such as NASA, we're making a profound impact on the lives and futures of

students across the country," said Maj. Stephan Picard, chief, DTTP Policy and Liaison at National Guard Bureau in Washington D.C. Picard addressed the students from NGB at the conclusion of the video-teleconference.

National Guard Bureau has a partnership with NASA to generate excitement about math, science and technology among middle and high school students, and to attract them to careers in those fields, he said. The collaboration enables NASA to reach a much wider audience, including those students without access to computers, who might not otherwise be able to participate in such programs, Picard said.

Under this partnership effort, NASA provides the educational content, as well as the scientists, engineers and astronauts to teach it; NGB provides the infrastructure, through DTTP, to deliver NASA's content to students nationwide, utilizing its network of advanced, multimedia classrooms.

"It's great to have the opportunity to spend time with NASA scientists who are in another part of the country," said Judy Gatti, middle school coordinator for the Columbus Public Schools Gifted and Talented Program. "It does start to work on leading students to look at careers in other fields and gives us an opportunity that we did not have previously."

Several educators at the video-teleconference said they were grateful for the partnership locally with the Ohio National Guard, and the opportunities for continued collaborations in the future.

"In the next five years, there will be many classes taught with distributive learning," Gatti said.

Video-teleconferencing is just one of the capabilities of Ohio's Distance Learning Center, which has been open more than five years. Other types of distributed learning that are possible with the DLC include computer-based instruction, instructor-led training and web-based instruction.

The Ohio National Guard Distance Learning Center, located on Rickenbacker Army Enclave, is available to individual soldiers and units for a variety of technological uses. For more information, contact Capt. David S. Baird, DLC manager, by e-mail at david.baird@us.army.mil or by phone at (614) 336-6500.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Information provided by National Guard Bureau contributed to this report. For more on distributed learning initiatives in the Ohio National Guard, see the *Buckeye Briefs* section, page 39.



Steve Toth / AGOH-Public Affairs

Columbus City Schools' Young Astronauts Program students participate in a video-teleconference with NASA scientists at the Rickenbacker Distance Learning Center.

Gilliam 'great fit' for top slot in OHARNG

Story by Spc. Haraz N. Ghanbari
Joint Forces Headquarters-Ohio

Newly appointed Ohio Army National Guard State Command Sgt. Maj. Bill Gilliam literally embodies the concept of "The Army."

Gilliam served as a military police officer on active duty, has filled the boots of a traditional Guard soldier, as well as serving as a federal technician, and now is on an Active Guard/Reserve (AGR) tour.

For Gilliam, being selected as the state command sergeant major is a culmination of years of service from the battalion, to the group to the brigade level, and several operations, including the National Training Center, Joint Readiness Training Center and a New Horizons mission in Central America.

Appointed May 15, Gilliam said he is honored to hold the highest enlisted position as an Army Guardmember in Ohio. Although this may be the last stop before retirement, the option to serve at the National Guard Bureau, in Washington, D.C., is a possibility, as it is with all state command sergeants major.

"I would like to feel that I am an honored man, from the standpoint that I don't have just two or three bosses," Gilliam said. "I would like to feel and say that I have probably 10,500 bosses because I work for the soldiers in the Ohio Army National Guard. Without them, I wouldn't have a job. I am here for them, they are not here for me."

The tour for a state command sergeant major in Ohio usually last four years but is ultimately the decision of the adjutant general. The number one priority for Gilliam during his appointment is strength in numbers within the ranks.

"Command Sergeant Major Gilliam's selection was not a difficult choice," said Maj. Gen. John H. Smith, state adjutant general. "His dedication to the mission and to the soldiers has been evident to many of us for some time. He is superbly qualified and carries out his tasks and responsibilities in a most professional manner."

In recent years the number of deployments has increased for soldiers in Ohio and the leadership has committed to the mantra of "respond when called." Gilliam has pledged his support in making sure soldiers are prepared to do just that.

"Without soldiers we can't not respond. Without soldiers we can't train, and without soldiers we can't lead," Gilliam said. "The active component could not function without the reserve component. We are blessed in the state of Ohio to be able to fill the units with qualified soldiers, ready to deploy."

The Army has been charged with winning the nation's wars, and it is arguably understood the backbone of the Army resides within the noncommissioned officer corps. Gilliam's second priority is urging the NCO corps to help implement and support the Army's transformation.

"NCOs need to realize that change is for the best, and we need to implement and support it 100 percent," Gilliam said. "I expect that 100 percent support from the NCO corps."

As the head Army NCO in Ohio, Gilliam said he would like to see more involvement from the enlisted soldiers and promotion through the ranks, including more names on the first sergeants and command sergeants major eligibility lists. Gilliam is urging all enlisted soldiers to take an active role in the Ohio National Guard Enlisted Association (ONGEA).

"We have a real urgency to fill some vacant positions within the



SPC Benjamin Cossel / 196th MPAD

State CSM Bill Gilliam in the field at Camp Grayling, Mich.

enlisted association," Gilliam stressed. "Without more involvement, Ohio risks losing its charter."

From the youngest privates to the higher-ranking seasoned veterans, Gilliam would like to see more training conducted. Taking into account the guidance handed down from Lt. Gen. Joseph R. Inge, First Army commanding general, soldiers need to be able to shoot, maintain physical fitness and survive on the battlefield under nuclear, biological and chemical conditions.

The mission of First Army, which covers the geographic area of the continental United States east of the Mississippi River, includes ensuring that National Guard and Army Reserve soldiers are trained and ready for any contingency anywhere in the world. And if the call comes, First Army will help facilitate mobilizing and deploying those soldiers and their units.

"NBC, shooting and PT (physical training) are all key individual tasks. I think we need to incorporate more NBC training. The NCOs need to make this happen. I would like to see more marksmanship training with the BEAMHIT and the M.A.R.K.S. (computerized) systems. Across the board, I would like to see more training."

Smith added that someone once said that there is a time and a place for everything, and Command Sgt. Maj. Gilliam is a great fit for the Ohio Army National Guard at this time.

"I am confident that he will serve our Army men and women extremely well during these busy times," Smith said. ■



SPC Haraz N. Ghanbari / Joint Forces HQ-Ohio

Entertainer Henry Winkler, gives the trademark thumbs-up sign of Happy Days' character "Fonzie" during the Smart and Sober Campaign program.

Ohio Guard teams up with 'Smart and Sober' campaign

More than 6,000 fifth- through ninth-graders converged on the Ohio State University's Jerome Schottenstein Center this October in Columbus to participate in the 2003 Smart and Sober Celebration.

Hosted by First Lady of Ohio Hope Taft, the celebration was aimed at educating students about the importance of staying alcohol- and drug-free.

Elements of the Ohio National Guard teamed up with Taft to help deliver the message. Soldiers with the Guard's Counterdrug Task Force, recruiting and aviation spent their morning answering a variety of questions posed by the students.

To help connect with the students, the aviation soldiers flew in a UH-60 "Black Hawk" helicopter, the Counter Drug Task Force brought its climbing wall, and recruiting brought the "Buckeye Thunder" humvee, complete with its powerful stereo system.

"It allows the kids to come and see what we do," said Capt. Mitch Gargac, operations officer for the Counterdrug Task Force. "They ask us about drugs and alcohol—a lot of times they ask us some pointed questions."

Gargac and the other soldiers stressed to the students that alcohol abuse and drug use is not tolerated in the military, and to be a productive member of society, young people should remain smart and sober.

From 9:30 a.m. to noon, the students participated in several outdoor activities before being invited inside for the main event. The inside program consisted of a performance by the OSU pep band, cheerleaders, athletes and student leaders, a video message featuring young rap artist and Colum-

bus native Bow Wow, and live messages from Gov. Bob Taft, First Lady Hope Taft, actor-producer Henry Winkler and Tom Farley, brother of the late actor and comedian Chris Farley.

According to information provided by the state, in Ohio, alcohol use increases steadily from 5.4 percent of fourth-graders saying they drank beer within the past year to 61.8 percent of 12th-graders who were asked the same question, supporting the campaign's stated beliefs that intervention at an early age is paramount.

"We had a real good showing from the Guard and a lot of good questions," Gargac said. "It has been a real good turnout." **SPC HARAZ N. GHANBARI / JOINT FORCES HQ-OHIO**

BG wins top DoD honor for second time in three years

For the second time in the past three years, the *Buckeye Guard* has earned the Defense Department's top honor for military journalism.

The magazine won a 2002 Thomas Jefferson award as the best magazine in the entire U.S. military, among all branches of service, active and reserve components.

With the win in the Jefferson competition, the magazine completed a sweep as winner of the 2002 National Guard Bureau

Media Contest and Department of the Army Keith L. Ware Journalism Awards as well. The *Buckeye Guard* also won a Jefferson in 2000; placed in the top three of the Army competition each of the last five years, winning twice; and has earned first-place in the National Guard contest nine of the past 11 years. **AGOH-PUBLIC AFFAIRS**

Army promotion program changes

The steps in the enlisted promotion process, once called Select, Train, Promote, Assign (STPA), are now known as Select, Assign, Train, Promote (SATP), and mean more

than just a name change.

The major change in the program is that Army National Guard soldiers are enabled to make rank after completion of only Phase I of the corresponding professional development training. These assignments open the junior enlisted slots, which may allow bonuses to be provided to new enlistees.

Much of the enlisted personnel promotion system remains the same in the SATP process, as with its predecessor, STPA. Once soldiers are placed on the promotion eligibility list, leadership—commanders and first sergeants—still select those soldiers who perform and demonstrate potential. Soldiers who are flagged for unfavorable personnel actions will not be considered. However, soldiers in grades E-4 through E-7 may now be assigned to higher-graded positions without regard to appropriate NCOES (Noncommissioned Officer Education System) completion. This allows soldiers to grow, to learn new tasks and gain new responsibilities. Soldiers are then promoted once the proper NCOES courses are complete.

"SATP is a vote of confidence; it allows soldiers to be moved into higher graded positions before the actual training takes place," said Sgt. Maj. Tonya Minor, Ohio ARNG personnel sergeant major.

Soldiers may be considered for assignment and promotion when they are two grades under the authorized grade if there are no authorized positions in the unit or geographic region for the intermediate

Open WIDE



SPC Haraz N. Ghanbari / Joint Forces HQ-Ohio

While celebrating the holidays with his unit during December drill, MAJ Gregory Rogers of Joint Forces Headquarters gets a spoonful of mashed potatoes from his 2-year-old daughter, Emily.

grade and no other qualified soldiers to fill the vacant slot.

Though many vacancies are determined at the state level quarterly, units are encouraged to identify current or projected NCO vacancies and request fills. The first qualified soldier on the list will be selected and given the opportunity to accept or reject the promotion. Soldiers who accept new assignments are given priority for the proper schools.

During mobilization, NCOES requirements are waived. Any soldier promoted through the SATP process during mobilization has 24 months after demobilization to complete required training and is given priority for NCOES course attendance. For more information on promotion issues, contact Master Sgt. Donna Rakes at (614) 336-7416 or donna.rakes@oh.ngb.army.mil.
SPC MICHELLE MORGAN / JOINT FORCES HQ-OHIO

Guard mobilizes to assist during Cleveland blackout

About 50 members of the Ohio National Guard's 1484th Transportation Company, Akron, were called to State Active Duty in August to assist in recovery efforts as a result of the blackouts that affected metropolitan areas in seven states, including northern Ohio.

The 1484th hauled 17 tanker trailers with 7,600 gallons of potable water to the Cleveland Division of Water. From there, the trailers were identified for distribution to needed areas within the city. **AGOH-PUBLIC AFFAIRS**

GuardCare '03 healthcare event offers breath of life

The GuardCare program was on the road again this summer, offering free healthcare services to residents of Hocking County and the surrounding area. This is the tenth year for this National Guard program designed to provide free healthcare services to medically underserved communities in Ohio.

The Ohio National Guard, the Ohio Department of Health, and the Hocking County Health Department have coordinated the event, which is staffed primarily by National Guard soldiers. Services available include immunizations, physicals, heart function screenings (EKGs), complete blood counts

(CBCs), PAP smears, cervical examinations, hearing examinations, prostate specific antigen tests, blood sugar and cholesterol screenings, dental examinations, vision testing, and glaucoma testing.

This year's event proved to be a breath of life for one visitor. The wife of a patient who underwent an EKG screening during GuardCare reported that the abnormal result depicted in the test convinced her husband to consult a heart specialist. The man subsequently underwent two catheterizations and had a stent placed. The testing performed at GuardCare identified a life-threatening condition that might otherwise have gone undetected.

Over the course of the two-week-end program 589 patients were seen, 143 of which were children. GuardCare 2004 will be held this summer in Lucas County in northwest Ohio. **AGOH-PUBLIC AFFAIRS**

Home now, 838th MPs were busy past two years

One of the Ohio National Guard's most often mobilized units of the last decade hit the road again to protect the gates of military bases surrounding the nation's capital.

The 838th Military Police Company based in Youngstown, deployed in March 2002 to the eastern seaboard to aid in the battle against terrorism in the United States.

The unit most recently deployed in support of Operation Noble Eagle to Ohio's airports and Fort Bragg, N.C. For this deployment, 129 soldiers from nine units including Ohio's remaining three MP units provided force protection support at several bases in the Military District of Washington, D.C.

Members of the 838th were stationed at Fort AP Hill, Fort Belvoir, Fort Meyers and Fort McNair.

The 838th troops were charged with providing physical security at their assigned bases. The military police personnel were tasked to guard entrances to the bases, check identification of persons entering the installations and perform searches on vehicles entering the bases.

Capt. Dan Barrett, the unit's commander, said their previous deployments helped prepare the soldiers for the mission at hand. He said the MPs were more than ready for the job they were assigned to accomplish. "The 838th set the standard for force pro-



James A. Sims II / AGOH-Public Affairs

An Ohio Army National Guard medical specialist (right) checks the weight of a young patient during GuardCare 2003.

tection at the installations we were assigned to," he said.

First Sgt. Lenor Southerland said the unit did some "homework" prior to being deployed to their duty stations that helped get the job done, too. The unit leadership did some preliminary work and talked with the installation commands. "Once we established what they wanted of us and what we needed of them, it all worked out pretty well," she said.

Staff Sgt. Jeff Duzzny was among the soldiers protecting the gates of Fort Belvoir. He is a squad leader for the unit. He also felt the unit's prior experiences together helped them get through this mission. "We did the mission together through hard times and good times and gave 100 percent all of the time. That's what it's all about." Although some of the soldiers like Duzzny were veterans of many deployments, others were brought in from other Ohio National Guard units to fill slots at the 838th for this deployment.

Spc. Michael Sheward, a member of the 324th MP Company, Middle town, was deployed with the 838th stationed at Fort AP Hill for force protection duty.

Yet whether the soldiers were in the



Todd Cramer / AGOH-Photo Lab

Gov. Bob Taft receives a commander's coin from Col Dewey Perkins of the 200th RED HORSE Squadron, Port Clinton.

838th's ranks for years or were assigned to the unit to aid in completing this job, the mission came to an end after ten months of gate duty at posts nestled in and around the District of Columbia.

A welcome home ceremony on March 2, 2003 officially ended the unit's deployment in support of Operation Noble Eagle. Southerland cast a cautious eye toward the future in regards to another deployment.

"We're waiting to see. We'll have to deal with a mission if it comes and be prepared," she said. **SGT BOB BARKO JR.** / 196TH MOBILE PUBLIC AFFAIRS DETACHMENT

RED HORSE unit receives honors for overseas duty

The Ohio Air National Guard's 200th Red Horse Squadron recently received the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award, an honor which is bestowed upon only 10 percent of similar units each year.

The squadron distinguished itself from September 1, 2000 to August 31, 2002. During this period the unit performed exceptionally in the community and at various locations throughout the United States. In addition, the unit was responsible for heavy construction projects, reconstruction of facilities and installation of aircraft arresting systems,

which ensured the safety and security of U.S. and allied aircraft in the U.S. Central Command Area of Operations.

A ceremony was conducted Dec. 6 at Camp Perry in Port Clinton. In addition, several unit members received the Bronze Star Medal, awarded for individual achievements in direct support of military operations involving conflict with an opposing armed force, completed in the theater of operations.

"These squadron members have done an outstanding job. When they deploy, they bring some of the best people, equipment and resources that the Ohio Air National Guard has to offer," said Maj. Gen. John H. Smith, state adjutant general.

In the last two years, the 200th RHS has completed \$14.5 million in construction of 21 projects at 13 bases in 10 countries in the U.S. Central Command theater of operations in Southwest Asia.

Projects ranged from the building of operations centers and personnel housing, to paving roads and airfields. One hundred ninety one (more than 91 percent) of the unit's members completed these projects that improved the warfighting capabilities of bases critical to the Operation Enduring Freedom mission. **AGOH-PUBLIC AFFAIRS**

Organizers plan to resume Newark Vets Day 5K race

Due to the current pace of mobilizations and a conflict with sponsor commitments, the annual Newark Veterans Day 5K race was not conducted this past November.

Organizers are already planning for this year's race. If anyone would like to volunteer to help on the planning committee or has any questions about the race, contact WO1 Joe Cocanour at (614) 336-7135 or joseph.cocanour@oh.ngb.army.mil. **AGOH-PUBLIC AFFAIRS**

'Boss Lift' educates employers

The Division Aviation Support Battalion, Company A-638, held its second annual "Boss Lift" Sept. 13 at Rickenbacker Air National Guard Base, Columbus, providing an opportunity for soldiers to invite their civilian employers to take helicopter flights around the Columbus area and learn more about their soldiers' weekend occupations.

The flight was a new experience for a

majority of the passengers.

"This was the first time I'd been up in a helicopter, and it was really great," said Joan Savage. "It was very exciting for me, because I could point things out that I saw along the way, like the airport, Ohio Stadium, Easton Street and state Route 109. It was probably the most exciting thing I've ever done."

The Savage family owns the Clark's Dream Strip in Circleville, which the DASB uses for aviation training year-round.

"We'll probably do this again next year; it's been very successful for us," said Maj. Andrew Morrow, DASB commander. **SPC CHAD MENEGAY** / 196TH MOBILE PUBLIC AFFAIRS DETACHMENT

512th Engineer Battalion deploys for Iraqi Freedom

Forty soldiers of Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 512th Engineer Battalion, were honored at a farewell ceremony Dec. 7, before they mobilized in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The unit that currently is ranked first nationwide among similar units on the Army National Guard Organizational Readiness List will be conducting area wartime construction management while in Iraq. The unit's mission is to provide command and control over engineer battalions supporting various projects and operations.

Army engineering assets encompass design, construction, demolition and fire fighting.

During the ceremony, bouquets of flowers were given to the citizen-soldiers' parents and spouses as they were recognized for answering the call of duty along with their loved one and shouldering the enormous responsibility of deployment.

"The most important thing," according to Tracy Nottage, wife of Sgt. 1st Class Mark Nottage, "is to work as hard as possible to keep him from worrying about his family while he's gone. We have a great family support group, neighborhood and friends who are there for each other."

They have three young boys, Nicholas, Alexander, and Mitchell.

Red Cross volunteers Martha Iskyan and Judy Spitz from the mental health for disaster relief division encouraged families to call (513) 579-3010 or (513) 579-3000 at anytime.

"We are here to support our armed services and their families in their time of need any time of the day or night," Spitz said. "We also work out a 'buddy system' for the families so they have someone else to talk to who is going through the same situation." **CPL SUSAN JAMES** / JOINT FORCES HQ-OHIO

Accelerated OCS offers new way to commission

The Ohio Army National Guard Officer Candidate School Program is divided into two options for qualified applicants.

Option 1 is Traditional OCS, which consists of a three-phase, 18-month process. Zero Phase starts in February and runs through June when the candidates report to Camp Ripley, Minn. for a two-week Phase I course. Upon returning from Phase I, they immediately begin Phase II, which is conducted at the 145th Regiment, Regional Training Institute (RTI) at Rickenbacker Army Enclave in Columbus. Phase III is conducted the following August at Fort Lewis, Wash, followed by graduation about August for those who complete the challenge.

Option 2 is a recently initiated program called Accelerated OCS. This eight-week program is new to Ohio, and is conducted twice a year. The summer program begins with a Zero Phase from February to June. Phase I is a two-week period at Camp Fretterd, Md., Phase II is four weeks at Fort Indiantown Gap, Pa., and Phase III is two weeks at Fort McClellan, Ala. This program is ideal for those qualified soldiers who already have their college degree.

Regardless which program is chosen, OCS challenges officer candidates both physically and mentally. The number one stumbling block most candidates must hurdle is land navigation.

Recently the RTI conducted a five-day training event at Ft. McClellan that provided candidates the opportunity to train on the terrain they will possibly be tested on during Phase I. Candidates were able to participate in both day and night courses.

Those interested in accepting the challenge should contact Sgt. 1st Class Andy Duch at (614) 336-6442 or andy.duch@oh.ngb.army.mil. SFC ANDY DUCH / 145TH REGIMENT, RTI



Courtesy photo

Ohio Army National Guard Accelerated Officer Candidate School enrollees participate in a land navigation exercise at Fort McClellan, Ala.

OHARNG, UA begin distance learning partnership

The Ohio Army National Guard opened doors to the state's first university partnered distance-learning classroom May 12 at the University of Akron.

The cooperative is the first of its kind in the country, where the National Guard has partnered with a university in linking federal government networks with university networks.

The University of Akron classroom, on the second floor of Polsky Hall, is considered the first link in the Ohio National Guard's Distributive Learning Program.

The objective of the program is to train soldiers, to partner with institutions of higher learning, and to enhance readiness.

The OHARNG plans to place five more classrooms in institutions of higher learning throughout Ohio. The goal is for every soldier to be within 50 miles of a high-tech training classroom.

Nearly \$250,000 was invested for the installation of computers, monitors, video- and audio-teleconferencing equipment and other related equipment for the classroom. The OHARNG will pay the university \$25,000 a year to maintain it.

"It's viable and will be cost effective by us not having to send soldiers away to far places for train-

ing," said Lt. Col. Michael Bish, OHARNG deputy chief of staff for information management. "Within the next five years we'll see a significant amount of training through this program. The distributive learning program is the wave of the future. We're glad Ohio is leading the way." SPC CHAD MENEGAY / 196TH MOBILE PUBLIC AFFAIRS DETACHMENT

Army Reserve supports Camp Perry matches

For six weeks this summer, shooters and spectators from around the globe swarmed across Camp Perry for the National Rifle and Pistol Matches.

Camp Perry marked its 100th year as an American sporting classic this year, with the 88th National Matches Training Support Group finishing its sixth year as the primary Army support and logistics group. The 88th NMTSG is a composite of Army Reservists that come from different regional commands and are assembled only as part of the National Matches, which take place annually in July and August. This year more than 250 soldiers helped with administration, transportation, medical, supply, signal and public affairs.

In addition to the 88th NMTSG, the Ohio National Guard, the National Rifle Association (NRA), the Civilian Marksmanship Program (CMP), Camp Perry training site employees and hundreds of civilian volunteers all came together to make it happen. SSG WALTER C. CLARK / 88TH REGIONAL READINESS COMMAND

Thanks for your support



Steve Toth / AGOH-Public Affairs

Lt. Gov. Jennette Bradley (second from left) accepts an award in honor of all State of Ohio employees for their support of deployed Ohio Army and Air National Guard troops for Operations Iraqi Freedom, Enduring Freedom and Noble Eagle. A program Sept. 29 at Beightler Armory in Columbus recognized several organizations and businesses. Also pictured are MajGen John H. Smith (from left), state adjutant general; MajGen Paul J. Sullivan, then-assistant adjutant general for Air; and BG Ronald G. Young, assistant adjutant general for Army.



Courtesy photo

MAJ Kirk Zecchini stands in his base camp while deployed to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Engineer does his part to fight War on Terrorism

Feeling helpless while he watched the Twin Towers fall on Sept. 11, 2001 did not set well with Maj. Kirk Zecchini of the 16th Engineer Brigade.

"I really wanted to get out and do something in uniform to assist in the Global War on Terrorism. Not a day went by without thinking about some way of getting into the fight," Zecchini said.

His determination and persistence were rewarded. From January through October 2003, Zecchini served as the Combined Joint Special Operations Force engineer in Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Zecchini, who usually spends his weekdays in the Pittsburgh offices of mechanical engineering firm SMS Sutton, spent his days planning and implementing "quality of life initiatives" such as converting tents into "hardened" structures and constructing a 900-foot long concrete sidewalk at Camp Vance (a compound within Bagram Air Field) and various fire bases throughout Afghanistan. For Zecchini, that often meant getting on the first supply helicopter to whichever outlying fire base needed

engineering assistance to determine how to resolve engineering issues.

"It's like the Wild West out there along the eastern border with Pakistan. Some of the fire bases endure rocket attacks almost daily," Zecchini said. "The fire bases are very rough places in very remote locations, in most cases making re-supply possible only by rotary air. **SPC MICHELLE MORGAN / JOINT FORCES HQ-OHIO**

Meyer looks back on command of joint unit

As Ohio Air National Guard Brig. Gen. Robert P. "Lance" Meyer ended his tenure as commander of U.S. Transportation Command's Joint Transportation Reserve Unit in a ceremony on Oct. 4, he looked back on an assignment marked by several "firsts."

One such first was simply being chosen for the position.

"Prior to my being selected as commander of the JTRU," Meyer explained, "all previous commanders had been Navy Reserve admirals."

When USTRANSCOM, which provides air, land, and sea transportation for the Department of Defense, both in time of peace and time of war, was activated in 1987, the primary reserve support came from the Naval Reserve.

"It was decided when the job (of JTRU commander) was advertised three years ago," Meyer said, "that since we are truly a joint unit, all reserve components should



Meyer

have the opportunity to compete for the position, and this included the National Guard."

And, in winning that competition, he became not only the first non-Naval Reserve commander of the JTRU, he also became the first National Guardsman

in the JTRU.

And, while many of the JTRU's soldiers and airmen (as well as a few sailors and Coast Guardsmen), have previous service with the Army or Air National Guard, Meyer still holds the distinction of being the only active National Guardsman to have belonged to the JTRU.

"Being an Air National Guardsman in a unit of reservists has never presented problems," he said.

Instead, he focused on the overwhelming similarities in experience which all reserve component service members share. "We are all 'reservists'" he said, "coping with the same problems of balancing our military service, our civilian jobs and our family lives."

Meyer, with more than 38 years in the Ohio Air National Guard, has recently been selected for promotion to major general, and has been assigned to Headquarters, Ohio Air National Guard. **MAJ G.P. MIRABELLA / USTRANSCOM**

Governor names Green new assistant adjutant general

Gov. Bob Taft announced Nov. 7 the appointment of Col. Richard M. Green, commander of the 179th Airlift Wing, Mansfield, as the new assistant adjutant general for Air.

Green now serves as the commander of the Ohio Air National Guard, a force of more than 5,000 airmen.



Green

"Col. Green has demonstrated tremendous commitment to Ohio and our nation through his exemplary and extensive service in the armed forces," Taft said. "His military experience and recent work on the Ohio Aerospace and Defense Advisory

Council made him the obvious choice to command Ohio's Air National Guard during these challenging times."

Green replaces Maj. Gen. Paul L. Sullivan, who was recently confirmed as vice chief, National Guard Bureau, in Washington, D.C.

Green is a command pilot with more than 7,000 flying hours, and a graduate of the Air Command and Staff College and the Army War College. He received a bachelor's degree in mathematics from Davis & Elkins College, and a master's degree in management from Webster College.

The colonel has nearly 33 years of service in the Air Force and Air National Guard, serving in a number of senior leadership roles. While serving as commander of the 179th Airlift Wing, Green guided the unit's involvement in Operations Iraqi Freedom, Enduring Freedom and Noble Eagle, as well as humanitarian missions in the Balkans,

Southwest Asia and Central America. In addition to his Air National Guard responsibilities, he was recently selected to serve on Taft's Ohio Aerospace and Defense Advisory Council.

"Col. Green has a complete understanding of the challenges facing the Air National Guard in the years ahead," said Maj. Gen. John H. Smith, state Adjutant General. "His management skills and enthusiasm will be great assets to our leadership team and I am very pleased with his selection."

AGOH-PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Ohio marathoners place fourth nationally in '03

Each May the National Guard Bureau Marathon Trials are held in Lincoln, Neb. All 54 states and U.S. territories send their best marathoners to compete in a team format and vie for individual honors by earning a spot on the All-Guard Team.

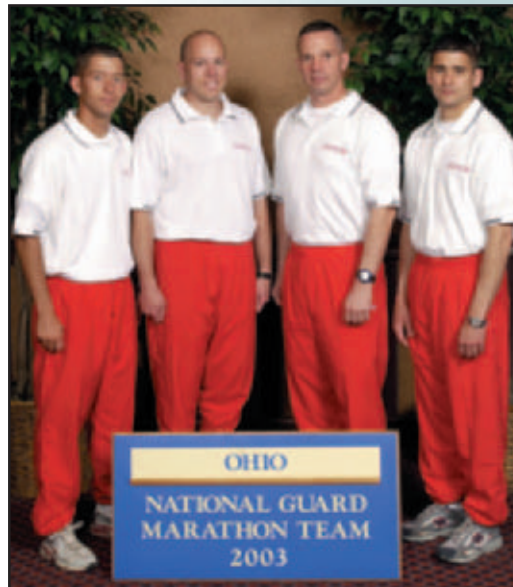
Based on qualifying times submitted, the 2003 Ohio Marathon Team consisted of 2nd Lt. Louis Longhenry of B Battery, 1-134th Field Artillery Battalion; Sgt. Brian Lusk of B Battery, 1-134th Field Artillery Battalion; Sgt. Jonathon Link of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 416th Engineer Group; and Command Sgt. Maj. William Belding of Headquarters and

Headquarters Troop, 2-107th Cavalry Squadron.

Lusk, an accomplished runner at Mount Union College, turned in an outstanding time of 2 hours, 48 minutes over the 26.2-mile rain soaked course, leading Ohio to its best-ever finish as the fourth-fastest team in the country. Lusk excelled with the fifth-fastest time of all National Guard runners, earning him one of the top spots on the All-Guard Team in only his second marathon.

Longhenry also qualified for the All-Guard Team with a 3:07 finish.

To qualify, each runner must complete an official marathon and submit their time through the application process. For more information, contact Maj. John Zulfer at (614) 336-6570 or john.zulfer@oh.ngb.army.mil. CSM WILLIAM BELDING / HHT, 2-107TH CAVALRY SQUADRON.



Courtesy photo

Members of the Ohio team who placed fourth at the the National Guard Bureau Marathon Trials in May 2003 are SGT Jonathan Link (from left), 2LT Louis Longhenry, CSM William Belding and SGT Brian Lusk.

Wayt takes over reins of Guard's Troop Command

Soldiers from the 73rd Troop Command held a change of command ceremony Oct. 4 to honor outgoing commander Brig. Gen. Thomas Luczynski, and welcome their new chief, Col. Gregory L. Wayt.

Luczynski retired in October after serving more than 35 years. He joined the Guard in 1974, following six years on active duty.

He said that his "whole career has been a reward," and he will miss the people most.

"I base success on when you look back and you say 'I wouldn't do anything differently,' and I wouldn't do anything differently," he said. "I wouldn't ever trade it for anything."

Brig. Gen. Ronald Young, assistant adjutant general for Army, presided over the ceremony held at Rickenbacker Army Enclave in Columbus. Young hand-picked Luczynski for the post.

"I told him I

needed him to come to Troop Command," Young said. "Tom's done a great job. I was greatly impressed with his expertise."

Young then passed the torch to Wayt. "He is truly an outstanding leader," Young said. "He's one of the best men I've ever worked with, one of the best I've ever been associated with."

In addition to his new duties, Wayt will retain his position as the Ohio Army National Guard's full-time chief of staff.

"I'm happy to be back on the team here," Wayt said. "We have an outstanding bunch of leaders and great soldiers and I'm honored to be part of it."

Wayt cited family readiness, preparing for mobilizations and aiding the transformation of Troop Command as the greatest challenges facing him in his new position. The 73rd is in the process of adding three new battalions with about 800 new positions.

Leadership from Troop Command's subordinate units said they were looking forward to working with Wayt.

"Col. Wayt has a keen sense of what the units need to have and what to prepare for in order to get ready to deploy," said Command Sgt. Maj. Robert Jennings of the 237th Personnel Services Battalion, Columbus. "His knowledge and experience is going to mean a lot for this command." SPC KIMBERLY SNOW / 196TH MOBILE PUBLIC AFFAIRS DETACHMENT

Like father, like son



Todd Cramer / AGOH-Photo Lab

BG Robin C. Timmons, 16th Engineer Brigade commander, administers the commissioning oath to his son, 2LT Trent Timmons, in a September ceremony. Trent makes the third generation of Timmons in the Ohio Army National Guard. Trent's grandfather, deceased LTC Robert Timmons, who at one time was Ohio's military support officer, was the first to join the ranks.



Courtesy photo

CSM Albert Whatmough (left) of the 1-107th Armor Battalion talks with a British Army tanker during a U.S.-U.K. exchange program exercise.

Soldiers exchange ideas, techniques in program

Training in England as part of the U.S.-U.K. Noncommissioned Officer Exchange Program in September 2002 was an exhilarating experience for Sgt. 1st Class Randy Norton of the 1-107th Armor Battalion.

He couldn't wait to continue training with four of the sergeants from the British Territorial Army (TA) Dorset Yeomanry Replacement Squadron who had traveled to Camp Ripley, Minn. earlier in the year to attend annual training with the Ohio battalion.

He didn't truly realize the importance of the exchange program until the Global War on Terrorism began.

"At the time, I had no idea that I would be training with our greatest allies. Now (because of the dual exchange) we know what to expect, their strengths and some of their weaknesses," Norton said.

Norton and 1-107th Command Sgt. Maj. Albert Whatmough trained with the TA at Dalton Barracks, an abandoned airfield. This provided the Ohioans an opportunity to train in open fields instead of wooded areas like Camp Ripley—an environment much more like the Iraqi desert, where a tank commander can see for miles in many areas.

"We were able to ride in the Challenger II, Britain's main tank," Norton said. "Though it starts differently, has different gauges, it is similar enough that we could figure out how to drive it if we had to."

The American troops quickly learned that although the acronyms were not the same and the equipment looked different, some of the training was very familiar. The TA perform chemical warfare training (though their suits are lighter and folded into small neat squares), night maneuvers and qualify on weapons, much like the U.S. Army. However, their British counterparts had something to teach them.

It was during the TA version of Common Task Training that Norton discovered the first training

practice that he would like to see incorporated into his unit's training.

"Each soldier pulled a topic out of a hat and had so much time to prepare a class. They had so much time to prepare, then had to give a class on that subject. It was great for self-development and a good way for everyone to become more proficient at all of the tasks," Norton said. "They also had to tell about themselves. For soldiers who don't train together everyday, I thought it was a great way to build team cohesion." **SPC MICHELLE MORGAN / JOINT FORCES HQ-OHIO**

Army Guard officer now serving in Ohio Senate

When Maj. Steve Stivers was sworn into office as an Ohio state senator on Jan. 9, 2003, he became the only Ohio National Guardmember currently serving in the Ohio Legislature.

Stivers was appointed to fill the two-year unexpired term of state Sen. Priscilla Meade

of the 16th District in Columbus. Though there were many applicants for the position, Stivers said he had two qualifications that he feels may have strongly influenced the senate leaders during his interview.

"There are very few in the legislature with any military experience. I brought to the table all of the military leadership training and experience and five years of sen-

ate staff experience," said Stivers, currently a member of the Ohio Army Guard's 237th Forward Support Battalion.

Stivers has used these qualifications, combined with 17 years experience in the business world, to begin work creating new legislation for the key elements on his agenda—to make Ohio more competitive for business and to make Ohio a better place for families.

"Ohio's personal tax rate is one of the highest in the country. This is disincentive for highly trained people to move here," Stivers said. In the near future he plans to introduce legislation to defer property taxes for reserve soldiers and airmen while deployed, and another that will allow deployed soldiers and airmen who hold a public office to call in during meetings. **SPC MICHELLE MORGAN / JOINT FORCES HQ-OHIO**

Mansfield moves from newsroom to desert

Until the end of January 2003, Capt. Eric Mansfield was a traditional soldier—a news anchor for television station WKYC in Cleveland throughout the week, and commander of the 1485th Transportation Company, Dover, one weekend a month and two weeks each summer.

Now he is the highway-rail officer in Kuwait, the night officer-in-charge of the transportation section of the 371st Corps Support Group.

"The desert is a harsh, unforgiving environment," Mansfield said. "You don't make mistakes. We all smell, are miserable and dirty and I will never look at freedom the same again. Now I've sacrificed for it, sacrificed for my children's future."

His section manages and tracks the movements of up to 14 transportation companies—around 600 vehicles—as they move equipment, supplies and troops around the battlefield. Satellite tracking equipment allows the section to watch convoy movement and communicate via e-mail with the drivers. This system allows for immediate communication.

Mansfield used to be woken in the middle of the night to cover a story; now he stays awake all night to ensure the soldiers he is responsible for don't become the story.

"When we receive reports of ambushes or suspected dangers on the roadways, we have the responsibility to ensure our drivers are informed immediately. In extreme cases, we've had to call in support right to the danger zone...medevac, military police and support trucks," Mansfield said.

Though every aspect of managing assets throughout the battlefield does not require immediate action, many are just as critical and



Stivers

require intense, in-depth planning. One of the major operations Mansfield was involved in was the redeployment of the 3rd Infantry Division personnel. The successful move of all personnel and equipment out of Iraq required support from hundreds of vehicles from different locations.

Another major mission was the push to get millions of gallons of water to troops after Baghdad was captured. The missions of dozens of trucks changed quickly. A major crisis was avoided when the water arrived—the troops were down to a mere two days supply.

“I drink six to eight liters of water a day. The heat is tremendous and when a sandstorm hits, it’s like standing in front of a giant hair dryer,” Mansfield said.

There are many other things that Mansfield said he would never take for granted again; time with his spouse and playing with his three sons topped the list.

Until recently, Mansfield lived in the television spotlight. Now, he said, “the reality is if I do my job right, no one will notice because those expecting their supplies and equipment see it arrive on time—even in the most harsh environments.” **SPC MICHELLE MORGAN / JOINT FORCES HQ-OHIO**

Town honors its resident Guard unit

Recognizing its hometown soldiers’ commitment to preserving freedom and liberty for their country, the city of Hamilton last year honored its resident unit, proclaiming last Feb. 8 as “Bravo Company, 1-147th Armor Day.”

Local officials were on hand for the ceremony, which coincided with the unit’s annual Common Task Testing, enabling officials to witness 69 unit members complete training on basic soldiering skills such as assessing a casualty or donning a protective mask. **HAMILTON JOURNAL NEWS**



Greg Lynch / Hamilton Journal News

Bravo Company, 1-147th Armor Battalion 1SG Steve Jessie (left) shows an M-16A2 rifle to Hamilton City Councilman Dick Holzberger (right) and Charles Gray, past AMVETS Post 2 commander, after a ceremony honoring the unit.

50th OCS class graduation marks historic milestone

The most recent additions to a roll of 2,147 names that makes up the list of graduates of the Ohio Army National Guard’s Officer Candidate School pinned on their gold bars Aug. 24 during a ceremony at the Defense Supply Center-Columbus.

The 28 candidates seated in the front rows of DSCC’s auditorium completed rigorous training to become the newest officers in the Ohio National Guard. It marked the 50th class that Ohio’s program has produced.

The ceremony was marked by individual award recipients who stood above their peers. Dion Grener was the recipient of the Erickson Trophy. This award is presented to the OCS Distinguished Graduate, the individual with the highest overall average in academics, leadership and peer evaluations; Thomas Butler received the Adjutant General’s Academic Award for achieving the highest

academic average in the class; the Physical Fitness Award was given to Paul Doman in recognition of his excellent physical fitness and highest overall score on the Army Physical Fitness Test; Daniel Shapiro received the Most Improved Award for his display of most consistent improvement and adaptability throughout the course of the OCS program; and the National Guard Association of the United States Outstanding Graduate Award was given to Doman and Lee Walter. They were ranked in the top 10 percent of their class based on academics, leadership standing and peer evaluations. **SGT BOB BARKO JR. / 196TH MOBILE PUBLIC AFFAIRS DETACHMENT**

180th airman earns OSHP ‘Trooper of Year’ honors

Tech. Sgt. Mathew R. Crow, a member of Toledo’s 180th Fighter Wing Logistics Group, was honored by his full-time employer, the Ohio State Highway Patrol, as the “Trooper of the Year” for 2002.

His past post commander, Lt. Brenda Collins, said Crow truly set the standard for a trooper. “(He) exemplifies the essence of a professional. He strives to uphold the core values of the (Highway Patrol) in every situation he encounters,” Collins said. “Matt can be counted on to do the right thing, make the right decisions and always lend a helping hand for his fellow person.” **180TH FIGHTER WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS**

Purple Heart-ed hero



SPC Haraz N. Ghanbari / Joint Forces HQ-Ohio

Ohio Army Guard SGT Gary Boggs receives the Purple Heart award from MajGen John H. Smith (left), state adjutant general, during the senior commanders call in October. Another Ohio Guardmember, SGT David Fahrian, also received the Purple Heart during the ceremony. Both soldiers were wounded while serving in Iraq.



SSgt Lisa A. Haun / 179th Airlift Wing

Leaders of the 179th Airlift Wing, Mansfield, mark the opening of the new Base Exchange (BX) in October.

Base Exchange opens at Mansfield-Lahm Airport

Staff Sgt. Ryan Jarvis, a security forces specialist, works overtime and on weekends, takes lunch during irregular hours and often travels long distances to purchase military uniform items.

The success of the 179th depends on erratic schedules like his, however, the stress of juggling a difficult schedule is now a little easier with the opening of the new 179th Airlift Wing Base Exchange (BX), located at the Mansfield-Lahm Airport.

The BX, which falls under the Army and Air Force Exchange (AAFES) umbrella joined 250 BXs worldwide when it officially opened its doors during the unit's October drill.

The BX offers a variety of items ranging from military uniform accessories to television sets to whey protein drinks and snacks. Members of the 179th were thrilled at the convenience the new facility offers.

"We needed ribbon bars. It was nice not having to go all the way to Wright-Patterson (Air Force Base) to get them," Jarvis said.

Army troops are equally as impressed. "I love it. Laura Leach, the manager, special ordered some Army items for us," said Spc. James Lee, an Army military police member.

Guardmembers aren't the only people reaping the benefits of the new facility.

Retired Chief Master Sgt. Robert Guerin likes the idea of being able to

utilize a BX in Mansfield. "It's a great place to shop, save money and see old friends," he said.

The Mansfield BX is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday, and on 179th drill weekends. **ILT SHANNON SCHERER / 179TH AIRLIFT WING**

Commissary visits now unlimited

With the signing of the Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2004, effective immediately, the following members and

their dependents are permitted unlimited access to commissary stores:

- ◆ Members of the Ready Reserve (which includes members of the Selected Reserve, Individual Ready Reserve and Inactive National Guard) and members of the Retired Reserve who possess a Uniformed Services Identification Card.

- ◆ Former members eligible for retired pay at age 60 but who have not yet attained the age of 60 and who possess a Department of Defense Civilian Identification Card.

- ◆ Dependents of the members described above who have a Uniformed Services Identification Card or who have a distinct identification card used as an authorization card for benefits and privileges administered by the Uniformed Services.

Guard and Reserve members were authorized only 24 commissary shopping days per calendar year until now, when the president signed the National Defense Authorization Act, which contained provisions eliminating the restrictions. Commissaries have immediately adopted the new provisions, which means Guard and Reserve members will no longer have to present a Commissary Privilege Card when they shop.

For more information about the Defense Commissary Agency, see its website at www.commissaries.com. **AMERICAN FORCES PRESS SERVICE**

Program offers 2004 academic scholarships for military children

The application period for the children of active-duty, retired, Guard and Reserve members to apply for \$1,500 academic scholarships kicked off Nov. 4. The application window for the 2004 Scholarships for Military Children program extends through Feb. 18.

In four years, the Defense Commissary

Agency program has awarded nearly \$2.5 million in scholarships to about 1,500 children of U.S. servicemembers and retirees. The goal is to award at least one scholarship at every commissary location. Last year, 550 scholarship recipients were selected from 6,500 applicants.

For more information about the scholarship program and application procedures, visit the program's website at www.militaryscholar.org; or contact Chief Warrant Officer 3 Ken Teter at ken.teter@oh.ngb.army.mil or call toll free (888) 400-6484, extension 7023. **AIR FORCE PRINT NEWS**

January begins new pay raise for military personnel

Servicemembers will see their basic pay more in line with that of civilian counterparts in the private sector in 2004 thanks to an increased pay and benefits compensation package included in the 2004 Defense Authorization Act.

Defense Department officials said the 2004 military pay and benefits plan provides for a 3.7 percent across the board pay increase and further targets pay increases for noncommissioned officers and warrant officers, some as high as 6.25 percent for senior enlisted.

Another area of increase pay is special and incentive pay, such as imminent danger pay and family separation pay for deployed servicemembers. Imminent danger pay increases from \$150 to \$225 per month; and family separation pay and support allowance increases from \$100 to \$250 per month.

In addition, beginning in 2004, the new compensation package will begin phasing in percentage increases each year of amount offset under current law for military retirees with a Veterans Affairs disability of 50 percent or more and eligible to receive both military retirement and Veterans Affairs disability pay. **AMERICAN FORCE PRESS SERVICE**

ONGSP APPLICATION DEADLINES

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

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

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

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

Generosity of Ohioans culminates in 'Operation Care Package,' 'Commissary Week'

What began as a show of support for deployed Ohio National Guardmembers serving far from home turned into a display of compassion beyond anyone's imagination.

Last March and April, donations of all kinds poured into the Ohio National Guard headquarters at Beightler Armory in Columbus, in support of what was unofficially called "Operation Care Package."

The large volume of items included everything from disposable cameras, books, stationery, notebooks and pens, to soap, shampoo, toothpaste, toilet paper, candy, snacks, canned goods, bottled water, juice and even Girl Scout cookies. Donations were the collective efforts of supportive citizens, community organizations, schools and businesses that made donations either through their own initiatives or in response to Gov. Bob Taft's "Ribbons for Freedom" campaign, part of which called for Ohioans to show their support for the military by donating items that could be sent overseas to improve servicemembers' quality of life while deployed.

The amount of donations that ensued nearly overwhelmed the Guard personnel managing the collections. After only two weeks, the armory's main drill floor was inundated with more than 30 pallets stacked high with donated items.

"We have more donations than we ever dreamed we would receive," said Chief Warrant Officer 2 Carmen Davis, the Ohio Guard's state family readiness program coordinator. "We got flooded by the community. It's heartfelt; it's a great thing."

On one April weekend, a group of guardmembers and community volunteers gathered to break down and sort boxes of

items, and assemble them into gallon-sized Ziploc bags for individual care packages to be sent overseas.

Jennifer Drew, Westerville Girl Scout Troop 1691 co-leader, said her troop was there in response to President Bush's plea for children to make a difference. "The girls each donated a dollar, made cards and sold cookies for the soldiers."

"They're (deployed soldiers) protecting our country. They're out in the hot sun and not eating any treats. This is something we can do for them," said troop member Sophia Johnson, as she filled yet another Ziploc bag.

After about four hours of work, 4,000 care packages had been assembled and sealed in boxes ready to ship to Ohio Guard troops stationed at various locations.

But with the care package goal met and still a great amount of donated items leftover, Ohio Guard leaders decided that it would be a good opportunity to support the families of all Ohio servicemembers mobilized. So was born "Commissary Week."

Spouses from all service branches and components—active-duty, Guard and Reserve—were invited to come to the armory in late April and fill one grocery cart per family for free, provided they produced proper dependent identification and a copy of the deployed servicemember's orders.

"The family readiness office at Beightler Armory will service all military branches during this war," Davis said. "The best thing that we can do (with the excess) is push it back to the military families who are affected by the deployments."

A rudimentary supermarket took shape on the drill floor, as pallets were organized into aisles of similar items, and volunteers waited to bag items and take them out to family members' vehicles.

"I am totally in awe by people's generosity. It feels so good to know that people care



Steve Toth / AGOH-Public Affairs

Kate Kirkpatrick fills a grocery cart with much-needed supplies during 'Commissary Week' at Beightler Armory last April.

about the troops, and their families at home," said Columbus resident Kate Kirkpatrick, as she filled her cart with baby wipes for her infant child. Her husband, Marine Corps Reserve Sgt. David Kirkpatrick of the 4th Force Service Support Group, deployed to Kuwait with his unit to support Operation Iraqi Freedom.

About 100 families had filled carts in the first two hours of the giveaway, then supplies and customers dwindled as the week went on.

"I expect we will be receiving donations until the war is over, but we are readjusting...paring down the list of acceptable items (for donation)," Davis said.

Currently, donations were still being accepted at all seven Ohio Guard Family Assistance Centers, located within armories throughout the state. However, the focus of support was shifted to requests for items that will support guardmembers' families at home—including phone cards, gasoline cards, grocery store and movie theater gift certificates, postcards and postage stamps. ■

EDITOR'S NOTE: *Spc. Michelle Morgan, JFHQ-Ohio, and Steve Toth, AGOH-Public Affairs, contributed to this article.*



Steve Toth / AGOH-Public Affairs

Chaplain (1LT) Jim Sizemore helps load groceries.



TSgt Todd Cramer / 179th Airlift Wing

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