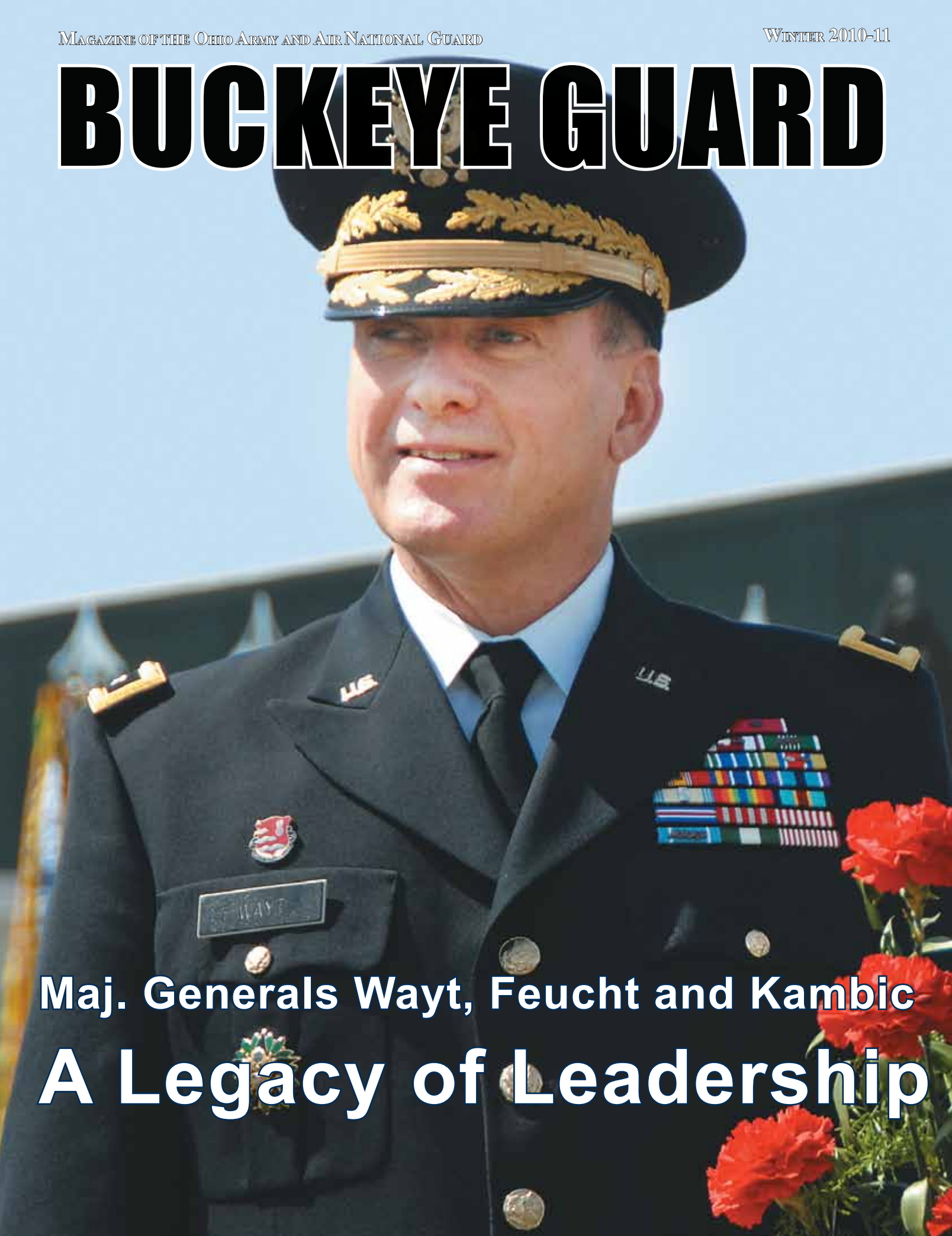


BUCKEYE GUARD



**Maj. Generals Wayt, Feucht and Kambic
A Legacy of Leadership**

LINEAGE LINK UP

Company A, Special Troops Battalion, 37th IBCT St. Marys



MISSION:

To increase the combat effectiveness of the separate BCT by accomplishing limited mobility, countermobility, survivability, and sustainment engineering missions, or to perform infantry combat missions when required.

DATE & PLACE OF BIRTH:

25 May 1900, Spencerville, Ohio

PARENT UNIT:

Company F, 2d Infantry

CAMPAIGN CREDIT:

World War I: Ypres-Lys,
Meuse-Argonne, Lorraine 1918

World War II: Northern Solomons
(with arrowhead), Luzon (with
arrowhead), Normandy (with
arrowhead), Northern France,
Rhineland, Ardennes-Alsace, Central
Europe

War on Terrorism: Global War on
Terrorism, Iraqi Governance, National
Resolution

AWARDS:

Presidential Unit Citation, Streamer
embroidered BOUGAINVILLE

Presidential Unit Citation, Streamer
embroidered LUZON

Valorous Unit Award, Streamer
embroidered IRAQ 2004-2005

Philippine Presidential Unit Citation,
Streamer embroidered 17 OCTOBER
1944-4 JULY 1945

Cited in the Order of the Day of the
Belgian Army for action at ST. VITH



Officers of Company K, 148th Infantry in late 1944. Lt. Robert Viale is the first officer standing on the left. Viale was later awarded the Medal of Honor for his heroic actions in the Philippines.



Hq. & Hq. Co, 3d Bn, 148th Infantry,
Camp Breckinridge, Ky, 1958.



Spc. Aaron Hibbard and Spc. Krista Ellis, Co. A, 612th Eng. Bn, aid the Ohio Department of Transportation in clearing and clean-up of Van Wert County roadways after deadly tornados struck the area in 2002.

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Fall, **August 15**
Winter, **November 15**

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ADJUTANT GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT

State Commander-in-Chief
Gov. Ted Strickland

Adjutant General
Maj. Gen. Gregory L. Wayt

Assistant Adjutant General, Air
Maj. Gen. Harry W. "A.J." Feucht

Assistant Adjutant General, Army
Maj. Gen. Matthew L. Kambic

Command Sergeant Major, Army
Command Sgt. Maj. Albert M. Whatmough

Command Chief Master Sergeant, Air
Chief Master Sgt. Tamara Phillips

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Governor-elect John Kasich appointed Ohio National Guard Colonel Promotable Deborah A. Ashenhurst as the new adjutant general for Ohio Dec. 14, 2010, during a press conference in Columbus. Ashenhurst will be the first female Ohio Army National Guard general officer and the first female adjutant general in Ohio's history, as well as one of only two female adjutants general serving today in the nation.



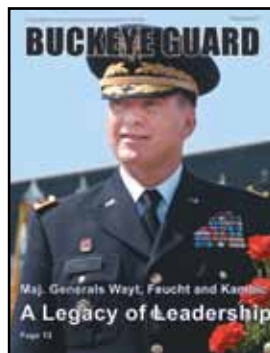
FEATURES

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ON THE COVER



The adjutant general and assistant adjutants general are retiring in December. They provided leadership during a time which brought many changes to the way the Ohio National Guard operates. In this issue they each reflect upon their time in the Ohio National Guard. The adjutant general's farewell is the subject of the Command Focus on page 3. The assistant adjutant general's farewells are on pages 14 and 15.

The Ohio National Guard on the Internet

- Facebook <http://www.facebook.com/TheOhioNationalGuard>
- Twitter <http://twitter.com/ohnationalguard>
- YouTube <http://www.youtube.com/OhioNationalGuard>
- Flickr <http://www.flickr.com/photos/ohnationalguard>

Parting words from the adjutant general

I am both humbled and honored to have been your adjutant general over the past 6 1/2 years. As many of you know, I am retiring after 35 years of military service to our state and nation. As I reflect over these years, my thoughts are filled with many fond memories and a great sense of accomplishment as I leave behind a National Guard that is the best in the nation. My commissioning as a second lieutenant seems like yesterday and I could have not imagined at that time all of the opportunities and experiences that would be afforded to me.



Maj. Gen. Gregory L. Wayt
Adjutant General

I have been blessed to have my Family beside me for 35 years. My wife and daughter have sacrificed much during my career, yet they have been my greatest supporters and have always been by my side. I owe them my thanks, my gratitude and above all, my love -- I am blessed.

I have met so many great Americans along the way in my career. I have been afforded many once-in-a-lifetime opportunities. However, my fondest memories are of the last 10 years and include so many accomplishments by everyone in this organization. These memories include being part of an organization that has transformed from a strategic reserve to an operational force with new missions, conducting the largest mobilizations and global operations in over 60 years, achieving the highest levels of readiness and executing the largest military construction program in our history. They also include establishing benchmark programs such as our Family program, OHIOCARES and employer outreach, and receiving multiple Army Community of Excellence and Ohio Partnership for Excellence awards. Lastly, I will remember establishing a partnership with Serbia, renewing our partnership with Hungary and forming many new partnerships with other organizations.

The outstanding reputation of the Ohio National Guard is known around the world. This reputation is a direct result of the 17,000 members of the Ohio National Guard. The leadership of this organization has never been stronger. The noncommissioned officer corps is truly the backbone of our organization and has ensured our Soldiers and Airmen are cared for and trained to the highest levels. I have often said the noncommissioned officers have the hardest job in our armed forces. I am proud of their accomplishments and leadership. Our Soldiers and Airmen are incredible, patriotic Americans and have my admiration and deepest respect for their willingness to voluntarily serve and to defend our freedoms both here and abroad. They are truly the future of our organization and I am confident they will lead this organization to new levels.

I was once asked if I could recall how many times I have

stood in line shaking Guard members' hands, meeting Family members and thanking employers at call to duty and welcome home ceremonies. My answer has always been "countless," yet I would not have missed even one of these events. More than 18,000 members of the Ohio National Guard have been mobilized during my tenure. Not a day has gone by that I haven't reflected on our deployed and non-deployed members and our Families. It is the great support of our Families that ensure our mission success. We truly have the greatest Families and their support has not gone unnoticed. Our Families serve side by side with us, support us and take care of the homefront during deployments. I thank every member for your unwavering support and sacrifice.

Our partnerships with Hungary and Serbia have seen significant accomplishments with national security implications. Our partnership with Serbia has been recognized by the Department of State, Department of Defense, National Guard Bureau, United States European Command and the U.S. Embassy to Serbia as the best of the 62 state partnerships and for its significant role in meeting national security objectives. Deploying with the Hungarian Defense Forces to Afghanistan has been historic. The Hungarian chief of defense requested to the supreme allied commander - Europe that the Ohio National Guard serve with his armed forces in this mission. What a tribute — I thank those who have served on this mission.

Our organization has transformed to support new missions and all of our formations have relevant future missions that will serve both our state and federal missions well. The Ohio Air National Guard is now postured for the future and remains the second largest in the nation, with what I would say is the most diversified portfolio. The Ohio Army National Guard also transformed its structure to support new missions and again, all relevant with a diversified portfolio.

We have completed more than \$300 million in construction. Our Soldiers and Airmen deserve the best facilities possible. This construction is unprecedented in our history and we have much more to accomplish. This could not have been possible without the great support of our governor, congressional delegation and the Ohio General Assembly. Camp Perry and Camp Ravenna have made remarkable progress and each have become an essential part of our pre-mobilization strategy. This construction program will ensure the success of the Ohio National Guard long into the future.

Lastly, none of the accomplishments of this organization could have occurred without the support of the great leaders, Soldiers, Airmen, Families, employers and partners of this organization. I would like to personally thank Maj. Gen. A.J. Feucht, Maj. Gen. Matt Kambic, retired Brig. Gen. Jack Lee, Dr. Mark Wayda and Col. Bill Zieber, our brigade and wing commanders, command sergeants major and command chief master sergeants for their support and leadership. They have been great battle buddies and wingmen.

Lastly, as I close this chapter and begin a new one, I wish each of you continued success. I am proud to have served with each of you. God bless you and God bless the state of Ohio. **GG**

Share your National Guard experiences as part of the speaker's bureau

The Ohio National Guard (ONG) is organizing a speaker's bureau that will produce a qualified cadre of dependable military speakers to facilitate strategic communications throughout Ohio. Members will give speeches for schools, service clubs and patriotic civic events. Topics presented may include, but are not limited to, unclassified

deployment experiences, patriotic themes, history of the ONG, educational benefits, career opportunities and information regarding the ONG today.

Speakers will be ambassadors of the ONG and as such should be able to present themselves in a professional manner. Prior public speaking experience and extensive knowledge of the ONG is preferred. Speakers should also be passionate about their military service and enjoy

sharing this experience with others.

Interested personnel should obtain the permission of their supervisor to participate in the program. The speaker's work schedule should be flexible



enough to permit them to attend events throughout the week.

For more information or to be considered for the Speaker's Bureau, please contact Lt. Col. Kathy Lowrey at (614) 336-7002 or Kathy.lowrey@us.army.mil.

Lt. Col. Kathy Lowrey is the director of community outreach for the Ohio National Guard



1st Sgt. Kelly Sellers of the 37th Infantry Brigade Combat Team displays some military equipment and talks with students at Walnut Ridge High School. He was one of several veterans who visited the school to speak about the significance of Veterans Day during "Take a Vet to School" day sponsored by Columbus Public Schools. (Columbus Public School photo/Jacqueline D. Bryant)

Command profile



Lt. Col. Ann-Maria Coghlin
121st Air Refueling Wing Mission Support
Group Deputy Commander

NAME: Lt. Col. Ann-Maria Coghlin

AGE: 45

FULL-TIME OCCUPATION: Culinary Student and Personal Chef

HOMETOWN: Mason, OH

Family: Husband, Mark (retired ANG Lt. Col.), Michael, 15 and Matthew, 13

WHEN I WAS YOUNGER, I WANTED TO: Be a reporter

MOST RECENT ACHIEVEMENT: Completing all of the Air Force required computer-based training!

THE LAST GOOD MOVIE I SAW WAS: Rendition ... I don't go to the theater a lot, so the movies I watch are usually older. And the book is always better than the movie!

THE BOOK I'M READING IS: Principle-Centered Leadership by Stephen R. Covey

MY FAVORITE RECREATIONAL ACTIVITY IS: A relaxing vacation with my Family when I can try a lot of new recipes

THE ONE THING I TREASURE MOST: Family

HEROES: My parents and grandparents for the faith and foundation they gave me, the importance they placed on Family and on serving others.

NOBODY KNOWS I'M: A huge reader! I read 3 - 4 books a week usually.

I'D GIVE ANYTHING TO MEET: My grandparents for dinner again

MY BIGGEST PET PEEVE IS: When people aren't accountable

THE THREE WORDS THAT BEST DESCRIBE ME: Dedicated, loyal, energetic

IF I COULD LEAVE TODAY'S GUARDMEMBERS WITH ONE PIECE OF ADVICE IT WOULD BE: The Guard has a lot to offer you in an environment that allows you to set your goals and meet them. Take all of the various opportunities you have to serve. Make sure that you are embracing the opportunities that test your weaknesses and build upon your strengths. Surround yourself with positive, energetic people and ensure you are always prepared for the next opportunity that comes along!

Stivers takes on dual role as military and civilian Leader

Story by 1st Lt. Kristina Gaskins
Ohio National Guard Public Affairs

Congressman-elect Steve Stivers is no stranger to leadership. He has been an officer in the Ohio Army National Guard for 22 years and served as a state senator from January 2003 to December 2008. While simultaneously serving his country in both leadership positions, Stivers manages to achieve a balance between the two.

Stivers enlisted in the Ohio National Guard in 1985 because he wanted to be able to give back to his community, said Stivers. In 1987, he decided to attend Officer Candidate School.

"I went to officer candidate school because I felt I had more to give to the Guard and had leadership ability, direction and planning skills," said Stivers.

He served as commander of the 237th Personnel Services Battalion from 2004 to 2005 during Operation Iraqi Freedom serving in Kuwait, Iraq, Qatar and Djibouti. He oversaw 400 Soldiers and was responsible for postal operations throughout the region. He was awarded the Bronze Star Medal for his service during deployment.

"When we got there it took eleven days to get a package from Columbus to southern Iraq," said Stivers. "When we came back, it only took six days. We were really proud of our ability to get that done."

Stivers said his deployment experience helped him understand why the National Guard operates the way it does.

"We don't train for training's sake; we train to go to war. You get to see how the things we do during peacetime relate to our mission when it's time to do our job overseas in a combat zone," Stivers said.

He also said his experience in the Guard has greatly impacted his role as a politician. "American foreign policy is not made in Washington, D.C., but is made by Soldiers serving overseas," he said.

"My profession in the National Guard gives me great perspective on some of the decisions we make that impact Soldiers' lives and Families' lives," said Stivers.

Stivers believes knowing what Soldiers go through on a daily basis and during combat impacts his daily decisions in both of his professions. He is also adamant about ensuring that Soldiers receive both proper care for mental and physical injuries when they return from deployments as well as economic opportunities.

Recognizing the importance of mentoring junior officers in the Guard, Stivers offered leadership advice for junior Soldiers.

"I subscribe to the theory of three p's for promotion: paperwork, position, and people," he said.

Paperwork refers to doing all administrative things necessary to advance through the ranks. Military education, maintaining height and weight, and being mentally and physically ready are



Lt. Col. Steve Stivers was recently elected as U.S. Representative from Ohio's 15th District.

all imperative if a junior officer wishes to get promoted, he said.

Stivers describes position as an officer ensuring he or she "get a chance to be a platoon leader, do a good job as company commander and get operational positions like battalion (operations officer)," said Stivers. By serving in these positions, an officer has a better chance of being chosen for higher responsibilities.

Stivers last "p" for successful promotion is people. This doesn't just mean taking care of Soldiers, but also means making sure a young officer networks with more experienced officers, he said.

"Lots of people will step up to help you if you let them know who you are, introduce yourself to them and put yourself in a position where people can support you," Stivers said.

Stivers manages careers as a full-time politician and a high-ranking leader in the Guard.

"It certainly is a hard line to walk between politics and military, but it can be done and I hope over time I can be an example to people of how it can be done," he said. He advised other officers aspiring to be politicians to follow their passions, but not be political when in uniform and do their military duties to the best of their ability.

The most important thing for the public to know about Soldiers serving today is they are true American heroes, ready to deploy to anyone's hometown if there is a natural disaster and to deploy overseas if their country needs them, Stivers said. In January, when his term in Congress begins, he said he will continue to support the military and lead troops in Ohio.

"The National Guard is a ready and able force that can accomplish any mission," Stivers said. "It's got great people able to do great things and I've seen this National Guard do great things both home and abroad."

Five questions and answers with Steve Stivers

1. What are your priorities for Ohio?

My top priorities as a member of Congress will be job creation, maintaining a strong national defense and cutting the excessive spending and ever-increasing debt. In November, Ohio's unemployment rate was at 9.8 percent and in this current economy, many Ohioans know someone who is struggling to find work. Congress needs to make every effort to make job creation the number one priority. It is also important that Congress works to maintain a strong national defense by ensuring we give the military the tools they need to succeed in their missions, both at home and abroad.

I am also concerned about the runaway spending and debt facing our nation. Our debt currently stands at over \$13 trillion and counting. My daughter is just over a year old. When she was born, her share of the national debt was \$35,000 and today it is more than \$43,000. This is alarming, we need to make the tough decisions on spending so we can provide our children with a better future.

2. What are the top issues Congress needs to pursue in support of the National Guard nationally?

There are many issues facing the National Guard that I look forward to digging into and addressing as a member of Congress. First and foremost, I would like to improve TRICARE to ensure our Soldiers and veterans and their Families have access to the best health care system possible. I will also look for opportunities to improve the educational benefits for the Guard. In addition, I will work with my colleagues to provide the necessary support to improve Army National Guard equipment.

3. How will you balance the demands of being a Lt. Col. in the National Guard with the demands of Congress?

I believe the two jobs will actually complement each other in a positive way. The Ohio National Guard has given me the opportunity to develop and sharpen my leadership skills. I also believe deploying with my battalion to Kuwait, Iraq, Qatar and Djibouti gave me invaluable insight into the U.S. missions in Iraq and Afghanistan that will be an asset to me as a member of Congress.

I also think it is important to have members in Congress that can give voice to the issues facing the Ohio National Guard and our national defense.

4. How has your military training and experience prepared you for this new role as a congressman?

The leadership experience I gained in the Ohio National Guard will be invaluable to me in Congress, and the importance of public service is another lesson learned from the National Guard. I first joined the Ohio National Guard in 1985 because I wanted to give back to our country and I decided to run for Congress last year because I saw it as another way to serve the people of Ohio.

I would also say military service in war zones and leading troops who are far from their Families have allowed me to better understand the needs and challenges facing not only military Families but all Families in general. When I was deployed I saw firsthand that we must not only take care of our brave men and women who are fighting, but we must also look after their loved ones back home. These will all be valuable lessons for me when I am sworn in as a member of Congress.

5. Based on your 20-plus years of service in the Ohio National Guard, what advice would you have for young men or women thinking about joining the Army or Air National Guard today?

Serving in the Ohio National Guard is an amazing opportunity. The men and women who have chosen to serve in the Guard are there when the nation turns to them for help, whether responding to a natural disaster or leading a mission overseas, they answer the call to duty. Serving with these Soldiers for more than 25 years has been an honor for me. **AG**

52d CST/WMD medical team utilizes Medflight's training simulator during exercise for realistic training

Story and photo by Sgt. 1st Class Doug Melvin

CLEVELAND - The Ohio National Guard 52d Civil Support Team (CST) Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) Medical Section was able to practice their skills using a mannequin with some of the latest simulation technology during a recent exercise in Cleveland, Ohio.

During the WMD exercise, the 52d medical team was able to get advanced training in emergency airway management and CBRNE exposures using MedFlight of Ohio's Meti-Man patient simulator. The simulator uses technology and human medical models to respond to actions and interventions with the characteristics and response of a real patient.

"It was a great hands-on experience for a beginner," said 1st Lt. Matthew Fuhrhop, 52d medical services officer. "It allowed the medical team to work together with an outside source driving the training."

The training was facilitated by MedFlight's own subject matter experts, critical care nurses and paramedics that operate the mannequin's computers and treatment simulation protocols to provide realistic training. The training methods and devices are used to train in-house medical crews. As part of Medflight's outreach education, they have created a virtual lab at their Columbus headquarters and a mobile education truck that brings simulation training to partner EMS and other agencies by request.

"The Meti-Man gives you realistic feedback and allows you to train in the same place you work," said Maj. Roberts.

The 52d CST medical section provides a wide variety of services and support, ranging from preventative medicine, chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, high-yield explosives (CBRNE) analytical laboratory support and emergency medical services for team members. Their highest priority is on life safety and emergency victim care in the event of a medical emergency when the team is on a mission.

"Maintaining skills in emergency medical care is an on-going process, one that requires many hours of yearly continuing medical education (CME) and training to maintain our state and national certifications," said Maj. Van Roberts, 52d CST physician assistant. **AG**



52nd CST medical staff Maj. Van Roberts, Capt. Jeremy Ford, and 1st Lt. Matthew Fuhrhop receive Meti-Man instruction in nerve agent treatment from MedFlight's Critical Care Registered Nurse John Hedderman.

Family Readiness and the Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program offer tools for making the most of deployment preparation

Story by Diana Whatmough
JFHQ Family Readiness and Warrior Support

The Family Readiness and Warrior Support Division is here to assist you and your Family, regardless of your mission status. However, if deployment is in your future, be sure to involve your Family early in the game. Service members, make sure you have completed the Family data sheet with your unit Family Readiness Group. The Family data sheet allows your loved one to receive communication from the Family Readiness Group (FRG) prior to deployment and upcoming FRG Events. The Family Readiness Group will become the

main source of official communication to your loved one and provide an avenue of mutual support. If you or your Family is not already involved with your unit FRG, now is the time to become an active member.

Within the Family Readiness and Warrior Support Division, there are six regional Troop and Family Assistance Centers (TFAC). The Troop and Family Assistance Centers are your “one stop shop” to assist with the needs that you may be experiencing,

regardless of mission status. Our TFACs are the regional experts on the resources available to assist with a various array of needs from financial support to counseling. Each of the staff at the Troop and Family Assistance Centers focus on the following six essential services: outreach to deployed Family members, attending deployed FRG meetings, conduit to regional resources and regional subject matter experts, community outreach and hosting the Regional Inter-Service Family Assistance Committee (RISFAC) quarterly meetings. RISFAC is building community relationships between the local resources (corporations, veteran organizations and private individuals) who want to support the local units and families within that region. The TFAC is truly your conduit to resources and one stop shop.

Within the deployment cycle, the Yellow Ribbon Office offers numerous opportunities and briefings that assist you and your Family as you navigate your way along this path. The first of these events is the Service Member and Family Mobilization Brief prior to deployment. This one day event will allow the Service Member and Family to gather

valuable information on military pay and legal issues, along with meeting the Family members of those serving with you. Included in this one day event is a youth workshop for children ages 6 and older, sponsored by the State Youth Program. The State Youth Program provides a four-hour block focusing on separation and leadership within the day. Your child/children will have the opportunity to meet and share with other military youth who are experiencing the same challenges that they will be experiencing. For your children 5 and under there will be onsite childcare with licensed childcare providers.

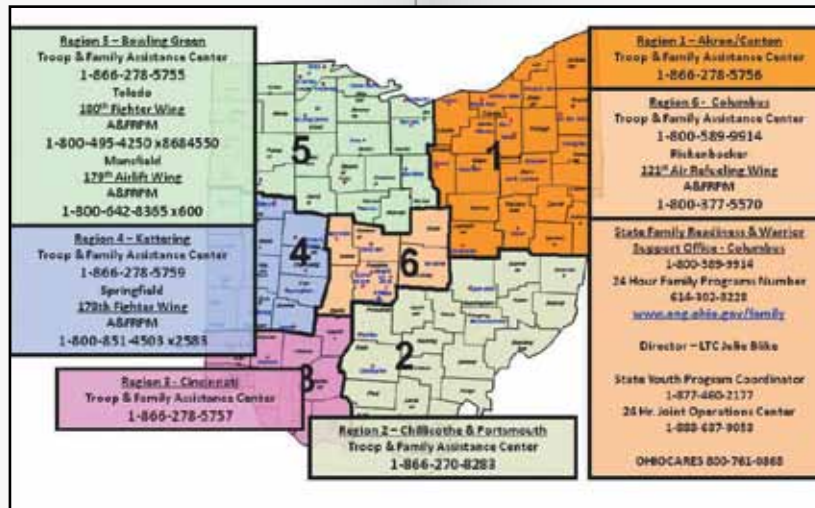
While in the deployment cycle, Yellow Ribbon will also be hosting a Reunion Brief. This one-day event will assist in preparing the Family for the return of their loved one. Attendees will receive briefings on TRICARE and Battlemind Training to assist with the emotional side of the deployment that both you and your service member maybe feeling. There will be childcare provided at this briefing by licensed childcare providers along with a Family Readiness Group Meeting.

While in the post mobilization / reintegration phase, Yellow Ribbon will offer a 30 and 60 day event. Both of these events

will be a day and half of briefings and camaraderie time. The briefings offered will assist with the transition back to civilian life. These will include Tricare, Education, and Financial Readiness along with the emotional side of the reintegration and adjusting back to being a Family. If you are Single Service Member, briefings will be provided for you and your parents to attend to address any concerns that may affect you. The State Youth program will provide a two-hour block

focusing on the readjustment of the Family. For your children 5 and under there will be onsite childcare with a licensed childcare provided. For service members and Family traveling to this briefing overnight accommodations are available through the Yellow Ribbon Program.

As everyone’s experience is different in the military and no two deployments are the same, there are a few things to remember. Building a strong and ready Family should be number one. There are so many options to take advantage of within our program to have a ready Family. Family fun events at a local zoo, attending a sporting event at OSU or Akron University, Kelley’s Island Youth Camp, Troop and Family Camp or Marriage Enrichment Weekends just to name a few. Are you and an active member in your unit’s Family Readiness Group? If not, find out how you can be and where you can volunteer to help. Be sure to make time for you and your Family to spend quality time together, to create lasting memories and new traditions. Your local regional Troop and Family Assistance Center is your one stop shop to learn more.



The Family Readiness and Warrior Support offices for the Ohio National Guard are divided into zones as shown above. Please contact the one closest to you with any questions or to get involved in our program.

A deployment survival story

Story by Capt. Matt Molinski
Ohio National Guard Public Affairs

“Mommy! Mommy! Mommy!” is the phrase most often heard in the Branson household. Five small voices eagerly compete for the attention of Tara Branson, mother and deployment survival expert.

“When I met Matt many years ago, I knew he was in the Air National Guard. Deployments were to be expected, but little did I know the impact it would have on our Family,” Tara said.

“In a span of fourteen months, I am going to miss seven birthdays, two New Year’s, Thanksgiving, Christmas, and two Valentines Day’s,” said Tech. Sgt. Matt Branson, 121st Air Refueling Wing guidance and control maintenance technician.

Matt met Tara at a McDonald’s restaurant in Pataskala, Ohio, and deployed a few days later. When he returned, he ran into Tara again and they went on their first date. A month later, Matt deployed again.

“I asked her to house sit for me; she has never left since,” Matt said. After seven years of marriage, the Branson’s have developed deployment survival techniques that all Guard Families can use.

At home, Matt is the father and chief hug provider for the Family, a role he takes very seriously.

“One of the biggest things I miss is hugs,” Matt said. When he comes home from work, he delivers vertebrae-popping hugs to his wife and special bear hugs to the kids.

“With my kids, I do bear hugs. Baby bear hug is a very gentle squeeze and a squeak. Momma bear hug is a bit harder and a Grrrrrrrr sound. Daddy bear hug

I squeeze ‘em like crazy and GRRRRRRRRR very loud,” he said. “They love it and they want Daddy Bear hugs all the time, from my three-year-old to my eleven-year-old.”

These hugs have sustained the Family during multiple separations; they are so powerful nothing can replace them. The Family has tried to reduce the separation anxiety by using Skype to stay in contact and encourages others to try this technology. “The children still miss playing with him and being held by him,” Tara said. “But we cannot spend the entire day on Skype, so the playing and holding duty falls to me.”

Together, the Branson’s credit a foundation of core values learned from their parent’s military service. Tara’s mother and father survived the Great Depression and her father fought in World War II. She credits her parents for raising her well and instilling the value to adapt and overcome in any situation. Matt said Tara lives that motto daily. “She makes it possible for me to do this by so willingly taking care of things at home and encouraging me to serve,” he said.

A good Family foundation is only one part of surviving deployments. With a good night’s sleep and a lot of coffee, Tara can accomplish many daily tasks, she said with a laugh. She tries to fill each week with a variety of fun events, including swimming, gymnastics, library time, indoor playgrounds, roller skating and movies. “It requires some effort, yet I also find the activity very rewarding. The more energy burnt off, the more peaceful the house,” Tara said.

On the other end of the deployment, Matt tries to stay busy with 13-hour workdays, but even the labor can’t always keep his mind off his Family.

“When I think about my Family I just want to hug them so bad it almost hurts my stomach, then I take a deep breath and go about my business,” Matt said. He also enjoys the ability to play online games with his kids, like checkers and memory

games. The kids will want to play, and he’ll stay on the website as long as possible, he said.

Family support groups are another technique the Branson’s use to cope with deployment. The activities arranged by the unit Family support group are a key to getting through the deployment. The kids thoroughly enjoy the fall party at Dill’s and the Christmas party at the base, Tara said. She also credits Carolyn Ebert, unit Family readiness program manager as a great asset in communicating events to the Branson Family.

Tara said the technique that works best with the children is consistency. “Each child understands they have a waking time and a bed time. If I keep them on this schedule, life goes by in an orderly fashion,” she said.

However, when the children go to bed, she finds the deployment separation the most difficult. “Having time to myself can sometimes be very boring, I endeavor to keep myself busy,”

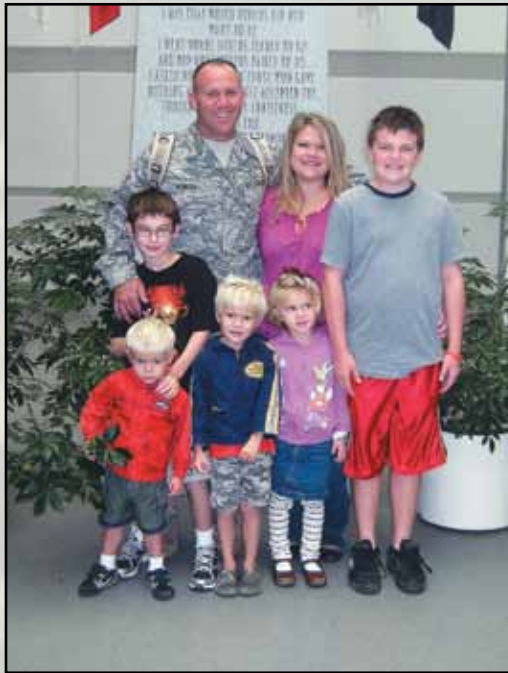
she said. “In order for a marriage to survive long absences, you have to choose your hobbies carefully!”

Luckily for service members overseas, Tara loves to bake and found an organization called BakingGals. The organization puts volunteers in contact with deployed units, and every month for the past year she has made several boxes of cookies, fudge, cakes and other goodies to send overseas.

“It’s very rewarding knowing that Soldiers will receive something from home. I couldn’t imagine doing their job, and it’s my way of saying thank you to them,” Tara said.

The whole Family feels fortunate that their survival has only had to be for relatively small periods of time, Matt said.

“One thing that amazes me about deployments when you have young ones is how much they can change over a two-month, three-month, or four-month deployment. I can only imagine what it must be like for the people that deploy for a year,” he said. **GG**



The Branson family takes a few minutes to pose for a family photo at Port Columbus International Airport one morning before Tech. Sgt. Matt Branson departs for a deployment. (Courtesy photo)



The Townsend Family talks about deployments

Story and photo by Sgt. Sean Mathis
37th Infantry Brigade Combat Team

Sitting around his dining room table, Sgt. 1st Class Buford “Glenn” Townsend pulls out his wallet, produces a small, taped-up piece of paper, and with a sly grin, places it in front of his Family. “The movie stub from our first date, Sept. 10, 1983,” he said.

“Where’d we go on our second date?” his wife, Brenda Townsend, asked sarcastically.

“Arby’s!” his son, Ryan Matthew Townsend, interrupted.

“That’s my get out of jail free card,” Glenn protested.

“So he thinks,” Brenda said to her children.

“Well what of mine do you have that’s 26-years-old?” Glenn persisted.

“Your daughter,” Ryan interrupted again, smiling.

“I’m only 25!” daughter Leah Nichol Townsend cried.

Although the Townsend Family has a playful attitude and close relationship, their struggles are part of what brought them so close.

Glenn, a mortar platoon sergeant from the 148th Infantry Battalion, has deployed four times since 2001 in support of Operations Noble Eagle, Joint Guardian and Iraqi Freedom as well as Hurricane Katrina recovery efforts.

A 32-year veteran of the U.S. Army, Glenn credits his wife, daughter and son as a vital part of managing the hardships of deployment.

“I’m proud of my Family, they are my strength,” Glenn said. “They are the reason I’ve been in the Army so long.”

Glenn joined the Army before he met his wife and had his daughter and son, now 25 and 21, respectively.

“Thirty-two years is a long time, but it doesn’t seem like thirty-two years,” Glenn said. “It feels like two.”

“Maybe your memory is slipping,” Leah said with a smile as the rest of the Family laughed.

Glenn said the deployments were difficult times for him and his Family.

“You learn from the issues that you’ve dealt with and it makes you stronger. You can’t help but get strong. I’ve matured a lot, especially since Noble Eagle.”

Glenn first deployed in Oct. 2001, a month after 9/11, in support of Operation Noble Eagle. The 2008 mobilization of the 37th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, Glenn’s unit since 1994, caught everyone by surprise.

“Nobody knew what was going on. You didn’t know how long the deployment was going to last, so there was always that unknown factor. That was a pretty scary time then,” Glenn said. “The first deployment was probably the roughest,” Brenda said. “But if I had a question I could call the unit, and they would have an answer, find an answer or take care of it.”

The Townsend Family emphasized the importance of communication between the Family, the unit and the deploying Soldier as the best way to cope with the absence of a loved one.

“The unit offers so much help,” Brenda said. “If you’re having issues, you shouldn’t be, because you can get things resolved if you use the tools that they give you.”

The Townsend Family said a unit’s Family readiness group should be a primary resource for Families with deployed Soldiers.

“The Family readiness group, when I deployed to Noble Eagle, was just barely going,” Glenn said. “They have steadily improved. Now, I think our Family readiness group is probably one of the best in the state. They have all the answers, and if they don’t have the answers, they know where to get them.”

Even with the available military assistance, Glenn said he could not deploy without the help of his wife, who took care of their children, managed finances and provided moral support from their humble home in Plain City, Ohio.

“In every married couple you’ve got to have that equal responsibility. You have to depend on your spouse to do things,” Glenn said. “You don’t want to be the one controlling person because if you do have to leave, they have to take over. Emotionally, yeah, you’re sad that you’re separated, but I knew financially things were going good.”

Despite keeping finances and household management in order, nothing could prepare the Family for their emotional struggles.

“One of the things I remember from Noble Eagle was Leah.

Working out CrossFit style

Story by Sgt. Rachel Garcowski
112th Engineer Battalion Public Affairs

FORWARD OPERATING BASE SHARANA, Afghanistan – At 6 a.m. six out of every nine days, four Soldiers from the 112th Engineer Battalion, Ohio Army National Guard, and one Navy chief petty officer enjoy their morning CrossFit workout routine on FOB Sharana.

CrossFit is a strength and conditioning program that helps participants increase their endurance and become more physically fit. Before being deployed to Afghanistan, many members of the battalion had a strict goal to lose weight. Competing with each other each week and recording their weight loss on a board in their office is a powerful motivator, they said.

“For me, writing down our weight loss is another level of accountability,” said Sgt 1st Class Michael Kingery. “Sharing the goal with the team allows them to push me and keep me on track; they also enjoy in celebrating the success.”

Kingery has already lost 41 pounds and the office as a whole has lost a total of 90 pounds since starting their routine August 27.

The CrossFit program is practiced by Olympic athletes, skiers, martial artists, Soldiers and professional athletes all over the world. Soldiers from the 203rd Engineer Battalion, which the 112th replaced, encouraged the Ohio troops to try the program.

Because the group had not done this type of workout before, the first few sessions were rough, they said. But after gritting through the first week of soreness and after some encouragement from the 203rd, the troops quickly began enjoying the workouts.

“While attending my first workout, I was surprised to see how fast paced and strenuous it was. After it ended, I felt as if I had spent an hour in the gym,” said Staff Sgt. Steven Sigmund.

When the 203rd completed their tour and left the country, Chief Petty Officer George McDonnell took the lead in developing the workout calendars with a goal of weight loss and an overall increase in physical performance. Developing workouts is a difficult task because the group’s gym equipment - ordered by the 203rd - has yet to arrive. For now most workouts use body-weight exercises.

Because many people struggle with pull-ups, one of the main body weight exercises, McDonnell brought in a piece of equipment called the Pull-Up Revolution, made by Lifeline USA. Using elastic bands and a foot holster, the Pull-Up Revolution assists with the exercise by reducing the amount of the user’s body-weight applied during the repetition and allowing the user to complete more repetitions.

1st Lt. Brett Green wrote to Lifeline to inquire about purchasing additional equipment and company owner Bobby Hinds responded by donating a variety of products.

“I was quite surprised by the variety of the equipment,” Green said. “It came with instructional DVDs and pamphlets that showed many other workouts that can be done using the equipment.”

Currently, the group still remains committed to the routine, which calls for a rotating schedule of three days of exercise followed by one day of recovery, then another three days of exercise followed by two days of recovery.

“This is a program that I wish I could have started long ago when I was in my ‘gung-ho’ stages of my career. It has been a real eye opener and helped me not only on my [Army Physical Fitness] test, but my overall attitude of working out. Instead of feeling like working out is a chore, it is fun and enjoyable,” Staff Sgt. Erick Browning said.

Because McDonnell completed his tour and returned to the States, 1st Lt. Green picked up the planning of workouts for the duration of the deployment.

“The reason I continued the program was because of the results we have seen as a section,” Green said. “The physical results the Soldiers have achieved and the need to continue to build upon those successes are what drives the program to higher levels.”

I’ve always thought about her growing up and missing her 16th birthday,” Glenn said. “That’s pretty important to me as a father, to miss things like that.”

Leah, who turned 16 in October 2001, just weeks after her father deployed for the first time, said she was so worried about her father she avoided watching the news.

“I couldn’t handle it, so you just learn to not watch the news and not believe what you hear,” Leah said. “You wait until your Soldier calls you and says ‘Hey, I’m fine.’”

As a young high school marching band student, Leah used art as a coping mechanism during her father’s absences, eventually graduating from the Columbus College of Art and Design with a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree. Despite being deployed to Iraq in May 2008, Glenn was able to watch a video of his daughter receiving her degree.

“She said she was 16 minutes and 30 seconds in, so I fast forward about 16 minutes and 15 seconds later, sure enough, there’s Leah walking across the stage,” Glenn said smiling.

Glenn’s son Ryan would cope with the stress of his father being deployed by fishing, hunting and playing football.


“I was always out of the house and active, keeping myself busy and never had time to really think about it,” Ryan said.

However, Ryan was injured playing football while his father was in Iraq.

“That was a hard time for me,” Glenn said. “I would call home every weekend and check on things, and when [Brenda] told me that he suffered a concussion and was in the hospital, my first instinct was to leave and get back home to my kids.”

Ryan recovered a few days later and Glenn called frequently to check on him, but the Family agreed it was a difficult time.

The Family endured many holidays, birthdays and the couple’s 25th wedding anniversary with Glenn thousands of miles away, but the separation became easier over time.

“Over the years you kind of learn to deal with stress in different ways. Some people fall apart and some people just get stronger,” Brenda said. 



Cleveland Browns quarterback Brett Ratliff high-fives military service members as he makes his way onto the field at Cleveland Browns Stadium, Nov. 7, 2010. Ohio National Guard members, along with more than 100 other military service members from all branches, were invited to attend the Browns' home game against the New England Patriots and participate in pre-game and half-time events honoring veterans. With more than 80 Ohio Guard members cheering from the stands, the Browns won 34-14. (Ohio National Guard photo/Sgt. Sean Mathis)



A color guard representing the U.S. armed forces stands on the goal line for the national anthem and hoisting of the Stars and Stripes by The Ohio State University ROTC cadets, Nov. 13, 2010, in Columbus, Ohio. The Ohio State University hosted Military Appreciation Day at Ohio Stadium during the football game against Penn State. (Ohio National Guard photo/Sgt. Peter Kresge)

Ohio football teams highlight military appreciation this season

Story by Capt. Matt Molinski, Ohio National Guard Public Affairs and Spc. Danielle Pierson, HHC 216th Engineer Battalion

During fall weekends, many sports fans spend time sitting at home watching television with a bowl of chips and a cold beverage, waiting with anticipation for the opening kickoff. On the cold evening of Nov. 7, 2010, about 40 Ohio National Guard members stood on the field of Paul Brown Stadium surrounded by the deafening roar of 65,000 fans.

“The greatest part for me was during the national anthem when the singer reached the ‘banner yet wave’ part and we all waved the flag... there was such an uproar throughout the 65,000 fans which cannot be put into words. I normally get chills hearing this song anyway, but this time it was truly awesome,” said 1st Lt. Brandon D. Cloud, 178th Fighter Wing budget officer.

The Ohio National Guard supported three football games – one each with the Cleveland Browns, Cincinnati Bengals and The Ohio State University Buckeyes this season with Soldiers and Airmen from across the organization. Screaming fans and appreciative athletes greeted the participants at each game, offering standing ovations or personal greetings.

“I must have shaken 100 hands that night from folks of all ages thanking us for what we do. It truly is great to know folks appreciate what we do,” Cloud said.

During the Monday night football game between the Bengals and Steelers, Guard members held a giant flag during

the national anthem while Maj. Gen. Gregory L. Wayt, Ohio adjutant general, saluted from the 50-yard line. “Once on the field, it was great to represent our country by holding the flag, and when the crowd erupted towards the end of the song, I’m pretty sure I have never felt anything like that before,” said 1st Lt. Phillip Spence from C Troop, 2nd Squadron, 107th Cavalry Regiment.

Marching onto the field at Cleveland Browns Stadium, Soldiers & Airmen also unfurled a large U.S. flag during the national anthem as F-16 Fighting Falcons flew over the stadium. At halftime, the Cleveland Browns recognized recently deployed members of the Ohio National Guard on the field. Additionally, the Ohio Army National Guard Recruiting and Retention Battalion mirrored the deployed personnel with recruits from the Recruit Sustainment Program.

More than 100,000 fans at The Ohio State University versus Penn State football game greeted the Soldiers and Airmen who participated in the OSU military appreciation game with chants of “O-H-I-O!” The Buckeyes honor troops annually, and the football team is a significant supporter of the Ohio National Guard. OSU football practice facilities are decorated with military slogans and memorabilia throughout the year and the Buckeyes open practices to military members.

The military recognition games have helped to build a partnership with football teams from around the state, but they are also a personally rewarding experience. “Seeing all of those patrons pay respect to our flag, but also to all of those who serve is an amazingly reassuring feeling,” said Pfc. Jeff Wolford from the 1191st Engineer Company. “I am very grateful that I received the opportunity to take part in an event.” **86**



Airmen and Soldiers from the Ohio National Guard unfurl a giant U.S. flag on the field at Paul Brown Stadium, Nov. 8, 2010, in Cincinnati during a pregame ceremony for the Monday night football game against the Pittsburgh Steelers. The Bengals honored veterans for their service in the U.S. military during the game. (Ohio National Guard photo/Capt. Matt Molinski)

Growing Fort Ohio

Story by Sgt. Sean Mathis

Ohio National Guard Public Affairs

The Ohio National Guard's major training installations are undergoing immense transformations to support emerging missions and keep Soldiers and money in Ohio.

"Get the word out to the commanders that there are training resources available to them right in their own back yard," said Col. Dean Brown, commander of Fort Ohio Training Installations Command. "Our goal is to have convoys coming into our training centers every weekend. We want to be busy."

The Ohio National Guard began prioritizing the development of its training facilities after it became responsible for a majority of its pre-mobilization training.

On Jan. 19, 2007, Defense Secretary Robert Gates directed Reserve component units to serve a maximum of 12 months on active duty for each deployment including all pre-deployment mobilization training. Prior to 2007, this training was not included and could add up to an additional six months of active-duty service.

Because of the reduced time on active-duty status, units are required to complete the majority of mobilization training prior to mobilizing, and the responsibility of that training now belongs to the Reserve component.

Before the improvement of its training installations, the Ohio National Guard would send Soldiers to other states, such as Michigan's Camp Grayling, to meet their training requirements. Because of the increased training demand, Ohio is now rapidly improving Fort Ohio, comprised of Ohio's three primary training installations: Camp Perry Joint Training Center, Camp Ravenna Joint Military Training Center and Camp Sherman Joint Training Center.

At the forefront of Fort Ohio's transformation is Camp Ravenna.

"Camp Ravenna has become much more heavily utilized, primarily for pre-mobilization training," said Camp Ravenna Commander Lt. Col. William Meade.

During World War II, Camp Ravenna was used as an ammunition plant and still maintains 693 empty munitions bunkers. Now, Camp Ravenna is used to train Army engineers, motor transport operators and military police in their military occupational specialties, and train future non-commissioned officers in the Warrior Leadership Course, the first phase of NCO professional development.

Camp Ravenna has more than 30 square miles of land to conduct tactical maneuver and land navigation training. It has 120 miles of paved roads to conduct refueling and convoy operations training.

Camp Ravenna offers many areas of specialized training including a Humvee Egress Assist Trainer that teaches Soldiers how to escape a Humvee that has rolled over, an Engagement Skills Trainer – a combat simulator that uses M-16 rifles and a large projection screen to help hone marksmanship skills and a Virtual Convoy Operations Trainer – a video game type driving and improvised explosive device trainer.

The facility offers a Structural Collapse Simulator which

the Ohio National Guard's Civil Support Team and other emergency response units use to train for search and rescue missions, a rappel tower and a leadership reaction course, both paid for by a local ROTC program which also uses the facility. Local law enforcement and the state highway patrol also use Camp Ravenna for training.

Meade said the Ohio National Guard is advertising the use of Ravenna to many other outside agencies such as the Army Reserve and the Pennsylvania National Guard.

"We have all the facilities here to support their training. Camp Ravenna is probably the fastest growing National Guard training center in the country, having started from scratch in the past couple of years," Brown said. "We're evolving, turning camp Ravenna into the premiere pre-mobilization training center for the Army National Guard."

Without M-16 rifle qualification ranges currently on Camp Ravenna, however, most Ohio National Guard units qualify at Camp Perry or Camp Sherman.

Camp Perry boasts the largest outdoor shooting range in America, spanning 640 acres, and is home to Ohio National Guard Soldiers and Airmen, the Civilian Marksmanship Program (CMP), the National Rifle Association, the Ohio Military Reserve and the Ohio Naval Militia.

National and international rifle and pistol competitions are held at Camp Perry annually. Ohio National Guard Soldiers have recently begun officially supporting these events.

In addition to its world-class ranges, Camp Perry also boasts two Engagement Skills Trainers, a leadership reaction course, a nuclear, biological and chemical (gas) chamber, a rappel tower, a shoot house, an improvised exploding device lane, two hand grenade qualification courses and a Humvee Egress Assist Trainer.


"We're very proud of our facilities, our mission and our staff," said Lt. Col. Barbara Herrington-Clemens, commander of Camp Perry Joint Training Center. "But when so much was dependent on the training that these folks were receiving before they went out the door, it became obvious that we needed a lot done to our facilities."

Camp Perry is undergoing millions of dollars in construction on its electrical and water infrastructures to prepare the installation for the emerging missions of the Ohio National Guard.

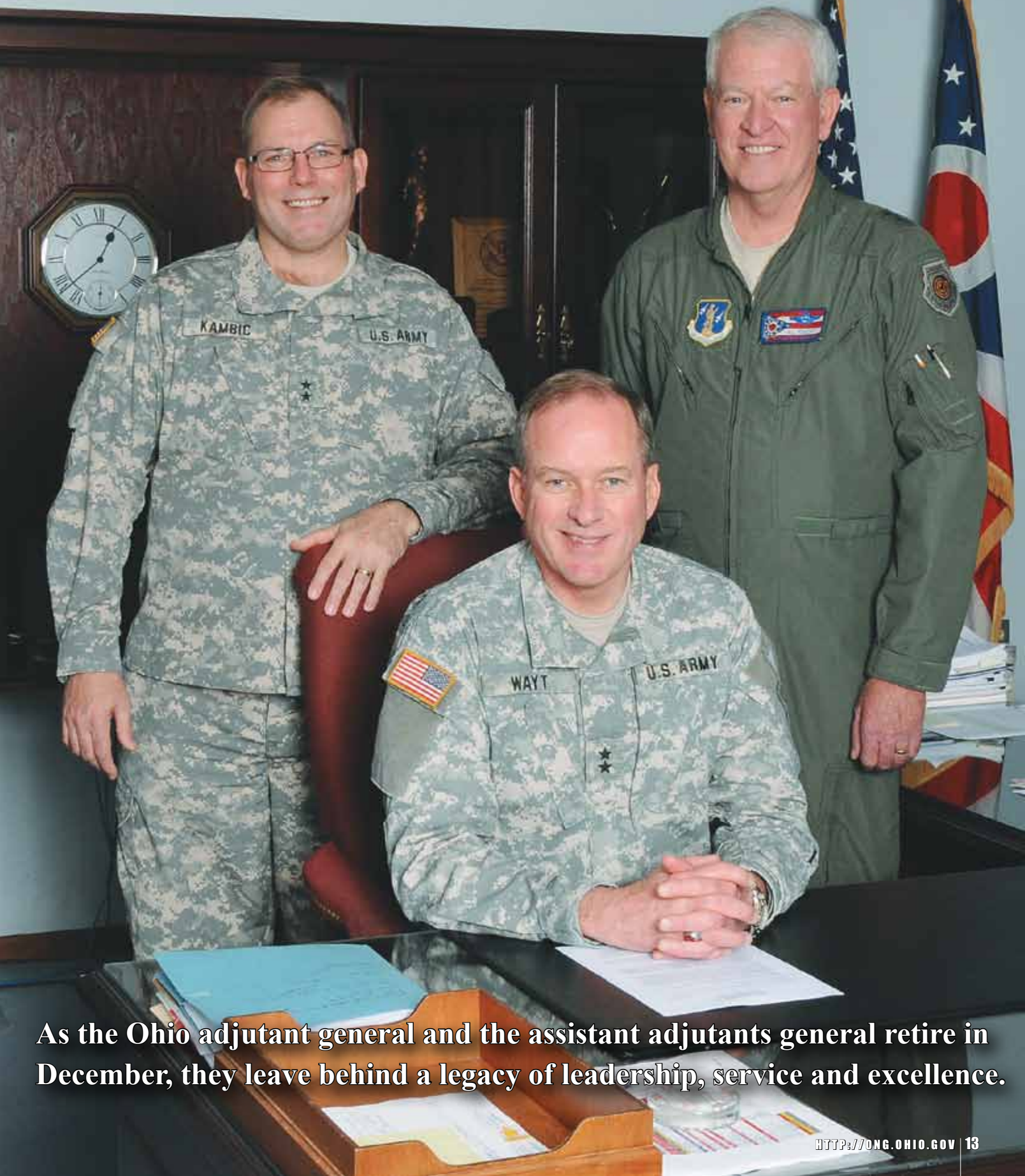
Camp Sherman is also ramping up to support mobilizations. Sherman is opening a rubble pile, leadership reaction course and obstacle course to augment its existing land navigation courses, engagement skills trainer, 40-point rifle range and 22-point pistol range.

The rapid expansion of Ohio's training installations has also had an impact on the surrounding communities.

The National Rifle and Pistol matches are estimated to bring more than \$20 million into Camp Perry's neighboring communities annually. In 2009, Camp Ravenna construction has had an economic impact on the local economies in excess of \$23 million. Brown said he hopes to see the same impact with Camp Sherman.

"It's a significant economic benefit to have a training center in your community, and that's the message we want to send," Brown said. "It's good to have the Guard in your backyard." 

Changing of the guard



As the Ohio adjutant general and the assistant adjutants general retire in December, they leave behind a legacy of leadership, service and excellence.

A farewell message from Maj. Gen. Feucht

It has been my honor to have the opportunity and privilege to serve with the great Americans who volunteer to be contributing members in our Ohio National Guard. I have served as the assistant adjutant general for Air for over five years. During that time, we have faced many challenges and changes but through positive collaborative efforts we have managed to adjust and advance to new missions with current and future extended relevance. During this time, we have also worked tirelessly to ensure the success of each of our Airmen and Soldiers.

We have been successful in our journey because of our collective beliefs, values, goals and the focus we give to their importance. In a previous issue of the Buckeye Guard, I wrote about the core values of the United States Air Force and the Air National Guard. Values are the bedrock of our beliefs and behavior and are applicable to all of us. Values reflect and reinforce the desired culture of an organization. We all know and practice the values of integrity, selfless service, excellence, loyalty, duty, respect, honor and personal courage in our professional and personal lives. Recently, our commanders and joint senior leadership team met to refocus our commitment to practicing our Air Force and Army values.

In our careers and life's interactions, I feel there are additional character traits and actions that are extremely important for all of us to grow as individuals and members of successful organizations. These traits and actions, as with our values, are important for positive development of every Airman and Soldier. We are all responsible for the health and welfare of our members, wings and brigades. The three traits and actions I refer to are teamwork, humility and positive and effective communication.

Outstanding organizations attain goals and are successful because they pull together to achieve a common end state. You have personal and professional influence within your peer group that can and will make a difference in attaining goals, and ultimately, your personal and professional success. I consider this your "positional influence."

All of us have a responsibility as a member to promote organizational goals and values and to be a positive supporter of what is right for our success. Occasionally in your career, you may feel your personal goals are in conflict with organizational goals. We all feel this way sometimes. I encourage you to trust that your personal efforts for team success will be noticed and rewarded. Every Airman and Soldier has the duty and responsibility to promote teamwork within our organization. Collectively we are stronger than a single individual.

Humility is an attribute that is paramount for personal and professional success and for one's acceptance by their organization. This acceptance will hinge on the ability to listen. There are great Airmen and Soldiers that I have had the honor

and privilege to serve with whom outwardly displayed and inwardly believed in the worth of this attribute. Some rose to the rank of general, chief master sergeant and sergeant major, and all were admired and trusted by their Airmen and Soldiers. They were intelligent, made collaborative decisions based on logic and with the advice of their staff. They were genuinely committed to following The Golden Rule, caring for their Airmen and Soldiers, gaining and maintaining their trust and "doing the right thing." They understood that making lasting and needed change could only happen if Airmen and Soldiers were involved in the process and given credit for success. They did not think nor demand they had all the answers. They spoke with a soft voice and listened. If they made an incorrect decision they were not afraid to change it. They did not solely use their rank, grade or position to demand compliance. We learn many lessons from our leaders, and being humble, no matter how successful we are, is important.



Maj. Gen. Harry W. Feucht, Jr.

Buy-in and support of new or existing processes or concepts is important for acceptance by others. Once a command decision is made you must be a part of the solution. Positive and continuous communication is the glue that ensures we are all pointed and focused the same direction for success. We can have the most admirable goals and values in the world but if we do not effectively and positively communicate with our members, the goal will not be achieved with understanding and support. All must understand how they fit into the success of the task. Most importantly, all members must understand why their performance at the highest level is important to team success. Positive and continuous explanations of member

performance and contribution are an ongoing process. We move members into and out of our squadrons and companies every day. The understanding of organizational regulations, instructions and policies at this level is important or an unofficial "culture" may develop that is contrary to good order and discipline of a unit.

Of these three attributes or character traits, I think positive and effective communication is the most important for leading our organizations. All of us must be leaders and parts of the solution as we face the tremendous challenges of the future. Our attitude and how we solve complicated issues are and will be a major part of our culture and the way we do business. Our Air Force and Army values have stood the test of time and will be with us for decades. These three additional traits and attributes will support and enhance our success.

It has been my honor to have served with you for the past five plus years as assistant adjutant general for Air. We have faced many challenges with great success. I ask that you continue to place the success of our Airmen and Soldiers at the top of your priority list. When we support our members, the mission will fall into place. I am proud of all of you and proud to be the commander of the Ohio Air National Guard. **SG**

A farewell message from Maj. Gen. Kambic

I was asked to prepare some thoughts for you as Patty and I approach retirement - an assignment that has caused me to reflect on over 32 years of service in the Ohio Army National Guard. We have been going through boxes of pictures that have evoked many memories and emotions. It always comes back to the same thing... the people we have served with.

Pictures of Lt. Kambic serving as a TAC officer at the Ohio Military Academy make me shudder at the thoughts that must still go through the minds of great leaders like Cols. John Harris, Mike Ore, Dana McDaniel and Gordon Ellis. That young LT had a lot of growing to do.

Fast forward to the days of the 107th Armored Cavalry Regiment, when I had the privilege of commanding the Regimental Headquarters and Headquarters Troop. Memories of annual training, deployments, gunnery cycles and challenges faced with people named Martin, Labadie, Carmony, Tomcik, Green, Curry, Perry, Faber, Warner, McHenry, Ehrman, Monastra, Carter, Wood, Jacob and Vanas come flooding in.

Fast forward again to the move to Columbus and assignments as an assistant inspector general working with Dick Willinger and Rufus Smith and as Troop Command training officer where I was to work for the first time for a Soldier named Wayt. Command of the 1st Battalion, 134th Field Artillery Regiment followed and names like Luczynski, Rees, Rogers, Tansill, Schemine and Dillon were forever burned into our memory. I know people are still scratching their heads about a cavalryman commanding a field artillery battalion.

On to Beightler Armory as chief of the training branch and finally, my dream assignment - the plans, operations, and training officer (POTO) - all that time working for a guy named Wayt. I also had the privilege of commanding the 37th Armored Brigade - the last of my dream assignments. This proved to be the most demanding and challenging time for my family because I was serving as POTO and brigade commander when the attacks of 9/11 occurred and we went to war. I learned many important lessons during this time that served as a foundation for the challenges that lay ahead for Patty and me. Significant memories include people like Hartley, Green, Ziol, Harris, Rees, Lambright, Slavik, Perry, Thomas, Dillon, Whatmough and Horne.

I enjoyed a brief stop as the chief of staff (shortest in recorded history) before becoming your assistant adjutant general for Army. Here is where I would like to change the focus of this article, from my story to yours.

You see, you, the wonderful Soldiers and leaders of the Ohio Army National Guard, have written a marvelous story about service, dedication, professionalism, sacrifice and commitment. When all around us we are bombarded with news about what is wrong in politics, corporate America, education, immigration, health care and a myriad of other social issues, you have crafted a remarkable tale of excellence

and achievement.

Your service to your state and nation will be recorded in history books. Your willingness to complete the transformation from a strategic reserve to an operational force and your demonstrated prowess and capability, surpassing every expectation of every observer outside of this organization, have forever changed the expectations of our Guard.

Your dedication to mission accomplishment and the pursuit of excellence in producing ready units is the envy of the nation. No other state can claim the achievements amassed by you. Three times in the last seven years the Ohio Army National Guard was recognized as the national champion in the Army Communities of Excellence program. We have exceeded 100 percent assigned strength for five consecutive years, a remarkable achievement that was accomplished only in three years previously. We have mastered the concept of training our own and "Buckeyes training Buckeyes" is a proud mantra

as we continue to prepare formations for deployment overseas.


Your professionalism has been demonstrated time and time again not only in deployments overseas, but I think most importantly, in the way you rallied to meet the needs of the citizens of Ohio and our great nation. Your response to the no-notice mission sets during Hurricanes Katrina, Rita and Gustav, where more than 3,700 Soldiers and Airmen deployed from Ohio and made a difference in the lives of so many people, have forever marked the Ohio National Guard as a national power in projecting capability. You have responded magnificently!

Your sacrifices and those of your Families and employers have been marked by the

deployment of more than 13,000 Soldiers since 9/11. The separations, the hardships of combat and reintegration with Families and employers have made us better people. Here in Ohio, you are ahead of the curve. I have never before witnessed so many people doing so much for others as I see today inside of this great organization.

Your commitment to mission accomplishment and organizational growth has always inspired me. Both of our sons have found their way to the National Guard, I am sure in some part because Patty and I have always talked about our Guard Family being filled with the best people we know. My Family and I have learned and been given so much, and we have gained strength from you. Your efforts and sacrifice, have made this 32-year journey so memorable.

Your story is powerful and wonderful. So for every Soldier, Family member, and employer who has contributed to this unique American success story, I want to express my thanks and gratitude. It has been an honor to serve, laugh and sometimes, cry with you. My family and I will always be grateful for your service, support, strength and love. Thanks for allowing us to be part of your amazing story.

Powerhouse 6 - Out! 



Maj. Gen. Matthew L. Kambic

A look back at the TAG and ATAGs



Ohio engineers help clear a path for success

Story and photos by Cpl. Alexandra I. Colarik
112th Engineer Battalion Public Affairs

BAGRAM AIR BASE, Afghanistan—Soldiers from the Ohio National Guard's 112th Engineer Battalion, currently deployed at Forward Operating Base Sharana, Afghanistan, took over mine clearance operations from the 203rd Engineer Battalion, Missouri Army National Guard, in early September.

Some of their new territory includes Bagram Air Base in Parwan Province north of Kabul. According to the GlobalSecurity.org website, Bagram Air Base was a staging point for the Soviet Forces who occupied the base. They left behind many detailed maps of mine fields.

To provide safety and protection for Afghan civilians and U.S. and coalition forces, these mine fields have to be examined and cleared.

Mine clearance operations are currently being conducted in Afghanistan with the help of civilian contractors on mine fields that are more than 20 years old. Once cleared, the land can be used to expand forward operating bases, like Bagram Air Base, providing better housing and more dining facilities for Soldiers and civilians. It also makes the land safe for the Afghan people.

The troops are using two types of mine clearance operations. The first type, battle-action clearance, occurs where a minefield is suspected to exist based on old Soviet maps, but the land has not been cleared of mines. The other type of clearance is a site survey, which is conducted when there are no known mine-field maps.

The first step in mine clearance is done with a vehicle

called the Casspir. This vehicle enters a suspected minefield, softens the ground and removes all the surface vegetation and metal in the area. The second step is manual clearing, which is conducted by civilian contractors who dig in the area looking for mines. This process begins with digging to certain depths from the original ground level. If a large amount of

fill has been laid down in the area, the team digs until they reach the original surface and then continue to the required depth.

“The Afghanistan Mine Action Standard (AMAS) states the land is cleared to 99.6 percent of all mines (and unexploded ordnance),” said Sgt. 1st Class Patrick McCarty of the 112th. “The only way to guarantee this land is safe is to remove just about every single piece of metal scrap. The manual demining process is very controlled, using a lot of stakes, controlled entry points, egress routes and plenty of oversight by each supervisor.”

Civilian contractors conducting demining operations at Bagram Air Base are of several nationalities including Australian, British, Canadian and American. A team consists of 20 deminers who are trained by their civilian companies on the techniques and process, including a site supervisor, usually a retired military explosive ordnance disposal technician with at least ten years of experience. Finally, every site has its own medical evacuation team that trains for all types of emergencies and conduct drills every month.

According to the Afghan Network web site, Afghanistan is contaminated by about 10 million land mines and unexploded ordnance over more than 530

square kilometers. Nearly 150 square kilometers are in areas with immediate impact on people's lives, including residential and commercial areas, agricultural land, irrigation canals, roads and grazing areas. **86**



Engineers on Bagram Air Force Base have located many active mines like the ones marked off in this location.



Sgt. 1st Class Patrick McCarty and Capt. Todd Winn from the 112th Engineer Battalion speak with civilian de-miner Mick Keen at Bagram Air Base.



A demining team at Bagram Air Base works carefully to clear a mine field.

Ohio engineer unit wins national honors in Army food service

Story and photos by Staff Sgt. Jarrod Kreitzer
Support Company, 216th Engineer Battalion

On December 22nd, 2010, Support Company, 216th Engineer Battalion, was announced as the winner in the Army National Guard category for the Philip A. Connelly food service excellence award. They will travel to Chicago in April 2011 to receive their award as the nation's top National Guard mess section.

Soldiers from the 216th participated in the Department of the Army-level 43rd Annual Philip A. Connelly competition for food service excellence Oct. 28, 2010, at the Camp Ravenna Joint Military Training Center here. The troops participated in this third and final phase of the food service competition after winning the state-level competition in August 2009 and the regional competition in July 2010. The final phase requires competitors to set up a feeding site in a tactical, wooded environment to simulate the stress of feeding troops in a combat environment. The site included a Mobile Kitchen Trailer (field kitchen), sanitation, dining and rations tents, garbage and burn pits, and a bivouac site. It was surrounded by fighting positions in a tactical field environment and covered by camouflage netting.

The competition was established in March 1968 to recognize excellence in Army food service. The program is used to recognize and promote a stellar training curriculum in the Army Food Service Program across the nation. Awards consist of scholarships to a prestigious culinary school, trophy bowls and plaques.

The competition pitted the Ohio National Guard unit against



Maj. Gen. Matthew L. Kambic, Ohio's assistant adjutant general for Army, congratulates Soldiers from Support Company, 216th Engineer Battalion at the end of the Department of Army-level Philip A. Connelly food service competition at the Camp Ravenna Joint Military Training Center. The troops participated in the competition after winning both the state and regional events.

six others from across the country. Evaluators from Fort Lee, Va., home of the Army Food Service Program, were sent out to judge the unit throughout the day's activities. The judges evaluate field sanitation, food quality and palatability, administration, accounting and site layout. They also consider Soldier motivation, command support and morale in the scoring.

"The Support Company, 216th Engineer Battalion, has set the standard for food service excellence," said Sgt. Maj. Reginald Uzzell, an evaluator from Fort Lee. "The unit's tireless work ethic, attention to detail and unwavering motivation sets the standard across the entire Army for the Connelly Competition."


Overall, 23 Soldiers participated in preparing and maintaining the site, operating equipment and cooking. Lt. Col. Ben Capriato and Command Sgt. Maj. Steven Shepherd, battalion commander and command sergeant major, recognized each Soldier for exceptional teamwork and dedication to duty. Brig. Gen. Glenn Hammond and Command Sgt. Maj. Verna Henderson, 16th Engineer Brigade commander and command sergeant major, also attended and presented the Soldiers with brigade coins for excellence.

Maj. Gen. Matthew L. Kambic, Ohio's assistant adjutant general for Army, also observed the competition and enjoyed the meal. He explored the site and praised the troops' hard work throughout the week.



Soldiers from Support Company, 216th Engineer Battalion, stand in formation and receive praise from their superiors Oct. 23, 2010, following the Department of Army-level Philip A. Connelly competition for food service excellence.

The evaluation team recognized individual Soldiers during the competition. Sgt. 1st Class David Hall, Staff Sgt. Matt Chaffin and Spc. Kevonte Hall were given the International Food Service Executives Association Special People award for outstanding effort. Spc. Erin Murray was given the food service Tear Drop award for distinguishing herself from her peers during the competition.

Mr. Michael Pizzuto, a civilian evaluator who focused primarily on food preparation, said he was very impressed and noted the unit's positive attitude as a "shining example to the rest of the competition." 

Recruit Sustainment Program cleans up during first Guard the Environment event

Story by Sgt. 1st Class Tracy Ballog
 Recruiting & Retention Battalion
 Photos courtesy of Recruiting & Retention Battalion

More than 300 Ohio Army National Guard recruiters and new recruits from the Recruit Sustainment Program Battalion recently demonstrated their commitment to a green environment during the inaugural 'Guard the Environment' event.

All 10 area recruiting companies partnered with local governments and volunteers in communities throughout Ohio Oct. 23-24 to clean up local parks, schools and highways.

The National Guard is both an effort to priority on training be positive of the and to have promote green give back to



Bureau initiative place a high educating and Soldiers to stewards environment local units work to activities that impact and their local communities.

H Company chose to focus the company's efforts at Grand Lake St. Marys State Park, which suffered during the past few years as a result of budget cuts and lack of park personnel, said 1st. Sgt. Jarret Hammons. The company's recruiters and Soliders weeded, raked and seeded areas along a mile-long camp road and also re-lined the park's walking trail.

"The tasks we completed were simple but made a direct, visible impact on the park. This was a great way to demonstrate our commitment to our environment and our community," Hammons said.



"We haven't had enough personnel to do extra projects, so we were thrilled they volunteered to help. They worked hard and I was very impressed with the job they did for the park." Park Manager Craig Morton said.

"As Citizen-Soldiers, the Guard's core mission is to protect our country, and that includes



protecting our environment," said K Company 1st Sgt. Eugene Randolph.

"Our warriors helped clean up six different areas around Coshocton, including a boat ramp, river banks and also a local recreation center," he said.

In the true spirit of volunteerism, many of the participating Soldiers said they appreciated being able to give back to their communities.

"My cadre and Soldiers all commented that this was an outstanding event and enjoyed being able to give back to the community," Randolph said. "Even if NGB doesn't plan a national event next year, I've already planned to make this an annual event for my company."

A Company 1st Sgt. David Hunt, whose Soldiers partnered with Whitehall city council members, local scouts and elementary and high school students to clean up neglected areas throughout the city, also spoke highly of the event.

"There was definitely a difference made where trash clean-up took place," Hunt said. "The interaction between the civilian volunteers and the National Guard Soldiers was a great touch and was something we really enjoyed. It was definitely a rewarding mission." **AG**



Recruiters and Recruit Sustainment Program Warriors from the Ohio Army National Guard's Recruiting and Retention Battalion performed a variety of environmental cleanup projects throughout Ohio on the third weekend of October. Places benefiting from this event included, in photos clockwise from top, Perrysburg, Newton Falls and Coshocton.

Ohio National Guard, Columbus Marathon partnership remains strong

Story by 1st Lt. Kristina Gaskins
Ohio National Guard Public Affairs

COLUMBUS, Ohio – About 175 Ohio National Guard troops participated in the 2010 Columbus Marathon Oct. 17 during a three-day event in downtown Columbus that drew participants from all over the nation.

“The Ohio National Guard is an integral part of this marathon year in and year out, always on the front line right here in the city of Columbus,” said Columbus Mayor Michael Coleman. “We thank you and our country supports what you do.”

The annual event highlights the significance of the relationship between the Ohio National Guard and the city of Columbus. This year, more than 40 Ohio National Guardsmen volunteered their time by helping to register the 15,000 participants, participating in expos and passing out T-shirts, while a combined 132 Air and Army National Guardsmen competed in the 13.1-mile half marathon and 26.2-mile full marathon races.

“People were yelling ‘Go Guard!’ and showing how much they appreciated what we do when we passed them on the course,” said Tech. Sgt. Steven Chapa from the 180th Fighter Wing in Toledo, Ohio.

“Guard members are a big part of the marathon from start to finish,” said Kathleen Carmonty, the Columbus Marathon Expo coordinator.

“We’ve built a great relationship...and look forward to working with the Guard every year,” she said. “We know we couldn’t do it without them.”

Tech. Sgt. Christopher Antram, also from the 180th, said running for the Ohio National Guard brought a sense of pride.

“It felt like people in the community really support us and are excited to see us out here,” said Antram, who ran the entire marathon alongside Chapa.

Antram and Chapa placed 304th and 306th, respectively, of 4,195 runners in the full marathon.

Maj. Gen. Gregory L. Wayt, Ohio adjutant general, said the Ohio National Guard members appreciate the chance to support the community as well.

“We have been coming here for six years supporting the event and it gives us an opportunity to give something back to the community,” Wayt said. **AG**



Ohio Air National Guard Tech. Sgts. Christopher Antram and Steven Chapa of the 180th Fighter Wing run side by side Oct. 17 down 3rd Street in Columbus’ German Village and past the 9-mile mark of the 2010 Columbus Marathon. The duo, who trained and ran the race together, were also the first runners from the Ohio National Guard team to

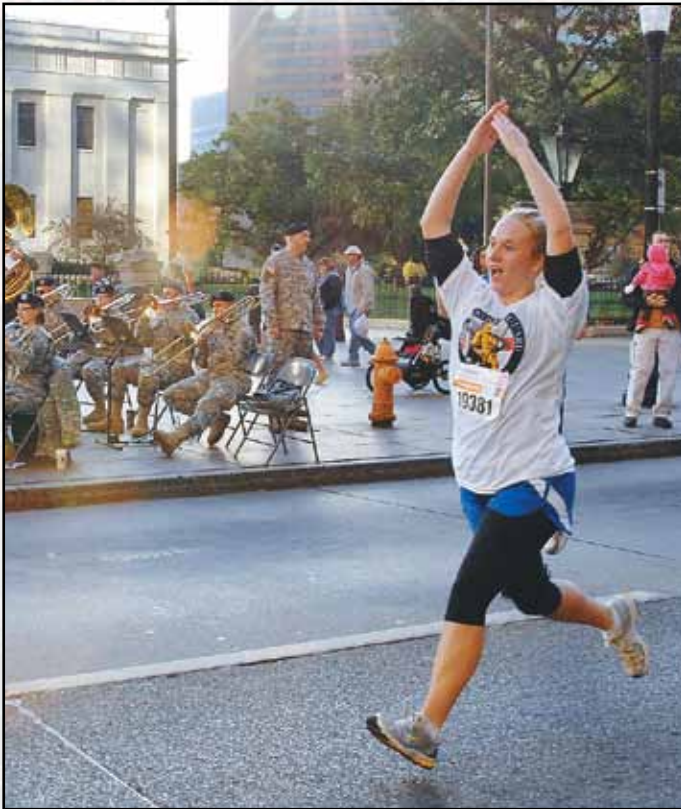
cross the full marathon finish line. (Ohio National Guard photo/Sgt. Peter Kresge)



Maj. Gen. Greg Wayt, adjutant general, Chief Master Sgt. Tamara Phillips, state command chief, and Command Sgt. Maj. Albert M. Whatmough, state command sergeant major stand with a group of Ohio National Guard members running in Columbus Marathon events. There were over 130 Guard members in this year’s events. Many more Guard members attended as volunteers helping out where needed with everything from assisting at water stops to handing out medals and blankets at the finish line. (Ohio National Guard photo/Douglas Nicodemus)



Runners in the 2010 Columbus Marathon and Half Marathon are entertained by the 122nd Army Band of the Ohio National Guard as they run North on High Street. The band was positioned in front of The Ohio Statehouse to play music to motivate the participants in this year’s event. (Ohio National Guard photo/Douglas Nicodemus)



Ohio Army National Guard Spc. Stephanie Lafratta of the 112th Transportation Battalion raises her arms to spell O-H-I-O while the 122nd Army Band plays "Hang on Sloopy" Oct. 17 during the 2010 Columbus Marathon. The Ohio Army National Guard band was one of several who played at various points along the marathon course to encourage the more than 15,000 runners who participated in this year's race. (Ohio National Guard photo/Sgt. Peter Kresge)



Chief Master Sgt. Tamara Phillips, state command chief, places a medal around the neck of a 2010 Columbus Marathon participant Oct. 17 as she crosses the finish line. More than 100 Soldiers and Airmen from the Ohio National Guard participated in the race, while many more supported the event in various capacities. (Ohio National Guard photo/Sgt. Peter Kresge)

Local supporters of National Guard receive awards from National Guard Association

Story by Ohio National Guard Public Affairs

Five Ohio National Guard supporters received National Guard Association of the U.S. Patrick Henry Awards in August. The award recognizes local officials and civic leaders who, in a position of great responsibility distinguish themselves with outstanding and exceptional service to the Armed Forces of the United States, the National Guard or NGAUS.

Following his 2009 Coaches Tour visit to troops at U.S. military installations in Germany, Turkey, Iraq, Kuwait, Djibouti and Spain, head football coach at The Ohio State University, Jim Tressel, actively sought out avenues to support military members, especially Ohio's hometown service members. He established a staff position of director of military appreciation, and recorded public service announcements supporting recruiting in the Ohio National Guard.

Over many years, Barb Ewing, district representative for U.S. Rep. Tim Ryan, worked to find creative solutions to a range of issues affecting military members, maintained the focus of the Washington office on the issues and concerns of the National Guard, and contributed heavily to Ohio's efforts to develop the Camp Ravenna Joint Military Training Center into a world-class, multi-component training facility.

As the Director of Military Appreciation for The Ohio State University, Bob Tucker has coordinated military appreciation events honoring Ohio service members with free admission and on-field recognition during nationally televised hometown football games in front of capacity crowds of more than 100,000 people. During the 2009 OSU season, he provided opportunities for more than 500 Ohio National Guard Soldiers and Airmen to attend the OSU vs. New Mexico State football game, with an unprecedented gift of free game tickets.

Jim Albright from Commercial Point Area Support Group went above and beyond the call of service in support of men and women of the 1-137th Aviation Regiment by organizing fundraising events that made a lasting impact.

Bill Allen served as a member of Ohio Employer Support of Guard and Reserve for over 22 years. Mr. Allen worked tirelessly on behalf of servicemembers and the families of Ohio while serving as state and regional Ohio ESGR director. **EG**



Jim Tressel, The Ohio State University head football coach, makes remarks to the media during the acceptance of an award honoring his commitment to Ohio National Guard members. (Ohio National Guard photo/Capt. Matt Molinski)

Ohio National Guard, Hungarian partnership leads to opportunities for training, cooperation on joint deployments

Story by Staff Sgt. Jim Greenhill
National Guard Bureau

BUDAPEST, Hungary – When the Central European nation of Hungary – which, after 17 years of partnership with the Ohio National Guard, has gone from being a former Soviet Bloc country to full North Atlantic Treaty Organization and European Union membership – chose to deploy on a NATO mission to Afghanistan, leaders had a request: Deploy us with our Ohio National Guard partners. It is perhaps the highest compliment yet to the National Guard State Partnership Program.

For almost two years, Hungarian-led Operational Mentor and Liaison Teams have rotated through Afghanistan, and each unit has been 50 percent Hungarian, 50 percent Ohioan.

“That was ... the most beautiful six months of my career,” said Hungarian 1st Sgt. Tamas Galgoczy, the acting sergeant major for OMLT 1.3.

OMLTs are up to 60 non-commissioned officers and officers, whose duties include acting as mentors, liaison and advisors to a kandac – a battalion – of the Afghan National Army and providing their own force protection.

NATO’s OMLTs are similar to the U.S. Army’s smaller Embedded Training Teams.

Guard leaders say OMLTs helped the ANA increase its missions and expand its operational area.

Coordinating between the Hungarian Defense Force, Ohio National Guard, U.S. Army Europe, European Command and U.S. Forces-Afghanistan to facilitate OMLTs became an additional duty for Ohio’s bilateral affairs officer posted here in Hungary.

“They invited us to join their OMLT,” said Air Force Capt. Jeremy Ford, BAO. “They are the lead nation. The co-deployment ... came from the state partnership, because we have such a good relationship.”

“Think back 17 years,” said Maj. Gen. Gregory Wayt, the adjutant general of the Ohio National Guard. “Could anybody have ever imagined that we would be jointly deploying to Afghanistan to train the Afghan National Army in the middle of a war?”

“It’s amazing to think how far we’ve come in this partnership.”

Three OMLTs have deployed to and returned from Afghanistan, a fourth is in theater and a fifth is training for deployment. Additional rotations are contemplated.

Hungary and Ohio are not the only partners in the almost 20-year-old, 62-nation SPP to co-deploy, but their OMLTs are the most enduring such partnership. The long-term goal is for the OMLTs to be solely Hungarian.

“It’s been going extremely well,” said Army Brig. Gen. Rufus Smith, commander of the unit that provides command and control for OMLTs in Ohio. “Not only has the mission been going well, but the partnership between our two countries has

significantly improved the last two years, since we’ve been working together.

“It’s a great example of what it is when you have countries who are focused on a single mission. ... It’s great for the country ... that we’re partnered with other countries to assist in that global war on terror. ... [Ohio] benefits because of the expertise and the training our Soldiers receive. ... The teams and the Soldiers ... gain experiences that will last them a lifetime.”

OMLT members must overcome challenges. Hungarians and Ohioans train together six months, working through language and cultural differences to become a team.

“There was a big challenge for both nations,” said Galgoczy, the Hungarian first sergeant. “We worked well together.”

Once on the ground for the six-month rotation in Afghanistan, a third element joins the mix, bringing more language and cultural differences – the ANA.

Army Lt. Col. James Eriksen, Jr., was Ohio’s commander for the first OMLT, which deployed in January 2009. Since the OMLTs are Hungarian-led, Eriksen was deputy commander for the overall team, officer-in-charge for the U.S. element.

“The first challenge was just putting the team together,” said Eriksen, who handpicked Ohio team members before domestic training followed by five months’ European training with HDF counterparts.

About one-third of the Hungarians spoke fluent English.

“It was all new,” said Eriksen, who used a NATO concept of operations to design individual and collective training plans. “We trained ourselves; there was no external team ... brought in.”

He said a convoy live-fire exercise near Grafenwöhr, Germany, was the single-best training event.

OMLT 1 picked up its ANA kandac from basic training in Kabul, performed the Afghan soldiers’ final certification and deployed with them to Camp Kelagay, 130 miles north of Kabul in Baghlan province.

Eriksen’s team trained the ANA kandac, helped with operational orders and planning and, as advisors, executed missions with them.

“Many of the Afghan soldiers had never seen running water,” Eriksen said. “Never had electricity in their homes. Many of them are indigent – poor, by our standards.”

“You are taking an entire battalion-sized unit. Every soldier has basic training, nothing more. Some soldiers were pulled out and selected to be NCOs and sent through a special school, but you’re talking about [a] battalion that, ... for the most part, ... had never seen combat, any kind of real big training exercises. You don’t have that institutional knowledge.

“To their credit, two months after we showed up at Camp Kelagay, they conducted a successful battalion-sized cordon and search clearing operation of probably seven or eight villages in a fairly heavily fortified Taliban zone, and they did it very well.”

Eriksen was struck by the Hungarians’ professionalism. They “were able to take Afghans who had never fired an indirect weapons system in their lives, ever, and take a Soviet-style mortar system ... and in three rounds put direct effective fire on an enemy target.”

The 17-year SPP helped the Hungarians with military culture, tactics and doctrine, he said. “You can learn doctrine out of

a book ... but until you work with somebody who's done it again and again and again, you really don't understand how to embrace it. The number of learning opportunities on both sides [is] tremendous."

"Everybody came back a little bit [more professional]," said Hungarian army Lt. Col. Istvan Megtert, who commanded OMLT 1.3. "There are many ... things the Americans know because of ... experiences from Iraq [or elsewhere]."

Megtert was a veteran of four deployments before OMLT 1.3. "The OMLT work is very tough work," he said. "The OMLT mission is absolutely different than the other missions."

Challenges listed by Megtert included working with three different nationalities, cultures and languages; the security situation and teamwork under fire.

Megtert noticed a tendency for each nation to slip into its



Brig. Gen. Rufus Smith, left, commander of the Ohio National Guard unit providing leadership for joint Operational Mentor and Liaison Teams during a meeting with Ohio colleagues and Hungarian counterparts in Hungary. (U.S. Army photo/Staff Sgt. Jim Greenhill)

own slang during enemy contact. "Every nation used ... special language and we were mixed, and it was a big challenge for us," he said.

After months training together, grappling with thinking in their native language then translating for radio transmissions, the team overcame. "There were many very warm situations, very dangerous situations," Megtert said, "and they could work together ... We complement each other."

Like other U.S. and Hungarian officers and NCOs, Eriksen, the Ohio commander, said the OMLT was a rewarding experience.

"I had the opportunity to, from a U.S. perspective, command [and,] from a multinational perspective, be the deputy commander, of some of the best soldiers I've ever met," he said. "I miss them. I miss being with those guys. I had great officers. Superb NCOs. ... I don't think I'll ever have a job in the Army that will be more rewarding."

Last month, Wayt recognized Hungarian soldiers here, pinning them with Ohio commendation medals and giving additional recognition to standouts, including a gubernatorial proclamation.

The general also met with Hungarian and Ohioan soldiers training side-by-side.

"This is graduate-level work," Wayt said. "It's graduate-level work for the OMLT to go mentor the Afghan National Army ... and to ensure that the [ANA] is ready and prepared to assume the mission in the near-future."

"I'm very excited about it," said Army Sgt. 1st Class Jess Daniels. "We've been involved with the Hungarians for quite some time, and to actually be part of a mission where we're side-by-side with them is really important to a lot of us here."

In 1993, Ohio was selected as Hungary's SPP partner in part because the largest expatriate population of Hungarians is in Cleveland, Ohio. Guardmembers have ties to Hungary or neighboring countries.

Army Sgt. 1st Class Goran Mandic is a first-generation Ohioan, his mother Croatian, his father Serbian.

"I love this part of the world," Mandic said. "I'd pick the East and the Balkans over France and Spain any day of the week."

Mandic served as an infantry company mentor in OMLT 1.2 and returned to his favorite region with other Ohio Soldiers from previous OMLT rotations last month to meet with Hungarian counterparts for an after-action review conference.

"The [AAR] couldn't have been more timely and more important," Wayt said. "That we make sure these OMLTs keep improving and improving and that we identify any weaknesses."

"I'll do it again, if I can," Mandic said. "The Hungarians were very easy to work with. It is a different culture ... but Hungarians are a Western culture, so we had more commonalities than we did differences.

"They do have a professional military. That's one of the things the Americans went in underestimating ... They do have a professional military culture and a lot of pride, and their military history is very old."

Ohioans had their own challenges. "Some people had never left Ohio, much less the United States," Mandic said. "That's why you have to go in prepared. All that cultural study ... is very important ... because there are just many things you can do where you have the potential to alienate the people you are supposed to be mentoring and advising."

One measure of the Hungarian commitment to allied operations in Afghanistan: Four HDF members have died from injuries sustained on non-OMLT missions there, including friends of Galgoczy.

"That's a huge loss, especially when you know them well," he said. "Especially as a comrade, as a friend as well." **OG**

Bilateral defense consultation opens path to increased cooperation between Ohio National Guard, Serbia

Story by 1st Lt. Kimberly Snow
Ohio National Guard Public Affairs

COLUMBUS, Ohio—One week after U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton praised the Ohio National Guard's partnership with the Serbian military, the Ohio Guard hosted a bilateral defense consultation, Oct. 18, at its joint force headquarters in northwest Columbus.

"We have this unique relationship between the Serbian military and the Ohio National Guard, which is a real model," Clinton said according to an interview transcript on the state department website.

Maj. Gen. Gregory L. Wayt, the Ohio adjutant general, hosted Serbian and U.S. defense delegations in the state capitol in part to review the previous year's cooperative events, but mainly to plan for the future. In recent meetings with Serbian officials, including President Boris Tadic and Defense Minister Dragan Sutanovac, Wayt said discussions have centered on moving past familiarization to conduct more small unit exchanges and collaborate in Partnership for Peace exercises.

"Quite frankly, where we all agree is, we want to get more involved in exercises together versus briefings," Wayt said.

The event offered the Serb delegation, led by Dr. Zoran Jetic, the Serbian state secretary for defense policy, the opportunity to discuss issues and areas of interest for future cooperative events and even to clear up some misunderstandings and misperceptions, Jetic said. It is a partnership he considers not only successful, but valuable to the Serbian people.

"We worked with Ohio on humanitarian assistance in [the] southern part of Serbia," Jetic said. "It was a great thing for the citizens of the local community there. And now we are ready to go with some other courses of cooperation. We started with military-to-military cooperation, and today we discussed military-to-civilian and civilian-to-civilian

cooperation."

The Ohio National Guard and Serbian military have worked very closely together through the National Guard Bureau State Partnership Program – a part of the larger NATO Partnership for Peace program – since they first partnered more than four years ago. In 2011, the Ohio Guard and Serbian military partnership activities will comprise by far the greatest single percentage of activities among the U.S. and Serbia in the Partnership for Peace program, at 44 percent.

"Success is not the number of activities, [although] we have an appropriate number of activities, but what we did and how we established relations," Jetic said.

Dr. Joseph McMillan, principal deputy assistant secretary of defense for international security affairs and leader of the U.S. delegation, applauded Serbian cooperative efforts within the State Partnership Program, especially considering the partners' unique



A joint U.S. and Serbian delegation stands in front of the Ohio National Guard state headquarters building in Northwest Columbus, Oct. 19, during a bilateral defense consultation held in Ohio's capitol city. The Ohio National Guard is partnered with the Serbian military through the National Guard Bureau State Partnership Program, part of the larger NATO Partnership for Peace program. (Ohio National Guard photo/Todd Cramer)

challenges. He also spoke of the "political courage" demonstrated by Serbia at a time when popular support might have waned.

"In the case of Serbia, we have a very different situation than we do with a lot of other state partners who have aspirations to join NATO. Serbia is looking for a way forward working with the west without joining NATO, and this program has some special challenges that some of the other state programs don't face," McMillan said. "Ohio has managed those very adeptly, and they are tailoring what they do to meet the

Serbians' needs very effectively."

Jetic said the focus for 2011 is the opening of a new base in southern Serbia. The delegation visited Ohio's Camp Ravenna Joint Military Training Center Oct. 18 and has been working closely with an Ohio delegation to gather expertise and knowledge aimed at developing the camp as a base from which the Serbian military can stage and deploy in support of peacekeeping missions.

The final phase in military to military cooperation – a joint peacekeeping operation – looms near, Jetic said.

Since the Ohio National Guard first partnered with Serbia in September 2006, that relationship has grown steadily, despite periods in which larger political issues may have impeded U.S.-Serbian relations, Wayt said.

"The plan we have laid out today for 2011 and beyond will continue to deepen our friendship," he said. **OG**

Armed Forces Reserve Center provides new home to three brigades

Story by 1st Lt. Kristina Gaskins
Ohio National Guard Public Affairs

COLUMBUS, Ohio – The \$29 million Armed Forces Reserve Center (AFRC), located at Defense Supply Center Columbus, is the new home to about 900 Soldiers of the Ohio Army National Guard and the Army Reserve.

The AFRC houses the headquarters for the 16th Engineer Brigade, the 37th Infantry Brigade Combat Team and the 174th Air Defense Artillery Brigade.

In addition, it is home to United States Army Reserve's 412th Civil Affairs Battalion, the 391st Military Police Battalion and the 342nd Military Police Company.

"The three brigades deserve the level of the facility; it has not gone unappreciated," said Col. James E. Perry, commander of the 37th. "The

Soldiers feel good every day coming to work and want to be as professional as the building they are working in, and it shows."

The facility encompasses 150,305 square feet and provides much-needed space for training, administrative and logistical operations. It includes a drill floor, storage space for all headquarters supply sections, a fully-equipped dining facility and an extensive gym with male and female locker rooms. It is also equipped with a public announcement system that is connected to Defense Supply Center Columbus' main line and alerts Soldiers when there is an emergency.

The 16th Brigade is "thrilled to be here... (it is) a beautiful facility and we could not be more pleased with how it

turned out," said Col. Scott A. White, administrative officer for the 16th.

The AFRC was one of four planned projects at Defense Supply Center Columbus as part of the Base Realignment and Closure initiative. It will assist the United States Army Reserve and the Ohio Army National Guard to effectively train, support and equip Soldiers for their national defense mission. Along with the AFRC, a new combined support maintenance shop, regional training institute and United States Property and Fiscal Office for Ohio will complete this \$65.2 project.

This is a "tremendous opportunity for Ohio National Guard as a whole because it gives you more of a campus mentality and you have so many resources and entities in one location," said Brig. Gen. Rufus Smith, commander of the 174th. **OG**



The newly-constructed Armed Forces Reserve Center at the Defense Supply Center Columbus is the new home for several Ohio National Guard units. (Ohio National Guard photo/1st Lt. Mark Sterner)



Delivering the strategy

Maj. Gen. Gregory L. Wayt, Ohio adjutant general, speaks to army commanders about the importance of aligning their unit's priorities with the Ohio National Guard strategy map, during the 2010 Commander's Call at Camp Perry Joint Training Center, Saturday, Oct. 2, 2010. The annual Commander's Call is an event where commanders discuss the year-in-review, and receive the strategic plan for Ohio Army National Guard units to execute during the upcoming training year. (Ohio National Guard photo/Capt. Matt Molinski)



180th Fighter Wing welcomes Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force

Story by Maj. Gary Bentley
180th Fighter Wing

SWANTON, Ohio – Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force James A. Roy and his wife, Paula, recently visited the Toledo Air National Guard Base here while in the local area to attend a wedding reception. The Roys grew up and went to high school in nearby Monroe, Mich.

Col. Mark Bartman, commander of the 180th Fighter Wing, and Chief Master Sgt. Michael Haas, 180th command chief, provided Roy with a tour of key facilities at the base and several briefings discussing the wing’s overall mission, the Air Sovereignty Alert mission, alternative energy field and a briefing on the 200th RED HORSE (Rapid Engineer Deployable Heavy Operational Repair Squadron Engineers) at Camp Perry.

Bartman’s wife, Christi, and Mrs. Roy spent time with 180th Airmen and Family Readiness Program Manager Judy York, and attended several briefings. The Roys also took a walking tour of the ASA facility, command post and the 10-acre solar field site.

Army Lt. Col. Robert Bramlish, Ohio National Guard Family Readiness Program director, also provided an in-depth briefing to the Roys concerning the dynamic and diverse programs in place to assist all Ohio military and Family members.

A luncheon was held in the 180th dining facility and attended by the Wing’s 2009 Airmen of the Year winners. Chief Roy interacted with the group during lunch and engaged in a question and answer session with them afterward.

At the conclusion of his visit, Roy said it was obvious to him that the 180th Fighter Wing is critical to national defense.

“This was a fantastic trip that has helped us continue to understand the uniqueness of Guardsmen and their Families,” Roy said.

Roy answered questions on a variety of topics:

Q: What do you think is the biggest challenge today for enlisted members?

A: I would say that trying to couple deployments with education and training is a great challenge. Many of our younger members are gaining extensive combat experience because of the changing direction of the Air Force. We need to make sure we are balancing education and training needs of the members with mission demands of the Air Force.

Lt. Col. Michael Masiker is deployed mentoring the Afgan military on the use of airlift to simplify logistics.

Ohio Guardsman speeds up logistics flow in Afganistan

Story and photo by Capt. Rob Leese
United States Air Force

Lt. Col. Michael Masiker is currently assigned to the 438th Air Expeditionary Wing at the Kabul International Airport in Kabul Afghanistan, serving on a one year deployment as the Logistics Director for the 438th Air Expeditionary Wing.

He is also a member of the Ohio Air National Guard 180th Fighter Wing and a federal technician. He mentors the Afghan National Army Air Force (ANAAF) Logistics Commander and he had nothing but praise for him. “He is very astute and knowledgeable of the job, which has made his job easier. I have been blessed to work with him. He is a good guy.”

During his six months in Afghanistan, he has helped the ANAAF Logistic Commander, Col. Saifor Shah, understand the benefits of using airlift to move heavy equipment. The ANAAF Commander’s standard movement would be through an over the road convoy which would take a month to plan and set up. They were able to cut that time to have the equipment identified and in place within a week.

Last week, they moved a truck tug on a C-27 airlift transport aircraft. Now, the commander is asking for a list of the sizes and weights of all rolling stock, so he knows what can go on the aircraft. Many heavy loads previously moved by convoy are now scheduled to go on the C-27. This helps them to quickly get things where needed most. Small positive changes can be seen every day like this in Afghanistan.

Masiker joined the Air National Guard in Feb. of 1970 and has deployed many times during his career.



Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force James A. Roy and his wife Paula look at the 180th Fighter Wing solar field with Base Commander Mark Bartman and his wife Christi Bartman while touring the 180th Fighter Wing in Toledo, Ohio. (180th Fighter Wing photo/Staff Sgt. Jodi Leininger)

Q: Your opinion of the importance of fitness in today’s Air Force?

A: This goes directly to mission readiness. Today’s environment requires physically fit members. In addition, health care costs are greater when members are not fit.

Q: Can you comment on your perception of the Air National Guard when you initially entered active duty contrasted with your current perception?

A: There is clearly no such thing as a weekend warrior in today’s Air Force. We are at war and we certainly need all components of the Air Force to integrate seamlessly. Back during the Cold War the Guard and Reserve members were in garrison and were not as much of an operational force.

Q: What do you believe are the most important values an enlisted leader in the Air Force should have?

A: The core values of the Air Force are an excellent foundation. Character, integrity, serving others, excellence and the knowledge that all of this is not about ourselves.

Q: How has your Family impacted your career and how has your career impacted your Family?

A: When I joined the Air Force, Paula and I were already married. This clearly had an impact on our view of the Air Force and the needs we had. We now have two young children, and this helps me understand what many of our younger Airmen are going through. My job and my Family both demand a lot of time. Balancing these two factors is critical to success.

Q: Buckeyes or Wolverines?

A: Detroit Red Wings.



A set of vertical axis wind turbines has recently been installed at Rickenbacker Air National Guard base. (Courtesy photo/ Lt. Col Mike Troxel)

Vertical axis wind turbines offer alternative to larger devices

Story by Douglas Nicodemus
Ohio National Guard Public Affairs

The use of renewable energy can take many forms ...and shapes. A recent project by the 121st Air Refueling Wing (ARW) installed to generate electricity from wind looks like very large beaters from a kitchen food mixer.

The devices are called vertical axis wind turbines. Unlike the larger propeller-based wind turbines, they are omni-directional and do not require a lot of wind to generate power. These units will generate 4000 watts at 26 mph, but will also generate electricity in winds as low as 6-8 mph.

“This is just a fraction of the total building load, but it is a step in the right direction. In the near future we hope to start other projects here at Rickenbacker to help us meet our green energy goals,” said Lt. Col. Mike Troxel, commander of the 121st ARW Civil Engineering Squadron.

Troxel wanted to do a wind power project for years, but most of the earlier turbines were too large and expensive.

After finding a turbine which would work, the next step was an economic analysis of the plan. A proposal was submitted to the National Guard Bureau and approved for funding from money set aside for energy projects. The 121st contracting personnel worked to find the best company for the job and the turbines were installed.

What is being learned in the installation and operation of the turbines is valuable. One reason the National Guard funded them was to see what kind of savings this type of wind turbine can yield, said Troxel. The turbines have the ability to report their performance, so they are being connected to the Guard unit’s existing energy management system.

If things go well, Troxel hopes to get approval for installation of a larger version. The larger turbines could produce more power, offset a greater portion of the unit’s energy costs and return the cost of the investment in less time.



Sp. Eliaris Rodriguez of A Company, 237th Support Battalion out of Woods King Armory, Cleveland, Ohio, receives the Army Achievement Medal from Command Sgt. Maj. William Adams for her selfless service during a robbery.

Ohio Guard Soldier assists crime victim and police, earns medal

Staff Sgt. Rashonda Doss
Company A, 237th Support Battalion

CLEVELAND – An Ohio Army National Guard Soldier was awarded the Army Achievement Medal in a ceremony Sept. 19, 2010 at the Woods King Armory for her assistance in catching a robber.

Sp. Eliaris Rodriguez, a motor transport operator from Company A, 237th Support Battalion, Woods King Armory in Cleveland, Ohio, was dining at Steve’s Hot Dogs Friday, June 11, 2010, when a man ran into the diner claiming he had been robbed.

Rodriguez remembered a man she had seen earlier pacing in front of the diner and described the man to the victim, who confirmed it was the same man. She walked outside and flagged down a passing patrol car. Rodriguez told the officer, Detective William Adams, what had happened. Adams, a vice detective for the Cleveland Police Department, quickly apprehended and arrested the attacker.

“Someone was in need of help and I attended to him as best as I could,” Rodriguez said.

Adams is also the command sergeant major of 1st Battalion, 137th Aviation Regiment. He said he saw Rodriguez calming the victim down when he arrived on scene. Recognizing her uniform patch, he asked her the names of her sergeant major and first sergeant.

Adams contacted Rodriguez’s first line leader and recommended her for the medal.

“It is common for Soldiers to go above and beyond the line of duty,” Adams said. “It is always a good experience to see Soldiers doing (this).”



The gifts given at Ryan Wagner’s birthday party were donated to children of military Families.

Boy donates birthday party presents to military families

Story and photo by Douglas Nicodemus
Ohio National Guard Public Affairs

Ryan Wagner didn’t receive any presents at his birthday party this year, but it didn’t stop him from having a great time. None of the invited were surprised, it was all part of the plan.

After Ryan made a list of 20 kids to attend his birthday party, he and his mother, Kelli Wagner, discussed what kind of things to do for the party this year. There was always a Family party, but the party with his friends was not a yearly occurrence. Ryan and his mom wanted to plan a party for his friends, but considered 20 guests bringing toys too much of a good thing. Food and fun were important, but he didn’t need a lot of gifts. They both agreed that the combination of gifts from a Family party and party with friends would have been extreme; together they decided to explore other options.

A flyer at their church said the Knights of Columbus were collecting toys for military families and thought it would be a good thing to do. After some research, their party planning took a new direction.

The party invitation explained that all toys would be donated to benefit military families and be brought to the party unwrapped. Parents of the invited children thought it was a great idea and even better that the presents didn’t need wrapped.

Over 40 toys were donated to the Knights of Columbus, who passed the toys on to the ONG Family Readiness office for distribution to children of deployed guardsmen.

“He isn’t a saint. I don’t want anyone to get the wrong idea,” said Mrs. Wagner, adding that Ryan is just a normal growing boy and was happy just being with some friends for pizza and to play kickball. The party was held at an indoor sports facility where the children played dodge ball and kickball. “He had fun with his buddies and he did not miss the toys.”

Scholarship Program

The Ohio National Guard Scholarship Program (ONGSP) will not award tuition assistance for any application that is received after deadlines regardless of the post-office date. Applicants should check with the ONGSP office for receipt of their application PRIOR to the deadline date.

There will not be any exceptions for the deadline. The deadlines will be strictly enforced. As a reminder, the deadlines are: 1 July for Fall, 1 November for Winter Qtr/ Spring Semester, 1 February for Spring Quarter, 1 April for Summer

Questions can be directed to the ONGSP office at 1-888-400-6484, commercial (614) 336-7032, 7143; fax (614) 336-7318; or e-mail toni.davis7@us.army.mil.

Reserve Component Survivor Benefit Plan

The Reserve Component Survivor Benefit Plan is the sole means for a Reserve component Soldier with 20 years of qualifying Reserve service for retirement to provide a portion of their retired pay to survivors if the soldier dies before non-regular Reserve retirement. RC-SBP is paid as a monthly annuity to eligible survivors. RC-SBP elections are voided if retired from active duty. You are responsible for updating your retired pay within one year of an event if you marry, remarry, have a child, are widowed or divorced and need to make or update a Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) election. Please ensure your beneficiary understands how to submit for a survivor benefit claim.

Current Family Care Plans are an annual requirement, essential for deployment

Story by Staff Sgt. Julio Ramirez
Inspector General's Office

Who is required to have a Family Care Plan? How often it is updated? Where can I find the forms?

Per AR 600-20, Army Command Policy, all single parents (joint or full custody or with extended visitation); dual military couples with dependent Family members; Soldiers with a spouse incapable of self-care; and pregnant Soldiers who have no spouse, are divorced, widowed, or separated are required to have a Family Care Plan. The plan must be completed and updated on an annual basis.

The purpose of the Family Care Plan is

to assist the Soldier in providing care for his or her Family members while serving within the Active Army, Army National Guard, and Reserve component. A Family Care Plan ensures that Family members are cared for when the Soldier is deployed, on temporary duty, or unavailable due to military requirements.

The Family Care Plan (DA Form 5305) is not a legal document that can change a court-mandated custodial arrangement, nor can it interfere with a natural parent's right to custody of his/her child.

The Family Care Plan attests that the guardian and escort have been thoroughly briefed on the responsibilities they will assume, and have a generalized understanding of how they will provide care.

Within the Family Care Plan, information is provided regarding all necessary legal authority. At a minimum, the following items will be included with the Family Care Plan:

- DA 5305 (Family Care Plan)
- DA Form 5841 (power of attorney) or equivalent delegation of legal control (unsigned until deployment).
- DA Form 5840 (Certificate of Acceptance as Guardian or Escort).
- DD Form 1172 (Application for Uniformed Services Identification Card—DEERS Enrollment) for each Family member (Note: AR 600-8-14 directs that ID cards will be issued for children under age 10 who reside with a single parent or a military couple).
- DD Form 2558 (Authorization to Start, Stop, or Change an Allotment) for active duty or retired personnel, unsigned until deployment, or other proof of financial support arrangements.
- A letter of instruction to the guardian/escort (see DA Form 5304 (Family Care Plan Counseling Checklist)).
- If appropriate, DA Form 7666 (Parental Consent) as evidence of consent to the Family Care Plan from all parties with a legal interest in the custody of the minor child.

Soldiers are responsible for implementing the Family Care Plan and thus ensuring the care of their Family members.

DA Form 5304, DA Form 5305, DA Form 5840 and DA Form 5841 are available on the Army Publishing Directorate (APD) website or through other websites via the Internet. DA Form 5305 will be completed and approved no later than 30 days for active Army Soldiers and 60 days for Army National Guard and Army Reserve Soldiers from the date of counseling.

The Family Care Plan is recertified on an annual basis, where the Soldier and

commander initial and date the DA Form 5305. The recertification of the Family Care Plan should be done during the anniversary of the Soldier's birth month, after any changes of circumstance requiring a change in the Family Care Plan, or whenever the Soldier is mobilized, deployed, or processed for pre-deployment.

Commanders should ensure that the packet is up-to-date with current information and is legally valid. For more information regarding the Family Care Plan, Soldiers should consult AR 600-20, Army Command Policy, paragraph 5-5.

The Military Injury Relief Fund

The Military Injury Relief Fund (MIRF) provides grants to service members injured in the line of duty, which includes Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) while serving under Operation Iraqi Freedom or Operation Enduring Freedom. The grant monies will vary based on contributions from Ohio taxpayers collected for the tax year and number of grants approved. Your County veterans service office can assist you with any questions you may have. Applications for this fund may be completed at any of the 88 county offices. The application is not available online. To find the contact information for your county click on <http://dvs.ohio.gov/default.aspx?TabId=58>. For additional information, contact your County veterans services office or call the Ohio Department of Veterans Services at 1-888-296-7541 (option 5) or visit their website at <http://www.odjfs.state.oh.us/veterans/>.



Major General Gregory L. Wayt welcomes guests to the 2010 Ohio National Guard Alumni Reunion at Rickenbacker Air National Guard Base. The reunion featured updates by leaders on the state of the national guard, tours of work areas and informational displays. (160th Retiree Association photo/Chief Master Sgt (Ret) Tom Foster)

Guard Snapshots



Airmen from the Ohio National Guard's Zanesville-based 220th Engineering Installation Squadron meet with Adm. Mike Mullen, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, in December at Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan. Pictured are Staff Sgt. Marcus Miller (from left), Tech. Sgt. Justin Ross, Senior Airman Derek Sams, Mullen, Staff Sgt. Wyatt Carpenter and Master Sgt. Mike Zinsmeister.



Spc. Christopher Finley says goodbye to his daughter, Scarlett Finley, after his Call to Duty ceremony in Fairfield, Ohio, Friday, Nov. 19, 2010. The Call to Duty ceremony was held for approximately 25 Soldiers from the 1-174th Air Defense Artillery Radar Detachment in Woodlawn, Ohio, who are deploying to Operation New Dawn for one year.

Spc. Amy Gregory, from the 196th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment, currently deployed to Baghdad, Iraq, supporting Operation New Dawn, receives a Joint Service Achievement Medal from Lt. Gen. Michael Barbero, United States Forces - Iraq Deputy Commanding General for Advising and Training. Gregory received the award for providing broadcast video skills during multiple events. (U. S. Army photo/Sgt. Jacob Fadley, 196th MPAD)



Veterans Day 2010

Photos by 1st Lt. Kristina Gaskins



Maj. Gen. Harry W. "A.J." Feucht and Hearcel F. Craig, a Columbus City council member, wave to participants from the viewing stand during a pass and review at the Veterans Day parade in Columbus, Ohio, Nov. 05, 2010. The annual Veterans Day parade is one of the largest in the country.



Maj. Gen. Harry W. "A.J." Feucht, assistant adjutant general for Air, laughs with Chief Warrant Officer 4 Robin D. Kessler from the 122nd Army Band before the start of the Veterans Day parade in Columbus, Ohio, Nov. 05, 2010.



Chief Master Sgt. Eric R. Jaren, Command Chief of the Air Force Material Command at Wright Patterson AFB, Ohio, delivers a speech while Maj. Gen. Harry W. "A.J." Feucht and Mayor Michael Coleman look on during the Veterans Day memorial service at city council chambers in Columbus, Ohio, Nov. 05, 2010. The memorial service was held before the annual Veterans Day parade to honor and remember those who have served in the U.S. Armed Forces.

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Jim Tressel, head football coach for The Ohio State University (from left), Maj. Gen. Matthew L. Kambic, Ohio's assistant adjutant general for Army, Maj. Gen. Harry W. Feucht, Ohio's assistant adjutant general for Air, Maj. Gen. Gregory L. Wayt, Ohio adjutant general and Bob Tucker, OSU football's director of military appreciation, conclude a Nov. 9 award ceremony at the Fawcett Center in Columbus. The senior Ohio National Guard leaders presented the pair with the Patrick Henry Award on behalf of the National Guard Association of the United States for their support of the Ohio National Guard and all U.S. armed forces. (Ohio National Guard photo/Capt. Matt Molinski)