

BUCKEYE GUARD

Summer 1999

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100 percent college tuition!
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BUILDING NEW HOPE

Exercise New Horizons
provides help to struggling
Central American nations

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Photo by Steve Toth, Adjutant General's Department Public Affairs Office.

Extending a helping hand

Lieutenant governor visits Central America

Ohio Lt. Gov. Maureen O'Connor shakes hands with a young resident of Casa Blanca, Nicaragua. O'Connor was part of an Ohio contingent observing the work of Ohio National Guardmembers and others providing humanitarian relief to hurricane-stricken Nicaragua as part of Exercise New Horizons. For more, see pages 8-12.

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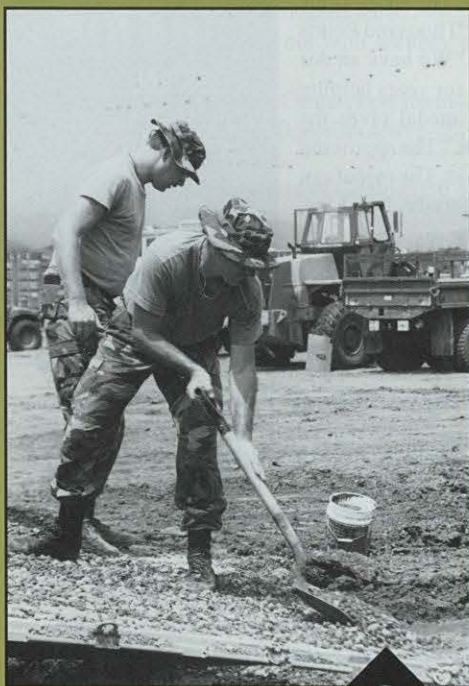
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ABOUT THE COVER: Sgt. Dennis Hegarty of Company B, 216th Engineer Battalion, Portsmouth, operates a backhoe to spread base course gravel for a roadway foundation at a worksite in Plantanares, Nicaragua. Ohio Army Guard engineers were building schools, clinics, water wells and roadways this summer as part of Exercise New Horizons. *Photo by Steve Toth, Adjutant General's Department Public Affairs Office.*

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PUBLICATION STAFF

Director, Public Affairs
Capt. Neal E. O'Brien

Deputy Director, Public Affairs
Ms. Denise Varner

Associate Editors
Mr. Steve Toth
Staff Sgt. Diane L. Farrow

Editorial Assistant
Ms. Mimi Myers

Contributors:
Army/Air National Guard Journalists
ANG Visual Information Specialists
Unit Public Affairs Representatives

Guardmembers and their families are encouraged to submit any articles meant to inform, educate or entertain *Buckeye Guard* readers, including stories about interesting Guard personalities and unique unit training. Deadlines are:

Winter: October 15
Spring: January 15
Summer: April 15
Fall: July 15

Improved Army PT Uniform to be ready by next year. A new physical training uniform was approved for soldiers' use on June 9. The new PT uniform consists of a five-piece ensemble which includes: a t-shirt, long sleeve shirt, jacket, pants and shorts. The uniform will be issued to new soldiers in May 2000, and becomes available in military clothing and sales stores in October 2000, according to Master Sgt. Debra Wylie, uniform policy officer for the Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Personnel. The new uniforms will cost about \$110, almost double that of the current PT uniforms, which have been issued since 1986. Several changes have been made with the new uniform. There is no hood on the jacket, and the t-shirts, which are made with Cool Max material and cotton, won't cling to a person's body. The new jacket and pants are water-resistant. There are zippers in the leg, and zippers underneath the arms to let heat escape. Both pants and shorts are black, so they won't show dirt or stains. (*Army News Service*)

Medal recognizes military volunteers. Military volunteers often perform many hours of service for their communities and the military wants to recognize their efforts. The Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal honors members' community service, said Army Maj. Bob S. Stone, deputy director of outreach programs in DoD's reserve affairs office. The medal came into being in 1991 as a result of President Bush's "Thousand Points of Light" campaign to encourage volunteerism. "We have an Air National Guard unit in Virginia that has worked for years helping support the Special Olympics," he said. "This medal gives the individuals involved in the effort some recognition." The approving authority is at the (colonel/captain) level, Stone said. The medal can be earned only through "sustained" community service, he added. "You don't get it for coaching a soccer team for one season, but you could qualify if you work with youth groups for a number of years," he said. The award is not for duties service members perform as part of their jobs. "You get this award for things you do during your off-duty hours," Stone said. (*American Forces Press Service*)



Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal

Domestic violence conviction could mean end of Army career. Soldiers who've been convicted in court of domestic violence—unless such a conviction can be expunged—may see their military careers come to an end, under a recent Army personnel policy change in May that stems from a 1996 federal law. The policy covers all soldiers—active, Reserve and National Guard. Soldiers who have been convicted of domestic violence will be barred from re-enlistment, but will be provided an one-year extension opportunity to clear their record. The policy also applies to officers; and all personnel affected will be eligible to apply for a discharge. (*Army News Service*)

Army implements revised APFT policy for certain schools. Enlisted troops attending leadership courses and schools now have two tries to pass the Army Physical Fitness Test, under a new policy that took effect Feb. 1. Previously, soldiers who took and failed the test once were sent back to their units. The new policy requires soldiers to take the APFT within 72 hours of course enrollment. If the soldier fails, then the soldier will be provided one retest, not earlier than three days after the initial APFT or later than 10 days during the course. (*Army News Service*)

Air Force adding strength, flexibility testing to fitness test. Eight Air Force bases worldwide have been serving as test sites this year as the Air Force prepares to add muscular fitness and flexibility tests to its annual physical fitness assessment. Test subjects are doing push-ups, sit-ups and the sit-and-reach flexibility test in conjunction with their annual cycle ergometry testing. The data will be used to further define standards that will be used when the expanded testing program is implemented Air Force-wide in January 2000. (*Air Force Print News*)

New leadership in top Army, Air Force positions. Gen. Eric K. Shinseki became the Army's 34th chief of staff on June 22, replacing Gen. Dennis J. Reimer, who retired. Shinseki, a native of Hawaii, had been serving as vice chief since last November, and had previously served in parts of 1997-98 as commanding general, U.S. Army-Europe and Seventh Army, and concurrently commanded NATO soldiers as the commander, Allied Land Forces Central Europe. Lt. Gen. Jack Keane was promoted to the rank of general and to serve as the Army's 29th vice chief of staff. Chief Master Sgt. Frederick J. "Jim" Finch has been named the 13th Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force. He replaced Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Eric W. Benken, who retired July 30. (*Army News Service and Air Force Print News*)

Reader takes issue with *BG's* Queen of Battle coverage

I am writing this letter out of anger and disgust. I have been a member of the Ohio National Guard for the past five years now. Every issue you praise and hail the Air Guard, the artillery, the aviation, the engineers, the finance clerks, the mechanics, the medics, the supply and everyone in a support role. The one you fail to mention every year is the infantry, the reason why everyone else has a role. Here are some of our accomplishments which we are proud of, but you have failed to ever mention:

1995, Camp Grayling—Went force on force in the heat and humidity and trained hard;

1996, Atlanta—Helped out with security at the Olympics;

1997, National Training Center, Fort Irwin—augmented OPFOR and defeated an active-duty component;

1998, England—Members of Company B 1-148th Infantry (not Co. A) take first and second place in the Iron Soldier, a competition that the British were sure they would win;

1999, Fort Stewart—Members of Company B again stand above the rest by neutralizing more enemy while being outgunned and outmanned;

1999, Camp Ripley—148th travels to train and earn the Expert Infantryman's Badge;

I am proud to be a member of B Company 1-148th Infantry (Mechanized). Even though we have a hundred-year-old armory we take pride in it. We don't have a training area but we always get the job done. We use 40-year-old trucks while other units drive computerized trucks with automatic transmissions and Central Tire Inflation Systems. It seems that people have forgotten what it takes to win a war. It takes men on the ground holding the land. It takes infantry.

If this letter is not given the attention it's due, please remove my name from your mailing list.

Sgt. Robert W. Szymanski

Sgt. Szymanski:

*Thank you for your letter expressing concern regarding what you perceive as a lack of coverage of the infantry in the **Buckeye Guard** magazine. We share your passion for the plight of the grunt and the feeling that you are often underappreciated. However, we must disagree with some of your assertions.*

You may recall that in the Fall 1995 edition, "Task Force 148" was featured on the cover, in addition to pictures and a brief on B Company in a six-page spread on annual training.

Although the 148th was not specifically mentioned, the ONG's efforts at the 1996 Olympics

were featured in a four-page article in the Winter 1996/1997 issue. Our Fall 1998 issue also featured a story about the heroism of medics in the 148th while attending to injured civilians at a traffic accident. The "Queen of the Battle" was featured in the Winter 1998/1999 issue in two different articles about the British-U.S. infantry exchange.

*It is unfortunate that you are not happy with our past coverage, but the mission of **Buckeye Guard** is to tell the story of all the men and women of the ONG, and the unique missions they do. That can be challenging, considering the sparse amount of authorized journalist positions in the Ohio National Guard.*

*This is where concerned soldiers and airmen like yourself can make a difference. The **Buckeye Guard** benefits from submissions by Unit Public Affairs Representatives (UPARs) or others who volunteer their time to help promote their unit. Next time you are at drill, exercise your commander's "open door policy," ask who your UPAR is, and why that person isn't writing stories and taking pictures of the unit's activities and training. If a UPAR hasn't been appointed, step up to the plate and fill the void.*

Question of the Quarter

*What are the topics or issues you would like to see the **Buckeye Guard** cover in its future editions?*

EDITOR'S NOTE: *The Feedback page is the chance for our readership not only to respond to any posed questions, but also to share information or to sound off on any issue regarding the military or the Ohio National Guard.*

Our policy: anonymous letters won't be published, but names can be withheld upon request.

More leading ladies than originally known

With all due respect, the article in the Spring issue of **Buckeye Guard** was incorrect on one note. It included the statement "first St. Joan D'Arc ever awarded in Ohio." This may be true for the 37th Armor Brigade, but not for past regiments. It can be confusing since Fort Knox only records the name of the award recipient and the year it was presented, and not the state, making it difficult to research exactly who was the first and who came afterward.

Please include on your list the names of two courageous ladies not mentioned: Mrs. Debbie Bugh (1990, award No. 250), and my wife, Mrs.

Kathy Kenep (1992, award No. 661). Both are of the former Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 2-107th Armored Cavalry Regiment Family Support Group and past state council members. Both are widely respected to this day. They are the "Best of the Best."

Let's get the "Ohio Book" straight once and for all.

Sgt. Steven Kenep and other former HHT, 2-107th ACR members

Correction

*The Spring 1999 edition of the **Buckeye Guard** featured the Ohio Army and Air National Guard's enlisted, noncommissioned and commissioned officers of the year. Unfortunately, the last name of the Army Guard's traditional soldier of the year was misspelled, and the location of his unit was incorrect.*

*Our apologies to **Spc. John Popelka**. The piece runs below as it should have originally.*

Traditional Soldier of the Year

Spc. John J. Popelka, a resident of Broadview Heights, is a combat engineer with Company B, 112th Engineer Battalion, located in Lorain.

Popelka has been with the 112th Engineers since his enlistment in the Ohio Guard in 1996. Prior to his enlistment in the National Guard, Popelka served on active duty as a battalion motor pool operations NCO.

He currently attends Miami University in Oxford, where

he is pursuing a degree in management information systems. He enjoys hiking, bicycling, white water rafting and racquetball.

Popelka's parents, Jan and Bill Snodgrass, live in Broadview Heights. Popelka initially was selected as the soldier of the year by his major command, the 16th Engineer Brigade.



Popelka

*FAX your Letters to the Editor to DSN 346-7410 or commercial (614) 336-7410. E-mail letters to buckeye@OH-ARNG. nbg.army.mil or buckeye@tagoh.org or mail to AGOH-PA, ATTN: **Buckeye Guard**, 2825 West Dublin Granville Road, Columbus, Ohio 43235-2789. All submissions are subject to editing based on space and style considerations.*



Command Focus

Brig. Gen. Ronald G. Young, Asst. Adjutant General for Army

The road to success begins with each of you

Tackling readiness, personnel strength issues will be collective task for OHARNG

On Sept. 11, all commanders and command sergeants major in the Ohio Army National Guard gathered at Camp Perry for the annual commanders' call. During the day attendees heard firsthand about the many challenges facing the Army National Guard of the future and discussed action plans that must be executed to put Ohio units on the ROAD TO SUCCESS.

There are many among you that would argue that the first step on the road to success is the attainment and sustainment of 100 percent of our authorized strength in personnel.

As I'm sure you are aware, recruiting and retention—also known as strength maintenance—is our number one priority. Everything about our organization needs to be focused on this goal in order for us to ever achieve recognition as the truly great organization that I know we are.

At no time in my 33-year National Guard career have I seen a more talented group of leaders and NCOs. In order to maintain our relevancy as a Guard state and to be ready to respond when called, we must increase the personnel strength in the Ohio Army National Guard. Every member of our force must understand the importance of the task at hand and aggressively work to achieve 100 percent strength.

The message is really quite simple...EVERY SOLDIER COUNTS! No one and I mean NO ONE, from the lowest-ranking enlisted soldier to the highest-ranking general is insignificant when it comes to the personnel strength issue. Each of us must work to fill our vacancies in our own individual sections, squads and teams. The

onesees and twosees make the difference. If every squad in the Ohio Army National Guard would just add one new soldier while maintaining their current members over the next year, the Ohio Army National Guard would surpass the 100 percent goal—*just one new soldier per squad and maintain what you have.* This action alone would posture Ohio for force structure growth and success in meeting the readiness challenge.

As we move toward the 21st century, I believe the tools are in place for the Ohio Army National Guard to meet its number one priority of strong recruiting and retention efforts.



This past summer, Gov. Bob Taft and the Ohio Legislature graciously granted us a very powerful tool in meeting this priority: the new Ohio National Guard Scholarship Program. This is a tremendous program that will enable our soldiers to receive assistance with their educational expenses, while also providing great assistance to our recruiting efforts.

This benefit will now elevate the Ohio Army National Guard to be much

more competitive as we search the horizon for dedicated, disciplined soldiers for the future.

Other tools that we have to help us reach our personnel strength goals—diversity of units from combat warfighters to military police to personnel administrative units. We have aviators, engineers, truckers, mechanics and medics. We offer professional schooling and rewarding

training. We also offer excitement and strenuous, hard work. And most of all, we offer individuals that feeling of belonging—of family and the opportunity to serve our fellow men and women of the world.

We have many reasons to be proud of our accomplishments over the past few months. As part of America's Total Army team, the Ohio Army National Guard has sent soldiers all over the world to train, sustain a fragile peace in fledgling democracies and helping Central American countries recover from the devastation of two hurricanes.

As I've traveled to annual training sites these past few months and visited Joint Task Force Esteli supporting Exercise New Horizons in Nicaragua, I came away with a tremendous feeling of pride in the magnificent soldiers we have in Ohio. They're happy, they're motivated, and they're eager to be a part of a winning team. Relevant missions such as the deployment to Central America truly help retention. Soldiers have told me that they love to do these types of real-world projects that benefit people in need.

The leadership of the Ohio National Guard will work in the future to seek more opportunities like this for soldiers to utilize their skills.

As a community-based defense force with global outreach, we have not forgotten our obligations at home. From helping your neighbors in Cincinnati recover from a deadly tornado, to our Adopt-A-School and Drug Demand Reduction efforts in schools, we are making an incredible impact on the citizens of Ohio.

To maintain that impact, all of us must stay focused and maintain our number one priority.

We are on the verge of greatness!■

"As we move toward the 21st century, I believe the tools are in place for the Ohio Army National Guard to meet its number one priority of strong recruiting and retention efforts."

'Weekend Warriors' no longer accurate label for guardmembers, reservists

By Charles L. Cragin, Acting Assistant Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs
Special to the American Forces Press Service

President Clinton recently authorized Secretary of Defense William Cohen to order some 33,000 members of the National Guard and Reserve to active duty in support of NATO operations in and around the former Yugoslavia.

Nearly 6,000 already have been called to duty.

COMMENTARY

The 1.4 million men and women who serve in our reserve components—the Army and Air National Guard, Army Reserve, Naval Reserve, Air Force Reserve, Marine Corps Reserve and Coast Guard Reserve—represent one-half of our nation's total military might, and they are an integral and vital part of today's Total Force. But that was not always the case, as evidenced by the terminology used to describe reservists during the Cold War, when those who served in reserve were often referred to as "weekend warriors."

During the Cold War, when the term was arguably more suitable, our forces were easily identified as being either active or reserve. Around the world and around the clock, the active forces were the ones we relied on to get the job done. Meanwhile, our reserve forces were simply that: they waited in reserve, ready for recall to active duty if or when our adversaries struck in Europe or Asia.

But times have changed dramatically since the Cold War ended, and today reservists are standing tall

around the globe, courageously defending our interests in an uncertain world. In Bosnia, over 20,000 men and women of the National Guard and Reserve have helped bring peace to a divided and devastated land.

In Central America, thousands are helping our southern neighbors recover from the awful aftermath of two destructive hurricanes, drilling wells and building roads, bridges, schools and clinics.

In Southwest Asia, they are helping enforce the no-fly zones over Iraq.

In the post-Cold War era, we have come to rely heavily on our National Guard and Reserve, not just as reserve forces in waiting but as critical contributors to the work of the Total Force. As a

result, we don't really have a reserve anymore.

Although we can use the same word, there should now be a different emphasis on the syllables—a different emphasis to reflect a different type of force, a force that is composed of people who "re-serve" on a continual basis. The men and women of the National Guard and Reserve have re-served in the Persian Gulf, Somalia, Haiti and Bosnia. Now, in the skies over Kosovo, they are out front, re-serving side by side with the active force.

Last year, those who "re-served" contributed over 13 million duty days to active component missions and exercises, which is the equivalent of adding nearly 35,000 personnel to the active force, or two Army divisions.

This is the fifth presidential call-up of reserves since the Cold War ended. President Clinton authorized a reserve call-up in 1994 for humanitarian operations in Haiti; in 1995 for peacekeeping operations in Bosnia; and in 1998 for the enforcement of no-fly zones over Iraq. President George Bush invoked a similar authority in August 1990 for operations during the Gulf War.

These are compelling facts and figures any way you view them, but what they ultimately show is that we cannot undertake sustained operations anywhere in the world without the National Guard and Reserve.



"In the post-Cold War era, we have come to rely heavily on our National Guard and Reserve...."

—Charles L. Cragin

tours away from their homes, families and jobs.

These absences place great strains on the relationships between employers and their employees who serve our nation in uniform. The Department of Defense continues to seek new ways to reach out to employers, and is working hard to minimize the disruptions and hardships associated with reserve service.

At a time when we are calling reservists to active duty, we should all be grateful for the patriotism and support shown by their civilian employers—and we should remember that the increased reliance on the Guard and Reserve in the post-Cold War era has helped dictate the demise of the weekend warrior. ■

Every day around the globe thousands of active duty men and women in uniform risk their lives and make tremendous sacrifices in the national interest.

Increasingly, reservists are there alongside, serving extended

Command Profile



COL Christine L. Cook
145th Regiment,
Regional Training Institute

Age: 29 (I wish)

Occupation: Director, Ohio Veterans Home, Sandusky.

I grew up in: Marshfield, Wisc.

When I was little I wanted to be: a journalist.

Friends and classmates in high school thought I was: a tomboy.

My favorite time of the year is: the fall.

The one thing I treasure most is: my time with my son.

My favorite junk food is: chocolate.

My biggest pet peeve is: people who ask me questions they already know the answer to.

My favorite recreational activities are: swimming, diving and hiking.

If I could travel back in time, I would: redo the 1970s.

If I won \$20 million in the lotto I would: invest my time and money in lobbying for veterans benefits.

The older I get, the more I: value friendship, my family ties, loyalty and a sense of humor.

When I retire, I want to: write a book—next to a swimming pool by the ocean.

If I could leave today's guardmembers with one piece of advice it would be: embrace your National Guard family, and develop and sustain strong ties with your fellow soldiers.



Courtesy photos.

LEFT: TSgt. John Nease waves to the crowd during the Groveport Fourth of July parade. **ABOVE:** Nease carries a time capsule put together to mark Groveport's sesquicentennial celebration in 1997. It was buried in the village's veterans park, and will be reopened in 2047.

Building a community, brick by brick

By Steve Toth
Adj. Gen. Dept. Public Affairs Office

If he were trying, it would be difficult for John Nease to hide the pride he has for his hometown of Groveport.

As he drives down Main Street in the Central Ohio village of about 3,000 people, a smile beams from ear-to-ear as he waves to everyone he sees. Over the past few years brick crosswalks, new trees and shrubs and vintage street lights have cropped up on either side of the roadway as banner signs welcome residents and visitors with the slogan, "Groveport: Doing a lot of little things right."

A resident of the village since 1987, Nease has taken an active role in seeing his town evolve.

Nease is a technical sergeant in the Ohio Air National Guard's 121st Air Refueling Wing at Rickenbacker Airport near Groveport, where he works as an avionics technician.

He remains humble about his involvement in the village's development. "I like doing it. I like helping out," Nease said. "It's fun to give back and help build a better way of life for the community."

Nease has been part of several village committees ranging from downtown revitalization to the annual Fourth of July celebration to organizing a charter for the village government. He was the chairman of a committee that helped design and implement the Groveport Veterans Park which honors veterans from all services who have lived or worked in the Groveport and Rickenbacker Airport communities.

Part of the park is adorned with engraved bricks with the names of area veterans that can be purchased for \$25 a piece. Brick by brick, the park has grown to about 500 engraved markers.

Nease helped assemble a time capsule containing village memorabilia that was buried at the park when it opened during Groveport's sesquicentennial in November 1997. It is to be unearthed and reopened in 2047 during the village's 200th anniversary celebration.

He also has volunteered as a youth soccer coach and served as a math tutor within the Groveport schools.

"I know Columbus is right in our backyard, but we're still trying to maintain our small town image," said Lance Westcamp, Groveport mayor since 1993 and a 40-year village resident. "John has been a big plus to this community in helping us maintain that image."

Nease was recognized by the military earlier this year for his service to the Groveport community. In May, he was selected as the Armed Forces Community Relations Council Outstanding Service Person of the Year. He was selected the best among representatives from several services, both active and reserve component. Nease was honored at the organization's annual Armed Forces Day luncheon. ■



As co-chairperson of this year's Groveport Fourth of July festivities, Nease works with fellow event co-chairperson Bev Borne to make sure all events run smoothly. Planning for this year's celebration included coordination of parking, entertainment, and craft and food vendors.

Citizen Spotlight is a feature aimed at highlighting the civilian occupations and off-duty interests of Ohio guardmembers. Please e-mail story ideas to buckeye@OH-ARNG.ngb.army.mil or buckeye@tagoh.org, or mail to:

AGOH-PA
ATTN: *Citizen Spotlight*
2825 W. Dublin-Granville Road
Columbus, Ohio 43235-2789



Ohio National Guard makes college 100 percent possible

Governor, Ohio Legislature approve new tuition program



Current Ohio Army and Air National Guardmembers and those who join in the future no longer are able to use the excuse of "I can't afford it" for not going to college.

Under the new Ohio National Guard Scholarship Program announced Aug. 26 by Gov. Bob Taft, any Ohio Guardmember who maintains good standing in the organization can attend any two- or four-year public college or university and have 100 percent of their tuition paid for by the state.

An amount equal to the average tuition cost at Ohio's public institutions can be applied to the cost of attending a private institution.

"The Ohio National Guard Scholarship Program is an outstanding way for Ohioans to realize their dreams of higher education," Taft said. "In return, they give back to their community, state and nation through military and community service."

The first two scholarship recipients in the new program were

at the ceremony. Ayrika Robinson of Columbus and Christopher Stangle of Chillicothe were given ceremonial oaths of enlistment by the governor.

Robinson has enlisted in the Ohio Army National Guard's 437th Personnel Services Detachment, Columbus.

Stangle has enlisted in the Ohio Air National Guard's 121st Air Refueling Wing, Columbus.

The Ohio General Assembly passed the bill creating the new scholarship program earlier this summer. The new scholarship program, formerly known as the ONG Tuition Grant Program, became effective July 1.

"The Ohio General Assembly's



Photos by Todd Cramer, AG Dept. Photo Lab.



LEFT: New Ohio Army Guard enlistee Ayrika Robinson (far left) gets ONG Scholarship award from Gov. Bob Taft (fourth from left) as her family looks on. **ABOVE:** Christopher Stangle is sworn into the Ohio Air Guard by the governor.

and Gov. Taft's decision to raise the Ohio National Guard Scholarship Program to 100 percent is testimony to the hard work and dedication that each member of the Ohio Guard has put into their service to community, state and nation," said Maj. Gen. John H. Smith, state adjutant general.

Soldiers and airmen already enrolled in the program have had their scholarships increased to the new

percentage amounts automatically, beginning with the fall 1999 term.

Scholarships are available for full-time students and part-time students who are enrolled in at least six credit hours of coursework.

The ONGSP is not available for courses not applicable toward or leading to an associate's or bachelor's degree.

—Compiled by the Adj. Gen. Dept. Public Affairs Office. ■

AT A GLANCE:

THE OHIO NATIONAL GUARD SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

- ✓ Provides 100 percent tuition to Army and Air Guardmembers attending a two- or four-year public college or university. An equivalent amount that is the average state tuition charge can be applied toward the costs at a private institution.
- ✓ The scholarship is available for up to 12 full-time quarters or eight full-time semesters.
- ✓ Participants must commit to and/or complete a six-year enlistment in the Ohio Guard. New enlistees must complete basic training and obtain a military job skill.
- ✓ Scholarship program recipients must maintain good attendance at their unit drills; excessive absenteeism (AWOLs) will be cause for termination from the program. In such cases, Ohio law provides for recoupment of a share of tuition already paid.

For more information or to apply, contact the ONG Scholarship Program Office by phone at (614) 336-7032 or toll-free 1-888-400-6484, or by e-mail at ongsp@oh-arng.ngb.army.mil or ongsp@tagoh.org.

BUILDING NEW HOPE



Members of Company B, 216th Engineer Battalion, Portsmouth, build schools and clinics in the village of Casa Blanca, Nicaragua in late June.

Ohio Guard leads New Horizons to help Central American nations after hurricane holocaust

Photo by Steve Toth, AG Dept. PAO

By Steve Toth
Adj. Gen. Dept. Public Affairs Office

It began in late February as a call for increased help. A lower scale operation that was planned in 1998 to conduct humanitarian missions this summer in Central America was expanded in the wake of last fall's devastating tropical storms that hit the region.

More than 600 Ohio Army National Guardmembers eventually would come to be part of the more than 20,000 U.S. troops to participate in the multiservice, multicomponent, multistate "Nuevos Horizontes," or Exercise New Horizons.

New Horizons has been a joint U.S. military exercise to assist the Central American countries of Honduras, Nicaragua, El Salvador, Guatemala and the Dominican Republic in recovering from the aftermath of last year's

devastating Hurricanes Mitch and Georges.

Hurricane Mitch alone killed more than 9,000 people in Central America when it struck in October 1998. It left thousands missing, displaced more than three million Central Americans from their homes and caused nearly \$10 billion in damage.

In the aftermath of the hurricanes, Secretary of Defense William Cohen announced in March that Exercise New Horizons, originally planned on a much smaller scale, would be expanded.

Active, National Guard and Reserve service members from 45 states, Puerto Rico, the District of Columbia and Panama were to undertake missions to construct schools and medical clinics, drill water wells, repair and rebuild roads and culverts, in addition to several other types of engineer-related operations. Under the command of the U.S. Southern Command, an Ohio Guard-led Forward

Command Element would control military forces from the Army and Air National Guard, Army and Air Force Reserve, Navy and Marine Corps as well as active duty services to complete various missions.

All troops came under the command of Ohio Army Guard Brig. Gen. James Caldwell, currently the State Area Command (STARC) deputy commander. The Forward Command Element was the first contingent of service members to deploy for Exercise New Horizons in March. Personnel set up the Forward Command Element and administrative operations at Soto Cano Air Base, Honduras, where Caldwell and his staff have overseen the operations in the various countries being served during the exercise.

Spanning the last seven months, through the end of September, New Horizons has provided an outstanding opportunity for per-



Photo by Steve Toth, AG Dept. PAO.



Photo by SPC Robert A. Stamper, HHC, 371st Support Group.

LEFT: PFC Charles Knauff, Company B, 216th Engineer Battalion, Portsmouth, sets in place vertical re-bar in the foundation of a new building. This process is done to stabilize the walls as they are built up with concrete. **ABOVE:** Many cities and villages in Central America are flooded regularly by heavy rains common to the region. Hurricane Mitch, which occurred in October 1998, caused severe flooding and destroyed entire villages.



Photos by Steve Toth, AG Dept. PAO.

sonnel involved to use their skills. The exercise has provided valuable mobilization and deployment experience, and has required units to conduct the logistical operations needed to deploy to remote regions.

Many would agree that overseas deployments such as New Horizons enhance unit morale, readiness and improve overall retention of troops.

"This is probably the best training our service members ever get," Caldwell said. "It's truly a joint operation, with Army, Air Force, Navy and Marines."

The 16th Engineer Brigade, headquartered in Columbus, has provided the majority of the personnel from Ohio who participated in New Horizons. The Ohio Army Guard's 216th Engineer Battalion, Hamilton, led Task Force Esteli, named for the northwestern Nicaraguan province where the battalion is conducting several engineer missions: constructing two schools and three medical clinics, repairing five kilometers of roads, installing three culvert crossings and digging six water wells.

Troops have rotated through the region primarily on a two-week basis to fulfill their annual training requirements. During a typical two-week deployment, troops flew into Soto Cano for inprocessing and then headed into Nicaragua by Black Hawk helicopters or C-23 Sherpas, which are rugged two-engine, fixed-wing workhorses designed for short take-off and landing.

The first troops deployed to Nicaragua on May 15 to support Task Force Esteli, under the command of Ohio Army Guard Lt. Col. Alan Rogers. Service members slept in their

vehicles for the first eight days while the base camp was being established, said Command Sgt. Maj. Clifford Wolfe of the 216th, who served as the command sergeant major for the task force.

Showers and hot meals were operational by the second day, and on the 11th day after setting foot in the San Ramon area of operations, the camp was complete, to include more luxurious features of telephones and washing machines for clothes, Wolfe said.

Troops worked about 12 hours per day, six days per week. Aside from routine maintenance of vehicles and equipment, Sunday was a day off for the troops. Each rotation averaged about 400 soldiers.

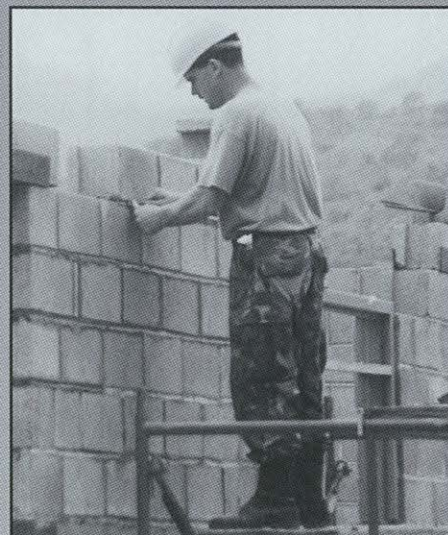
Quarters consisted of tents with cots equipped with mosquito netting. The camps were regularly sprayed for insects so there were very few if any pests flying around.

Despite what some might consider rugged conditions, troop morale was generally upbeat. Many soldiers were eager for the opportunity to employ their military skills in a challenging, real-world environment.

"Generally, when a soldier goes to a normal AT (annual training), they don't get a chance to work in many aspects of their MOS (military occupational specialty)," Wolfe said. "Here, it's just like active duty."

"They're really getting additional training that they don't normally get. It not only enhances their MOS and skills, but also gives them a good feeling about what they leave behind—in a country that really needs it."

Already a poor country by most standards, Nicaragua's need for assistance increased one



LEFT: Casa Blanca, Nicaragua, resident Sofia Castillo-Reyes tells interpreter 2nd Lt. Marjory McClead, HQ Ohio Air National Guard, about the devastation of Hurricane Mitch last fall. **ABOVE:** SGT Gabe Patterson of Detachment 1, Company B, 216th Engineer Battalion, lays block for a building in Casa Blanca.

late October day. That day—Oct. 28, 1998—is one that Sofia Castillo-Reyes will remember for some time.

The 45-year-old resident of the tiny village of Casa Blanca and her family had to evacuate as Hurricane Mitch violently struck their modest one-room wooden cottage as did several of their neighbors. The village of Casa Blanca would be virtually destroyed by the fury of Mitch.

When the hurricane hit, "we had to run on foot because we didn't have cars," Castillo-Reyes said through an interpreter. "We ran and had to stay in the woods. We stayed wherever we could—to get away from the hurricane. The next day the water came and



The Ohio National Guard's missions have been conducted at sites in the northwest Nicaraguan province of Esteli.

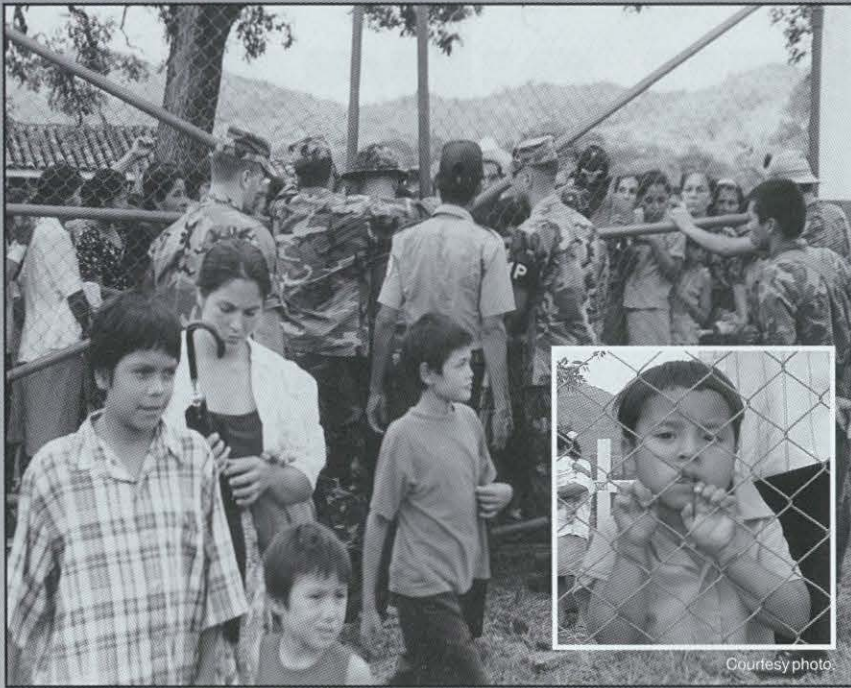


Photo by Steve Toth, AG Dept. PAO.

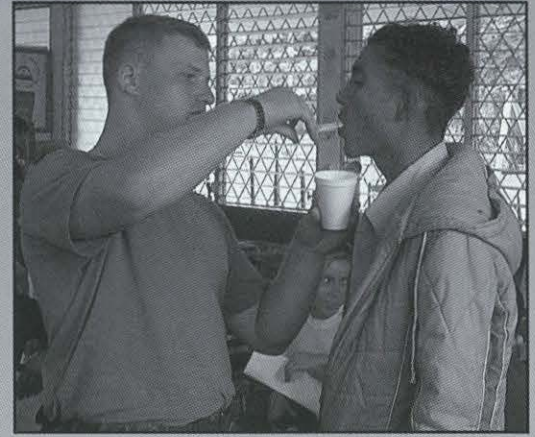


Photo by Steve Toth, AG Dept. PAO.

LEFT: Ohio Guard military policemen and Nicaraguan soldiers regulate the flow of people let into a school compound in Totogalpa where free medical screenings have been set up. LEFT INSET: A Nicaraguan boy waits outside the fence. ABOVE: SPC Brendan Wood of the Pennsylvania Army National Guard vaccinates a teen-ager for pinworms, a stomach parasite common among the country's poor.

attacked the houses. Houses were getting swallowed in by the river."

Castillo-Reyes said the presence of Ohio Guard engineers and other service members working to rebuild her village was a blessing.

"This is the best thing that has ever happened," Castillo-Reyes said. "I appreciate all the help we can get—the government of America and other organizations that are helping. We will have a school again and we will have a clinic that we have never had before. Before, the nearest clinic to get medical care was 14 or 15 kilometers away."

While the Nicaraguans were cautious at first, they grew to trust the U.S. troops as they saw the good that was being done. Some service members also were reserved in the beginning about dealing with people in a different land. Again, time helped to build trust.

"I was a little leery at first when I saw all the people," said Spc. Alison Heck of the 135th Military Police Company, Brook Park. "But then I see all the smiles on the people's faces, and pray that they know that we're here to help them."



Heck

Spoken or through expressions and gestures, many Nicaraguans seem to know that is the case.

Heck was part of a contingent of Ohio Guard military police soldiers who deployed to Nicaragua to provide services such as roving patrols, observation, work-site and base camp security,

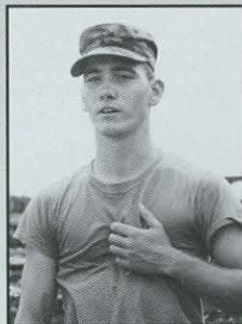
and escorts for dignitaries who visited. The MPs augmented Nicaraguan army soldiers who guarded each site where service members were.

Once service members got used to their surroundings and were able to interact with the native Nicaraguans, some said it made them realize how good they have things in the United States. First Lt. Terry Christz of the 135th Military Police Company, who was working with security forces in the small village of Totogalpa, said he was amazed with the poverty level at which many Nicaraguans live.

"It really makes you appreciate what you have back in the states," he said. "It's nice to be able to give something back to these people."

Visions of the poor conditions faced by most Nicaraguans are all around.

"You'll be driving down the road and you'll see a family. And maybe the mom and dad have



Miranda

shoes but the kids don't. That's just the way they live. It's amazing," said Capt. Mark Scott, commander of Bravo Company, 216th Engineer Battalion, Portsmouth.

At Plantanares, 216th troops were building a 30-by-50-foot clinic, a three-room school and digging a well for the local villagers, Scott said. During the height of rainy season in June, it would rain every day in the afternoon for at least an hour per day. Work would stop as equipment would get stuck in the mud.

The key was to get the foundation poured, troops said.

"Once you get the foundation in, you can pretty much keep going, unless there's lightning," said Cpl. Steve Whittaker of Bravo Company, 216th Engineer Battalion.

The work at times may have been challenging, but several found it to be rewarding as well.

"I've really enjoyed coming here. I like helping people out," said Pvt. Eric Miranda of Bravo Company, 216th Engineer Battalion. "If we can come over here and teach them (the Nicaraguans) how to build things and give them a start, they can be just like us."

"Here, they just don't have the materials and supplies."

In the village of Totogalpa, one of the MEDRETEs, or Medical Readiness Training Exercises, was being conducted in a school inside a fenced compound. Armed Nicaraguan soldiers and Ohio Guard MPs regulated the flow of Nicaraguans coming in at one time to keep order inside, where medical, dental and optical treatment, vaccinations, hygiene courses and medicine disbursements were being conducted.

People traveled from miles around and waited for many hours when they got to Totogalpa for a chance to be one of the nearly 400 people per day who were let in to get much-needed medical care by medics from the Pennsylvania Army National Guard's Charlie Company, 328th Forward Support Battalion, located in Lancaster, Pa. Outside the gates, local farmers were lined up with their cattle and other livestock to get care for their animals from veterinary specialists in the Missouri National Guard's 445th Medical Detachment (Veterinary), based in Indepen-

Feeding the Force

Family helps feed troops supporting New Horizons

To accomplish the large task of Exercise New Horizons, first the equipment and material had to be assembled, packed and shipped to Nicaragua. More than 200 National Guardmembers rapidly converged on the Ravenna Training and Logistics Site to tackle the job. In less than 10 days, about 70 rail cars were loaded and ready to move to port. Packed on the railcars was everything needed for the task force to deploy off the ship and start to work, including tools, nails, ambulances, cargo trucks, light bulbs, water purification machinery, bulldozers and other construction equipment.

While guardmembers were hard at work, others were working in the background to support them. The Koutsounadis family—George, Mary, Peggy and Mike—of the local Covered Bridge Inn, provided the meals for the men and women of this operation. With breakfast being served at 6 a.m., lunch at midday and an evening meal at 7:30 p.m., they worked like soldiers themselves to put hot chow on the tables. The guardmembers' smiles of gratitude and requests for seconds gave proof of their good service.

"We were working long hours, and keeping the troops' morale up was a key concern of the leadership," said Maj. Jess Simpson, maintenance manager for Ohio. "We always try to provide meals of the best quality and quantity for our soldiers. George and Mary stepped in and filled that need. Because of their personal efforts, we could focus on the mission at hand, trusting the food to them." *Submitted by Chief Warrant Officer Joe Perkins, Ravenna Training and Logistics Site.*



Courtesy photo.

CW4 Joe Perkins (far right) presents a plaque to George Koutsounadis (third from right) of the Covered Bridge Inn for his family's efforts as LTC Tom Tadsen (from left), MAJ Jess Simpson, and Peggy, Mike and Mary Koutsounadis look on.

dence, Mo. There, Staff Sgt. Kelly Shuttleworth sweated in the hot mid-day sun as he vaccinated hundreds of cattle per day against "Piero Negra," or black leg, an often fatal muscular disease that affects mainly cattle and sheep.

"When (Hurricane) Mitch came through, it destroyed many of their clinics as well as their schools," said Maj. Patricia Turk, a medical officer with Detachment 6 (Medical), Headquarters, State Area Command, Columbus. "The waterways were changed because of the hurricane, and so their water sources were changed. Much of the water was not safe for drinking afterward."

Ohio Lt. Gov. Maureen O'Connor, who vis-

ited Ohio Guardmembers supporting New Horizons in June, said missions being conducted in Central America are beneficial for all involved.

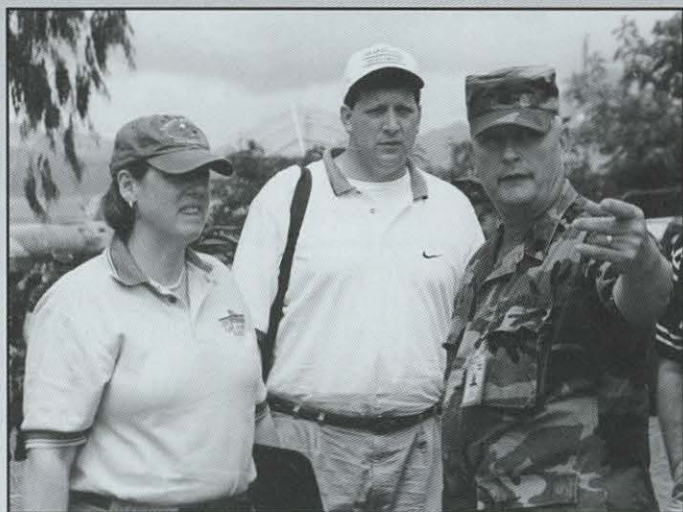
"I'm terribly impressed with the humanitarian effort the Ohio Guard has put forth," O'Connor said. "It was very successful cooperation with the Reserve and active military."

"I was also impressed with the high morale at all the job sites. It was really a great experience. This trip really helped in my perception of what the Guard does on these types of missions. It was a real education for me."

U.S. forces have been conducting exercises in Central America since 1984, and the Ohio National Guard last deployed to the region in 1989.

As the lead organization, the Ohio National Guard took part in Exercise Fuertes Caminos, and rebuilt a series of road networks in Honduras. In addition, ONG medical personnel operated medical clinics, and veterinary specialists inoculated farm animals against diseases. Ohio Guard units also conducted clothing drives and collected school supplies to give to Honduran school-age children.

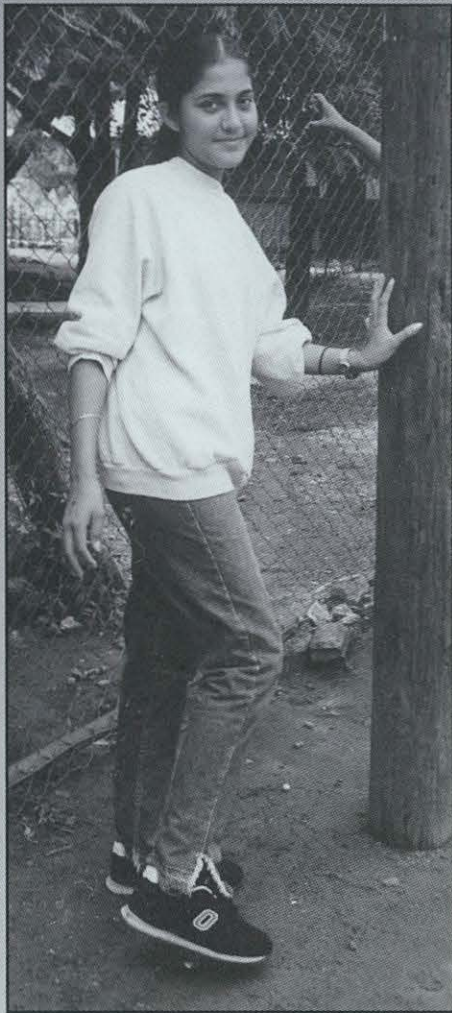
The estimated cost for this year's expanded Exercise New Horizons is \$70 million. Previously planned exercises in Honduras and Guatemala saw about 4,000 troops participating. New Horizons evolved into something several times larger in the number of service members



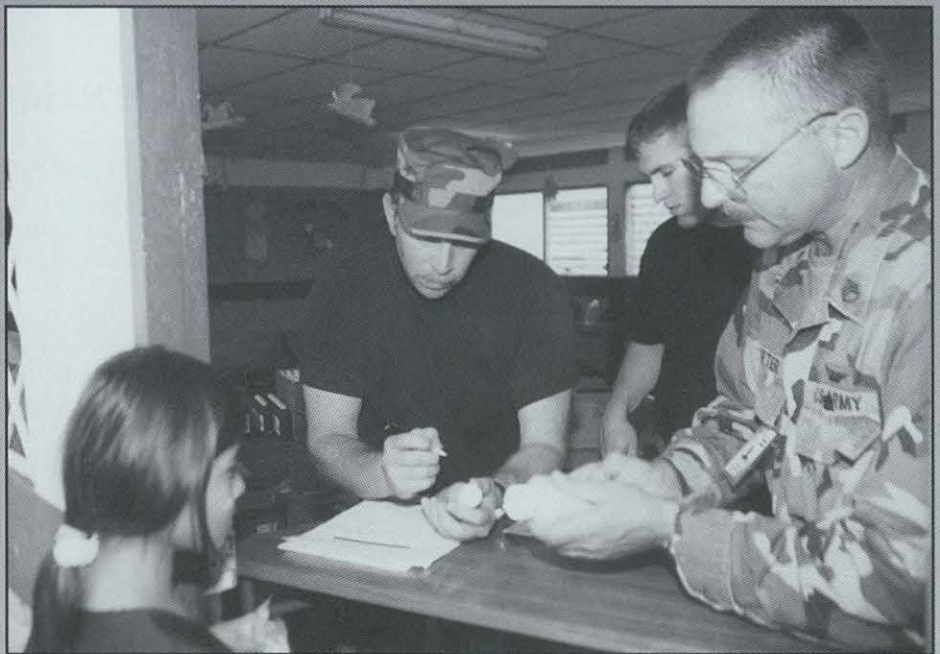
Photos by Steve Toth, AG Dept. PAO.

ABOVE: CSM Clifford Wolf (right), command sergeant major of Task Force Esteli, shows Ohio Lt. Gov. Maureen O'Connor (left) and Doug Moorman, the lieutenant governor's chief of staff, around the base camp at San Ramon. RIGHT: With the help of some Totogalpan villagers, SSG Kelly Shuttleworth of the Missouri National Guard vaccinates a bull for black leg and other diseases.





Photos by Steve Toth, AG Dept. PAO.



LEFT: Totogalpan resident Julianna Gutierrez, 16, sports the black and scarlet Ohio State shoes that she bought on a shopping trip to Managua. Not really a Buckeye fan, she said she just liked the way they felt. **ABOVE:** SSG Ed Porter (right) of Detachment 1, Company D, 137th Aviation Battalion, Akron, and SSgt. Eric Snider, an active duty airman, disburse prescriptions in Totogalpa. **RIGHT:** BG James Caldwell, commander of the Forward Command Element for Exercise New Horizons, gives a briefing.



and supporting organizations, scope of exercise projects and funding support. After witnessing the extent of the storm damage, defense and political leaders decided to triple participation for New Horizons '99.

"Since the early 1980s, tens of thousands of U.S. Reserve and National Guard personnel

have trained and worked side-by-side with our neighbors in Latin America," said Charles L. Cragin, acting assistant secretary of defense for reserve affairs, in a Department of Defense news release earlier this year. "New Horizons '99 is part of our nation's ongoing citizen-to-citizen commitment to this region. It represents

an outstanding opportunity for our reserve forces to receive excellent real-world training, and at the same time, help people who have a compelling need."

Maj. Gen. John H. Smith, Ohio adjutant general, went to Nicaragua in June to visit troops supporting New Horizons. He said a key success of New Horizons has been the opportunity to increase the readiness of Ohio Guard troops in a real-world environment.

"It expands the opportunity for readiness because of the challenges that go with something like this," he said. "This operation transforms into what people—deep down—feel about being in the National Guard. When they are called, they are expected to respond. And when they respond, they are expected to be ready.

"These experiences here reinforce what being in the National Guard is all about. It has provided realistic missions and training that we cannot duplicate at an annual training in the United States." ■

EDITOR'S NOTE: Capt. Neal E. O'Brien, Adj. Gen. Public Affairs Office, contributed to this article.

Feeding the Force, Part II

There's nothing like fast food back home

What do members of the 216th Engineer Battalion, Hamilton, miss most during their extended deployment to Nicaragua?

Many of the 400 soldiers assigned to Task Force Esteli in support of Exercise New Horizons had a craving for White Castles and Skyline Chili.

White Castle, Skyline Chili, Wonder Bread and Kroger generously agreed to donate all the food needed to keep the soldiers happy. A chartered Boeing 727, along with soldiers deploying in August to Nicaragua, flew 1,000 White Castle hamburgers, 800 hot dogs and buns, and 14 cases of Skyline chili to members of the task force.

The effort to satisfy the soldiers' hunger pangs began when word filtered back to the staff of the 16th Engineer Brigade Headquarters in Columbus, so a few phone calls were made to some Central Ohio fast food restaurants and stores to ask for their assistance.

Once the food items were collected from the various vendors, they were packed in dry ice and shipped on Aug. 7 from Rickenbacker International Airport, Columbus, on to Nicaragua, where soldiers were eagerly awaiting the delivery at the airport in Managua. *Submitted by Staff Sgt. Tracy Ballog, 16th Engineer Brigade.*

Ohio Air Guardmembers see action supporting Operation ALLIED FORCE

Volunteerism is a cornerstone that the National Guard was founded upon more than 350 years ago. With all-volunteer active and reserve components, today's military is reliant now more than ever on those who want to serve their nation. Part of the commitment of serving in the Reserve or National Guard is the possibility of being activated to support U.S. military operations worldwide.

The Presidential Selected Reserve Call-up (PSRC) on April 27 authorized Secretary of Defense William S. Cohen to call 33,102 members of the Selected Reserve to active duty. Many National Guard and Reserve members nationwide were activated initially, and many more volunteered for service.

Personnel from two units of the Ohio Air National Guard were mobilized as part of the PSRC to support Operation ALLIED FORCE, the NATO mission in Yugoslavia.

The 269th Combat Communication Squadron, Springfield, and the 164th Weather Flight, Columbus, received notice in May to prepare personnel to deploy.

The 269th is a ground unit with a mission to construct mobile communications facilities. About 100 personnel from the unit were mobilized, but the unit ended up staying stateside and was not deployed overseas. The 164th provides weather forecasting, observation and environmental review support. Some of its members were mobilized to support ongoing operations, and one airman was still on active duty as of late August. Names of certain personnel are not disclosed during the duration of duty due to security concerns.

Other Ohio Air Guard personnel also saw action throughout Europe in support of Operation ALLIED FORCE.

A Columbus resident who is a member of the 179th Airlift Wing, Mansfield, returned June 14 from more than six weeks in the Kosovo theater.

Capt. Sean McConnell, a C-130 Hercules navigator, volunteered in April to support reserve and active duty Air Force units flying missions in Operation ALLIED FORCE. Stationed at Ramstien Air Base, Germany, McConnell flew cargo and personnel transport missions over Albania, Bosnia, Italy and into

Task Force Hawk at Tirana, Albania.

"It was quite a bit more intense than I expected," McConnell said. "It was rewarding, frustrating, scary, the whole spectrum of emotions. I'm glad to have my life back."

In addition to flying missions, McConnell prepared mission plans and tactical information for other C-130 crews.

Flight crew members from the 121st Air Refueling Wing, Columbus, volunteering for Operation ALLIED FORCE in April and May got the nickel tour of NATO operations as they refueled allied aircraft during air strikes over Kosovo.

The crew—Capt. Andy Mossman, pilot; 1st Lt. Lance Kollstedt, co-pilot; Staff Sgt. Kevin Cartwright, boom operator; and Lt. Col. Chuck Schmitz, navigator—supported Operation Allied Force from April 30 to May 12. They fueled U.S., Dutch and Belgian F-16s and British Airborne Warning and Control Systems (AWACS) aircraft during their first mission.



Photo by 121st ARW Visual Information.

KC-135 refueler crew members who volunteered for duty in Kosovo are 1st Lt. Lance Kollstedt (from left), Capt. Andy Mossman, SSgt. Kevin Cartwright and Lt. Col. Chuck Schmitz.

what Kosovo needs right now.

The Rev. Patrick Toner, a Catholic priest in civilian life, was called in late May to support Operation ALLIED FORCE through the PSRC.

He also has served in Vietnam and the Persian Gulf. "This is my third—and hopefully my last—war," Toner said.

Toner found himself stationed at RAF Brize Norton Airfield, England, supporting crews conducting aerial refueling missions. Since there already was a Sunday morning Mass at the air base, Toner said he concentrated on providing services on the flightline and in dorm areas. However, there were geographical and scheduling issues that provided challenges.

"Maintenance crews work 12-hour shifts and cannot come in for Mass from the flightline. The dorm is a mile across base from the chapel and most folks (didn't) have transportation. I started with a Saturday evening Mass for the night shift, a 7 a.m. Mass in the dorm and an 8 a.m. Mass on the flightline for the day shift," Toner said.

Despite long work hours, filling time proved difficult for troops, Toner said. In response he established Bible studies, developed a newsletter and arranged some off-base dinners.

Toner said he gave the "missionaries, not missiles" sermon several weeks before getting his activation orders May 15.

The message is a good one, he said.

"Everyone in the military would like to see this end without further loss of life," he said. "If (Operation ALLIED FORCE) is not about bringing peace to the region, we've missed the boat."

—Compiled by the Adj. Gen. Dept. Public Affairs Office. Portions of this article have been reprinted with permission from a Columbus Dispatch article by reporter Jodi Nirode. ■



Toner



McConnell

Base, Germany, and were the last of the volunteer crews. They provided an "over-the-shoulder ride" for a unit that had been activated under the PSRC, which means they briefed the unit on communications procedures and special refueling requirements specific to the Kosovo theater.

The crew also refueled U.S. A-10s that were prepared to perform search and rescue missions should an allied aircraft crash. Fortunately those A-10s were not needed, Schmitz said. Near the end of their deployment the refueling needs turned to C-141s, C-130s and C-5s, which were taking in supplies.

According to one chaplain from the 121st Air Refueling Wing, missionaries, not missiles, are



Photo by Steve Toth, Adj. Gen. Dept. Public Affairs Office.



Photo by SGT Paul R. Burns, 1193rd Engineer Co.

LEFT: A tornado ripped through the Cincinnati area in April, causing millions in damage and killing four. These homes in Hamilton County's Sycamore Township suffered some of the worst damage. **ABOVE:** SGT Brandon Helton of the 1193rd Engineer Company (Panel Bridge), Cincinnati, looks for his next chain saw cut while clearing fallen trees and other debris from a stream.

Combating Mother Nature

Guard steps in to help in aftermath of tornado's devastation

A powerful tornado swept across southwestern Ohio in the early morning hours of April 9, damaging hundreds of homes and killing four people.

Entire city blocks were destroyed as storms moved through the area just before dawn in the Cincinnati suburbs of Blue Ash and Montgomery. Roofs were torn off stores in shopping centers, and water spewed into the air from broken fire hydrants. Large trees were uprooted or snapped off.

The tornado caused damage estimated at more than \$82 million, according to the Ohio Emergency Management Agency. Winds averaging 250 mph damaged more than 800 homes in the region, including 88 that were completely destroyed, 194 with major damage and 572 with minor problems, according to the American Red Cross. Gov. Bob Taft declared a state of emergency in Hamilton, Clinton and Warren counties.

Four people died in the tornado: a Sycamore Township couple was killed when they were thrown from their home; two others were killed while driving on interstate highways in separate incidents.

The Ohio National Guard was called soon after the tornado hit, and the first wave of guardmembers were activated April 11.

The 324th Military Police Company, Middletown, was called in to support local law enforcement. The unit had about 60 soldiers man traffic control points and conduct roving patrols in the affected areas.

Additional Guard operations were added to include clearing transportation routes, sawing downed trees, clearing culverts and removing debris from streams and creeks to prevent flooding.

"The soldiers and airmen got the opportunity to work using the skills that they were trained for to help Ohioans," said Lt. Col. Rufus Smith, military support officer for the Ohio National Guard. "I think that gives them a real sense of achievement."

In all, about 200 Ohio Guardmembers helped with the disaster recovery. Activities continued until April 21, when troops were released. Members of the 123rd Air Control Squadron found themselves working right in their home community of Blue Ash to help in the relief efforts.

Army Guard units performing state active duty were: Headquarters, State Area Command, Columbus; Headquarters, 16th Engineer Brigade, Columbus; 416th Engineer Group, Walbridge; 612th Engineer Battalion, Walbridge; 112th Engineer Battalion, Brook

Park; 1193rd Engineer Company (Panel Bridge), Cincinnati; 186th Engineer Detachment, Columbus; 135th Military Police Company, Brook Park; and Charlie Company (Medical), 237th Forward Support Battalion, Columbus.

"It's always amazing to see what



Photos by Steve Toth, Adj. Gen. Dept. Public Affairs Office.

ABOVE: Guardmembers' houses are not immune to natural disasters. The Cincinnati-area home of BG Ken Robinson, commander of the 16th Engineer Brigade, sustained significant damage to the roof and windows from a tornado, but was spared the heavier casualties that some homes in the area sustained. **INSET:** Robinson (left) describes the tornado's path to LTC Rufus Smith, Ohio Guard military support officer.

natural disasters can bring upon man-made objects. In one split second, Mother Nature can come in and take someone's world down," Smith said.

At least one guardmember found himself in the unfortunate role of victim. Brig. Gen. Ken Robinson, now commander of the 16th Engineer Brigade, had been awake less than 15 minutes the morning of April 9 when the storm hit.

"At about 5:10 a.m. I felt the house shudder, followed by what sounded like distant thunder and heavy rain. Suddenly, the rain increased in intensity, hail pelted the roof and the wind began a high-pitched howling sound. I looked out of the upstairs bathroom window, and saw the trees in the backyard performing an incredible twisting dance. At that precise moment, I heard it. Coming from my left was the sound of a roaring locomotive."

Robinson said he ushered his wife, sister-in-law and 23-year-old son to the basement of their two-story brick house.

"As we arrived at the first-floor landing, about 15 seconds after I heard the locomotive sound, one of the two windows in the living room exploded, sending glass, wind, rain and other debris everywhere."

Total elapsed time for all the activity was about two minutes, and then it was over. The tornado had passed within 75 meters of Robinson's house, while cutting nearly a four-mile swath of destruction through the suburbs.

Robinson said the quick actions of the Guard were impressive.

"The day after the storm hit, I was on my neighbor's roof helping him to patch a huge hole that was allowing water to leak into his living room. I noticed a military Blazer moving through our cul-de-sac, which turned out to be an assessment team from the 16th Engineer Brigade.

"Once the affected communities determined that they needed help, the Guard responded. I can't tell you how impressed I was with their professionalism, and ability to perform under stress."

—Compiled by the Adj. Gen. Dept. Public Affairs Office. Brig. Gen. Ken Robinson, 16th Engineer Brigade, contributed to this article. ■

Flood of ideas stream forth at workshop

By Master Sgt. Bob Haskell
National Guard Bureau

The idea that God helps those who help themselves renewed a spirit of international cooperation among representatives of 12 nations who explored ways to deal with and prevent the devastation of floods during a workshop conducted by the National Guard during April's final week in Cincinnati.

"Those who help themselves can do anything as opposed to those who do nothing," Col. Peter Varga, director general of Hungary's Ministry of Interior, told Maj. Gen. John Smith, Ohio's adjutant general, during a Sunday evening meeting.

Hungary is the central European country affiliated with Ohio as part of the National Guard's State Partnership Program that has forged relationships between 29 states and one territory with 27 countries around the world.

Ohio's experiences with floods in its southern sectors in 1997 and '98, the billions of dollars in flood damage in central Europe during the last two years, and the 1997-98 scourge of El Nino in Ecuador and Peru were a common denominator for delegates.

One hundred military and civilian emergency relief officials attended the Partnership for Peace Workshop on Flood Preparedness hosted by the Ohio National Guard and the National Guard Bureau's National Interagency Civil-Military Institute, based in California.

Representatives from the three newest members of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, the Czech Republic, Hungary and Poland, as well as those from Russia, took part.

How a military force can support civil authorities such as local police and fire departments and the Federal Emergency Management Agency was one of the major points discussed. The ways that states and countries can help each other were also stressed.

"I believe it is a sign of great optimism and hope when so many disparate countries can work together to seek a solution," Lt. Gen. Russell Davis, chief of the National Guard Bureau, told the assembly during the second morning. "It is natural and human to want to come to the aid of those in distress. We all belong to the human race which values the lives of others."

The idea that all of the countries should help each other during any natural disaster that threatens people, property and livestock created a cordial atmosphere



June 8, 1999

Major General John H. Smith
The Adjutant General, Ohio
2825 W. Dublin Granville Road
Columbus, Ohio 43235-2789

Dear General Smith:

It was a distinct honor and privilege to be in Cincinnati with the men and women of the Ohio National Guard. I want to personally thank each and every one of the Ohio National Guardsmen for their professionalism, and willingness in making the multilateral European flood workshop a very successful event. Their caliber, prestige, and credibility are a testament to the viability of the State Partner Program.

The Ohio National Guard provided an exemplary model for the future of State Partnership events and in particular, I believe it is important to recognize the leadership and personal interest that Brigadier General Ron Young provided to the event. He acted as a catalyst and, according to the National Guard Bureau's Office of International Affairs, he has established a very high standard of command support for the other state partner programs to follow.

Again, please convey my gratitude to the citizen soldiers and airmen of the Ohio National Guard for a job well done.

A great group of
Guardians doing
a super job!

Sincerely,

Russell C. Davis
Lieutenant General, U.S. Air Force
Chief, National Guard Bureau

in middle America even as the NATO bombings in Yugoslavia strained diplomatic relations among some of the countries.

"We also hope to build some personal and professional relationships here to build a stronger bond of trust and friendship with our overseas friends and neighbors in the world community," Davis said.

"The bombing in Yugoslavia has no connection with our long-term cooperation with the United States and central and western European nations," said Konstantin Borovoi, one of two Russian legislators at the workshop.

"We want to show that Russia stands together with the nations," added Borovoi, chairman of Russia's Economic Freedom Party.

Those nations include the Czech Republic, Hungary and Poland, who sent delegates to the workshop.

Record floods in July 1997 that caused 98 deaths and nearly \$3 billion in property damage in Poland and the Czech Republic, the catastrophic flooding from El Nino and then La Nina in South and Central American countries bordering the Pacific Ocean, and the 35 people killed when the Ohio River Valley flooded in March 1997 gave everyone plenty to talk about.

International cooperation is essential, said Col. Alex Volosevich, head of Ukraine's Ministry of Emergencies. Case in point—the Tyssa River runs from his country into Hungary, back to Ukraine and then to the Slovak Republic.

"The fact that the Berlin Wall is not there any more has created different relations among those countries," he said. "We are working under the motto that a person's life is the most valuable thing. The main direction now is to prevent and react to natural disasters." ■



Ohio Guardmembers encounter the “right of passage,” the last obstacle in one of the lanes that challenged medical personnel during Expert Field Medical Badge qualifications at Camp Ripley, Minn.

Earning the Badge

Story by Staff Sgt. Ed Holt
Photos by Spc. Clinton Wood
Minnesota Army National Guard

Blood, sweat, tears and intense emotion are a high price to pay for a chance at the Expert Field Medical Badge, especially considering three out of every four candidates do not succeed.

Still they came. In all, 67 candidates from the Ohio and Minnesota Guard recently spent two weeks at Camp Ripley, Minn., being graded on 11 areas of proficiency as they tried to reach the elusive goal of being awarded the Expert Field Medical Badge (EFMB).

During the course of action, the soldiers carried wounded soldiers through mud, loaded them on helicopters, carried them across fields and through woods all while being shelled, gassed, shot and yelled at, and timed. Failure at any one point meant the ultimate goal of the EFMB was out of reach.

Still they tried.

“This is as good training as I have ever had. That includes my time in the Marines and my time in the Guard,” Sgt. Curtis Schrank, combat medic, Company F, 434th Medical Support Battalion said. Schrank spent eight years on active duty as a Marine before joining the Guard.

“There are a lot of candidates. Those candidates that do make it and get the EFMB are not the only ones learning from this experience. Those that don’t make it still will be gaining tremendous experience and benefiting from the atmosphere created here,” Schrank said.

The training atmosphere was unique according to Capt. Allan Thompson, project and Ohio liaison officer for this year’s training.

“This year, everyone completed all the training. In most EFMB qualifications, once a soldier fails part of the test, they are sent home. Here, even candidates that

The EFMB is the medical equivalent to the Expert Infantry Badge—only one in four candidates succeed

were no longer eligible remained with the group and completed the exercise. It was an opportunity to train for an exciting two-week period," Thompson said.

The whole process took a lot of work. Four years ago the strategy was started to bring EFMB training to Minnesota, Thompson said. There was a desire to improve the state's medical readiness, and Thompson's counterpart in Minnesota, Capt. Rhonda Evanson, offered Camp Ripley as a training site.

It all came to fruition last year when Minnesota hosted the first EFMB candidates in the course competitions. This year is the second year. Still, getting certified to run the course was a big task and Evanson said it was clear early on that Minnesota needed to team with another state in order to guarantee enough candidates would go through the course.

Ohio fit the bill nicely. Evanson worked with Thompson, and the Ohio Guard committed to 50 slots in this year's training. Ohio also provided support staff, and the two states worked out the option of letting every soldier complete the entire course.

"It has been our experience, because so few soldiers actually achieve the badge, that the majority of soldiers who participate in this challenge never see the complete test. Some of the soldiers that don't make it this year may want to try again. Now, they will know exactly what is involved," Thompson said.

The EFMB was designed as a special skill award for recognition of exceptional competence and outstanding performance by field medical personnel. The challenge originated in 1965. It is the medical equivalent to the Expert Infantry Badge awarded to top finishers in the Infantry competition.

In all, candidates are tested on 11 critical performance areas. This includes a written test and physical test, followed by land navigation courses, weapons qualification, communication and survival tests, evacuation of wounded, emergency medical treatment and cardiopulmonary resuscitation.

All field scenarios are done under extreme pressure with automatic weapons fire, simulated incoming artillery, and extensive chemical and biological conditions.

Soldiers this year spent the entire two weeks at Camp Ripley attempting to qualify. The first week, the soldiers were taken through a period of train up on the tasks and skills they were to be tested on, minus simulated artillery fire, other explosions and small weapons fire. Then, the second week, the true test



1SG Jeffrey Smith of C Company, 237th Forward Support Battalion, Columbus, treats a casualty during EFMB qualifications.

began. Each medic had to move through wooded terrain and open fields peppered with ambush sites and obstacles—sometimes carrying wounded soldiers and other times tending to medical emergencies on the spot.

"This training brought everything into focus for me. I want to bring back the positive attitudes I saw here. I think those of us from the 434th Medical Support Battalion can really provide a great training atmosphere for our unit. This was high speed training and very battle-focused," Schrank concluded. ■

Dedications, open house greet buildings at RTLS

By Cadet Jamey Trigg
HHC, 1-107th Cavalry

Recognizing one of its own, the Ohio Army National Guard had the opportunity May 14 to dedicate its new barracks at Ravenna Training and Logistics Site to a former 107th Armored Cavalry Regimental commander and its newest readiness center to a prominent Portage County judge who served in World War II.

The Judge Robert E. Cook Armory houses two units: Company A, 1-107th Cavalry and Company B (-), 237th Forward Support Battalion. The armory has a main drill floor, a kitchen and dining facility, three classrooms, two orderly rooms, a drive-through maintenance bay and will be the future site of an Ohio National Guard computer-based distance learning center.

Also new to Ravenna is the Lt. Col. Ben Ritenour Barracks, comprised of living quarters that can support 240 personnel and staff offices for Fort Ohio—considered the organizational stronghold of various National Guard training sites throughout the state.

The dedication ceremony began with the presentation of the national anthem by the Newton Falls High School Concert Band, while an honor guard from the 2-174th Air Defense Artillery Battalion, McConnellsville, posted the colors. Maj. Gen. John H. Smith, state adjutant general, opened the ceremony by remarking on the new state-of-the-art facilities that will help bring the Ohio National Guard into the 21st century.

“The Judge Robert E. Cook and Lt. Col. Ben Ritenour training centers would not be here if several organizations hadn’t joined the National Guard in putting forth remarkable efforts to meet and exceed the most stringent federal, state and local development standards,” Smith said. “The joint efforts that bring us

these facilities will serve for years to come as the model for how partnerships should work.” Area National Guard units developed close ties with the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Ohio Division of Wildlife, Ohio Department of Development and the Ravenna Army Ammunition Plant.

Following Smith’s comments, state Senator Leigh E. Herington and Mr. Brent Walls of Ohio Representative Ann Womer-Benjamin’s Office spoke on the nomination of Judge Cook for the armory dedication.

Cook joined the Army Air Corps in 1942 and served in World War II, advancing to the rank of warrant officer. After the war, Cook returned home to pursue a law degree and was elected into public office as Portage County prosecutor in 1952. Later, he served two terms as a representative to Congress and two terms on the Portage County Court of Common Pleas. In 1968, Cook won the election to the 11th District Court of Appeals, where he served until his death in November 1988.

The judge’s surviving wife, Evelyn M. (Carver) Cook, and the adjutant general unveiled a plaque during the dedication of the new barracks, this time with the namesake of the building itself—Lt. Col. Ben Ritenour.

Ritenour enlisted into the Ohio Army National Guard’s 107th Cavalry Regiment in 1935. As a first sergeant, Ritenour led a mechanized unit in Europe during World War II, where he earned a field commission. After the war, Ritenour returned to Ohio to command the 1st Battalion

and later the 2nd Battalion of the 107th Armored Cavalry Regiment. As a lieutenant colonel, Ritenour commanded the 107th ACR for one year before retiring from the Ohio Guard in 1965.

Overcome with emotion, Ritenour asked his son to speak to the crowd on his behalf, thanking everyone with sincere gratitude. After the ceremony, he spoke about the privilege of having a building named in his honor and about the magnificence of the facilities that will house Ohio Army Guardmembers who train there. “It was a very big surprise,” Ritenour said of the building dedication. “I have never in my life seen a barracks built like that—240 people, two bays and the mattresses on those double bunks looked entirely comfortable,” he quipped. The retired lieutenant colonel was one of many visitors during the daylong open house that helped celebrate the dedications.

Company A, 1-107th Cavalry and Company B (-), 237th FSB,



Photo by CDT Jamey Trigg.

ABOVE: Radio personality Lee B. Jolly broadcasts from an M1 tank manned by SPC Stephen May and 2LT John Merriam at the open house in May. RIGHT: retired LTC Ben Ritenour and Evelyn Cook cut cake at a reception after the armory dedication ceremony as state Sen. Leigh Herington looks on.



Photo by CDT Jamey Trigg.

welcomed the public into their new home with various static displays and a combined arms demonstration at the RTLS drop zone.

Company B was previously located in a multi-unit armory in Austintown, while Company A moved from an armory within Ravenna’s city limits to RTLS so it could train more efficiently by being collocated with the unit’s M1 Abrams tanks.

With more than 900 guests attending the open house, the highlight of the day’s activities was the building dedications. “It was nice to participate in a dedication ceremony where the person being honored was present,” said Capt. Kevin L. Ream, commander of Company A, 1-107th. ■



Cook

No tooling around: Guardmember helps Knox County machine shop class

Story and photos by Staff Sgt. Diane Farrow
HQ STARC (-)

When Sgt. Scott Lowry graduated from Licking County Joint Vocational School 14 years ago, he was ready to go to work and start enjoying life as an adult. Never did he imagine he would return to his alma mater and several other schools as a “subject matter expert,” helping to hone the skills of future machinists and journeymen.

Lowry is the only full-time machinist assigned to the Ohio Army National Guard, employed as a federal technician at the Combined Support Maintenance Shop in Newark. Over the last few years, the CSMS has increased its involvement with vocational schools in the area, having its strongest ties with the Knox County Career Center in Mt. Vernon.

“We started helping the school’s machine shop class three years ago, with 1998-1999 being the second full school year of involvement,” said Chief Warrant Officer David R. McGough, the CSMS allied trades supervisor. The warrant officer saw a need for this program based on his 10 years’ experience as an adult education teacher for KCCC’s evening classes.

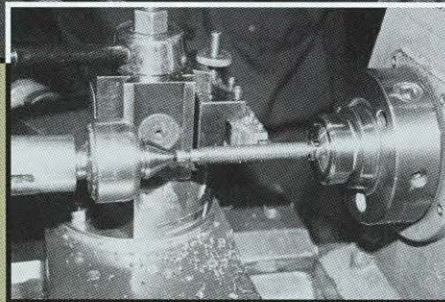
“The program” is providing the students with a resource credited with a wealth of knowledge and years of experience—Lowry himself. He is authorized four hours of administrative leave each week to attend the shop class every Monday morning from 8 a.m. to noon.

“When we first showed up, the kids thought we were there to recruit—they were a bit confused,” Lowry said of his and McGough’s initial visits. Though McGough fills in from time to time, Lowry is the face most familiar to the class of 14 juniors.

“It took a few weeks for the kids to warm up, but now they seek him out for help,” said Jerry Majovsky, KCCC’s machine shop instructor. “With so many kids, it’s nice to have someone else around—especially considering the safety aspect,” Majovsky said. “It’s been a real relief to have two on the floor.”

Every weekday morning, juniors work in the machine shop on various pieces of equipment—operating lathes, surface grinders, band saws, milling machines and drill presses. They make hand tools and machine parts, earning a respect for the precise nature of the trade. Afternoons are spent in traditional classroom settings, while the seniors take over the machine shop.

“I can ask him (Lowry) to show any machine to any kid, and he does it—he’s very knowledgeable,” said Majovsky, who admitted having more than one qualified machinist in the classroom offered many benefits. “This way,



ABOVE: SGT Scott Lowry inspects a bolt made by Knox County Career Center junior Tommy King. **LEFT:** KCCC students thread bolts using a lathe, one of many pieces of equipment used in the machine shop class.

they find out there’s more than one way to skin a cat.” He also said that kids gain more perspective by listening to him and Lowry discuss how to handle various situations.

“It’s good because we learn different ways to solve the same problem,” said Scott Thompson. The kids can go with the one approach they’re most comfortable with, or combine the two for a solution that works for them.

Another plus is that the students receive more one-on-one attention—with either Lowry or Majovsky. “It’s nice because he’s (Majovsky) always busy,” Thompson commented. “Having Sergeant Lowry around really helps.”

“Coming here is enjoyable because all the kids seem eager to learn,” said Lowry, who mentioned that the Guard-KCCC relationship sometimes extends beyond the classroom.

Last year, both Lowry and McGough helped chaperone a field trip to a Cleveland tool show. Lowry also helped prepare one of the students, Chad Frost, for a state-level competition sponsored by VICA, or Vocational Industry Clubs of America.

“The kids are given a blueprint of an object and given 45 minutes to complete it,” Lowry explained. “I spent time running Chad through some drills with sample projects.” In addition to being a timed event, the competitors are judged on safety and precision. The weeks of practice paid off—Frost placed third, a significant achievement for a junior.

Trying to expand the program, guardmembers from the CSMS’s welding shop have presented demonstrations at the Coshocton County Joint Vocational School (JVS) and suggested setting up a program similar to KCCC’s there. Also, three machine shop students from the Licking County JVS participated in a “shadow program” last May, viewing the daily activities of the Army Guard’s primary maintenance shop firsthand. The KCCC students get a tour through the CSMS facilities once a year as well.

“We’re not recruiters,” McGough asserted, “but we want these kids to understand that the military is more than guns and bullets—there’s a lot of technical fields that translate into civilian careers.” ■

Former adjutant general gets grave marker

By Steve Toth, Adj. Gen. Dept. Public Affairs Office

A gravesite rededication ceremony honoring a former Ohio adjutant general whose military service spanned three wars was held May 27 at Greenlawn Cemetery in Columbus.

Maj. Gen. Chester W. Goble served as adjutant general from 1947 to 1949. Upon his death in 1975, Goble was buried in an unmarked grave at Greenlawn. He was buried alongside his wife, Ruth, who passed away in 1973. Mrs. Goble also was buried at an unmarked site.

The general's friend and former driver, Richard Lutz, a Cincinnati-area native and World War II veteran, had visited the gravesite several times since Goble's death. In 1998, Lutz was moved to write a letter to the Adjutant General's

Department asking why the general never had been recognized with an appropriate marker.

"The last time I came up here to see the gravesites, I could see the diminishing conditions, the grass and shrubs growing over the grave. And there was nothing marking it, except for the small American Legion marker. I just decided it was time to do something about it," Lutz said about writing the letter.

After some investigation, it was clear that something should be done for a man who had such an outstanding record of service to his state and country. The Franklin County Veterans Service Commission, through a federal veterans program, purchased grave markers for Goble and his wife.

"We felt that this person (Goble) deserved the recognition and the honor," said David Bradley, direc-

tor of the Veterans Service Commission. "It's very satisfying helping veterans or their families with these matters. It's even more satisfying that Mr. Lutz was here today at the ceremony."

Bradley said the commission does as much as it can to help veterans' family members with burial and grave markers. However, there are many cases that the commission is unaware of — that is where concerned individuals like Lutz come in to play.

The Goble grave markers were rededicated in a ceremony complete with a color guard, taps and a 21-gun salute, all performed by current members of the ONG.

"This was a beautiful ceremony,"



Goble

Lutz said afterward as he gazed upon the new markers.

The ceremony honored a former adjutant general, and was as a tribute to all veterans during the Memorial Day holiday weekend.

Goble served in the U.S. Army during World War I, from 1917 to 1919. He was a member of the Ohio National Guard's 37th Infantry Division and was appointed division finance officer in 1923. In 1940, he was inducted on active duty as the property and dispersing officer for Ohio. He also assumed duties of procurement and contracting officer for Ohio Selective Service and later was director.

Goble was promoted to the rank of major general in 1947 and appointed to the position of state adjutant general by Gov. Thomas J. Herbert. After serving as adjutant general, Goble was director of World War II and Korea Bonus Commission. He later was appointed state auditor, in 1964, by Gov. James Rhodes.

Goble was a member of the American Legion, VFW and Retired Officers Association, and was posthumously inducted into the Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame on Nov. 5, 1998. ■



Photo by Steve Toth, AG Dept. PAO.

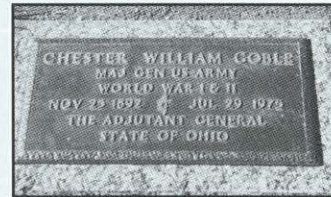


Photo by Steve Toth, AG Dept. PAO.

ABOVE: MG Chester Goble's new grave marker. LEFT: Members of the 2-174th Air Defense Artillery (AVENGER) Battalion, McConnelsville, served as honor guards at the gravesite ceremony.

Governor marks Memorial Day with wreath-laying

Story and photo by Steve Toth
Adj. Gen. Dept. Public Affairs Office

Gov. Bob Taft and his wife, Hope, led a wreath-laying and memorial ceremony May 28 at the Ohio Veterans Plaza located in front of the Ohio Statehouse to honor the state's veterans from all of the wars and conflicts in the country's history.

The ceremony had a definite military presence, as members of several veterans groups and current military service members stationed in Central Ohio were in attendance. The Ohio Army and Air National Guard was represented by several of its members in uniform.

Highlights of the service included those in attendance singing the national anthem and re-



Hope (from left) and Gov. Bob Taft pause and accept salutes from a soldier and sailor after a wreath-laying at the Ohio Veteran's Plaza in Columbus to mark the Memorial Day holiday.

citing the Pledge of Allegiance. Staff Sgts. Bill Bjornes and Steve Frantz, both of the Ohio National Guard's 122nd Army Band, performed

echo taps with their trumpets.

"We should remember all of our Ohioans who are currently serving in the Balkans," Taft said. "And we should remember our men and women serving in the Ohio National Guard. Maj. Gen. John Smith, you should be proud of the men and women of the Ohio National Guard.

"It is because of people like these that we live in a country with opportunity and freedom unparalleled in the world."

The ceremony concluded with Gov. and Mrs. Taft walking down a sidewalk aligned with Army and Air Guard members toward the right plaza wall facing the Statehouse and observing the wreath-laying.

The governor said he intends to make the ceremony an annual event. ■



Photo by Steve Toth, Adj. Gen. Dept. Public Affairs Office.

An Army Junior ROTC team nears the finish of a litter carry obstacle course while a guardmember from B Troop, 2-107th Cavalry, Lebanon, encourages the cadets to pick up the pace while keeping the stuffed dummy "casualty" on the stretcher.

Cavalry unit's Junior ROTC Jamboree provides outreach, healthy competition

Part of the National Guard's mission is service to the communities in which its guardmembers live and work. Youth mentoring is one of several focuses of the Guard's community mission.

For the second year, one Ohio Army National Guard unit has served up a day of mentoring, motivation and fun competition for high school students enrolled in Junior ROTC.

Bravo Troop, 2-107th Cavalry hosted the Southwestern Ohio JROTC Jamboree this past spring at the unit's armory in Lebanon.

More than 400 cadets from several Army, Air Force, Naval and Marine Corps JROTC programs in the Cincinnati and Dayton areas attended the competition held April 16.

School teams competed in various timed and judged events to earn bragging rights among their peers. Events included drill and ceremonies, relay races, casualty evacuation obstacle course, tug-of-war and essay contest.

In addition, cadets were afforded the opportunity to ride in military vehicles, test out the Multipurpose Arcade Combat Simulator (MACS) used for improving M-16 rifle qualification skills, and view static displays of weapons systems such as the TOW missile.

Cadets also were able to interact with unit members and recruiters to learn more about the opportunities with the Ohio Guard, as well as serving in the military in general.

More than 400,000 students nationwide

participate in JROTC programs sponsored by the armed services at 2,600 U.S. high schools, according to Pentagon officials.

The services pay about 65 percent of the cost for the programs, providing uniforms, course materials and a portion of the instructors' salaries. The curriculum includes classroom instruction and one or two weeks of summer training at a military base.

—Compiled by the Adj. Gen. Dept. Public Affairs Office. ■



Courtesy photo.

Marine Corps Junior ROTC cadets ready themselves for a tug-of-war battle during the JROTC Jamboree.



New ONGA officers elected at the 1999 conference are Col. David Pifer (from left), president; MAJ John Harris, 1st vice president; Lt. Col. Jim Boling, 2nd vice president; LTC Paul Meyers, treasurer; and COL Jack Lee, secretary.

Governor touts Guard at ONGA annual conference

Story and photo by Steve Toth
Adj. Gen. Dept. Public Affairs Office

His appearance at the 1999 Ohio National Guard Association annual conference served to solidify the commitment of support Gov. Bob Taft has shown toward the Ohio National Guard during his first year in office.

A strong proponent of increasing the Ohio National Guard Scholarship Program to cover 100 percent college tuition, Taft spoke about the state's reliance on the National Guard during various situations to those attending the conference, held April 23-24 in Worthington.

"Our country and the people of this state cannot be safe without your commitment," Taft said. "The Guard makes a difference."

State Sen. Robert Latta and state Rep. John Carey both were awarded the Maj. Gen. Charles Dick Award for legislative excellence. The award was established by the ONGA in 1995 to recognize legislators at the federal, state and local level for their civil service and sustained support of the National Guard.

Army Brig. Gen. Andrew G. Skalkos was this year's inductee into the ONGA Hall of Fame. A World War II veteran, he died in 1994. Air Lt. Col. Michael E. Harold also was posthumously honored with the association's Distinguished Service Award for his work for the ONGA. He died in 1998. Outstanding second lieutenants were 2nd Lt. Troy A. Cramer (Air) of the 179th Airlift Wing, and 2nd Lt. Kristine M. Varga (Army) of the 237th Personnel Services Battalion.

Recipients of 1999 ONGA scholarships were: Jennifer Hart, Columbus, daughter of Lt. Col. Larry Hart of the 1-137th Aviation (AS-SAULT) Battalion; Amanda Schart, daughter of Col. Tom Schart of the 180th Fighter Wing; Matthew Feucht, son of Col. Harry Feucht of the 180th Fighter Wing; and Matthew Chisman, son of Col. James Chisman of Headquarters, 73rd Troop Command. ■

Teens improve selves with 'Character Power'

"I am not particularly proud of my family." These words were spoken openly and freely at the Forces Command (FORSCOM) Teen Forum held June 21-25 in Florissant, Colo.

Were they the words of a teen participant? No. These were the words of Gen. Thomas A. Schwartz, FORSCOM's commanding general.

"I think that it is important, when we talk about an important subject like character, that we share ourselves.

See, you really can't talk about character without talking about who you really are, without sharing some of those very personal things ... with those young people and making them realize that it's those very experiences that they're going through...that will shape who they will be," Schwartz said.



Schwartz

He related growing up in a family where education was secondary to making a living. His older brothers were constantly in trouble. He saw how this affected his mother. He made a commitment to himself that he would never do anything to bring her that pain and anguish. He is proud that he lived up to that commitment, passed these values on to his own children and does not hesitate to let everyone know.

"I like to personalize it for them (the teens)," Schwartz said. "I think that's what brings it alive for them. For that's what character is about, the real you."

During the weeklong "Character Power" forum, teen and adult teams from 12 FORSCOM installations had the chance to do just that: personalize their views of how they define character. Starting with the Josephson Institute of Ethics' six pillars of character—respect, responsibility, trustworthiness, fairness, caring and citizenship—discussions started about specific problems, such as cheating on tests, and led to more universal problems. Each team finished the week with an action plan to take back to their installation.

The forum paralleled the Ohio National Guard Drug Demand Reduction Program's ongoing *Higher Ground* character development curriculum. Through *Higher Ground*, also structured around the six pillars of character, guardmembers teach youths about living lives marked with good character and ethical decision-making.

Jan Hicks, Child and Youth Services Program Manager for FORSCOM, was excited about this first-time forum. She said what is learned here will be a "seed" to grow back at home.

"The training is really designed to give kids concepts about character education and also some training skills," Hicks said. "They'll take it to younger kids, as well as their peers, as well as other adults in the community."

Sean Brooke, one of the team members from Fort Riley, Kan., said the experience reinforced changes he has implemented in his own life.

"I used to be interested in being a doctor—high profile—and a while ago, I decided I wanted to change that, to help out people," he said. "I think this is a chance to give back to everyone what they have given to me."

The work is just beginning for these teams. When they get back to their installations, they are all going to have to give a lot of time and effort into making this work. But that is, in a large part, what this conference was all about.

"One of the students said that a person with good character was someone who was there when somebody needed them," Schwartz said. "As we play out a lot of the Columbinas, as we play out a lot of the incidents across the country that we are not particularly proud of and want to shore up and make better, I think that is nicely reinforced by 'we need to be there for others.'"

"It does make a difference when you give of your own time, when you give of yourself when someone is hurting," *Army News Service*.

Trafficking problem looms in Ohio's cities

Ohio experiences drug trafficking primarily in its many urban areas via transshipments, which are drug shipments sent to one location and then sent on to another. The proximity of Ohio to Chicago, Detroit and the Kentucky marijuana production, as well as the interstates, makes it an ideal location for this type of trafficking.

Ohio drug law enforcement agencies at all levels have identified concentrations of drug activity and patterns of trafficking in different regions of the state. There are three different areas of activity in Ohio: the southern, central and northern regions. Cocaine and marijuana are concentrated in the northern and southern regions of Ohio. Heroin, hashish, and a whole spectrum of other dangerous drugs (including diverted pharmaceuticals and some precursors chemicals) are present in differing quantities throughout all three regions.

Drugs are currently transshipped through

Ohio by commercial buses, concealed in private vehicles and rental cars, and delivered into the airports by commercial air, private air or by parcel services. Interstates 70, 71, 75, 77 and 80 provide primary corridors for smugglers, thus prompting the need for aggressive interdiction.

With at least five major Ohio airports servicing Cincinnati, Dayton, Toledo, Columbus and Cleveland, a potentially significant air smuggling threat exists. Cincinnati area law enforcement agencies note the most significant increase of drug transshipments in Ohio. Commercial airlines are used to funnel in drugs through Cincinnati's Northern Kentucky International Airport for destinations throughout Ohio. Cocaine and marijuana arriving at Cleveland are often transshipped to Detroit.

Columbus activity includes local drug dealers as well as those based in Caribbean countries. Drugs in Columbus run the gamut from cocaine and heroin to marijuana.

Numerous seizures at the airport involve couriers and narcotic parcels with Jamaican and other Caribbean connections.

Cleveland is in the network of trafficking from Chicago and Detroit. The dominant groups appear to be linked to Jamaican and Nigerian street gangs. There also is the presence of Hispanic, Asian, West African and Caribbean gangs as well. These groups are primarily active in cocaine and marijuana distribution. They have formed ties with local individuals connected to the drug distribution in the area.

The Youngstown-Mahoning County area has experienced similar problems, including the highest drug-related homicide rate in Ohio (55 drug-related homicides out of a population of 85,000 in 1998).

The premier drug in Toledo is crack, with use occurring mainly in the inner city; this drug is controlled mostly by local Nigerians with ties to organized groups external to the community. There also are Mexican-American groups operating heroin distribution networks.

All major urban areas of Ohio share certain similarities in involvement of organized groups and local individuals in the drug situation. Youth street gangs based on ethnic lines continue to be prolific in drug distribution, criminal activity and gang-related violence. It is only through awareness and community involvement that this threat will be eliminated. Do your part and stay active in your community and the lives of your children. *Submitted by Maj. Robert Baylor, Adj. Gen. Dept. Military Support Branch.*





Photo by 121st ARW Visual Information.

Warren Motts (third from left) celebrated the grand opening of the Motts Military Museum in Groveport this summer with some members of the Central Ohio Chapter of the Tuskegee Airmen.

Motts Military Museum opens in grand style

The American flag was raised over a small building in the village of Groveport. With that, a man's dream finally became a reality.

Warren G. Motts and special guests including Medal of Honor recipient Ron Rosser, retired Gen. Paul Tibbets, 102-year-old World War I veteran John Dawson and members of the Central Ohio Chapter of the Tuskegee Airmen dedicated the Motts Military Museum at its official opening on June 12.

The museum, which began in the basement of Motts' Groveport home, houses an impressive collection of military memorabilia including an original pass from President Andrew Johnson's impeachment in 1868, as well as a pass from President Clinton's impeachment proceedings. Other artifacts include personal items dating back to the Civil War, Eddie Rickenbacker memorabilia and World War II era items from Germany and Japan.

Those interested can learn more about the museum by logging on to its website—www.mottsmilitarymuseum.org. The museum is located at 5075 S. Hamilton Road, Groveport. Hours of operation are Monday through Saturday, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Contact the museum directly by calling (614) 836-1500. *Submitted by Tech. Sgt. Nancy Dragani, 121st ARW.*

Reunions/military balls

◆371st CSG to hold dining out

The 371st Corps Support Group will hold a dining out beginning at 6 p.m. Oct. 16 at the Hope Hotel on the grounds of Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Dayton.

A cash bar and social hour will open the

festivities, followed by a buffet-style dinner starting at 7:30 p.m.

Musical entertainment will be provided for dancing and listening pleasure.

Cost per person for privates to sergeants is \$18; staff sergeants to master sergeants, warrant officers, lieutenants and captains, \$25; and sergeants major, majors and higher, \$28.

RSVP no later than Sept. 30 to: 371 CSG, Attention CSG Dining Out Committee, 2555 County Line Road, Kettering, Ohio 45430-1506.

A block of rooms has been reserved at the Hope Hotel. Reservations may be made by calling (937)-879-2696.

◆54th RAOC, RTOC set reunion

Past and present members of the 54th Rear Area Operations Center are planning a 54th RAOC/Rear Tactical Operations Center around the middle of September.

Information flyers will be sent out to past and present members as soon as possible. If anyone has a copy of any of the old alert rosters or would like to help organize the reunion, please call Sgt. 1st Class Kelly Finney at (614) 336-7188 or Staff Sgt. Teresa Foltz at (614) 336-7414. For more information e-mail Foltz at foltz@ecr.net.

◆16th Engineers prepare for annual ball

The 16th Engineer Brigade will hold its annual ball Oct. 9 at the Radisson Airport Hotel, 1375 N. Cassady Ave., Columbus. Cocktail hour will begin at 6 p.m., followed by a buffet-style dinner at 7 p.m. and dancing later in the evening.

The cost for sergeants major, lieutenant colonels and higher-ranking officers is \$35 per dinner. The cost for captains, master sergeants and lower-ranking officers and enlisted is \$30. The uniform is mess dress, dress blues, Class A with bow tie or equivalent civilian attire.

RSVP to Staff Sgt. Tracy Ballog, 2170 Howey Road, Columbus, Ohio 43211-2098 or phone (614) 336-6140. Reservations at the Radisson may be made by calling (614) 475-7551.

◆Former units looking to rekindle past

The former Army National Guard air defense artillery and engineer units in Middletown, Companies A and D, are planning a reunion for sometime in the future.

Anyone interested in a yearly reunion should

contact: John Cox at (513) 422-5393, Jake Clark at (513) 424-3571 or Wayne Oney at (513) 422-8800. Information on the reunion will follow in the future. Any help with names, addresses and phone numbers of other unit members is requested.

ONG Biathlon team tryouts upcoming

The Ohio National Guard Biathlon Team is conducting trials for this year's squad. The 2000 Chief, National Guard Bureau Biathlon Trials will be held in February at Camp Ripley, Minn.

The team, which competes in cross-country skiing and shooting, will include seven members with at least one female athlete. Trials are open to all Ohio National Guardmembers, both Air and Army.

Prerequisites include: a score of 290 or greater on the Army Physical Fitness Test (for Army Guardmembers); shooting skills or the willingness to learn; a cardiovascular background to include competing in summer biathlon, cross-country, running, track and field, marathons, bicycling, triathlons or duathlon.

The team trials are scheduled for Oct. 9 and 16, at a location north of Columbus. Two separate trial days have been established to ensure maximum flexibility for participation.

The trial consists of a summer biathlon series course with eight kilometers of running and four bouts of shooting (two standing and two prone).

For more information, call Maj. Thom Haidet at (614) 336-7133. *Submitted by Maj. Thom Haidet, HQ STARC (-).*

Guard offers free computer training

Members of the Ohio National Guard and employees of the Adjutant General's Department are eligible to take advantage of the free computer based training (CBT) available at the Rickenbacker Army Enclave in Columbus.

These CBT programs have been made available to help develop and improve computer literacy skills throughout the state. There are more than 800 self-paced CBT courses available, and most modules can be completed within four hours. The most popular courses available are several Microsoft applications: Access, Excel, FrontPage, Basic Internet Skills, Outlook, PowerPoint, Windows NT 4.0 and Word.

To assist in getting started there is a qualified facilitator on site. For scheduling or more information, call the Distance Learning Center at (614) 336-6500. *Submitted by Officer Candidate Don Flowers, HQ STARC (-) DOIM/VI.*



Photo by SSgt. Douglas Nicodemus, 121st ARW.

Members of the 121st Air Refueling Wing, Columbus, monitor the start of a potato sack race at the Urban Boy Scout Olympics held this summer at Rickenbacker Air National Guard Base.

121st ARW hosts Urban Scout festivities

About 250 scouts from the Urban Scouting Program of Columbus flocked to Rickenbacker Air National Guard Base, Columbus, in May to have fun and learn during the fourth annual Boy Scout Olympics.

After opening ceremonies the scouts split into color-coded groups that rotated through a series of activities that included everything from sporting events to bicycle pedal-driven tractor pulls.

Using a denim jacket to shield himself from the sun, Jordan Bell watched his fellow troop members heave and hoe in the tug-of-war event. The 10-year old from Pack No. 563, Rose Wind Community Center, liked the obstacle course the most, because, as he put it, "I liked getting wet."

Parents and troop leaders turned out to keep the activities on track. Parent Theresa Luh summed up the day's activities. "Today teaches the kids to work together. They're learning and having fun at the same time," she said.

At the reins of the event was Maj. Shelby Jones, 121st Security Forces Squadron commander. He credited the entire unit for supporting the event. "Maintenance and support areas really came through," Jones said. "Without the many volunteers, this wouldn't have been possible."

One of those volunteers was Tech. Sgt. Douglas Slaughter, of the vehicle maintenance section, who sat stoically supervising the commotion of a burlap sack race. Two scouts, each with one leg in the same sack, raced frantically from start to finish.

At the end of the day and in true Urban Scout

fashion, the scouts pitched in to clean the area and left it cleaner than they found it.

At an awards ceremony at the end of the day, all the Urban Scouts received medals for participating.

The mission of the Urban Boy Scouts is to reach youth in core inner-city neighborhoods. Through non-traditional scouting, Urban Boy Scouting strives to build self-esteem and leader-

ship, teach socialization skills and instill values in youth to prepare them to make ethical choices during their lifetime. The Urban Scouts day at Rickenbacker supports this mission.

Though some kids may have thrown a football farther than their peers, and some showed they were stronger in the tug-of-war pit, there were no first, second or even third places at this Olympics. Here, everyone who played was a winner. And the biggest winners of all were the members of the 121st ARW who helped make the 1999 Urban Boy Scout Olympics a reality. Submitted by Tech Sgt. Greg Rudl, 121st ARW.

RAID team seeking additional members

The Domestic Preparedness Initiative was formed under the FY97 Defense Authorization Bill, commonly known as the Nunn-Lugar-Domenici legislation.

The bill provided funding for the Department of Defense (DoD) to enhance the capability of federal, state and local emergency responders in incidents involving nuclear, biological, and chemical (NBC) terrorism.

A training program was developed as a "train the trainer" program, targeting the 120 most populated cities in the United States. Training topics are Emergency Responder Awareness & Operations, HAZMAT (Hazardous Materials Technician), Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) Services, Hospital Provider and Incident Command. After completion of these courses, a student may receive continuing education units.

To date, the cities of Cleveland, Columbus and Cincinnati have conducted these courses. Toledo is in the process of completing the

program and Akron will start the program the summer of 2000. The Ohio National Guard has been a participant in the program and some of its members have completed courses in an effort to support their state mission.

This past summer, Maj. Gen. John Smith, Ohio adjutant general, participated in a regional kick-off meeting with Maj. Gen. James Blaney, Wisconsin adjutant general, George Romanoski, deputy mayor of Akron, and safety forces in Madison, Wisc. A high level of participation is key to the success of this program.

Another way the ONG is working with civilian emergency responders in NBC Defense is through a unit called the 52nd Military Support Detachment RAID. RAID is an acronym for Rapid Assessment Initial Detection, as it applies to domestic terrorism. RAID Teams currently exist in some states, and more are being formed. Ohio currently is forming a RAID team.

For more information about becoming part of Ohio's RAID Team, contact the Adjutant General's Department Military Support Branch at (614) 336-7371. Submitted by Capt. Scott Smith, Adj. Gen. Dept. Military Support Branch.

Family cheer during Operation FOOD LIFT

The 107th Medical Company (Air Ambulance), North Canton, and the unit's family support group leader, Julie Driesbach, brought unexpected holiday gifts and cheer to a needy local community family last holiday season as part of Operation FOOD LIFT.

Working with area businesses and the local school district, the 107th raised more than \$800 to supply a family of six with school clothes, toys and household goods for the holidays.

This year, the 107th wants to bring a happier holiday to more needy families and is planning a joint effort with other Ohio National Guard units to achieve this goal.

The 107th and Companies D and E of the 1-137th Aviation (ASSAULT) Battalion, North Canton, delivered more than 3,436 pounds of food to the Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank last year to help people throughout Ohio.

However, as the food industry becomes more efficient, less food is available for donation while the need for more food increases.

For the past three years, these units of the Ohio Army National Guard have responded to this need for assistance, working with participating local grocery stores. Over this period, more than 10,000 pounds of food have been collected for the Akron-Canton Regional Food Bank. Submitted by Chief Warrant Officer Loyd R. McCoy III, 107th Medical Co.

Like good neighbors, Guard units are there

It is nice to have a few neighbors help you move. It is especially nice if those neighbors number 80-plus strong and drive really large semi trucks.

On June 12-13, two units of the Ohio Army National Guard assisted the Piqua Board of Education in a district-wide moving project that involved the transfer of materials and equipment among eight school buildings as part of the district's reorganization that begins this fall with the new school year.

The units—Battery C, 1-134th Field Artillery and Detachment 1, 1487th Transportation Company—both located in Piqua, helped in the reorganization efforts of the Piqua School District. The two units combined their strength with six tractor-trailer rigs to make the move run smoothly.

"It's literally neighbor helping neighbor," said Staff Sgt. Doug Lewis of Detachment 1, 1487th Transportation Company.

The school board paid for the fuel used by the trucks but the labor was provided free to the district. Piqua Schools Superintendent Jerry Clark said "it would be impossible to calculate the amount of money being saved by the assistance (of the National Guard). Without them, this project would have been an undertaking that would have been beyond the scope of the district's capability."

Guardmembers, performing the school move in a drill status, utilized the weekend for training opportunities. Some soldiers were given the chance to receive much-needed drivers training. Truck drivers were able to practice backing procedures, learned how to drive around tight corners and how to work safely around semis.

The National Guard doesn't always have the

opportunity to interact with the public during a non-disaster. This was one such chance.

"Even though it was the two hottest days of the summer to date, every man was in complete uniform and always on task," Clark said. "The work ethic and teamwork displayed was most impressive." *Submitted by Spc. Johnathon D. Stidham, Det. 1, 1487th Transportation Co. Portions excerpted from the Dayton Daily News.*

ANG med squadrons aid Special Olympics

The 1999 annual Ohio Special Olympics games were held at the Ohio State University campus June 18-20 in Columbus. All four Ohio Air National Guard medical squadrons—the 121st Medical Squadron, Columbus; 178th Medical Squadron, Springfield; 179th Medical Squadron, Mansfield; and 180th Medical Squadron, Toledo—along with additional support of active duty and Reserve Air Force personnel, provided volunteer medical support for this community event.

This was the 27th consecutive year that the Ohio Air National Guard medical squadrons supported this important community event.

The 179th was the lead unit, organizing all medical support activities. Medical personnel were in attendance at all athletic events, provided first aid for minor injuries and facilitated access to local emergency medical care at the Ohio State University Medical Center.

"Special Olympics is a major community event for the Ohio Air National Guard. This is one way we have an opportunity to interact with the local community and represent the Ohio Air National Guard in a most prestigious way. Special Olympics is always the 179th's focus and top priority each year. It's a great way to give something back to our community," said

Col. Ronald Stanich, 179th Medical Squadron commander.

Those interested in volunteering to provide support for the 2000 Special Olympics games should contact Senior Master Sgt. George Velez, 179th Medical Squadron, by phone at DSN 696-6123 or commercial (419) 521-0123, or via e-mail at george.velez@ohmans.af.mil. *Submitted by Senior Master Sgt. George Velez, 179th MDS.*

School cooks up recipe for training

The Director of Logistics food service section hosted the Senior Food Management School April 19-23 at the McConnellsville armory.

Food service personnel from units throughout the state participated in hands-on training aimed at setting up and operating a field feeding operation.

Training focused on leadership skills, food service paperwork, managing food service operations, site selection, field feeding operations, food sanitation, equipment operation and maintenance, equipment load planning and safety management with risk assessment. *Submitted by Chief Warrant Officer Anita Larig, state food service advisor.*

'GOLDEN CARGO' provides experience

For a transportation company, properly running vehicles and skilled operators are of prime importance. Annual training periods that allow time for extended convoys over long distances enable transportation companies to measure the abilities of both their equipment and soldiers.

During the period of May 15-29, 51 members of the 1486th Transportation Company, located in Ashland and Mansfield, participated in Operation GOLDEN CARGO. The mission of GOLDEN CARGO was to relocate 462 Multiple Launch Rocket Systems (MLRS) pods from Savanna Army Ammunition Plant, Ill. to the Lone Star Ammunition Plant, Texas.

The 1486th Transportation Company fell under the direction of Task Force 110, comprised of Army Guard units from Wisconsin, Missouri, Georgia and Ohio. There were 570 personnel that made up the task force for the entire operation, which ran through June 12.

The 1486th moved 72 of the 462 MLRS pods—soldiers drove about 85,500 miles without any major accidents or injuries.

The maintenance personnel with the 1486th worked to keep all mission-critical vehicles 100 percent operational during the two weeks that the unit was engaged in its annual training mission. Personnel worked long hours after the drivers were finished each day to ensure that the trucks were ready for the next day's travel.

Capt. Brent Stein, commander of the 1486th, said he was pleased with how the soldiers in the unit worked together. "Operation GOLDEN CARGO was a very challenging 'real world mission'. The soldiers got to put their skills and knowledge into practice." *Submitted by Staff Sgt. Ronald L. Partin, 1486th Transportation Co.*



Courtesy photo.

The Ohio Army National Guard's Battery C, 1-134th Field Artillery and Detachment 1, 1487th Transportation Company, both located in Piqua, helped their hometown school district move during its building reorganization this summer.

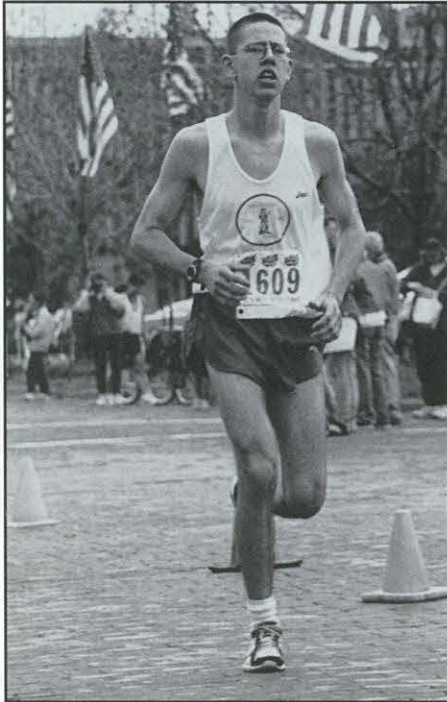


Photo courtesy of Nebraska National Guard PAO.

PV2 John Hettinger, a member of Company C, 1-148th Infantry Battalion, finished second in the 17-to-24-year-old male age group to help the ONG marathon team place a solid 10th out of 51 teams.

Ohio marathoners fare well at 16th NGB trials

Seven Army National Guardsmen, six from the 37th Armored Brigade, represented the Ohio National Guard in the 16th annual National Guard Bureau Marathon trials May 2 in Lincoln, Neb. The team of Maj. Jeff Ziolo, Sgt. Gregory Brock, both of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 37th Armor Brigade, Canton, and Pvt. John Hettinger of Company C, 148th Infantry Battalion, Bellefontaine, placed 10th out of 51 teams competing in the event.

Ziolo was selected for the All-Guard Marathon team with a time of 2 hours and 58 minutes, best among Ohio members. This team, comprised of the top 60 Guard finishers in the men's open division, represents the National Guard at other race events this year. Hettinger placed second in the 17-to-24-year-old male age division with a time of 3:12. Other team members were Capt. John Zulfer of HHC, 37th Armor Brigade; Spc. Billy Witham of Company E, 1-148th Infantry Battalion, Urbana; Sgt. Vincent Mathews of Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 2-107th Cavalry, Kettering; and Lt. Col. J.R. Nolan of the 237th Personnel Services Battalion, Columbus. *Submitted by Capt. John Zulfer, 37th Armor Brigade.*

Gant takes 118th's reins

April 10 was like any other sunny afternoon—children were out playing while their parents were busily doing yard work. Adding to the day was a moving change of the command at the Westerville Armory, which houses Company C, 118th Air Support Medical Battalion.

After 20 years in the National Guard, Maj. Jeffrey D. Adkins made an emotional decision to leave his friends and troops of the 118th ASMB to join the Army Reserve.

"It is always sad when you leave something you love," the outgoing commander said. "This is a unit that I have put a lot of heart and soul into. I met my wife here 15 years ago."

While Adkins' smiling face and upbeat personality probably will be missed by his troops, the soldiers have a lot to look forward to with their new commander, Capt. John T. Gant III.

Gant, an air medical evacuation pilot and maintenance platoon leader from the 107th Medical Company (Air Ambulance), North Canton, already has begun to fill the shoes Adkins left behind.

"I was thinking about how much of a challenging opportunity this is. I thought about all the good things Major Adkins did, and what I can do to build upon them to help the unit win the Eisenhower Award," Gant said when asked what emotions he felt during the exchanging of the unit colors at the ceremony.

The prestigious award was created in honor of Dwight D. Eisenhower, former general of the Army, to recognize the most outstanding unit in the state during the training year. *Submitted by Pvt. Haraz N. Ghanbari, 196th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment.*

Scott AFB names room after 121st hero

A heroic act by one Ohio Air Guard member during the Persian Gulf War was further recognized nearly a decade later at a recent ceremony held at Scott Air Force Base, Ill.

The Air Mobility Command inspector general at Scott renamed a conference room in honor of Chief Master Sgt. Terry Kerr on June 8. Kerr, a boom operator in the 121st Air Refueling Wing, Columbus, received the Distinguished Flying Cross in 1991 for his actions on a flight mission during Operation DESERT STORM.



Gant

Returning from a refueling mission in the Persian Gulf on Feb. 13, 1991, Kerr reacted to and fought a fire in the galley area of the crew's KC-135 aircraft while other members concentrated on safely landing the plane.

An explosion in the galley section of the aircraft knocked Kerr to the deck of the plane and caused black smoke to spread throughout the interior. Immediately, he put on his oxygen mask, grabbed the fire extinguisher from the cockpit, reentered the galley and began fighting the fire. When he noticed his oxygen mask line prevented him from reaching the flames, he removed it, held his breath and continued fighting the fire, putting out any smoldering sparks. Once the plane landed, he opened the crew door and threw out the emergency rope for everyone to exit.

Kerr was taken to the nearest hospital and treated for second-degree burns and injuries. More than 25 percent of his hair was burned, and his face also was burned.

At the time of the incident, Kerr and the three other crewmembers were in the 160th Air Refueling Group, Columbus. They saved a KC-135 aircraft from the Tennessee National Guard.

Recently, the inspector general at Scott renamed the "BOOM POD" conference room at the base the "Kerr Conference Room."

Kerr credited his crew members when accepting the recognition. He noted that all the crewmembers participated in emergency procedures to land the plane on the ground safely.

A host of officers, enlisted and retired personnel attended the dedication ceremony. About 30 people from Ohio flew out to be at the ceremony, including the pilot during the mission, Col. Ron Albers, now 121st operations group commander, and the co-pilot, retired Col. Charles Underwood. *Submitted by Tech. Sgt. Ealnor Grey, HQ, OHANG.*



Photo by SrA. Virginia Weber, Scott AFB Visual Information.

A conference room at Scott Air Force Base, Ill. was renamed in honor of the 121st Air Refueling Wing's CMSgt. Terry Kerr (center) for his life-saving actions during the Persian Gulf War. With him are Col. Ron Albers (left) and retired Col. Charles Underwood.

Farrow recognized for PA contributions

Many years of loyal service behind the keyboard and camera were rewarded recently for Staff Sgt. Diane L. Farrow, a driving force behind the success of the *Buckeye Guard* magazine for much of the past eight years.

Farrow, a member of Headquarters, State Area Command, received the Meritorious Service Medal at her unit's drill in July.

During her tenure in the Ohio Army National Guard, Farrow has helped the magazine win first place in the the National Guard Bureau Media Contest five times and also place in the Department of the Army's Keith L. Ware Journalism Awards competition. She also has won several individual awards for her writing.

"Sergeant Farrow's dedication has made the *Buckeye Guard* the outstanding magazine in the National Guard, and a vital tool in telling the stories of the Ohio National Guard, and those of our soldiers and airmen," said Capt. Neal E. O'Brien, director of public affairs for the Ohio Adjutant General's Department. *Compiled by the Adj. Gen. Dept. Public Affairs Office.*

OHMR leaders honored

Two of the Ohio Military Reserve's top officers have received awards in the past year for their contributions and leadership.

Maj. Gen. William R. Hardy was presented with the Ohio Commendation Medal by Maj. Gen. John H. Smith, state adjutant general, for his duty as staff judge advocate, deputy commander and current assignment as commander of the Ohio Military Reserve.

Hardy is a Cincinnati-based lawyer in his civilian occupation.

Col. Herbert Holinko, public affairs officer for the



Holinko

OHMR, received the Cavalier's Cross from the country of Poland for his lifetime of work in Polish-American affairs. The country's highest award given to a non-native Pole, the Cavalier's Cross is considered the equivalent of the United States' Medal of Freedom.

Lech Walesa, a leader of the Solidarity movement in the 1980s against Poland's then-communist government, presented Holinko with the medal during a speaking engagement at Miami University in Oxford this spring. Walesa later

became Poland's president when the country gained its independence from communist rule in 1990.

Holinko and his wife, Betty, have hosted a Polish music radio program for the past 14 years. *Compiled by the Adj. Gen. Dept. Public Affairs Office.*

Cline celebrated for EANGUS work

Command Chief Master Sgt. Gary Broadbent, senior enlisted advisor for the Air National Guard, has announced that the Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States' (EANGUS) Executive Director, retired Master Sgt. Michael P. Cline, was inducted as an Honorary Chief Master Sergeant of the Air National Guard on June 19 at Bolling Air Force Base in Washington, D.C.

This is only the fourth time ever that this honor has been bestowed.

Cline, a retired Ohio Army National Guardmember with 26 years of service, was honored for his work with EANGUS. As executive director, he is responsible for the day-to-day operations of the Guard's largest association and the country's largest Enlisted Reserve organization.

One of Cline's duties as executive director is to lobby Capitol Hill on behalf of the organization, which not only seeks to improve issues concerning the National Guard, but also the quality of life for all reserve component members and their families. Cline has served as the executive director of EANGUS since 1990. He is also co-chairman of the Military Coalition, a consortium of 30



Hardy

military and veterans organizations that represent over 5.5 million members and their families.

Cline was appointed in 1996 to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs Advisory Committee on Education, dealing with Montgomery GI Bill educational benefits. He has testified on numerous occasions to Congress.

He retired in 1992 from the Ohio National Guard. His wife, Dian, currently is a member of the District of Columbia Air National Guard. *Submitted by EANGUS Public Affairs.*

Remembering a fallen comrade



Photo by Todd Cramer, Adj. Gen. Dept. Photo Lab.

Candace Adkins (right), wife of COL Ernest R. Adkins, accepts the Legion of Merit on behalf of her husband from Maj. Gen. John H. Smith, state adjutant general, at a ceremony earlier this year. COL Adkins passed away March 9, 1999. A Vietnam veteran with more 28 years of military service, Adkins most recently served as director of facilities management for the Ohio Adjutant General's Department.

641st soldiers 1st ROWPU Rodeo title

The 641st Quartermaster Detachment, Kettering, rounded up a first and third place in the reserve component category of this year's ROWPU (Reverse Osmosis Water Purification Unit) Rodeo competition, held March 14-26 at Fort Stewart, Ga.

Last year was an all-active Army competition, but this year was a Total Force exercise, consisting of the active Army, Army National Guard, Army Reserve and Marine Corps. There were 31 teams of three service members and one alternate each.

The competition was comprised of 10 lanes testing service members' various water purification skills, and was evaluated and scored by the civilian water purification trainers (WATEC) team from Fort Story, Va.

All team members received much recognition for their accomplishments, including presentation of the Ohio Commendation Medal to each soldier by Brig. Gen. Ronald G. Young, assistant adjutant general for Army. The 641st's teams were comprised of Sgts. Anthony Stein and Lon Waitman, and Specs. David Nickerson, Crystal Felty, Josh Rutherford and Tabitha Justice. *Submitted by Spc. Crystal Felty, 641st Quartermaster Detachment.*

Telephone-accessed pay info system available to soldiers

Soldiers now have a way to access pay information from anywhere in the world via touch-tone telephone, at any time of day.

An automated Interactive Voice Response System (IVRS) implemented last year by the Defense Finance and Accounting Service-Indianapolis Center, enables U.S. Army active duty, Reserve and National Guard members to access pay information from the master military pay account 24-hours-a-day, seven-days-a-week, said Michael A. Plozay, DFAS-Indianapolis public affairs official.

Service members just call the IVRS at (317) 510-0299 or DSN 699-0299, officials said. The system goes through a series of questions that enables the caller, using a touch-tone telephone, to establish a secure, confidential personal identification number, or PIN. The PIN is known only to the caller and is required to access pay data each time the service member places a call.

Once the PIN is validated, service members can access pay information regarding Direct Deposit information for mid- and end-of-month pay, allotments, bonds, tax information, debt and leave information, DFAS officials said.

While IVRS is a convenient, easy way to obtain pay information, service members are encouraged to contact their finance office as the primary channel for resolving pay issues and obtaining information, according to DFAS.

National Guardmembers, Reservists and separatees seeking pay information are encouraged to call the customer service line at (317) 510-2800 or DSN 699-2800. Retirees should call (800) 321-1080 and annuitants should call (800) 435-3396. (*Army News Service*)

New Defense budget boosts pay, readiness

The fiscal 2000 Department of Defense budget "reflects the effort (the defense leadership) has made to listen to the men and women who are serving us," said Defense Secretary William S. Cohen. "We hear them, we understand what's on their minds and we want to help."

During an interview with the American Forces Information Service earlier this year, Cohen and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. Henry Shelton said feedback they have received from service members on the proposed budget package has been positive, and they expect the

package to receive strong support in Congress.

The proposed budget is the first increase in defense spending since fiscal 1985. It calls for an additional \$12 billion in fiscal 2000.

Budget highlights include a compensation package consisting of a 4.4 percent pay hike effective Jan. 1, 2000, a targeted pay raise to mid-level NCOs and officers effective July 1, 2000, and changing the 1986 Redux retirement system so service members retiring after 20 years of service will receive 50 percent of base pay rather than the current 40 percent.

According to a news release from the Association of the United States Army (AUSA), both the House and Senate Armed Services Committees approved their versions of the Defense Authorization Bill earlier this summer, calling for even greater across-the-board military and federal civilian pay raises and pay table reform, at an increase of 4.8 percent.

Cohen and Shelton said the budget addresses more than compensation. "Soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines...have told us pay and retirement is a concern, but the operational side (also is a concern)," Shelton said.

The fiscal 2000 budget proposal covers a "triad" of concerns, Shelton said. The triad is increasing pay and retirement, increasing the operations and maintenance accounts, and modernization. "We want to take care of the core quality of life issues...but also increase the readiness accounts, and this budget is designed to do exactly that," he said.

He said increasing operations and maintenance accounts would enable the services to buy more spare parts, and fund more flying hours and tank driving miles. Shelton said the fiscal 2000 budget request also puts DoD on the path to funding future readiness and is line with the \$60 billion goal of the Quadrennial Defense Review. He pointed out that not only will modernization provide the latest in technology, but it will allow service members to focus on training instead of spending their time making repairs.

Shelton said pay and other quality of life initiatives are important but not the only reasons people join and stay in the services. "I think each of us in uniform today understands that we did not come into the service to get rich," he said. "Ours is a calling of service to the nation. We are in the most respected institution in America. I think we have a warrior ethic we need to keep and a calling for greater good." (*American Forces Press Service*)

Uniforms available through Internet

Shopping for military uniforms can be as easy as browsing the Internet. Catalogs from the Army and Air Force Exchange Service are available worldwide for authorized customers, instantly, at www.aafes.com. The Internet catalog provides shopping convenience regardless of the customer's location.

In addition, Air Force military clothing catalogs have a variety of optional uniform items and accessories from which to choose. Though identical in product selection, the electronic catalogs do not replace the paper versions, still available in clothing sales stores or by calling 1-888-768-3204. (*Air Force Print News*)

Education Notes

◆ Education Services website operational

The Education and Incentive Office is pleased to announce that its web page is up for viewing. It is requested that all guardmembers with Internet access surf through the pages and make suggestions to the office webmaster as to what they would like to see, or any other ideas to consider. The web page is a "work in progress" site intended to provide the field with the best education and incentive information.

The page can be linked through the following address: <http://www.oh-tagnet.com/Tagnet.htm>. From this address, click on "MPMO," then click on "Education and Incentive Programs." (*Education Services Office*)

◆ VA creates education benefits hotline

The Department of Veterans Affairs has a toll-free number for veterans and dependents to get information on VA education benefits.

By dialing (883) GI-BILL1, veterans, dependents, school officials, veterans service officers and others can receive education benefits information, including detailed eligibility criteria and general background on VA programs, 24-hours-a-day, seven-days-a-week.

Those receiving education benefits under the Montgomery GI Bill may also obtain detailed information on their personal benefits account through the new automated system.

Callers can get specific questions answered by case managers during business hours. Education benefits information is also available on the VA's Home Page on the Internet at www.va.gov/education through the education program web site; veterans can e-mail questions and VA program experts will respond.

Those seeking information on all programs can call the department's general toll-free number, (800) 827-1000. (*National Guard*)

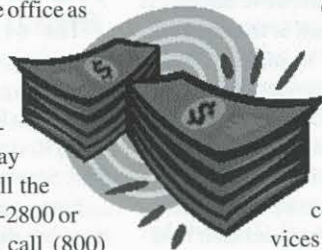




Photo by SSgt Shannon Scherer, SCNG.

Troops help develop Congaree Swamp

Though the word swamp conjures images of dark, muddy and unsafe terrain for most people, many members of the National Guard now relate it to an opportunity to train while enhancing one of the country's national landmarks.

The Congaree Swamp National Monument in South Carolina may have larger-than-life dragonflies and reptiles willing to strike unsuspecting intruders, but it also offers visitors a unique chance to see some of the oldest living trees known to the United States. The 22,000-acre National Park Service sanctuary has the last significant stand of old-growth bottomland forest in the country.

Members of the Ohio Air National Guard joined the South Carolina Guard on a project to hone their wartime skills, while enhancing and preserving both the beauty and wildlife of this natural habitat. Units from other states, the 113th Civil Engineering Squadron from Washington D.C. and the 124th CES from Boise, Idaho, also supported this training exercise which was comprised of paving a new access road and building a new visitor's center for the park.

Martha Bogle, Congaree Swamp superintendent, knew when she came to South Carolina in 1995 that the privately owned dirt road leading into the park was not sufficient for the 70,000 visitors drawn to the landmark each year.

"We turned away schools because our dirt roads could not handle the bus traffic," Bogle said of the park which is located 20 miles south of Columbia.

In 1997, Bogle felt she had exhausted

every possible resource in obtaining funding for a new road and welcome center when a staff member, Sgt. 1st Class Lewis Prettyman, a member of the South Carolina Army National Guard, suggested she ask the Guard for help.

Prettyman explained that the organization tries to support projects for local, state and federal agencies that also help the units meet their wartime training requirements. Before Bogle knew it, a partnership between the South Carolina National Guard, the River Alliance (a community-based awareness group), Richland County and the National Park Service was established. The 122nd Engineer Battalion offered to clear the area and begin the gravel road, while the 169th CES offered to pave the road and agreed to host the project.

Chief Master Sgt. Mike Stroble, 169th CES manager, explained that the project soon caught the attention of the National Guard Bureau and became a sponsored training project for other Air National Guard units throughout the country. "It started out small and blossomed into the project it is now," he said.

With Richland County and the National Park Service supplying the materials, the National Guard began work in August 1998. Last summer, Ohio's 200th and Pennsylvania's 201st Red Horse Squadrons helped clear nearly 1.3 miles of forest, build road elevation and pave a two-lane road that winds through the swampland.

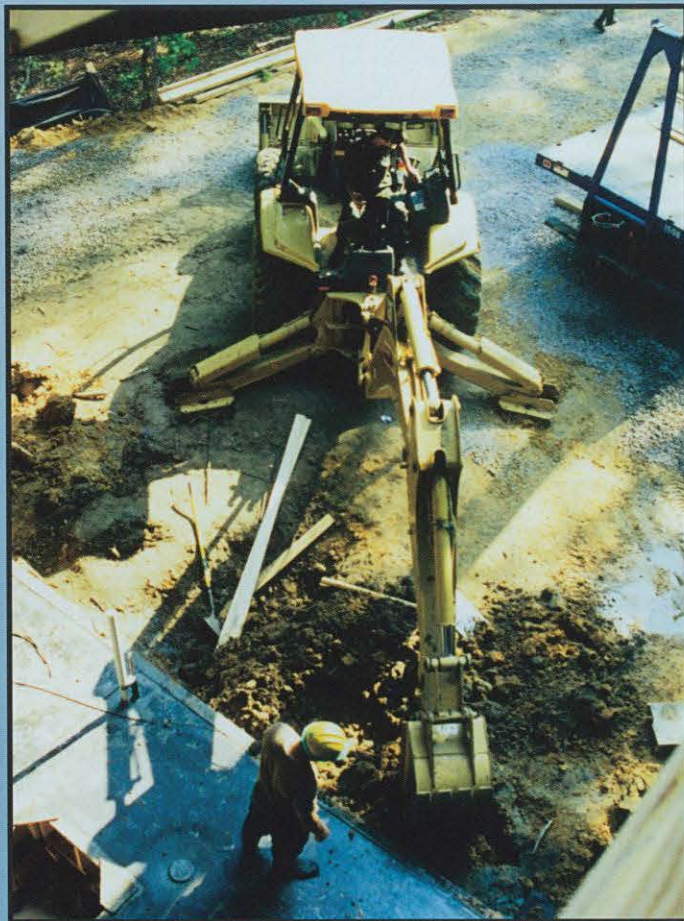


Photo by SSgt Shannon Scherer, SCNG.

ABOVE LEFT: TSgt. Craig Kuhlman, 180th CES, hammers felt paper to the roof of the new visitor's center. ABOVE: Members of the 180th excavate concrete forms.

In April 1999, the 169th CES started the laborious task of constructing a 10,300-square-foot education, administration and welcome center. In May, the 180th CES from Toledo spent a two-week rotation completing the foundation and installing a roof—which included several fancy cupolas.

For the Ohio Guard troops, this has been a dream job. They're used to working in much more difficult conditions. Past projects have included renovations of a school in Honduras and a hospital in Bolivia.

"It's nice to work with things that civilian contractors get to work with," said Master Sgt. Tim Davis. "When we're working in Third World countries, sometimes they bring wood over just after it's been cut down."

Staff Sgt. Rich Birt said the project has been great for training the troops on a variety of jobs. They've installed trusses, poured concrete and roughed in plumbing.

That's quite a change from build-

ing tent cities or repairing runways. "Usually we do a lot of flat work, not vertical work like this," Birt said. "It's very rare for us to do something this large."

Birt said some of the nearly three dozen members of the 180th have talked of volunteering to come back for a second two-week stint.

"The parks are here for the people to enjoy, and now we're doing something people will be using for years," Birt said.

Or, as Davis said, "It's nice to help those other countries, but it's really rewarding to help our own park service."

Bogle has taken an active part in the construction since day one and is glad for the Guard's assistance. "Successful parks need successful partners," she said. "The National Guard has been a great partner." ■

EDITOR'S NOTE: SSgt. Shannon Scherer, SCNG, and Joey Holleman, The State newspaper, contributed to this article.

Greeting new sites at RAVENNA

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Photos by Cadet Jamey Trigg, HHC, 1-107th Cavalry.

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