

121st Medical Group provides services on Indian reservation

PAGES 14-15



SMSgt Kim Frey / 121st Air Refueling Wing Multimedia Center

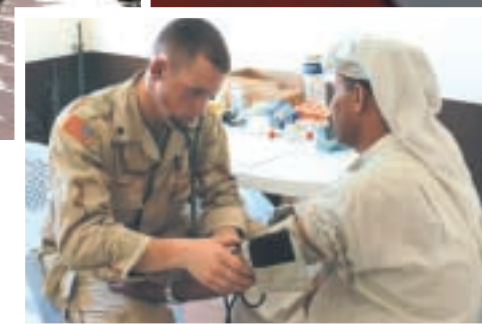
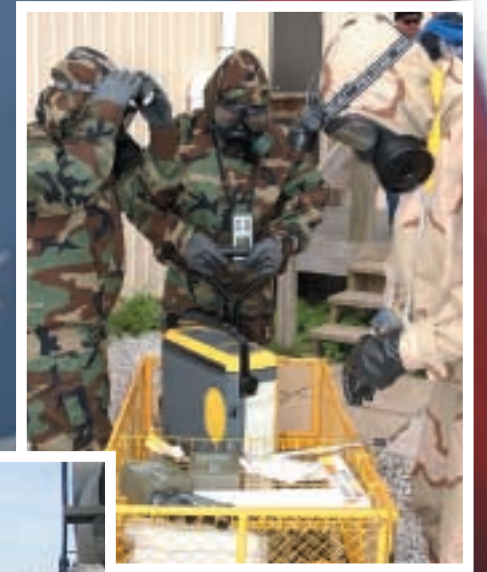
BUCKEYE GUARD

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SPRING/SUMMER 2005



ON
POINT
AROUND
THE GLOBE



BUCKEYE GUARD

Volume 28, No. 2

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A member of the 52nd Weapons of Mass Destruction-Civil Support Team participates in a recent training exercise. For more on the Ohio National Guard's training and involvement in the homeland security mission, see pages 18-19.



SSG Ronald A. Mitchell Jr. / JFHQ-Ohio

DEPARTMENTS

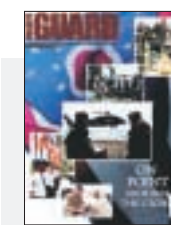
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Courtesy photo

Nearly 1,000 Ohio Army National Guardmembers returned home earlier this year after supporting peacekeeping operations in Kosovo. During the deployment, MG Gregory Wayt (center), state adjutant general, led a delegation of Ohio National Guard and civic leaders, as well as several Soldiers' employers, to visit the troops during the holidays. See pages 8-10.

ABOUT THE COVERS



FRONT: The Ohio National Guard is a relevant force in operations both stateside and throughout the world. **Cover design by SSG Ronald A. Mitchell Jr. / JFHQ-Ohio and Steve Toth / AGOH-Public Affairs**

BACK: SrA Michelle Powell and Capt Rich Pulice of the 121st Medical Group cast a girl's arm during a two-week deployment to a South Dakotan Indian reservation. **Photo by SMSgt Kim Frey / 121st ARW Multimedia Center**

Be both LEADER and HEALER in the Ohio Army National Guard

Through the Interservice Physician Assistance Program (IPAP), a two-year active-duty training course, Soldiers can earn a master's degree from the University of Nebraska and test for national certification through the National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants. You will receive a commission as a second lieutenant in the Medical Specialist Corps, and be recognized as both a military officer and medical professional. Like 1st Lt. Chris Vannucci (pictured above, bottom left, treating Iraqi children) of the Ohio Army National Guard's 216th Engineer Battalion, you will care for fellow Soldiers and citizens in both field and clinical environments.

CRITERIA

- ▷ Minimum of 60 transferable credit hours from an accredited college or university (specific courses required)
- ▷ Meet all eligibility criteria for appointment as a commissioned officer in the U.S. Army
- ▷ Not be older than age 48 at time of commission; approved age waiver needed for applicants older than 33
- ▷ Possess General Technical (GT) score of at least 110
- ▷ Must have at least one year of prior service with the Army National Guard

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Five priorities must guide each leader, Soldier, Airman



BY MG GREGORY L. WAYT
THE ADJUTANT GENERAL

As adjutant general, it is an honor to serve the Ohio National Guard's Soldiers and Airmen—our ambassadors—more than half of whom have been mobilized since Sept. 11, 2001. I have seen them leave friends and family for places like Iraq and Qatar, return from Kosovo, Kyrgyzstan and Kuwait, and I have walked with them in Iraq, Kuwait, Kosovo, throughout Europe and here at home. We have truly answered our mantra of “when called, we respond with ready units.”

We have accomplished so much, yet we have so much more to achieve. And while success will require every member of the organization to be engaged, there will be special demands on the leadership. Every leader must maintain focus. I often reflect on what it takes to be a leader. Leaders must be out in front, expect positive results, know their “stuff,” declare their expectations, maintain absolute integrity, show an uncommon commitment and put duty before self. Most important is that leaders take care of Soldiers and Airmen.

I have five priorities that will guide each leader, Soldier and Airman through these challenging times: Readiness, Strength Maintenance, Infrastructure, Diversity and Transformation/Emerging Missions.

✓ **READINESS.** Our ability to accomplish the federal and state missions is how we measure success. Our federal mission is to provide combat-ready units to fight and win the nation's wars. Our state mission is to protect the life and property and preserve the peace, order and public safety of the citizens of Ohio. No other service, active or reserve component, has such a wide spectrum of missions, and we have a responsibility to ensure that our units are prepared. Unit readiness begins with individual Soldier and Airman readiness, which encompasses individual skill qualification (military job training, weapons proficiency, physical fitness), appropriate completion of professional military education, medical readiness and family readiness. All of this must be monitored and certified continuously, because the National Guard must be ready at a moment's notice—going back to our Minuteman heritage.

To date, we have met that priority. We have gone all over the world and served here at home, and the readiness of our units has never been questioned. The Joint Force Headquarters-Ohio just successfully completed the first-ever National Guard Bureau (NGB) five-day homeland defense tabletop exercise. Ohio's citizens expect our units to be ready and we must never break that trust with them. To maintain this high level of readiness requires every leader to monitor the readiness levels of his or her organization. This is a team effort.

✓ **STRENGTH MAINTENANCE.** This encompasses recruiting, retention, attrition and training pipeline losses. It is the key to readiness, and the Ohio National Guard remains a strength

leader among the 54 states and territories. We do not face a recruiting challenge today, we have only opportunities. The Ohio Army National Guard has exceeded its recruiting goals in recent months, and many more young men and women want to serve. The Ohio Air National Guard exceeds 100 percent assigned strength. We have the best incentives of any service and provide the greatest opportunities, including the opportunity to serve your state and nation. Yet I am still amazed as I speak with young men and women that they do not know about our great organization, the scholarship program and benefits.

There are still many vacancies in the Air and Army National Guard. To maintain unit readiness, our formations must exceed 100 percent strength; every vacancy must be filled. To accomplish that, every Soldier and Airman must be a recruiter. I challenge you to reach out to young men and women in your communities and encourage them to join our ranks. Imagine the power of a recruiting a force of 15,000.

Our Ohio National Guard has never before had such a professional force as it does today. Retaining our junior enlisted Soldiers and Airmen and noncommissioned officers—the backbone of the force—will solidify our future. Every leader must be engaged to retain this quality force. We have a tremendous number of Soldiers and Airmen who have been mobilized and served at home and abroad, gaining valuable experience. Capitalizing on their experience will benefit our enlisted Soldiers and Airmen as they come through the ranks. During annual training at Camp Grayling, Mich., Soldiers from the 1485th and 1487th Transportation Companies not only shared their experiences in Iraq, but provided training on convoy operations.

We need to make the maximum effort to retain these guardmembers and their families. By retaining the family you will retain the Soldier or Airman. The family readiness groups have been tremendous assets during the deployments, and I charge each commander to maintain a strong family readiness group. Ensure each new family is integrated into your unit at the same time as the Soldier. Ask your family readiness leader to meet and brief the family at the first drill. Commanders and first sergeants should meet the families because family members want to know who will be taking care of their spouses, sons or daughters.

Our members and families must have “peace of mind” when they are deployed. A robust Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve program with communication between employer and servicemember is essential. I have been working closely with the ESGR State Chairman to ensure employers understand the benefits of hiring a National Guardmember. Recognize employers for their support; present them a “Patriot Award” that is easily requested through the ESGR website, www.esgr.org.

✓ **INFRASTRUCTURE.** On Aug. 6, we opened our first state-of-the-art community readiness center in Bowling Green, the new home for Bravo Company, 1st Battalion, 148th Infantry Regiment. The Bowling Green readiness center is but another step in recapitalizing our infrastructure to enable our Soldiers and Airmen to operate in the 21st century. The average age of an Army National Guard readiness center is 49 years, and older facilities have greater

—continued on page 5

Ohio Soldiers make good impression overseas

I am an American citizen living in Ireland. Since Operation Iraqi Freedom began I have met U.S. military personnel passing through Shannon (Ireland) International Airport on their way to Iraq on a number of occasions.

On Feb. 3, I was there again and, upon meeting some troops in the “duty free” area, presumed they were on their way out too, until one of them told me with a broad grin, “no ma'am, we're on our way home.”

I believe they were with a medical unit of the Ohio National Guard. I spoke briefly with a few of them and was highly impressed with their courtesy, intelligence and overall conduct. They represented our country very well and I was proud to identify with them as an American.

Living as a U.S. citizen in Europe has not exactly been comfortable since the war began, and it can be easy to forget the humanness of the troops that are being sent overseas when the whole endeavor gets such overwhelmingly bad press here. Meeting these young Americans who had served in Iraq was inspiring and heartening. Even a look at the ethnic mix (of the Soldiers) speaks volumes about some of the things that are great about America.

I pray that their efforts and those of their fallen comrades will ultimately be remembered and rewarded with the start of a new era of democracy in the Middle East.

It was a privilege to meet them and to share in their happiness for a few minutes, and I wish them all well as they settle in again at home.

CAROL STEPHENSON-CARTY

Buckeye Guard tells ‘other side of the military’

After (looking) through it, I must compliment you on a superb edition of the *Buckeye Guard* (Winter 2004/2005). One of the more serious problems with today's press is that it dwells entirely on the bad aspects of the assignments related to the War on Terrorism and peacekeeping efforts. It is refreshing to have the opportunity to be informed of the “other side of the military” that shows some of the many humane and useful projects with which our troops are involved. I feel that it is a shame that your publication is not more widely distributed to inform the general public of these typical activities.

SGM (RET.) CLAUDE M. MERCER

OHIO NATIONAL GUARD

Historical Highlights



RETIRED JUDGE (COL.) ROBERT D. WALKER / 37TH INFANTRY DIVISION

Ohio's 145th Infantry Regiment was the first military unit to use the medium of radio in a practice mobilization of troops. Col. Ludwig S. Conelly, regimental commander, issued the orders utilizing Cleveland station WJAX on March, 15, 1923. Despite having companies in 12 locations, the entire unit was assembled and ready for duty in about two hours.

‘Roll Call’ listing not all inclusive, readers say

I am writing in regard to the *Winter 2004/2005* edition of the *Buckeye Guard*. My husband, Sgt. Timothy Gilligan, is (a member of) A Company, 1-137th (Assault Helicopter) Aviation Battalion, which was deployed to Kosovo for KFOR (Kosovo Force) 6A. While many of my husband's unit returned home, he, along with 29 others from his unit, had their deployments extended to Camp Eagle in Bosnia (Stabilization Force-SFOR 15).

The magazine completely left out my husband's Company in the “Roll Call” listing on page 19, as well as other companies (HHC and Company B) in the unit that were deployed on this mission as part of Operation Enduring Freedom. The article on page 24, about Kosovo in depth, also neglects to mention or recognize all of the units that were there in 2004-2005.

I am only writing this because my husband's Company was left out of the Camp Bondsteel yearbook for the deployment as well. It is hurtful to the Soldiers deployed, and their families who support them, not to be recognized for their efforts and sacrifices. Please improve your reporting and documenting in future issues, to recognize all Ohio Guardmembers serving across the world.

CAROLE GILLIGAN

Could you please update your “Roll Call” article on page 19 (*Winter 2004/2005 Buckeye Guard*)? The 123rd Air Control Squadron had members (conduct) a rotation in Iraq too. They left from Blue Ash last September (2004, and returned in 2005).

MSGT ERIC G. MACKE
123RD AIR CONTROL SQUADRON

EDITOR'S NOTE: Ohio units supporting KFOR would not have been listed on that page as it was dedicated to units mobilized for Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom.

KFOR is a NATO-led international force responsible for establishing and maintaining security in Kosovo since June 1999, under U.N. Security Council Resolution 1244.

These rotations are separate from Enduring Freedom deployments (see related articles on pages 8-10 of this issue about the Ohio Guard's support to Kosovo Force 6A).

But regardless of the name of the operation or duty status, whether deployed stateside or overseas, the contributions of every Soldier and Airman are valuable and appreciated by many.

Contributions of 512th engineers not mentioned

I was somewhat disappointed to read the article on page 17 of the most recent *Buckeye Guard* (*Buckeye Soldiers lead bridge building—Winter 2004/2005 issue*).

The article discussed in great detail the worthy contribution of the 216th (Engineer Battalion), but failed to mention the 512th Engineer Battalion, also of the Ohio Army National Guard, the true leaders of bridge building in Iraq.

The article mentioned the Marines of the 6th Engineer Support Battalion, but failed to mention that they were under the command of the 512th. In fact, both bridge companies mentioned by Staff Sgt. (Martin) Kenny in the article were under the command of the 512th.

During Operation Iraqi Freedom II, the 512th Engineer Battalion and its subordinate units executed more than 20 bridge missions, including building the longest Mabey Johnson float bridge ever (constructed).

Incidentally, the 512th Engineer Battalion was the only pure joint battalion in Iraq. Under command of the 512th were not only Marine companies—both active and reserve—but also Air Force, Air National Guard, Army Reserve and Army National Guard units. Since the Marine bridge companies had embedded Navy corpsmen, the 512th can claim that it was composed of all four branches of service during its time there.

LTC MIKE ERNST
512TH ENGINEER BATTALION

Death, insurance benefits see increase during 2005

Compensation for the survivors of servicemembers who die in combat zones, and insurance coverage have both increased significantly this year.

An increase in death gratuity benefits from \$12,500 to \$100,000 occurred earlier this year, and Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance maximum coverage was raised to \$400,000 Sept. 1, Defense Department officials said.

The increase in death benefits is dated retroactively to Oct. 7, 2001, meaning survivors of servicemembers who have died in combat since then have or will receive the increase.

When the increase in SGLI coverage took effect Sept. 1, it also was dated retroactively to Oct. 7, 2001. Survivors of servicemembers who died in a combat zone, combat operations or combat-related situations will receive a \$150,000 benefit on top of the previous maximum of \$250,000.

The SGLI monthly premium remains \$3.25 per \$50,000 of coverage, so the monthly premium for full coverage is \$26 as of September. These changes will not affect coverage under Family SGLI, which will continue under previously existing elections.

A person who wishes to retain the \$400,000 of coverage with the same beneficiary designations as before does not need to take any action. Even people who had previously declined SGLI coverage or elected less than the maximum coverage, will automatically be covered for \$400,000. If they wish to again decline or reduce the coverage, they must complete a new SGLV 8286 form. **SGT SARA WOOD / AMERICAN FORCES PRESS SERVICE**

Jobs available for former, current guardmembers

Helmets to Hardhats is a nationwide federally funded program that helps guardmembers, reservists, transitioning military and veterans find quality careers in the private sector following their service. Servicemembers can use the valuable skills obtained through the military to benefit their civilian careers through this program.

Helmets to Hardhats has recently partnered with the National Guard to

provide this free civilian job search program, which helps put their training to use as they transition to jobs in the building and construction trades. Construction trades offer diverse positions that appeal to servicemembers who enjoy working with their hands and applying their minds as well as their strength on the job.

Servicemembers interested in a civilian career with high pay and great benefits can register with Helmets to Hardhats for free at www.helmets-to-hardhats.org/home.jsp **HELMETS TO HARDHATS COMMUNICATIONS**

Soldiers, Airmen getting newly designed uniforms

The Army and Air Force are joining other U.S. military forces in changing an aspect of their members' looks. They have decided to change the uniforms to fit today's combat missions.

Current plans call for fielding the new Army Combat Uniform to the total Army by December 2007, Army officials said. Some Soldiers have begun receiving the new ACUs, with priority going to those deploying in support of Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom, as well as Soldiers going through Initial Entry Training (IET).

Plans call for Army National Guardmembers not covered under IET or deployment fielding plans to be issued ACUs starting around October 2006. There were 18 changes made to the Army uniform, to include removing the color black and adapting the digital print from the Marine Corps uniform.

The Army has not made a major change to its uniforms since the BDUs were introduced in the early 1980s.

Special Operations Airmen conducted a limited wear test of the new Air Force uniform design. "The sole purpose of the test (was) to see if we (could) add any features to the uniform to make it a better



TSgt David Jablonski / U.S. Air Force

ABOVE: Air Force officials have finalized the latest version of the branch's proposed utility uniform, which was subjected to limited wear testing this summer. RIGHT: BG Matthew L. Kambic, Ohio assistant adjutant for Army, is shown wearing the new Army Combat Uniform.



Steve Toth / AGOH-Public Affairs

uniform in the field and to determine if the new colors (and) pattern provided the camouflage protection they need in the field," said Senior Master Sgt. Dana Athnos, Air Force uniform board superintendent.

Airmen can expect the new uniform to be fielded sometime after October 2006. The proposed uniform will be phased in over four or five years. **ARMY NEWS SERVICE AND AIR FORCE PRINT NEWS**

Another step in JFHQ evolution



SFC Nancy McMillan / 196th MPAD

ABOVE: BG Steven D. Saunders, director of National Guard Bureau Joint Doctrine, Training and Force Development (J7), speaks during Operation Vigilant Guard, a weeklong training exercise conducted in mid-August to validate the new Joint Force Headquarters-Ohio Standing Operating Procedures, and to test communication and information flow throughout the chain of command, and with other civilian and military entities. An article on the exercise will run in the next *Buckeye Guard*. More photos can be viewed at www.ohionationalguard.com/pao/gallery/vigilant.htm.

Command focus—continued from page 2

maintenance requirements. We currently have 63 readiness centers, but we have developed a long-range strategy that reduces the number to 52 by 2011. The Ohio Air National Guard benefits from the best bases in the entire Air National Guard. The Ohio Air National Guard has an extremely aggressive construction program that will continue to ensure quality facilities at each base.

We are seeking opportunities to develop community centers, as well as opportunities for joint construction projects with the Ohio Air and Army National Guard and other reserve components. There are currently six major Army National Guard projects and four major Air National Guard projects in the pipeline. The Base Realignment and Closure recommendations identified more than \$130 million for Ohio Army National Guard projects over the next 18 months. Plans through 2011 have more than \$90 million programmed for Army construction alone, with the Air Guard also receiving significant funding.

✓ DIVERSITY. As we continue to build our organization, we must strive to ensure that our ranks reflect the diversity that makes up our communities. I am committed to fostering a respectful and nurturing environment where every individual may grow personally and professionally, where everyone's contributions are acknowledged and appreciated and where we celebrate the differences that make us strong as an organization.

Diversity includes knowing how to relate to qualities that are different from your own, including ethnicity, class, gender, physical qualities, race, religious status or educational background. A recent news article noted that fewer African Americans are considering the military (the Army in particular) as a career because of the Global War on Terrorism. This means our pool of potential recruits from a vital section of our society is shrinking. With a growing Hispanic population, we need to reach out to those communities. With the incentives we can offer, including a 100-percent tuition college scholarship, we need to ensure our doors are open to all.

✓ TRANSFORMATION. We are in the midst of a revolution that will change the face of the armed forces. The National Guard is transforming from a Cold War strategic reserve to an operational force. The Air Force transformation is known as Future Total Force. This new concept relies heavily on "reachback" capabilities that enable Airmen to use new technology to conduct missions anywhere on the globe—such as flying unmanned aerial vehicles—from their home stations, thereby increasing opera-

tional effectiveness and reducing reliance on involuntary mobilizations. The Ohio Air National Guard leadership is working closely with NGB to identify future missions.

The Ohio Army National Guard will transform to modular forces, known as units of action, which will ensure all formations of the active and reserve components can interconnect. The Army National Guard future organization has been identified; transformation will begin in late 2006. It will involve virtually every unit and will require flexibility by our Soldiers and Airmen. While transforming, we must maintain readiness and strength, and recapitalize our infrastructure to meet the needs of these new organizations.

Above all of these priorities, however, must be an unwavering commitment to taking care of our people. My charge is "no Soldier/Airman will be left behind."

Given the large numbers of Ohio National Guard Soldiers and Airmen that have returned or will be returning from deployments, I want to explain two such efforts. As a military organization, we have traditionally solved challenges from within. This old way of thinking does not serve the interests of our Soldiers and Airmen. We have, therefore, partnered with the Ohio Departments of Mental Health, Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services, and Jobs and Family Services to create an Ohio Cares Program to address the needs of our returning Soldiers and Airmen and their families. Each unit is briefed on this program before and after mobilization. We also have established a career assistance program for Soldiers, Airmen and family members. The career assistance program can be viewed at www.ohionationalguard.com, under the Adjutant General's Department link.

In closing, I want to thank all of the Soldiers, Airmen, families and employers for everything you have done, and will do, for our great organization. We are in the fourth year of the Global War on Terrorism, and your commitment and resolve have been the sole reason we have accomplished every mission. With each of the priorities I have outlined comes a set of challenges, which we can overcome with our continued hard work and dedication. We must never forget those who have gone before us who have entrusted us with this great organization. Each of you are helping to write a new chapter in the glorious history of the Ohio National Guard, and I know it will be a proud chapter. ■

COLUMBUS

Command profile



COL James S. Green
37th Brigade Combat Team

Age: 47

Full-Time Position:
attorney

Hometown: none (father was active-duty Air Force)

Family: wife, Katherine; children, James, Scot, Jaime, Lauren and Zachary

Most recent achievement: served as chief of staff for KFOR 6A (Kosovo deployment)

The last good movie I saw was:
Caddyshack

The book I'm reading is:
Defeat into Victory

My most prized possession:
license to practice law

Heroes:
my parents, Ronald Reagan

Nobody knows I'm:
afraid to fail

I'm better than anyone else at:
handling stress

I'd give anything to meet:
Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia

The three words that best describe me: selfless, loyal, balding

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

Be humble, live the Army values and never forget the infantry Soldier that takes and holds the objective

Wanting more than challenges of life, motherhood, Airman satisfies competitive need by hitting gridiron

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



Photos by Douglas Nicodemus
PhotographicResources.com

As long as Staff Sgt. Esmeralda Soto Taylor can remember, she wanted to play football. She just assumed she would. "Until someone broke the news to me that girls don't play football," Taylor said.

Unhindered by gender barriers, this natural athlete who loved to play football, softball and volleyball, ran track and studied karate, jumped at the

chance to prove her naysayers wrong by trying out in June 2002 for the National Women's Football Association.

Taylor, who is a communications system support specialist for the 121st Air Refueling Wing, Columbus, and who served in the active Army, compared the tryout to the first day of Army basic training.

"I wound up getting heat exhaustion,"

she said, "but, they saw I really wanted to do this, so they had me come back for a second tryout." Her desire paid off. She earned jersey No. 77 and the chance to play offensive and defensive tackle for the Columbus Comets, one of about 40 teams in the league.

The NWFA, which formed in August 2000, is the world's largest league for women's full-contact tackle football. The league rules mirror the National Football League, except the pignskin is smaller. Teams named the Dream, Venom and Divas knock helmets on Saturdays from April through June at high school fields in cities in 23 states. Taylor's home turf is Whitehall-Yearling High School on the east side of Columbus.

Last year, though, her team played the Cleveland Fusion in Browns Stadium on the NFL draft day. "We were the draft day event, and we walked away with a win," Taylor said. In 2003, Taylor and her teammates captured some publicity on *The Tonight Show with Jay Leno*.

That season the Comets fell just short of beating the NWFA's powerhouse team, the Detroit Demolition, earning recognition as the only team to come close to beating the three-time league champions. Taylor sustained a concussion in that playoff loss, but such injuries are not uncommon.

Bumps, bruises, and sore muscles do not trouble her as much as the possibility of broken fingers and ribs or torn anterior cruciate ligaments (ACLs). But, no pain, no gain. She said she trains two to three hours, four nights a week with workouts that include weight training, running, shuttles, horses, cone drills, jumping and a lot of cardio work.

"Play after play, we are going full speed at one of two locations, either on a basketball court or a turf gym. The hitting is jaw-jarring and the bruises are not something you would want to see while wearing an evening gown," she said.

So, just what drives this wife and mother of three children to play full-contact football? "I have always seemed to prefer male-dominant jobs and hobbies," Taylor explained. "I am a naturally aggressive female, with a soft side. I can rock my chil-



Both members of the 121st Air Refueling Wing, Taylor (right) and her husband, Brian, enjoy a moment together before a Comets game at Cleveland Browns Stadium versus the in-state rival Cleveland Fusion.

dren to sleep with a gentle song, and turn around and take someone's kneecaps out."

Beyond Taylor's eagerness for rougher sports, it also is about achieving goals, she continued. "Being a woman doesn't mean limitations. It means we just have to be better at multitasking to do and accomplish what we want in life. It is just how I am wired, but I still enjoy looking like a lady and wearing lipstick."

In contrast to the hefty salaries of NFL players, their NWFA counterparts are not paid to play. Instead, they are compensated for travel costs and receive gym memberships, personal trainers and other perks.

To pay the bills, Taylor works full-

So, just what drives this wife and mother of three children to play full-contact football? "I have always seemed to prefer male-dominant jobs and hobbies," Taylor explained. "I am a naturally aggressive female, with a soft side. I can rock my children to sleep with a gentle song, and turn around and take someone's kneecaps out."

time at the Defense Finance Accounting Service in Columbus as a computer specialist. She also is a full-time mother, raising Thomas, 12; Edona, 3; and Alton, 1, with her husband Brian, a union electrician and fellow 121st member. The unit allows both of them to make up unit training assemblies when game days fall on drill weekends. However, her National Guard commitment trumped all

two years ago when a deployment took her from her family and the 2003 season.

Professional football player. Air Guardmember. Computer specialist. Mother of three. Is there a red "S" on her chest, perhaps? "The juggling is pretty draining at times on all of us, but we are committed as a family and my children are also involved as 'water kids,'" she said. Her in-laws also help, but "my husband is my most important supporter. He takes care of the kids during my practices (and games). He makes sure I eat and hydrate properly."

The Comets games are broadcasted live on *Chicradio.com* and covered on Armed Forces Network. TV coverage is in the works, too. As word of mouth and media coverage have increased, so has the league's fan base. Whole families fill the stands and cheer them on, she said. "Our fans are just like the men's for the most part, as far as their level of energy and support," she said. Fans also attend away games and even have tailgate parties.

"Both genders and all age groups seem to really enjoy it," Taylor said. "There are more women, maybe, because there isn't such a push for 'male visual pleasers,' such as cheerleaders. There is more focus on the game itself."

Win or lose, Taylor said her dreams have come true.

"My biggest thrill is knowing that I have accomplished something that everyone said would never happen and knowing my children will know they can do anything, regardless of gender," she said. ■



Esmeralda Soto Taylor (center, in dark uniform) lines up on defense against the Cleveland Fusion in a game played at Cleveland Browns Stadium.



Taylor takes a minute to sign autographs for two young fans at a Comets home game against the Indiana Thunder at Whitehall-Yearling High School.

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

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

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

KFOR 6A:

Ohio's 37th Brigade Combat Team plays vital role in U.N. peacekeeping mission

Story and photos by Staff Sgt. Josh Mann ❖ Joint Force Headquarters-Ohio

Half a world away, a nation is in conflict. Helping to maintain stability in the volatile region of Kosovo were Soldiers from the 37th Brigade Combat Team (BCT).

Staff Sgt. Robert Wright, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1-148th Infantry, was one of those Soldiers. For six months, he helped to keep the peace in Kosovo. "Some of our main mission was presence patrols, to help maintain a safe and secure environment for these individuals," he said. "We looked for any signs of trouble, any types of things that indicate ethnic tensions."

Those ethnic tensions are what brought Wright and the other 950 Ohio National Guard Soldiers to the province last fall, when the 37th assumed the Kosovo Force (KFOR) mission, a NATO-led international force that in 1999 was established to maintain security in Kosovo, an area of southern Serbia, which has a mixed population, of which the majority is ethnic Albanian.

In the late 1990s, Kosovo faced a grave humanitarian crisis when ethnic tensions between the Serbs and Kosovar Albanians peaked, claiming many lives. Military and paramilitary forces from the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (FRY) and the Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA) clashed. Nearly one million people fled Kosovo to seek refuge and humanitarian assistance. After 77 days of NATO air strikes, the U.N. Security Council passed a resolution in 1999 establishing the Kosovo Force (KFOR).

Now, almost six years later, KFOR continues to patrol the region to maintain a safe and secure environment with troops from 36 NATO and non-NATO nations. KFOR contingents are grouped into four multinational brigades, each having a specific area of responsibility, but falling under a single chain of command under the authority of the KFOR commander.

Ohio's Brig. Gen. Tod Carmony led the Multinational Brigade East, comprised of the 37th BCT, Guard and Reserve Soldiers from other



ABOVE: During their six-month deployment to Kosovo, Soldiers of the Ohio Army National Guard provide a stable security presence on the city streets. **LEFT:** Several buildings bear the scars of a long ethnic conflict in Kosovo.

states as well as troops from Armenia, Greece, Lithuania, Poland and the Ukraine. The "Dragon Brigade" units comprising the KFOR 6A rotation included: 1-148th Infantry Battalion, 2-107th Cavalry Squadron, 1-137th Aviation Battalion and the 237th Forward Support Battalion.

Soldiers deployed in early June 2004 and conducted initial mobilization training at Camp Atterbury, Ind. From there they traveled to Germany for additional training and certification before arriving in Kosovo in August. Following a short familiarization period, the official Transfer of Authority occurred on September 1, 2004.

From the sky to the ground, through villages and cities, churches and mosques, the Soldiers brought a sense of stability to the region. In one sector, Soldiers of the 1-148th conducted about 8,000 patrols, including for the first time in history, joint patrols with Serbian military forces. Task Force Shield Soldiers also conducted joint smuggling interdiction, and seized 76 illegal weapons caches.

"It's been a real eye opener," said Staff Sgt. Shane Whitaker, C Troop, 2-107th Cavalry, "You start looking at the countryside and see the devastation and you're like: How can they live like this? But you start talking to the people and you realize how strong they are and how motivated they are. It's actually inspiring."

Serving in this region has allowed the Soldiers to take a closer look at a striking area, devastated by years of war. Piles of rubble lay where homes once stood and bullet-ridden walls of the churches and mosques where people once prayed scar the countryside and serve as constant reminders of war. Massive amounts of trash desecrate the many unpaved roads, which at

times can be impassable, especially for U.S. forces. "You drive down roads made for a Yugo, and you're in a humvee; it's tough," said Spc. Jason Cox, B Company, 1-148th.

At times, not only were the roads impassable, but so, too, seemed the bridges that the Ohio Soldiers attempted to build between the two ethnic groups. Mediating simple squabbles become major tests of negotiating skills in this war-weary province. In one case—when Albanian children threw rocks on the roof of a Serbian home, typical childhood behavior in most nations—local groups in the small village of Mogila became agitated. Emotions escalated, and Platoon Leader Matthew Wagner was required to meet with school officials, store owners and other local leaders to convince them that ethnic hatred was not the motive for the children's actions.

Fortunately, "they're really happy to have Americans here," Cox said. "Children love us. You go through town and it's like you're a rock star."

In December, Ohio Adjutant General Maj. Gen. Gregory L. Wayt and other leaders of the Ohio Army National Guard traveled to Kosovo with two state senators, about 20 Ohio business leaders and members of the media. The visit with the Soldiers gave the guests a better understanding of the Ohio National Guard's support of worldwide missions.

Wayt praised his troops and recognized the significant impact the Buckeyes had on the region. "This is the longest that they have had peace in five years and that's the biggest thing we bring to the mission. We allow peace to happen."

That peace is reflected in the many things the Ohio Soldiers



NATO graphic

Map showing areas of responsibility for KFOR.

achieved in their short time there. Although in Kosovo schools are still segregated, Ohio National Guard Soldiers helped to organize volleyball and soccer games with both Albanian and Serbian children; something that just last year would have been impossible.

And Ohio National Guard Soldiers experienced a significant milestone while serving there—the peaceful elec-

—continued next page

Kosovo trip helps employers learn about their Citizen-Soldiers

Story and photo by Staff Sgt. Josh Mann
Joint Force Headquarters-Ohio

Rob Alt is the postmaster for the City of Fremont. During his career, he has had to make some long trips to ensure packages get to their destination.

In December 2004, just days before Christmas, Alt made a very special delivery—taking Christmas presents to one of his postal carriers, Master Sgt. Patrick Colston, who deployed with the 37th Brigade Combat Team (BCT) to Kosovo.

"I came to see him and deliver presents from his wife and child," Alt said. "This is my chance to go over and honor him."

Soldiers of the 37th BCT recognized the support they received from their employers during an Employer Support for the Guard and Reserve Boss Lift to Camps Bondsteel and Monteith, Kosovo. For three days, the troops hosted Ohio Adjutant General Maj. Gen. Gregory L. Wayt, who brought with him about 20 employers, as well as two state senators, ESGR officials, members of the Ohio Army National Guard leadership and Ohio news media representatives.

The ESGR mission is to gain and maintain employer support for the National Guard and Reserve. Boss Lifts add to this mission by giving employers the opportunity to observe military training firsthand.

"We understand that employers, too, make sacrifices when Guard



Fremont postmaster Rob Alt (right) observes off camera as his employee, MSG Patrick Colston, is interviewed by reporter Ronnie Dahl of Toledo television station WUPW.

and Reservists are deployed," said retired Col. Anthony Augello, executive director for the Ohio ESGR Committee. "These Boss Lifts are instrumental in showing employers how honorably their employees are serving their country. In addition, it shows the employers the valuable skills our Citizen-Soldiers gain from their military experience that they can bring back to their civilian jobs."

The guests were given tours of both camps, went on foot patrols with Soldiers of the 1st Battalion, 148th Infantry (Mechanized), learned about the challenges of unexploded ordnance in Kosovo and got a bird's-eye view of the region during a Black

Hawk helicopter ride from A Company, 1-137th Aviation Battalion. Those on the trip gained more understanding and appreciation for the Soldiers and the peacekeeping mission in Kosovo.

Prior to the trip, Alt held a "Patrick Colston Day" at the Fremont post office. He attached yellow ribbons to all the mail trucks in honor of Colston. Alt also took a video camera along Colston's route and recorded video messages from his customers and family. Alt delivered the tape with the gifts. "People love him on his route," Alt said. Colston admits, after months of being away from home, it was nice to see a familiar face, even if it was his boss. "It's hard being away and not being able to exchange... but it gives me a little taste of home, something I hadn't had for a few months," he said. ■

Ohio Army National Guard units of KFOR 6A

Sep. 1, 2004 to March 1, 2005

•TASK FORCE FALCON—HHC, 37th Brigade Combat Team (Columbus)

•TASK FORCE SHIELD—1-148th Infantry Battalion: HHC (Lima); A Company (Xenia); E Company (Urbana)

•TASK FORCE LANCER—2-107th Cavalry Squadron: HHT (Kettering); A Troop (Cincinnati); B Troop (Lebanon); C Troop (Greenville/Sandusky)

•TASK FORCE PHOENIX—1-137th Aviation Battalion: HHC (Columbus); D Company (Columbus)

•TASK FORCE PROTECTOR—cell of Soldiers from 437th MP Battalion (various locations)

•TASK FORCE MED FALCON—C Company (Ground Ambulance), 237th Forward Support Battalion (Columbus)

—continued from page 9

tions that occurred in October. That provincial-level election represented the second of its kind since the war in 1999.

The highly symbolic elections represented a key opportunity for organized groups to disrupt the fragile peace. In addition to maintaining a heightened level of vigilance, the peacekeepers also embarked on an aggressive information campaign to encourage voter turnout and promote the democratic process. Ultimately, peace prevailed, and the Albanians turned out in full force to vote. The Kosovar Serbs, however, chose to boycott the election, demonstrating the great polarity that still exists in the province.

Democracy is a young concept in the former communist province, and progress is difficult because the final status of Kosovo is yet to be decided by the international community. Soldiers such as Whitaker understand that for all the progress they have made, there is still a lot of work to be done before this region can

one day stand on its own.

“Just because the fighting is over doesn’t mean the battle is over, and this battle here in Kosovo is continuing,” he said. “You’ve got to remember it’s only been five years; there’s a lot of rebuilding to do.” Without the bombs and the fighting, and with the assistance of Soldiers from the 37th BCT, that rebuilding can be done. “Whether it becomes independent or not, that’s not up to us,” Wright said.

The six-month rotation to Kosovo ended in late February for the “Dragon Brigade” and units returned home in March to families, friends and communities who gathered all over Ohio to welcome the troops and recognize their exemplary service to their country. “You were peacekeepers and peacemakers,” said Brig. Gen. Matthew L. Kambic, assistant adjutant general for Army, at the welcome home ceremony for Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1-148th in Lima. “You are the faces of America,” he said. “You reflect love and compassion, toughness and determination, discipline and professionalism, honor and integrity, peace and hope.” ■

TF Lancer patrols Vitina, appraises livestock

Story and photo by Spc. Ian Blake
364th Mobile Public Affairs Det., USAR

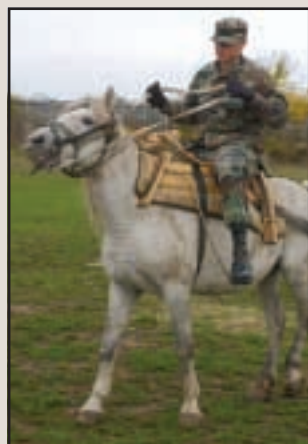
This busy street is typical of a market day in the city of Viti/Vitina. Between merchants haggling over how much a cow is worth and children making their way to school, there was the regular sight of cavalry Soldiers walking the streets. Every one of them was prepared for anything that could possibly happen. Regardless of the elections across Kosovo in October 2004, Task Force Lancer was treating this like any other patrol.

Prior to the presidential elections, the Soldiers of Task Force Lancer had begun to increase their presence at political functions across Multinational Brigade East as part of their daily patrols to provide extra security for the people of Kosovo.

They started their patrol in the city of Vitina/Viti with a foot patrol of a local marketplace. As they waded through the crowd of farmers, merchants, and livestock, the Soldiers kept an eye and ear open for any suspicious activity, like people distributing propaganda contrary to the peacekeeping operations. The locals, who allowed the Soldiers

to approach their livestock and pet them, welcomed the Soldiers. Some Soldiers were even given the chance to ride one local’s horse. The shaggy white workhorse was shared by two of the Soldiers, however their equestrian skills were no match for those in the days of pre-mechanized cavalry.

After leaving the livestock market, the Soldiers of Troop A drove to a busy business district in Viti/Vitina. The area was a



Giving a nod to fellow cavalymen of past eras, SPC Andrew Locke, Troop A, 2-107th Cavalry, rides a local farmer’s horse outside Vitina.

swarm of merchants and traders on that market day, and the Soldiers set about working the crowds for any potential incidents, like unruly mobs or street crime. During the course of the dismounted foot patrol, they came across a number of citizens carrying flyers spouting anti-United Nations Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) propaganda. A few of the Soldiers followed the paper trail to find the distributor of the flyer, while they kept a friendly and non-aggressive presence in the community, said Sgt. Ryan Payne, Troop A, 2-107th Cavalry. The person in

question was found distributing his flyers outside an open-air marketplace. This kind of incident, Payne said, was a common occurrence around election periods. Through the use of their translator, the Soldiers talked with the man and got his name and contact information before watching the man continue his work. Later, the Soldiers would report the incident to their command, provide copies of the propaganda to UNMIK, the Kosovo Police Service, and local authorities, as was their procedure.

The market near where they found the person distributing the flyers was the next location for the patrol. They weaved their way through the colorful crowds and the merchants selling everything from freshly grown vegetables to furniture. As the Soldiers walked about the market, the citizens greeted the Soldiers. This kind of interaction, although a normal part of creating a safe and secure environment, was a part of the patrol that the Soldiers enjoyed performing, said Spc. Aaron Oberlander, Troop A, 2-107th Cavalry.

“We’re getting out among the local people,” Payne said. “We’re experiencing a new culture, something that we get the opportunity to do on these patrols.”

With the marketplace patrolled, the Soldiers then piled back into their vehicles and headed to downtown Viti/Vitina, where political rallies were occurring that day. ■



SSG Robert Shattuck / A Battery, 1-134th Field Artillery Battalion

CPT Thomas Roose (right) administers the oath of enlistment to SPC Dasch Underwood as he extends his service in the Ohio Army National Guard.

Ohio Army National Guard recruiting bucks national trend, posts record months

In March 2005 the Ohio Army National Guard landed more recruits than in the previous 29 months, showing an increase of more than 35 percent greater than the average for those previous months. A total of 183 recruits signed up in March.

Then in June, OHARNG recruiters topped themselves, landing more recruits—192—than in the previous 33 months, besting a mark for the month of June established in 2000. It was the greatest number of new enlistees in any month since 207 Ohioans joined in October of 2002.

Nationwide, the active Army, Army Reserve and Army National Guard have fallen short of their recruiting goals. While the Ohio Army National Guard has continued to outperform the national average, it had become clear that more resources and energy would need to be dedicated to the recruiting effort if Ohio were to continue to meet recruiting and end strength goals.

Brig. Gen. Matthew L. Kambic became Ohio’s assistant adjutant general for Army Jan. 1. “I knew coming in that my most important and most difficult challenge was going to be the battle to keep the Army Guard at assigned strength,” Kambic said. “The entire Army Guard command team has engaged in this fight, and it is gratifying to see such significant positive results.”

According to Lt. Col. Jerry Rees, commander of the OHARNG’s Recruiting Command, there is no more important recruiting tool than the Ohio National Guard Scholarship Program. “We will pay a Soldier’s entire four-year tuition at an Ohio public

college or university, or an equivalent amount at a private institution, and that is in addition to the other educational benefits available to a recruit in any of the service branches. That has certainly helped Ohio in what has been a down period for recruiting nationwide.”

Nationwide incentives also are helping bring in new recruits as well as retain seasoned Soldiers. Major increases in prior service enlistment and retention bonuses include a \$15,000 lump-sum bonus to Soldiers who extend their current enlistment for six years, and \$7,500 for an enlistment period of three years; this amount is tax-free if a Soldier extends while deployed overseas. Non-prior service bonuses are available, up to \$10,000 for a six-year commitment, in critical military occupational specialties including infantry, military police, food service and supply.

The new initiatives’ impact was evident at C Battery, 1-134th Field Artillery Battalion, Piqua. On March 6, five Soldiers, all of whom had recently returned from a 10-month deployment in Europe with the unit in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, voluntarily extended their enlistments.

Staff Sgt. Robert Shattuck, Sgts. Michael Duaso and Jason Bausman, and Spc. Dasch Underwood all extended their enlistments for six years and received \$15,000 each in bonus incentives. Spc. Shawn Hall extended his enlistment for six months. ■
AGOH-PUBLIC AFFAIRS AND SSG ROBERT SHATTUCK / COMPANY A, 1-134TH FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION

Answering the highest calling



Steve Toth / AGOH-Public Affairs

Carl Andrew Subler (center) receives a commission as a chaplain in the Ohio Army National Guard by COL Alfred C. Faber (left), Ohio joint chief of staff. Also pictured is COL Ronald Daft, Ohio National Guard state chaplain. 1LT Subler is the only Catholic priest currently serving in the OHARNG.

State Warrant OCS set to begin this January

- ◆ Phase 1 (January-March 2006): Distance learning at home
- ◆ Phase 2A (March-August 2006): monthly drills (in Ohio)
- ◆ Phase 2B (September 2006): 15-day annual training (Indiana)
- ◆ Graduation occurs during Training Year 2007.

For more information concerning state WOCS, call Command Chief Warrant Officer 5 Dale Fincher at (614) 336-7265. For general information on Ohio’s warrant officer program, call Chief Warrant Officer 2 Rose Metoxen at (614) 336-7265.

Not too late to start Winter Accelerated OCS

Phase 0 has begun and officer candidates have until Nov. 30 to enter the program. Soldiers participate in this phase while in a monthly drill status through Jan. 8 at Rickenbacker Airport in Columbus.

Phase 1-3 runs Jan. 14 through March 6 at Fort McClellan, Ala.

Individuals who complete this course and fulfill all other requirements (civilian education, security clearance) may receive a commission in March 2006 as a second lieutenant in the Ohio Army National Guard.

For more information, contact Maj. Joe Gabriel, officer strength manager, at (614) 336-7077 or Master Sgt. Shelly Boyd, 1-145th Regiment, Regional Training Institute, at (614) 336-6448.



Courtesy photo

The Bells' children include (clockwise, from bottom left) Katie, Aaron, Bethany, Maggie, Tim, Mia, Jamie and Kiana.

Bell household defines extended family

Story By Spc. Michelle Morgan ❖ Joint Force Headquarters-Ohio

Teen-age girls are notorious for rebellion and attitude. Parents often wonder if they will survive their daughters' adolescence. It is a time many wish these young women were anywhere but home, if only for a little while. Some parents have even been known to put themselves in timeouts just to have a small respite. Then there is the Bell family.

Chris Bell, who retired recently as an Ohio Army National Guard recruiting and retention operations noncommissioned officer, and his wife, Geri, married 25 years ago. They both loved children and wanted a large family. At the time, however, they had no idea just how many young lives they would touch. When they first decided to become foster parents 12 years ago, they already had four biological children. Chris and Geri did not choose chubby, smiley-

faceted babies or rambunctious toddlers. They specialized in behaviorally handicapped teen-age girls—ones who have even more strikes against them than the average rebellious teen.

"We seldom take boys because we have young girls in the house. And we can't take babies because my wife would never give them back," Chris quipped. His wife, on the other hand, claims that they cannot take in babies because Chris would keep them.

Because many of the foster children have been severely sexually or physically abused, the Bells have to ensure that the children they take in will fit with the family dynamics, and that they will be able to protect the other children in the home. They also need to make sure the children are leaving a dangerous situation and coming to a new and safe environment where they can

go to a different school, make new friends and have positive reinforcement.

Kim Collins, the director of Foster Star Commonwealth, Hannah Neil Center for Children—the agency that places foster children with the Bells—explained, "we (the center) assess the dynamics of the home and how the different personalities interact when placing a child."

"Chris would say yes to every child. I look a little harder to ensure they will be a match for our family," Geri said. "We don't want to say 'this isn't working' and send them back, but one child has an effect on everyone in the house."

For most of these kids, the Bells, with their specialized training and unique skills, are the last chance. "If they can't make it with us, they usually end up in residential care," said Chris, meaning institutional care.



Courtesy photo

Geri (left) and Chris Bell have raised about 25 foster children in the past 12 years.

The Bells have been through crisis intervention training, which taught them how to calm themselves as well as the children and how to de-escalate an angry situation, sometimes going as far as using distance and time. The Bells conduct intervention sessions with birth parents and therapists, using family therapy to try to reunify parents and children.

"They have a lot of experience and are very insightful to the special needs of these children," Collins said. "They've developed creative intervention techniques and different ways to integrate kids into a positive environment. Actions speak louder than words, and the Bells desire to help."

Geri said she believes their biological children have truly benefited as well as the foster children. "The kids are more compassionate. If they see someone acting out, they wonder why instead of judging." And when the Bells were feeling burned out and ready to quit, it was their oldest daughter, Bethany, who asked, "Why? There are still children out there who need your help."

So, they kept going. In fact, the claim made by both Bells about their spouse being unable to "give back" a baby proved to be a self-fulfilling prophecy. Young Mia

joined the Bells when she was just two weeks old. Not only did they adopt Mia, but they brought her younger sister, Kiana, born Dec. 30, 2003, into their home as a foster child and adopted her as well.

"We know we made a difference when (our former foster children) come home for the holidays or just to visit. Even if we didn't think we made a difference, they'll tell us something we did that made a difference... That's one of the greatest things about being a foster parent."

—Geri Bell, along with her husband, Chris, has raised nearly 25 foster children in addition to their own

"I'm enjoying these babies as much or more than I did my own," Geri said. "My parenting skills are better now, and I can say 'that's normal' or 'that will pass.' Not only do I know kids grow out of certain behaviors, but I've learned to redirect their energy."

During the past 12 years, there have been at least 25 foster children in the Bell home. In fact, when 10-year-old Jamie (the fifth and youngest biological Bell) was born, there were foster kids in residence. She has never known a life any different—she has

shared her parents, space, time and toys with foster children. She shares all of the normal complaints that children living with siblings do.

"Sometimes it is tough sharing Mom and Dad," Jamie said. "Sometimes it can be a drag because I can't do some things with my friends and when I go to my room, Mia always follows me." But this young girl thinks more about the other kids than she worries about sharing. "When Kiana first came, Mom told me we were going to get her and asked me for help. I had to think about it, but now I'm glad to have them (Mia and Kiana)," Jamie said. "I don't think they would be able to survive without Mom."

She also enjoys no longer being the youngest and she likes the responsibility of having younger siblings, and it makes her feel special the way someone wants her all the time. Jamie always has someone to play with and never has to be alone. "They love me and I love them," she said simply, yet her circumstances allow her to understand that this type of love is not really simple.

Over the years, the Bells have watched some of their children graduate; they have helped reunite families and taken children back when the reunion was not as successful as hoped. It has not always been easy, and "fun" would definitely not be used to describe some of the long nights spent handling one crisis or another. But every child they help and every young adult who manages to break the cycle of abuse, makes it all worthwhile.

"We know we made a difference when they come home for the holidays or just to visit. Even if we didn't think we made a difference, they'll tell us something we did that made a difference," Geri said. "That's one of the greatest things about being a foster parent."

Chris retired from the Guard in June, but much like his dedication to helping children, his dedication to the military cause remains. He returned as a civilian contractor working in the Ohio Army National Guard Recruiting Command. ■

Ohio ANG medical personnel treat residents at South Dakota Indian reservation, gain invaluable experience

A 121st Medical Squadron radiology technician, SSgt Lori Ross, examines an X-ray.



121st medical mission serves dual purpose

STORY BY TSgt ANDREW TODD, 121ST MEDICAL GROUP

Through the Innovative Readiness Training program, members of the 121st Medical Group (MDS) gained valuable experience while treating residents of the Rosebud Indian Reservation in South Dakota last summer.

The Innovative Readiness Training (IRT) program is designed to accomplish two important goals. Launched in 1999, the IRT brings together the Ohio National Guard's medical personnel and medically underserved populations which improves health conditions while enhancing the medical expertise of wing personnel. This particular IRT was conducted at the Rosebud Comprehensive Health Care Facility, a 20-year-old hospital with 35 beds and surgical suites.

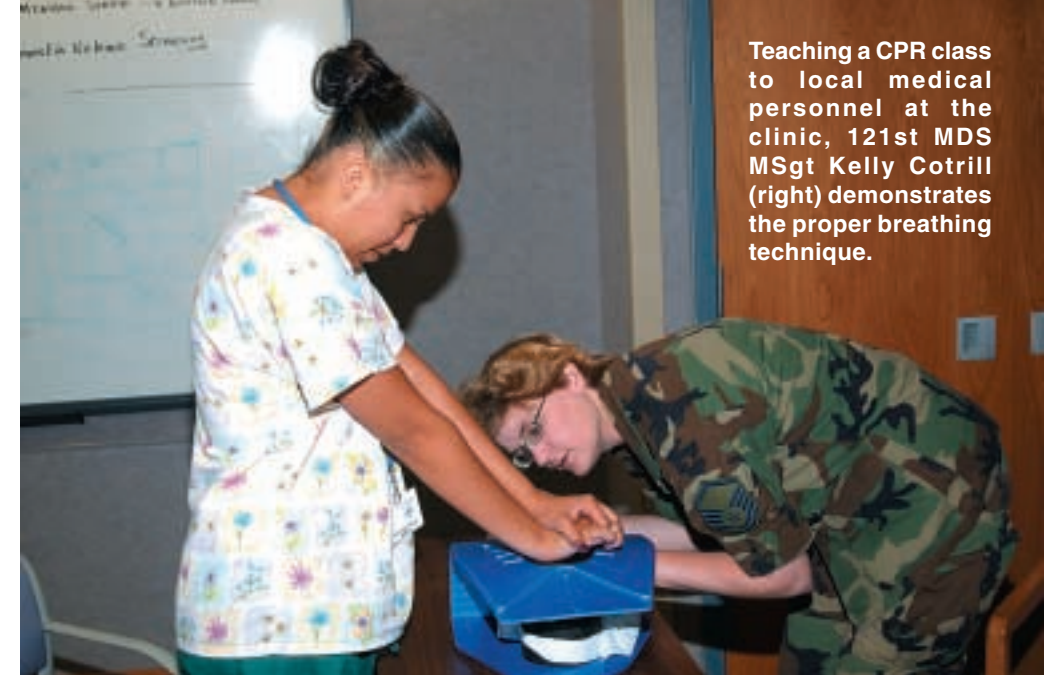
Before leaving the 121st Air Refueling Wing headquarters in Columbus for the Rosebud reservation, the medical team researched the Sincagu Oyate (Burnt Thigh) Lakota of the Sioux Nation and discovered the population had a high rate of diabetes among adults and children. The medical team decided to make a difference. They collected basketballs, baseballs, softballs and bats to promote youth physical fitness and diabetes prevention. In addition, glucometers from a local hospital were collected for distribution to the diabetic patients.

The medical team had much to accomplish in only two weeks. Medical technicians led the way in the emergency room, triaging patients, starting IVs and casting

PHOTOS BY
SMSgt KIM FREY
121ST AIR REFUELING WING
MULTIMEDIA CENTER



SrA Dan Lima prepares an IV for a patient.



Teaching a CPR class to local medical personnel at the clinic, 121st MDS MSgt Kelly Cotrill (right) demonstrates the proper breathing technique.

broken bones.

Maj. Larry Robson, Maj. Stephanie Steve and Staff Sgt. Adam Taylor reviewed case studies as part of a larger operation to determine if the Burnt Thigh community was predisposed to diabetes.

Master Sgt. Kelly Cotrill tackled public health issues by performing door-to-door well-baby checkups and teaching CPR classes to the Health Center staff. Many reservation residents are hesitant to make hospital visits, so Cotrill established a shot clinic in the community to distribute immunizations.

Operating room nurse Capt. Gary Baidel of the 179th Airlift Wing prepared surgical suites and managed multiple surgeries while physician assistant Capt. Rich Pulice assisted local Dr. Romeo Vivit with surgeries. While observing an appendectomy, Senior Airman Dan Lima was presented with an unexpected training opportunity.

"The doctor said go scrub, so that I could hold some of the retractors. I could not believe it," he said. "Capt. Pulice helped to keep me calm and showed me what to do throughout the surgery."

Dentists Lt. Col. Doug Bowman and Maj. P.J. Goyal performed tooth extractions, restorations and exams. In the administration section, Tech. Sgt. Andrew Todd worked in conjunction with the Federal Bureau of Investigation on a grant proposal to establish a Children's Advocacy Center for Sexual Abuse and Assault on the reservation. Staff Sgt. Lori Ross taught the hospital radiology department new ways to take mammograms and received high praise from the staff.

Optometry section personnel, consisting of Lt. Col. James Evans, Senior Airman Jason Stankus and lab technician Tech Sgt.

Bernadette Fleet, filled their entire two-week appointment schedule in less than two hours. This overwhelming demand was due to a yearlong absence of an optometrist at the facility.

The optometry team performed examinations and ordered glasses for more than 100 patients. A separate group sorted and inventoried 70 boxes of clothes, medicine and toys that were donated for families in need.

The MDS worked long hours; however, they also were able to connect with the community and participate in meaningful social activities. MDS personnel enjoyed a pow wow, which is a Native American ceremony used to celebrate many things including the cure of disease and success in battle. The MDS was honored at the Grand Entry with the Lakota Warriors. Traditional songs and dances were performed throughout the weekend.

There was also an impromptu basketball game between the MDS and a group of Lakota teen-agers. "It felt really good, those kids had smiles on their faces the whole time we were playing," Senior Airman Michele Powell said.

The MDS not only enhanced their medical skills while at Rosebud, but also helped the proud people of the Sincagu Oyate Lakota of the Sioux Nation. The Sincagu Oyate holds a high regard for military personnel. In order for them to be considered a warrior they must join the military. At social gatherings, songs of honor are sung for members of the military.

The Lakota even tout the highest percentage of Native Americans serving in the military, both male and female. The first Native American killed in action in Iraq was from the Rosebud Sioux Tribe. ■



Courtesy photos

Sgt. 1st Class Sean Chambers. "Adrenaline kicks in and you have to think that in a real struggle, your own life is on the line. You have to block out the pain until you know you are safe and then you can worry about yourself."

Once contaminated, Soldiers went through five different sta-

The purpose of the contamination and fight drills was to give the Soldiers a better understanding of the spray's effects to teach them how to react in the event that they accidentally become contaminated. Realistic training such as this allows Soldiers to perform their mission successfully.

"As the state's quick reaction-



OPPOSITE PAGE, FAR LEFT: After being contaminated with OC Pepper Spray, PFC Margaret Kuene (right) engages SPC Joshua Altman. OPPOSITE PAGE, LEFT: SGT Michael Cameron receives a full-stream face shot of pepper spray. ABOVE LEFT: While on patrol at Fort Eustis, SPC Jason Cottingham communicates with his desk sergeant. ABOVE RIGHT: SGT Angela Leonard conducts ID checks during annual training in Italy.

Training brings tearful experience to 323rd Military Police Company

Story by 1st Lt. Timothy Casteel ❖ 323rd MP Company

When a riot situation develops, military police officers are called to assist with crowd control. For these situations, MPs carry cans of Oleoresin Capsicum (OC) Pepper Spray. A stream of the highly potent chemical to the face can incapacitate the offender. But in any scenario, the tables could turn quickly on an MP attempting to quell a volatile situation, and the police officer could be the one getting sprayed.

How officers react to this type of situation is crucial in maintaining crowd control, so Soldiers in the Ohio Army National Guard's 323rd Military Police Company (Combat Support) recently trained on reacting to a full-face shot of pepper spray. The Toledo-based

unit was designated as Ohio's first Quick Reaction Force in October 2004 and the chance of encountering this situation is very real.

Each Soldier participated in several hours of classroom instruction, which covered the types of sprays, spraying techniques and proper employment of OC Pepper Spray. After the training, the Soldiers were subjected to a practical exercise in which they experienced firsthand the effects of the pepper spray while having to perform their police mission. One by one, each Soldier received a face full of the burning resin.

"It's like having boiling water thrown into your face," said

tions, performing various tasks and passing each one before the spray could be removed. Defending against an attacker was one of the training stations. The MPs had to successfully ward off aggression while in an unarmed posture, then repeat the procedure using their police baton.

Another station required the Soldiers to administer offensive strikes to the offender. Again, the situation put the officers in an unarmed posture then allowed them to use their baton. Finally, each Soldier was required to gain control over the offender.

"The training was very realistic," Chambers added. "It was the best we have received so far, on the law and order side. It gave our Soldiers a new perspective on the choice and use of non-lethal weapons."

ary force, the 323rd Military Police Company must be ready and able to respond to incidents such as a riot, terrorist attack or other disaster," said Lt. Col. Kenneth Lambright, 437th Military Police Battalion commander. "Should the need arise, these MPs are now confident they can respond within a very short period of time and will work as a highly effective team." ■

EDITOR'S NOTE: Last year, the Ohio stood up its National Guard Quick Reaction Force, a readily available and trained entity capable of providing the governor or the president a company-sized unit in four hours and a battalion in 24 hours.

The reaction forces can assist local and state law enforcement agencies by protecting key sites such as power plants and transportation hubs, establishing road blocks and providing security.

Dare il benvenuto a Italia: Welcome to Italy

Thirty-seven members of the 437th Military Police Battalion participated in Overseas Deployment Training (ODT) at the Caserma Ederle military complex located in Vicenza, Italy, dur-

worked side-by-side with military police from the 13th MPs, Italian Carabinieri Police and contracted Italian Civis security guards.

According to Spc. William Lewis, from Canal Winchester, military police work is basically standardized around the world. "The challenge was adjusting to the language and

ing three annual training periods in January, February and March. The mission was to provide law enforcement and force protection support to the South Eastern Europe Task Force (SETAF) Provost Marshal's Office. Soldiers assisted the 13th Military Police Company by providing security to Caserma Ederle and the Villaggio housing complex.

"This was a great opportunity for our Soldiers to sharpen their garrison skills, as well as to experience a different culture," said 2nd Lt. Kevin Harrold, officer-in-charge of the mission. "Our Soldiers did an excellent job."

Each training year, the 437th conducts three ODTs in either Germany or Italy, said Lt. Col. Kenneth Lambright, battalion commander. "This training boosts our proficiency in our law and order mission tasks and gives our units deployment training," Lambright said. "Overall, it enables us to perform our state and federal missions and improves our retention."

Patrol operations, writing military police reports and forms, defensive tactics, and enforcement of local regulations and policies were a few of the areas in which the Ohio National Guardmembers received training. The Soldiers

cultural differences of our Italian counterparts," he said. "Their training standards were a little different from ours, too, but overall, I enjoyed the experience."

The mission was challenging, but it was not all work. Soldiers were able to tour numerous historical sights in the area. Some traveled to Venice, considered one of the world's most beautiful cities, which was only a 30-minute train ride from Vicenza, located in northern Italy. For Spc. Lindsay Pheneger, this was her first trip outside the United States. "It was exciting," she said. "I thought it was good to experience another culture. I also think the younger Soldiers really enjoyed the chance to do actual MP work in a different country."

Soldiers from the 135th, 323rd, 324th and 838th Military Police Companies participated in the Overseas Deployment Training, during the three rotations the 437th Military Police Battalion conducted during Training Year 2005. When the call comes for more of this type of training, Ohio's MPs can say "Siamo pronti" or "We are ready!" ■ **437TH MILITARY POLICE BATTALION**

838th MPs called again to support Noble Eagle

Story by Capt. Terry Christz, 838th Military Police Company

Once again, Soldiers of Ohio's 437th Military Police Battalion have answered the nation's call. Nearly 60 Army National Guard Soldiers from the battalion mobilized for a one-year period to support the Global War on Terrorism. In January 2005, these MPs joined Soldiers of the 838th Military Police Company (Forward), headquartered in Youngstown, to conduct law and order operations at both Fort Eustis and Fort Story in Virginia.

The Ohio Army National Guard Soldiers mobilized to fulfill the critical garrison law and order and force protection missions at the posts in the absence of the active-duty military police units that are deployed overseas.

Soldiers said some of the most challenging cases are those relating to domestic disturbances, which can be unpredictable and become even worse if officers do not respond properly. "Many times, children are put in the middle, and they are unwilling victims in an otherwise preventable crime," said Spc. Danny Gordon of the 324th MP Company.

Other situations involved Soldiers responding to a suspicious package at the installation post office. The MPs performed the required security measures and called Emergency Ordnance Disposal personnel who destroyed the package.

"I feel that this deployment is letting me put my skills to the test," Gordon said. "It is providing crucial experience in a career field that is very challenging."

Lt. Col. Earl Kennedy, commander of the 765th Transportation Battalion, said the Soldiers' professionalism and dedication to their nation made it impossible to distinguish them from seasoned active-duty veterans. The 765th is the MP company's higher command during the deployment. "There have been, in the history of our nation, a special group of people that I call 'I'll Go' people. When there is a need, they leave behind their family and their homes and the safety of their daily lives, and they say, 'I'll go.' The 838th are 'I'll Go' people, and I am truly grateful to you for coming to Fort Eustis to keep us and our families safe." ■

Ohio National Guard units trained, prepared for response to potential homeland threats

Stories by Adjutant General's Department
Office of Public Affairs



Photos by Staff Sgt. Ronald A. Mitchell Jr.
Joint Force Headquarters-Ohio

WMD-CST team prepared to rapidly deploy on short notice

The Ohio National Guard's 52nd Weapons of Mass Destruction-Civil Support Team is fully trained and ready to assist civil authorities in the event of an act of terror or other disaster,

weapons of mass destruction or terrorist incident," said Lt. Col. Chip Tansill, the team's commander. "It also builds the confidence of our team and our leadership, and if called, we can perform our job to the highest standards."

The evaluation scenario replicated a possible terror incident the team might face in Ohio. The test scenario involved a boat suspected of containing a hazardous material, perhaps chemical,

'Code Silver' exercise showcases value of Mansfield Air National Guard unit's potential to aid its community during disaster scenario

Airmen from the Ohio Air National Guard's 179th Airlift Wing in Mansfield enhanced their ability to respond to a terror incident during a training exercise that included civilian first responders from Richland County.

About 100 Ohio National Guard and civilian first responders participated in "Code Silver," an Air Force exercise aimed at im-

proving the Air National Guard's ability to respond to acts of terrorism and other emergencies. The exercise brought together the wing's medical, security, fire and support personnel with first responders from Mansfield and Richland County.

The 179th Airlift Wing continuously trains to handle all types of disasters such as weather emergencies and hijacked planes, as well as nuclear, chemical and biological attacks. This exercise added another dimension to their preparedness training and bolstered the wing's ability to respond to any future threats, Stephens said.



according to the results of a recent evaluation by the First U.S. Army.

In January, the team loaded their equipment aboard a C-5 Galaxy headed for Eglin Air Force Base in Florida to test their ability to deploy rapidly to a suspected or actual terrorist attack, detect and analyze suspicious substances, and advise the local authorities in managing and minimizing the effects of the attack. First U.S. Army evaluated the team on 15 critical tasks and the team members proved up to it as they displayed their proficiency in all of them.

"This validation assures our governor, adjutant general and senior leadership that our team is fully prepared to deploy in support of first responders in the event of a

"This validation assures...that our team is fully prepared to deploy in support of first responders."

—Lt. Col. Chip Tansill,
52nd WMD-CST commander

biological or radiological in nature. The team reconnoitered the boat and then, employing their detection, protective and analytical equipment, determined what suspicious substances were on board. In addition, the team helped the incident commander respond to the attack. "We have to brief the incident commander on what we think is going on and help put together the pieces of the puzzle," Tansill said.

Ohio's Civil Support Team is one of 55 authorized by Congress. It consists of 22 highly-trained, full-time members of the Ohio National Guard who are federally resourced, trained and evaluated, but fall under the command and control of the governor. After Sept. 11, the team was called upon during the anthrax threats to inspect mail trucks. ■

OPPOSITE PAGE: Ohio's 52nd Weapons of Mass Destruction-Civil Support Team prepares to deploy to Florida for a training exercise. THIS PAGE: Team members conduct training with the Michigan Guard at the Ohio Fire Academy in Reynoldsburg.

proving the Air National Guard's ability to respond to acts of terrorism and other emergencies. The exercise brought together the wing's medical, security, fire and support personnel with first responders from Mansfield and Richland County.

The exercise involved "two very different but very realistic scenarios," Wing Commander Col. Mark Stephens explained. One featured an improvised explosive device that contained a chemical agent and the other involved an outbreak of pneumonia.

With the help of facilitators, members of the group learned of each other's capabilities and how to mesh military and civilian resources in the event of a disaster, Stephens said. "They expose you to an event, you have a reaction, you see the consequences," he said. "As we worked through each scenario, we learned how

said. "This is the first time we have done this to such an extent with the community outside our gates," he said. "When you put everyone together you develop a fast appreciation for what we can do to be as ready as possible and what we need to do to be even more ready."

Maj. Gen. Harry "A.J." Feucht, assistant adjutant general for Air, attended the exercise. "This exercise is another example of the many precautionary measures both seen and unseen the Ohio Air National Guard is taking to protect Ohio," he said. "It also is an example of our ability to work together with state and local agencies as well as our communities to ensure the Ohio Air National Guard undertakes proper, well-coordinated measures to protect and defend against threats to our homeland." ■

OPERATION: FREEDOM SALUTE



Photo illustration by SSG Ronald A. Mitchell/JFHQ-Ohio

The Freedom Salute Campaign provides many tools to recognize Soldiers, their families and employers.

Story by Spc. Michelle Morgan
Joint Force Headquarters—Ohio

More than 7,000 Ohio Army National Guardmembers have been mobilized since Sept. 11, 2001, in support of the Global War on Terrorism. In an expression of gratitude for their service and sacrifices, the Ohio Army National Guard is recognizing Soldiers and their families with the largest appreciation efforts in history, the “Freedom Salute Campaign.”

The mission of the Freedom Salute Campaign is to publicly recognize Army National Guard Soldiers activated for more than 30 days in support of Operations Noble Eagle, Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom and those who supported them.

In December of 2003, the Army National Guard launched the Freedom Salute Campaign, one of the largest, most successful recognition endeavors in the Army National Guard’s history. To date, the program has recognized more than 100,000 National Guard Soldiers nationwide, their

families and others who have supported them as they answered the call to duty—both at home and abroad. Ohio Army National Guard units have been conducting these ceremonies, and continue to do so upon their return from deployments.

“Our Soldiers have served with honor and distinction in the Global War on Terrorism and this ceremony honors their service and the sacrifices they have made,” said Brig. Gen. Matthew L. Kambic, Ohio’s assistant adjutant general for Army. “We cannot forget that we are a team made up of our Soldiers, their families,



Todd Cramer / AGOH-Photo Lab

MG Gregory L. Wayt, state adjutant general, presents an award to a Soldier during a Freedom Salute Campaign ceremony honoring the 323rd Military Police Company, Toledo.

employers and the communities in which we live and serve. This ceremony is an opportunity to publicly thank our families, communities and employers for the wonderful expressions of support they have given to our troops defending this great nation.”

Ohio Adjutant General Maj. Gen. Gregory L. Wayt has attended many of these ceremonies to ensure that Soldiers, family members, friends, employers, centers of influence and other very important persons know how much the Ohio National Guard appreciates their contributions to the defense of freedom.

“Deploying Ohio National Guard units is about Soldiers, but it is also about families, employers and communities,” Wayt said. “The Freedom Salute Campaign is our opportunity to acknowledge this incredible team effort and to ensure that these often silent partners receive the recognition they deserve. In doing so, we lay the foundation for future mission successes rooted in strong family and community support.”

According to information from National Guard Bureau, the campaign is first and foremost a recruiting and retention program. Soldiers returning from Operation Iraqi Freedom indicated that recognition for their service and sacrifice was one of the most important contributing factors in whether

or not they would continue to serve in the Army National Guard.

“The (ceremonies are) a good recognition for the Soldiers,” said Sgt. Michelle Morris during a ceremony in Highland Hills for the 372nd Maintenance Company, which deployed to Afghanistan for Operation Enduring Freedom in 2003. “I believe in the reason we are fighting the War on Terrorism. I appreciate the support from my family and the rest of my community.”

During a Freedom Salute Campaign ceremony, each Soldier is presented an American Flag in a wooden case in recognition of service and sacrifice in the cause of freedom; a sequentially numbered coin featuring the Army National Guard Minuteman on one side and the Defender of Freedom design on the other, (both sides of this coin are also mounted on the flag display case); a certificate of appreciation from the director of the Army National Guard with the “I am the Guard” poem; and Defender of Freedom lapel insignia, worn exclusively by Citizen-Soldiers as symbols of distinction.

After this presentation, the Soldiers return to their families to receive a Defender of Freedom lapel pin from a family member such as a spouse or parent. The Soldier, in turn, pins the National Guard Team honorary insignia on the family member to acknowledge their support of the Citizen-Soldier and the overall efforts of the Army National Guard.

Then, Soldiers present Future Soldier Kits to their children (one per family). The footlocker includes the Daring Eagle board game, Mission Command game, Army National Guard trading cards/case and a comic book. The Soldiers can nominate one Center of Influence (COI)—an individual or organization that offered the most support for that individual Citizen-Soldier during

the deployment—to receive a certificate and a commemorative lapel insignia.

When Soldiers finish their presentations, two additional levels of display items are presented to the unit’s choice of a person or organization most deserving of the Distinguished and Outstanding COI awards. The Outstanding COI, an individual or organization that helped the Soldiers the most during the mobilization, receives a framed mosaic American Flag print. The Distinguished COI, an individual or organization that was most helpful to the unit’s Soldiers and their families during mobilization, receives a 17-inch National Guard Minuteman statue. In earlier phases of this campaign, the distinguished COI received a swooping bronze eagle statue.

“This effort is a way to establish the spirit that welcomes and recognizes the tremendous service of our troops,” said Cincinnati City Councilman David Crowley, during a Freedom Salute Campaign ceremony on March 28, 2004, honoring A Troop, 2-107th Cavalry Squadron. “It’s not over. Our military men and women continue to serve and should be recognized.”

EDITOR’S NOTE: Cpl. Susan R. James, and Sgt. Haraz N. Ghanbari, JFHQ-Ohio, also contributed to this article.

“We cannot forget that we are a team made up of our Soldiers, their families, employers and the communities in which we live and serve. This ceremony is an opportunity to publicly thank our families, communities and employers for the wonderful expressions of support they have given to our troops defending this great nation.”

—Brig. Gen. Matthew L. Kambic,
Ohio assistant adjutant general for Army



As part of a Freedom Salute Campaign recognition ceremony, a 17-inch National Guard Minuteman statue (left) is provided to a unit’s Center of Influence (COI)—an individual or organization that was most helpful to the unit’s Soldiers and their families during mobilization.

AIR AT RED HORSE MY AM WORK



Courtesy photos

Ohio Air National Guard engineers support Army missions in Iraq

By Maj David Simons ♦♦♦ 386th Air Expeditionary Wing, USAF

Their motto is simple: “Go anywhere, build anything, at anytime.” Recently, members of the 200th Rapid Engineer Deployable Heavy Operations Repair Squadron Engineers (RED HORSE) put this motto to the test during a six-month tour in the Middle East in support of the Global War on Terrorism.

The 200th RED HORSE, located in Port Clinton, mobilized in January and joined forces with the Pennsylvania Air National Guard’s 201st RED HORSE to form an expeditionary force engineer squadron. This team of Air Guard engineers worked in di-

rect support of the active Army’s 3rd Infantry Division’s 36th Engineering Group. Together, the Army and Air Guard units helped build, stabilize and secure Iraq. The 200th/201st RED HORSE Squadron was the first ever assigned directly to an Army engineering group.

The Airmen, sometimes while under attack from enemy forces, managed to renovate a convoy support center and constructed a heavy-lift helicopter pad for the Army’s aviation brigade. In addition, RED HORSE was tasked with completing a full electrical assessment of more than

600 facilities and 300 generators.

Never a group to quit, they worked tirelessly on local projects for Iraqis such as rebuilding and enhancing the overall infrastructure of the Baghdad International Airport. When the RED HORSE teams finished, the Baghdad airport was to have fully operational runways with solid infrastruc-

OPPOSITE PAGE, CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: (1) As part of a command trip to visit Ohio Army and Air National Guard units serving overseas, MG Gregory L. Wayt (left), state adjutant general, meets with members of the 200th RED HORSE Squadron; (2) A RED HORSE member directs the flow of concrete; (3) Army engineers launch a temporary bridge over a drainage culvert, so concrete mixer trucks can gain access to the airfield worksite; (4) RED HORSE engineers prepare reinforcement bars for a helicopter apron project.

tures. The new, improved runways will enhance the military’s strategic capabilities by increasing its ability to deliver troops and equipment into the theater.

Solid training and preparation led to the RED HORSE’s success in the Middle East. Like the runways they built, their training gave the Airmen the foundation to support them during this tour of duty. Previous deployments prepared them for the emotional upheaval such as missed first baby steps, withdrawals from nearly completed college courses and lost civilian ca-

reer opportunities.

Staff Sgt. Jason Hill, a heavy equipment operator, is one of many members that made significant sacrifices. Hill, a senior at Bowling Green University, is working on a bachelor’s degree in construction management. In addition, his wife was pregnant when he deployed and was due in early August.

“I am excited to hopefully get home to see my baby, but I am also glad to be here, so a fellow Airman can go home to be with his family,” he said.



Courtesy photo

LEFT: Country music artist Toby Keith, sporting an official 200th RED HORSE baseball-style cap given to him by the unit, performs earlier this year for U.S. servicemembers stationed in Iraq. Keith has volunteered for United Service Organization (USO) tours supporting the troops that have taken him to Cuba, Afghanistan, Belgium, Germany and Iraq.

Three RED HORSE Airmen get Purple Hearts

Three members of the Ohio Air National Guard’s 200th RED HORSE Squadron received America’s oldest military decoration, the Purple Heart, during a welcome home ceremony for the unit Aug. 18 at Port Clinton High School.

Senior Airman Joshua Rohrbacher, and Staff Sgts. Charles Hiser and Duane Collins were honored with the Purple Heart as part of a ceremony marking the return of the unit from missions in Iraq and Southwest Asia. Maj. Gen. Harry “A.J.” Feucht, Ohio assistant adjutant for Air, presented the Airmen with the awards.

The Purple Heart is awarded to U.S. servicemembers who are wounded or killed by an enemy force. The three honored 200th members sustained relatively minor injuries.

More than 200 in the squadron were deployed in January to conduct heavy construction projects in support of the Army. For one project, the Airmen built a heavy lift pad for helicopters at a camp in Iraq. **WTOL/AGOH-PUBLIC AFFAIRS**





SSgt Beth Slater / 180th FW Multimedia Center

A guest questions a member of the 180th Fighter Wing about an F-16 jet engine during the unit's 50th anniversary celebration at the Toledo base.

Toledo Air National Guard unit celebrates golden anniversary

"Some interesting things happened in 1955. Disneyland opened. Polio shots were given for the first time. President Eisenhower took part in the first televised press conference. The Warsaw Pact was formed. The Brooklyn Dodgers won their only World Series. New products included Flouride toothpaste, no-more-tears baby shampoo, and the Ford Thunderbird. A postage stamp costs 3 cents, a loaf of bread 18 cents and a gallon of gas 23 cents. And the 112th Fighter Bomber Squadron moved from Akron to Toledo," said Col. Thomas E. Schart as he addressed the more than 200 people in attendance April 8 at the 180th Fighter Wing's 50th Anniversary Celebration.

Schart spoke about the unit's history and significance to the community. "In these last 50 years, we've flown five different aircraft including the state-of-the-art F-16s..." he said. "We've taken on increasing responsibility for the defense of our great nation and have become one of the top F-16 units in the country." **180TH FIGHTER WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS**

Camp Perry AAFES extends hours to benefit troops

The Camp Perry (AAFES) exchange is now open year-round, including winter months, with the following hours of operation: Sunday, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.; Monday closed; Tuesday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; and Saturday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Units with special schedule requirements may request extended hours outside the normal schedule.

For more information, contact Rita Lippus, exchange manager, at (419) 635-0101 or lippusr@aafes.com. **AGOH-PUBLIC AFFAIRS**

Engineer battalion earns prestigious combat honor

The 216th Engineer Battalion (Combat Heavy) received the Meritorious Unit Commendation (MUC) in June "for exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding services for at least six continuous months during the period of military operations against an armed enemy." With headquarters in Hamilton and units located in Felicity, Chillicothe, Tarlton, Portsmouth, Ironton, Youngstown and Walbridge, the 216th is the largest Ohio Army National Guard unit to deploy to Iraq.

The 216th was mobilized in January 2004 and supported the 1st Infantry Division in Iraq from March 2004 until their redeployment in February 2005. During that timeframe the 216th conducted 450 combat patrols and completed more than 350 missions at 40 different locations in north central Iraq and An Najaf.

The unit played a critical role in improving force protection at forward operating bases and fixed check points in the 1st Infantry Division's area of operations by constructing more than 50,000 meters of protective berms and placing 2,000 concrete barriers to protect Soldiers from enemy fire. In preparation for Iraq's national election last Jan. 30, the 216th emplaced concrete barriers at hundreds of voting sites to allow Iraqis to vote in a safe environment.

During their deployment, three Soldiers—1st Lt. Charles Wilkins of Columbus, Spc. Ryan Martin of Mount Vernon, and Pvt. 1st Class Sam Bowen of Cleveland were killed in action; 20 Soldiers earned Purple Hearts for wounds received in combat. **AGOH-PUBLIC AFFAIRS**

American Flag now flies alongside each U.S. Solider

The American flag now accompanies Soldiers wherever their mission sends them, during peacetime as well as humanitarian and combat deployments.

On February 11, 2004, Gen. Peter J. Schoomaker, Army chief of staff, approved implementation of the addition of the reverse-side, full-color U.S. flag for utility uniforms. All Soldiers had until Oct. 1 of this year to have the insignia sewn on their uniforms.

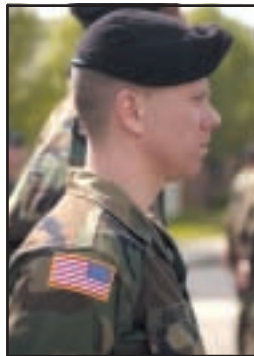
According to Col. Alfred C. Faber, Jr., joint chief of staff for Ohio, the nation is at war and will be for the foreseeable future as an expeditionary Army. Soldiers' commitment to fight and win the nation's wars, at home and abroad, is best exemplified by permanently wearing the U.S. flag insignia on utility uniforms.

"This flag is respected and our responsibility is to keep that respect—the respect the world has shown us," said Lt. Col. John Harris, director of personnel (J1) for the Ohio National Guard, as he pointed to the flag on his shoulder. "Ensure our integrity and honor is never compromised and you will maintain the respect the world has for this flag."

Measuring two-by-three inches, the flag is worn one-half inch below the right shoulder seam of utility uniforms. If applicable, the flag is placed one-eighth inch below a combat patch on the shoulder.

Two frequently asked questions about the new policy are: "Why aren't subdued flags being issued?" and "Why is the flag facing backwards?"

Subdued flags violate Chapter 1, Title 4 of the U.S. Code, which provides for the design of the U.S. flag and specifies the colors as red, white and blue. Any other color scheme would be a violation of the code. When the flag is worn properly, the star field faces forward or to the flag's own left and to the observer's right. This gives the effect of the flag flying in the breeze as the Solider walks forward. **SGT HARAZ N. GHANBARI / JFHQ-OHIO**



SGT Haraz N. Ghanbari / JFHQ-OHIO

Soldiers now wear the reverse U.S. flag patch on the upper right shoulder of every Army utility uniform, as shown by SFC Paul Bennett (above) of Joint Force Headquarters-Ohio.

Common Access Card standard DoD-wide ID

Mandated now as the standard military identification card by the Department of Defense, the Common Access Card (CAC) is complete with an updated design and has various capabilities. The high-tech card has or will have the capabilities for uses including access to controlled buildings or areas and secure access to government computers and networks. Tak-

ing about 15 minutes to issue, the card has an integrated circuit chip, a magnetic strip and two bar codes that support multiple applications and automated interfaces.

The CAC is issued by Real-time Automated Personnel Identification Systems; the following is a list of RAPIDS offices throughout Ohio (for a complete list of RAPIDS offices online, go to www.dmdc.osd.mil/rsl):

◆ Cleveland: Navy Reserve Center Cleveland, 1089 East 9th Street; (216) 771-0844.

◆ Columbus: Ohio Adjutant General's Department, 2825 West Dublin-Granville Road; (614) 336-7308.

◆ Dayton: Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, 2000 Allbrook Drive; (937) 257-2547.

◆ Cincinnati: Navy-Marine Corps Reserve Center (NMRC) Cincinnati, 3190 Gilbert Avenue; (513) 221-0138

◆ Youngstown: 910th Airlift Wing, Youngstown Air Reserve Station, 3976



AGOH-Public Affairs photo

The Common Access Card is now required to be carried by all servicemembers.

King Graves Rd, (330) 609-1095

◆ Toledo: NMCRC Toledo, 28828 Glenwood Road; (419) 666-3444, extension 211

◆ Mansfield: 179th Airlift Wing, Mansfield-Lahm Airport, 1947 Harrington Memorial Road; (419) 520-6205. **SGT HARAZ N. GHANBARI / JFHQ-OHIO**

ONG's response to hurricanes in next issue

After Hurricane Katrina and then Hurricane Rita struck the southern United States, more than 2,500 members of the Ohio National Guard were called as part of

a historic nationwide recovery effort to support the affected states.

As this was happening around the time this edition of the *Buckeye Guard* was being published, stories and photos featuring the Ohio National Guard's remarkable contributions will appear in the issue to follow. In the meantime, visit www.ohionationalguard.com for more on the response. **AGOH-PUBLIC AFFAIRS**

Ohio First Lady highlights Family Readiness Conference

No stranger to servicemembers and their families, Ohio First Lady Hope Taft took time from her busy schedule to address 350

attendees of the Ohio National Guard's 2005 Family Readiness Conference held in April at the Columbus Marriott Northwest.

"This conference is a time for members of different family readiness groups to come together, to network, to see what is working for different family readiness groups and to share in lessons learned," said Maj. Robert Bramlish, State Family Readiness Program director.

More than 7,000 Ohio National Guard Soldiers and Airmen have mobilized since the beginning of the Global War on Terrorism. Never has the role of Family Readiness Groups (FRG) been so



SPC Benjamin Cossel / 196th MPAD

Chief Warrant Officer 3 Carmen Davis (left), State Family Readiness Program assistant director, presents Ohio First Lady Hope Taft with a special quilt in recognition of Taft's continued support of Ohio servicemembers.

important as it is today.

Taft took the opportunity to speak to FRG members about her website initiative, "On the Ohio Homefront," which connects families of deployed military personnel with volunteer and discounted services of Ohio businesses as well as community and faith-based organizations to help ease the family burden. "The community wants to show their support of our troops and their families," Taft said. "We have provided an easy interface for them." For more information, visit www.homefront.ohio.gov/Home.jsp.

During the conference other people who have made a difference within the family readiness community were recognized with Adjutant General's Department Family Readiness awards:

◆ Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 37th Brigade Combat Team (BCT), received the Family Readiness Group of the Year award.

◆ Tech Sgt. Amy Hernandez, 123rd Air Control Squadron, received the Military Liaison of the Year award.

◆ Mary Renner, of Headquarters and Headquarters Company 216th Engineer Battalion, received the Volunteer of the Year award.

◆ Lt. Col. Lorenzo Mack, commander 2-174th Air Defense Artillery Battalion, received the Commander of the Year award.

◆ Timothy and Cinnamon Wellington, of Company B, 216th Engineer Battalion, received the Army Family of the Year award.

◆ Mark and Susannah Charlton, of the 200th RED HORSE Squadron, received the Air Family of the Year award.

SPC BENJAMIN COSSEL / 196TH MPAD

Tsunami supply drive



CDT Jessica Brown / 1483rd Transportation Company

Members of the 1483rd Transportation Company, including PFC Sarah Sommerlot (from left) and PVT William Weber, assisted with the Tsunami Relief project in February at the International Service of Hope in Waterville. Soldiers filled boxes with canned goods, bottled water and medical supplies, and loaded them on to trucks ready to transport. With several medical facilities completely destroyed and hundreds others damaged, the medical supplies will be used in camps all over Southern Asia.



SSgt Douglas Nicodemus / 121st ARW Multimedia Center

USO of Northern Ohio's Ann Freeman (from left), Sue Swider and Linda Lallathin provide refreshments at a homecoming ceremony for the 1484th Transportation Company earlier this year in Akron.

USO volunteers: Serving those who serve country

Toothbrushes, baby wipes, paperback books, razors, candy and chips. This may sound like a quick shopping list for a late night run to the corner store, but for Ohio Guardmembers serving a yearlong deployment in a hostile environment, these items are more than just toiletries and junk food—they represent a welcome morale booster and a small piece of home.

It is with this thought in mind that people such as Sue Swider spend countless hours of their own time to collect and mail items like these to servicemembers deployed overseas in support of the Global War on Terrorism. Swider is the volunteer project coordinator and heads the care package program for the United Service Organizations (USO) of Northern Ohio, which has shipped more than 10,000 packages containing toiletries, snacks, books and other items to deployed servicemembers. "It is something that is very hard work, but I enjoy every minute of it," Swider said.

According to its website, the USO has a to mission to provide morale, welfare and recreation-type services to men and women in uniform. It has been doing this since before the United States entered World War II. A nonprofit, congressionally chartered, private organization, the USO relies on the generosity of individuals, organizations and corporations to support its activities. The USO represents the American people by extending a touch of home to the military.

Swider has been supporting military members since 2001. "After Sept. 11, my hus-

band and I felt like we had to do something to help out," she said.

Swider started by dropping off some items at the USO for their care packages. "I had some suggestions on how they could better organize their operation," she said. "I had no idea it would lead to 60 hours and hundreds of miles a week. But I would not trade it for the world."

She now directs the care package operation from a 5,000 square-foot facility in North Canton, which was recently donated by Smither Medical Products of Akron. "This space has more than enough room for our operation and it was very nice of them (Smither) to let us work out of here," Swider noted. Her team of volunteers collects donated items and then sorts and packs them into bags and boxes for shipment to servicemembers worldwide. In addition, Swider spends time at home answering calls and completing shipping labels.

The USO will send a package to any servicemember with a valid military address, Swider said. "We also put a note in the packages asking if they need anything else or if they know another servicemember who would like to receive a care package."

In addition to sending care packages, Sue and her team of volunteers attend deployment send-off and homecoming ceremonies for military units throughout the state. At various ceremonies you can find them serving punch and cake. They mingle with the families and talk with servicemembers to let them know that once they are deployed, the USO is still supporting them and will send them care packages from home.

"It is tough sometimes to see all the tears of sadness when a family has to say goodbye to their loved one," she said, pausing to compose her emotions. "But I could not be happier when they come home.... I feel like a part of my family has returned."

Along the way Swider has developed some good friendships and admits that it has made her work that much more rewarding. "Sue and her corps of volunteers have all been very supportive of our Soldiers. We appreciate their tireless efforts and hard work," said Brig. Gen. Matthew L. Kambic, Ohio assistant adjutant general for Army.

If you know a deployed servicemember who would like to receive a care package, or if you would like to make a donation, contact Sue Swider at (440) 877-9241 or swdsue@cs.com. **JAMES A. SIMS II** / AGOH-PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Springfield's first female chief 'enjoying the ride'

Only a small percentage of Airmen ever make it to the top. In fact, only 1 percent of all personnel in the Air Force and 2 percent in the Air National Guard ever make it to the rank of chief master sergeant, the highest enlisted rank.

Chief Master Sgt. Tamara Phillips has done just that. In 17 years she has gone from Airman basic all the way to becoming the first female chief for the 178th Fighter Wing.

Phillips has worked in a variety of positions, such as information manager, commander support staff, wing commander's administrative assistant, and first sergeant prior to obtaining her current job as the mission support flight superintendent.



Phillips

She began her military career in the 168th Air Refueling Group at Eielson Air Force Base, Alaska, where she completed a four-year Active Guard/Reserve (AGR) tour before transferring to Ohio.

Phillips said she is ready for the responsibility. "I knew before I went to basic training that I would make the military my career," she said. "I think being a chief means I need to widen my visionary lens and be more attentive to base-wide retention and morale issues. Like everyone else who is doing more with less, my biggest obstacle with the increased responsibilities and expectations will be keeping a healthy balance between work and family."

Having experience in that area as well—Phillips was born and raised in the military—she knows what to expect, and has learned lessons along the way. "It's what you do (even when no one is watching), not necessarily what you say that defines your character," she said.

Phillips remembers being an Airman and says her advice is not to carry any negative baggage with them. "A climb uphill is much more difficult and takes much longer when you're weighed down with extra weight," she said.

Although Phillips has always wanted to make a career out of the military, she hasn't always had the goal of making

chief in mind. "My priorities, desires and goals changed for me about 10 years ago. So my answer to this question may sound odd. But I decided then that I would do my best to live my life so that it pleased God first. That meant I had to trust him and go through any door he opened for me and to take on whatever challenges he placed in my path. So in essence, I feel more so that I am doing what I am 'supposed to do' rather than what I want to do...Although I am enjoying the ride." **SSGT SAMANTHA J. THOMPSON / 178TH FIGHTER WING**

OHARNG commander promoted to general

Ohio's assistant adjutant general for Army, Col. Matthew L. Kambic, pinned on the rank of brigadier general during a ceremony May 2 at the Maj. Gen. Robert S. Beightler Armory, home to Joint Force Headquarters-Ohio.

Kambic joined the Army in 1974, serving on active duty overseas before joining the Ohio Army National Guard in 1978 to help pay for college tuition. "I joined the Guard for the money. I didn't come to the Guard in 1978 to be ATAG (assistant adjutant general)," said Kambic, directing a message to younger guardmembers that hard work and dedication to duty can carry one far in the military.

Adding more weight to the shoulders



SGT Haraz N. Ghanbari / JFHQ-Ohio

BG Ronald G. Young (center) is promoted to major general May 13 by LTG H. Steven Blum (left), National Guard Bureau chief, and Young's brother, COL Johnnie Young, of the West Virginia Army National Guard. Young, Ohio's former assistant adjutant general for Army, currently serves as acting director, NGB joint staff, and has been director, NGB manpower and personnel (J1), since September 2004.

Kambic was commissioned in 1981 from Youngstown State University, where he earned a bachelor's degree in business administration. He also has a master's degree in administration from Central Michigan University. **STEVE TOTH / AGOH-PUBLIC AFFAIRS**

Guardmembers, family earn ONGEA scholarships

The Ohio National Guard Enlisted Association (ONGEA) recently announced the winners of seven ONGEA scholarships, as well as the winner of the Command Sgt. Maj. Virgil R. Williams Scholarship, awarded by the Enlisted Association of the National Guard (EANGUS).

EANGUS President Ed Brown announced that Sgt. Russell P. Galeti Jr. won the CSM Williams scholarship during the Association's national conference, held in August in Orlando. Only two scholarships are awarded by EANGUS each year; the \$2,000 grants are sponsored by USAA. Galeti is a member of B Company, 1-107th Armor Battalion and a senior at Kent State University.

During the ONGEA 2005 State Conference last May, Auxiliary President Nancy McDowell announced the recipients of the seven State Association scholarships, six for \$1,000 and one for \$500. To be eligible, applicants must be guardmembers who belong to ONGEA or dependents of members of ONGEA and its Auxiliary.

Staff Sgt. David J. Borell, 324th Military Police Company; Senior Airman Matthew D. Kambic, 179th Air-lift Wing; and Airman Lyndsey D. Scholl, 180th Fighter Wing are current members of the Ohio National Guard and ONGEA.

The remaining four winners—Rachel R. Ballard, Ryan C. Espich, Lindsey R. Lorenzen and Aubrey L. Muncy—were sponsored by their parents.

Applications for 2006-2007 scholarships can be obtained at www.ongea.org, or can be requested by calling (800) 642-6642, extension 44. **DIANE FARROW / ONGEA**



Courtesy photo

SSG John Bernardi (far right), of C Battery, 1-134th Field Artillery Battalion, Piqua, was recognized as U.S. Air Force in Europe (USAFE) Outstanding Army Soldier of the Year, 2004, while deployed last year with nearly 500 other members of the battalion.

Soldier excels during European force protection mission

When faced with the anxiety and unfamiliarity that can accompany an overseas deployment, some Soldiers might be content just doing the bare minimum. But for one Ohio Guardmember, it presented an opportunity to excel.

Staff Sgt. John Bernardi, of C Battery, 1-134th Field Artillery, Piqua, deployed last year with nearly 500 other members of the 1-134th Field Artillery Battalion to provide force protection and security operations at 12 military installations throughout Europe. During the deployment Bernardi earned the recognition from the U.S. Air Force in Europe (USAFE) as Outstanding Army Soldier of the Year, 2004. He was chosen as the top among all Army security forces serving on base security missions throughout Europe. Bernardi supervised 15 Soldiers, which he assigned to various security posts such as controlled entry and exit points, flight line security and aircraft security from March through November 2004. **SPC MICHELLE MORGAN / JFHQ-OHIO**

Ohio Guard now has own General Lee among ranks

Col. Jack E. Lee pinned on the single-star rank of brigadier general April 20 during a ceremony at Beightler Armory in Columbus.

Recently retired from nearly 30 years as a federal technician, Lee retains his position as commander of the 73rd Troop Command, the Ohio Army National Guard's largest major subordinate command. With headquarters at Rickenbacker Airport in Columbus, Lee oversees about 4,000 Soldiers, who drill in locations throughout Ohio. **STEVE TOTH / AGOH-PUBLIC AFFAIRS**



Courtesy photo

Gov. Bob Taft (center, seated) holds House Bill 426, sponsored by state Rep. Peter Ujvagi (standing, right of Taft), also known as the Patriot Plan, which provides new protections for Ohio servicemembers who are faced with deployment.

New state legislation aids Ohio Guardmembers

The Ohio General Assembly passed several pieces of legislation this year that will benefit members of the Ohio National Guard.

House Bill 2, sponsored by state Rep. John Widowfield (R-Cuyahoga Falls), extends tax filing deadlines for members who are deployed. If the tenure of your deployment includes the traditional April 15 filing date, you are not required to file your state income tax returns until 60 days after you return home from active duty. While on active duty, you will not be charged penalties or interest for taxes owed during this time.

On Feb. 15, Gov. Bob Taft signed House Bill 426, sponsored by state Rep. Peter Ujvagi (D-Toledo). The bill contains a comprehensive package of changes to the Ohio Revised Code that provides a wide array of new benefits and protections for Ohio's servicemen and women who are called to active duty.

The bill will assist Ohio's military personnel and their families who face potential added expenses and disruptions caused by being called to active duty in the nation's ongoing Global War on Terrorism. Ujvagi said he introduced the legislation after hearing that deployed Soldiers and their families were having trouble terminating vehicle leases and cell phone contracts.

"Ohio's military servicemen and women play a vital role in keeping our nation safe, strong and free, particularly as we work to protect our homeland and

fight the ongoing Global War on Terrorism," Ujvagi said. "The sacrifices our military men and women make while serving on active duty should not be compounded by their families having to make additional sacrifices at home. This comprehensive package will provide new and enhanced benefits to our military personnel, so that they and their families will get the support and protections they need and deserve."

The provisions of the Patriot Plan include:

✓ **Termination of Vehicle Leases:** Permits military personnel to terminate a car lease without penalty if he or she is called to active duty.

✓ **Interest Rate Cap on Installment Loans:** Caps rates of interest on installment loans at 6 percent while the individual is on active duty.

✓ **Health Insurance Benefits:** Directs the Insurance Department to protect the rights of military personnel to continue, suspend or convert health insurance benefits during periods of active duty.

✓ **Life Insurance Policies:** Prevents policies from lapsing during periods of active deployment or two years after the end of an insured servicemember's active duty.

✓ **Educational Military Leave of Absence and Tuition Relief:** Requires colleges and universities to provide educational military leave of absence for students called to active duty. The provisions require the institution to restore the student to his or her previous educational status upon return from military service without loss of credits earned, scholarships or grants or other fees paid prior to the start of military duty. In addition, colleges and universities would be required to provide a tuition refund or credit to students who are forced to suspend their studies because of military leave of absence before or on the institutional date of withdrawal. This includes an enforcement mechanism providing an opportunity for students to file civil claims if

the institution does not comply.

✓ **School Stability:** Permits children of overseas deployed parents to remain in the same school, without disruption, for the period of deployment.

✓ **Evictions:** Prohibits evictions of a financially dependent family member residing with a servicemember during period of active-duty military service. The servicemember must be listed on the lease.

✓ **Termination of Cellular Contracts:** Provides that a servicemember deployed overseas may terminate a cellular telephone contract without penalty.

✓ **Utility Disconnection:** Prevents termination of utility services at the residence of a financially dependent family member residing with a servicemember during a period of active-duty military service. The servicemember must be listed on the lease or provide proof of residency.

Maj. Gen. Gregory L. Wayt, Ohio's adjutant general, commended the efforts of the Ohio General Assembly and the governor for strengthening servicemembers' rights. "I am pleased that Ohio's legislators recognize the need to help our military men and women and their families at a time when they are sacrificing so much," he said.

Both laws took effect this past spring. Guardmembers who have questions about their rights under the law may call the Judge Advocate General's Office at (614) 336-7258. **JOHANN KLEIN / AGOH-LEGISLATIVE LIAISON**

Health insurance program open to veteran reservists

Thousands of Reserve and Guard servicemembers can now qualify to purchase more healthcare coverage for themselves and their families under a new Tricare program that began in April.

Tricare, the military's health care provider, is now accepting enrollment for its new Tricare Reserve Select health plan. Congress authorized the new healthcare benefit for Reserve Component members under the fiscal 2005 National Defense Authorization Act as a way of providing health coverage to Reserve Component members.

To be eligible for TRS, servicemembers must have been called or ordered to active duty by the president in support of a contingency operation since Sept. 11, 2001, and they must have served continuously on active duty for 90 days or more. The cost for the plan is \$75 for TRS member-only coverage and \$233 for TRS member and family member coverage. **SFC DOUG SAMPLE / AMERICAN FORCES PRESS SERVICE**

Ssg Ronald A. Mitchell / JFHQ-Ohio



RIGHT: A team of Ohio Army and Air National Guardmembers assist Gov. Bob Taft and First Lady Hope Taft in placing a wreath at the Ohio Veterans Plaza in Columbus to mark the Memorial Day Weekend.

LEFT: Maj Gen Harry "A.J." Feucht, assistant adjutant general for Air, recognizes a fellow Buckeye, Brig Gen Vergel L. Lattimore, Air National Guard assistant to the Air Force chief of chaplains, for being the Black History Month program guest speaker in February at state headquarters in Columbus. RIGHT: BG Jack E. Lee, commander of the 73rd Troop Command, was the official race starter for the 2005 American Le Mans Series Race in May at Mid-Ohio Sports Car Course in Lexington.



James A. Sims II / AGOH-Public Affairs



Ssg Ronald A. Mitchell / JFHQ-Ohio

Guard Snapshots

RIGHT: MG Gregory L. Wayt, Ohio adjutant general, speaks at a send-off ceremony Nov. 13, 2004, for Company A, 612th Engineer Battalion. He explained the meaning behind the Service Star Banner, or "Blue Star Flag" (pictured at lower left). CPT Robert B. Quiesner, an Ohio Guard veteran of the 1916 Mexican Border Call-up, designed the original banner in 1917 to honor his two sons heading for the trenches in World War I. Each blue star represented a Soldier in active service. Today, family members are displaying the banner on homes and cars nationwide to support their deployed loved ones—active, Guard, or Reserve.



Steve Toth / AGOH-Public Affairs



ABOVE: The Ohio Army National Guard's LTC Laura Monteith (left), Columbus Clippers mascot LouSeal and Desert Storm veteran Eboni Brown took part in the minor league baseball team's Salute to Veterans Night in connection with the Memorial Day observance.

Dan Bender / DSCC-Public Affairs



LEFT: During the annual Central Ohio Armed Forces Day luncheon May 20, SMSGt Tony Jones (center) of the 121st Air Refueling Wing was honored as the area "Service Person of the Year."

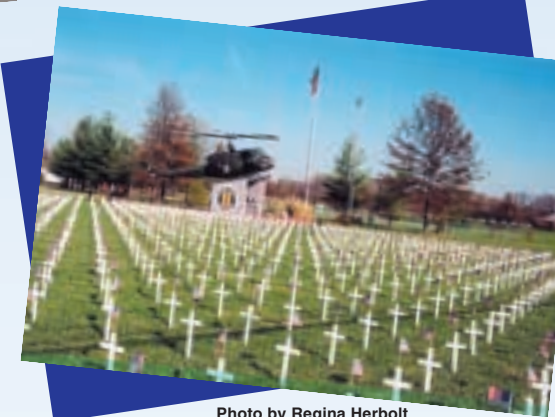


Photo by Regina Herbolt

LEFT: In November 2004, members of Cub Scout Pack 452 and Boy Scout Troop 452, both of Withamsville, in conjunction with southwestern Ohio veterans groups, erected a display of white crosses at Union Township Veterans Memorial Park to honor each U.S. servicemember who had died fighting the Global War on Terrorism, including six Soldiers from the Ohio Army National Guard.