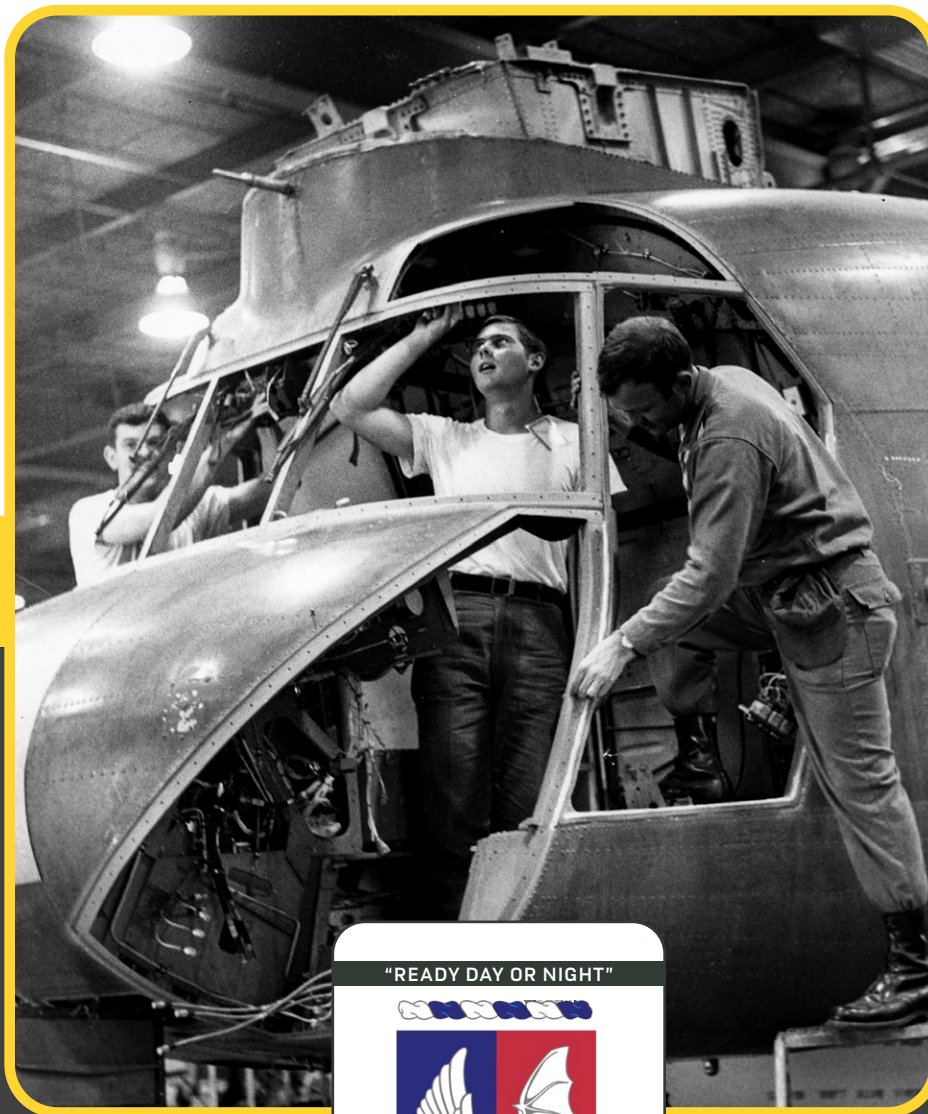


# UNIT HISTORICAL SKETCH



"READY DAY OR NIGHT"



## COMPANY B, 638TH SUPPORT BATTALION

NORTH CANTON, OHIO

# COMPANY B

## 638TH SUPPORT BATTALION

Company B, 638th Support Battalion was constituted on July 3, 1946, in the Ohio National Guard as Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 183d Antiaircraft Artillery Battalion and received its federal recognition on Oct. 30, 1947, while stationed at Fort Hayes in Columbus. The battalion was a segregated, all-Black unit that was an element of the 37th Infantry Division. On Feb. 1, 1949, the battalion was redesignated as the 137th Antiaircraft Artillery Battalion.

On Jan. 15, 1952, the battalion was ordered into active federal service for the Korean War. Initially, they were sent to Fort Bliss, Texas for training, before reuniting with the rest of the division at Camp Polk, La. Many of the Soldiers in the battery were sent to Korea as individual replacements. The unit returned to Ohio in 1954 and became an integrated unit that summer.

On Sept. 1, 1959, the battery was converted to the 37th Administrative Company and moved from Fort Hayes to the new Beightler Armory in 1965. In 1968, the 37th Infantry Division was removed from Ohio's troop allotment and the unit was reorganized as the 1416th Transportation Company. The company was an aviation maintenance unit that serviced the rotary-wing aircraft assigned to the Ohio National Guard. On Oct. 1, 1987, the unit was redesignated as Company D, 137th Aviation, continuing its aviation maintenance role.

In late 2002 the unit underwent a number of changes in a few short months. It began on Nov. 1, 2002, when the unit was redesignated as Company G, 137th Aviation. On April 1, 2003, the company was again reorganized, this time as Company A, 638th Support Battalion and was assigned to the 38th Infantry Division.

On Sept. 1, 1996 the company was consolidated with Detachment 2, Company A, 638th Support Battalion and the consolidated unit was redesignated under the unit's present designation, Company B, 638th Support Battalion. At the same time, the unit's station was changed from Columbus to North Canton.

On Feb. 7, 2019, the company mobilized in support of the War on Terrorism and deployed to Camp Buehring, Kuwait providing unit and intermediate level field maintenance for aviation units in the theater. The unit was released from federal service the following year and resumed its aviation maintenance role for the Ohio Army National Guard.

# HERALDIC ITEMS



## DISTINCTIVE UNIT INSIGNIA

Description/Blazon: A silver and pewter color metal and enamel device 1 1/8 inches (2.86 cm) in width overall consisting of a red and blue shield divided per pale superimposed by the following: Issuing out of eight rays emitting from the base of a flame on either side, an elevated eagle wing and an elevated bat wing, overall in base a sword point down and a key ward to base saltirewise superimposed by a shield charged with a clover leaf, all silver. Attached around the bottom of the shield a blue scroll inscribed with "READY DAY OR NIGHT" in silver letters.

Symbolism: The scarlet, blue and white (silver) with the cloverleaf are traditional symbols of the Division, the 38th Infantry, which the battalion is a part of. White (silver) and the shape of the small shield represent the unit's connection to Aviation. The sword and key of the Quartermaster Branch and the flame of the Ordnance Branch denote the supply and maintenance mission of the battalion. The raised eagle and bat wings symbolize their motto, "Ready Day or Night."

Background: The distinctive unit insignia was approved on 7 June 2002.



## COAT OF ARMS

Description/Blazon:

Shield: Per pale Azure and Gules, issuing out of eight rays emitting from the base of a flame on either side, an elevated eagle wing and an elevated bat wing, overall in base a sword point down and a key ward to base saltirewise superimposed by a shield charged with a clover leaf all Argent. Crest: That for the regiments and separate battalions of the Indiana Army National Guard: From a wreath Argent and Azure, a demi-lion rampant of the first, holding in dexter paw a laurel branch Vert.

Motto: READY DAY OR NIGHT.

Symbolism: The scarlet, blue and white (silver) with the cloverleaf are traditional symbols of the Division, the 38th Infantry, which the battalion is a part of. White (silver) and the shape of the small shield represent the unit's connection to Aviation. The sword and key of the Quartermaster Branch and the flame of the Ordnance Branch denote the supply and maintenance mission of the battalion. The raised eagle and bat wings symbolize their motto, "Ready Day or Night."

Background: The coat of arms was approved on 7 June 2002.



## SHOULDER SLEEVE INSIGNIA

Description/Blazon: On a white diagonally placed square edged with a 1/8 inch (.32 cm) blue border, a red disc emitting to the vertices four red spearheads. Overall dimensions are 3 1/8 inches (7.94 cm) point to point.

Symbolism: Red, white and blue are the national colors. Red denotes valor, white suggests purity and blue indicates perseverance. The diagonal square alludes to a diamond, the rare and precious resource that each member of the Brigade brings to the fight. The disc at the center signifies the location of the Brigade's origin in the center of the United States. The four spearheads symbolize the four cardinal indices representing the Brigade's willingness to go in any direction to support and defend the constitution.

Background: The shoulder sleeve insignia for the 77th Aviation Brigade was approved on 27 July 2006.



# LINEAGE AND HONORS

Constituted 3 July 1946 in the Ohio National Guard as Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 183d Antiaircraft Artillery Automatic Weapons Battalion

Organized and Federally recognized 30 October 1947 at Columbus as an element of the 37th Infantry Division

Redesignated 1 February 1949 as Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 137th Antiaircraft Artillery Automatic Weapons Battalion

Ordered into active Federal service 15 January 1952 at Columbus

Reorganized and redesignated 20 May 1953 as Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 137th Antiaircraft Artillery Battalion

(Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 137th Antiaircraft Artillery Battalion [NGUS] organized and Federally recognized 17 March 1954)

Released from active Federal service 15 June 1954 and reverted to state control; Federal recognition concurrently withdrawn from Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 137th Antiaircraft Artillery Battalion (NGUS)

Converted, reorganized and redesignated 1 September 1959 as the 37th Administrative Company



Brig. Gen. Kenneth Cooper (right), 37th Division Artillery commander, presents the guidon of Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 137th Antiaircraft Artillery Battalion to the battery commander during 37th Infantry Division Day ceremonies on July 23, 1954 at Camp Perry, Ohio..



During a 37th Infantry Division exercise in April 1966, Capt. Ronald L. Lohman (from left), commanding officer of the 37th Administrative Company explains the situation to First Army controller Lt. Col. Coy.



Soldiers from the 1416th Transportation Company march in a pass in review ceremony during annual training at Camp Grayling, Mich. c.1975.

Location changed 2 October 1965 to Worthington

Converted, reorganized and redesignated 15 February 1968 as the 1416th Transportation Company and relieved from assignment to the 37th Infantry Division

Converted, reorganized and redesignated 1 October 1987 as Company D, 137th Aviation

Location changed 1 October 1991 to Columbus

Reorganized and redesignated 1 November 2002 as Company G, 137th Aviation

Converted, reorganized and redesignated 1 April 2003 as Company A, 638th Support Battalion, an element of the 38th Infantry Division

Consolidated 1 September 2006 with Detachment 2, Company A, 638th Support Battalion (see ANNEX); consolidated unit designated as Company B, 638th Support Battalion; location concurrently changed to North Canton

Ordered into active Federal service 7 February 2019 at North Canton; released from active Federal service 6 February 2020 and reverted to state control

#### ANNEX

Constituted 19 August 1987 in the Ohio Army National Guard as Medical Troop, Support Squadron, 107th Armored Cavalry

Organized and Federally recognized 4 August 1988 at Cleveland as Company C, Support Squadron, 107th Armored Cavalry



Company D, 137th Aviation takes a unit photograph during annual training at Corpus Christi Army Depot, Texas on June 15, 2000



A Soldier from Company D, 137th Aviation works on the maintenance of a CH-47 Chinook helicopter, c. 2000.



Spc. Max Doppes, Company B, 638th Support Battalion, screws the weighted tip caps of a UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter's blade to maintain balance on May 29, 2019 at Camp Buehring, Kuwait.



Maj. Nathan Alvarez (right), outgoing commander of Company B, 638th Support Battalion, passes the unit guidon to Lt. Col. Patrick Durbin, commander of the 1st Battalion, 137th Aviation Regiment, during a change of command ceremony for the unit on Aug. 10, 2013 at North Canton, Ohio.

Expanded, reorganized and redesignated 1 September 1993 as Detachment 1, 385th Medical Company and Detachment 1, 684th Medical Company (hereafter separate lineage); location concurrently changed to North Canton

Consolidated 1 September 1997 with the 107th Medical Company (organized and Federally recognized 5 January 1997 at North Canton); consolidated unit reorganized as the 107th Medical Company

Converted, reorganized and redesignated 1 September 1999 as Company B, 3d Battalion, 126th Aviation

Consolidated 1 November 2002 with Detachment 1, Company D, 137th Aviation; consolidated unit designated as Detachment 1, Company G, 137th Aviation

Detachment 1, Company D, 137th Aviation elements withdrawn 1 April 2003 and converted, reorganized and redesignated as Company G, 137th Aviation – hereafter a separate lineage; concurrently former Company B, 3d Battalion, 126th Aviation elements reorganized and redesignated as Detachment 2, Company A, 638th Support Battalion, an element of the 38th Infantry Division

HOME STATION: North Canton

#### CAMPAIGN PARTICIPATION CREDIT

War on Terrorism  
Campaigns to be determined

#### DECORATIONS

Meritorious Unit Commendation (Army), streamer embroidered SOUTHWEST ASIA 2019-2020

# PAST COMMANDERS

## HQ. AND HQ. BATTERY, 137TH ANTI-AIRCRAFT ARTILLERY BATTALION

1952: 1st Lt. David R. Reed

1954: Capt. Grady T. Smith

## 37TH ADMINISTRATIVE COMPANY

1959-1960: 1st Lt. Wallace J. Urton

1960: Capt. Fred R. Immelt

1960-1962: Capt. Raymond Heister

1962-1963: Capt. Tommy L. Reay

1963-1965: Capt. Thomas A. Roper

1965-1966: Capt. Ronald L. Lehman

1966-1968: Capt. Victor S. Krupman

## 1416TH TRANSPORTATION COMPANY

1968-1972: Maj. Robert L. Holmes

1972-1976: Maj. Courtney Chapman

1976-1983: Maj. John S. Martin

1983-1987: Maj. Rodger E. West

1987: Maj. James H. Chisman

## COMPANY D, 137TH AVIATION

1987-1990: Maj. James H. Chisman

1990-1992: Maj. Larry A. Hart

1994-1995: Maj. James H. Lawson

1995-1996: Maj. Richard Bedard

1996-1999: Mark D. Ziegler

1999-2001: Maj. Thomas Beckman

2001: Maj. Charles A. Burley

2001-2003: Maj. Andrew D. Morrow

## COMPANY A, 638TH SUPPORT BATTALION

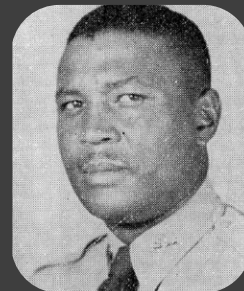
2003-2004: Maj. Andrew D. Morrow

2004-2005: Maj. Wes Ramp

2005-2006: Maj. Paul Boak



1st Lt. Reed



Capt. Smith



Capt. Krupman



Maj. Holmes



Maj. Martin



Maj. West



Maj. Chisman



Maj. Hart



Maj. Lawson



Maj. Bedard



Maj. Ziegler



Maj. Beckman



Maj. Burley



Maj. Morrow



Maj. Boak



# PAST COMMANDERS

## COMPANY B, 638TH SUPPORT BATTALION

2006-2007: Maj. Paul Boak

2007-2010: Maj. Brett A. Graham

2010-2013: Maj. Nathan D. Alvarez

2013-2017: Maj. William T. Chadwick

2017-2018: Maj. James D. McDarmont

2018-2020: Maj. John H. Yahnert Jr.

2020-2023: Maj. James J. O'Dell

2023-Present: Maj. Joseph A. Stack

## ANNEX 1

## 107TH MEDICAL COMPANY

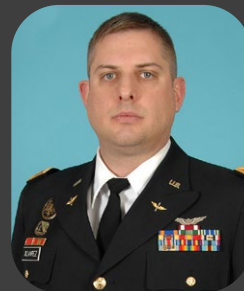
1995-1999: Maj. Stuart Driesbach

## COMPANY B, 3D BATTALION, 126TH AVIATION

2002: Maj. Michael J. Robbins



Maj. Graham



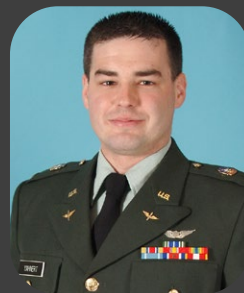
Maj. Alvarez



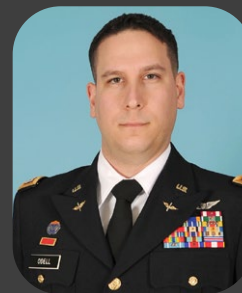
Maj. Chadwick



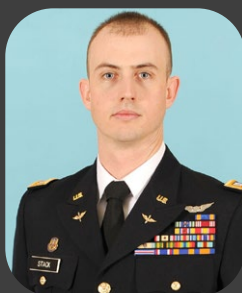
Maj. McDarmont



Maj. Driesbach



Maj. O'Dell



Maj. Stack



Maj. Driesbach

# PAST FIRST SERGEANTS

## 1416TH TRANSPORTATION COMPANY

1975-1987: 1st Sgt. Alvin Readnour

## COMPANY D, 137TH AVIATION

1987-1988: 1st Sgt. Alvin Readnour

1997-2002: 1st Sgt. Joseph E. Riedlinger

## COMPANY A, 638TH SUPPORT BATTALION

2005-2006: 1st Sgt. Bruce Thomas

## COMPANY B, 638TH SUPPORT BATTALION

2006: 1st Sgt. Bruce Thomas

2006-2013: 1st Sgt. Jeffrey S. Klein

2013-2014: 1st Sgt. Brad R. Pietzcker

2014-2016: 1st Sgt. Jayson Koelzer

2016-2018: 1st Sgt. Joseph Korecz

2018-2020: 1st Sgt. Brad R. Pietzcker

2020-Present: 1st Sgt. Michael Seruch

## ANNEX 1

## 107TH MEDICAL COMPANY

1995-1996: 1st Sgt. William L. Gilliam

1996-1999: 1st Sgt. Kim L. Stangelo

## COMPANY B, 3D BATTALION, 126TH AVIATION

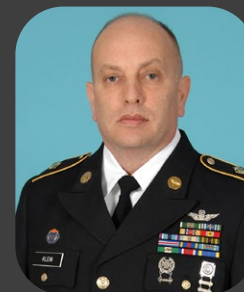
1999: 1st Sgt. Kim L. Stangelo



1st Sgt. Riedlinger



1st Sgt. Thomas



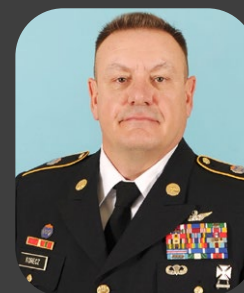
1st Sgt. Klein



1st Sgt. Pietzcker



1st Sgt. Koelzer



1st Sgt. Korecz



1st Sgt. Gilliam



1st Sgt. Stangelo



Updated as of May 24, 2023

This historical sketch is published IAW AGOR 870-5 by the office of the Historian, Ohio National Guard. This history reflects the approved lineage and honors of the unit as determined by the U.S. Army Center of Military History. All photographs used, unless otherwise cited, are from the Ohio National Guard Heritage Center. Errors, corrections and suggestions may be submitted to:

State of Ohio, Adjutant General's Department, ATTN: NGOH-HIS, 2825 West Dublin-Granville Road, Columbus, Ohio 43235-2789  
or [joshua.d.mann.mil@army.mil](mailto:joshua.d.mann.mil@army.mil)