

GUARD BUCKEYE

MAGAZINE OF THE OHIO ARMY AND AIR NATIONAL GUARD
FALL/WINTER 2008

Joint Task Force 73 proves to be

Fully
Operational
Capable

Pages 10-11



LINEAGE LINK UP

323RD MILITARY POLICE COMPANY

STATION: Toledo

MISSION: To provide military police combat support to an assigned area of operations

DATE & PLACE OF BIRTH: 15 August 1911, Toledo, Ohio

PARENT UNIT: Troop D, 1st Cavalry Squadron

CAMPAIGN CREDIT: World War I - Lorraine 1918; World War II - Normandy, Northern France, Rhineland, Ardennes-Alsace, Central Europe, Northern Solomons, Luzon (with arrowhead)

AWARDS: Presidential Unit Citation, Streamer embroidered LUZON

Valorous Unit Award, Streamer embroidered, IRAQ 2003

Army Superior Unit Award, Streamer embroidered 8 OCTOBER 2001 TO 1 SEPTEMBER 2002

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

When the 323rd MP Company entered federal service in 1940, it was designated as Battery F, 135th



Field Artillery. When the 37th Division reorganized in 1942, the unit was redesignated as Battery C, 174th Field Artillery and released from assignment to the division. In June 1944, Battery C came ashore at Normandy outfitted with the M-12 self-propelled 155 mm gun (above). Only 100 M-12 guns were manufactured during the war and were issued to just six battalions, including the 174th. Battery C was particularly effective in supporting the fast-moving columns after the breakout from Normandy. On a number of occasions these self-propelled guns were the only heavy artillery within a day's march of the front and they successfully performed all of the normal missions for such weapons.



Battery B, 140th Field Artillery Battalion, 1956

323rd MP Company, 1977

D Troop, 1st Cavalry, El Paso, Texas, 1917

37th MP Company, 1965

323rd MP Company, Iraq, 2003

GUARD BUCKEYE

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roll call

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Maj. Gen. Harry "A.J." Feucht

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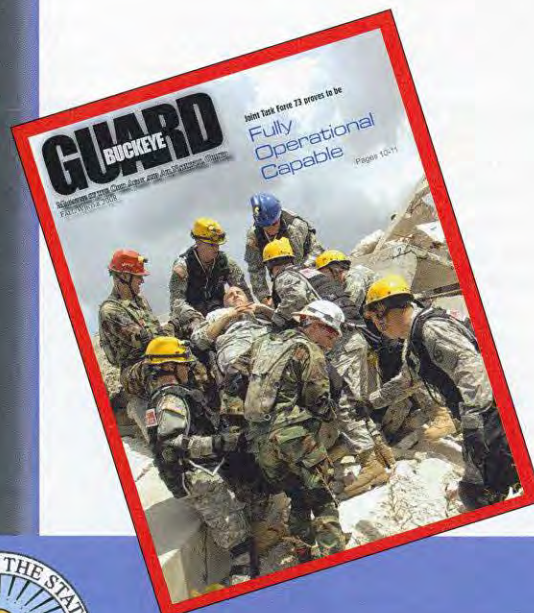
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COURTESY PHOTO

SSgt Roxanne Wallace, a cable/antenna installer with the 220th Engineering Installation Squadron mounts an antenna 60-feet high on a telephone pole at Holloman Air Force Base, N.M. The Ohio Air National Guard unit was there this summer to help improve communications infrastructure at the base to resolve radio interference issues and reduce long-term maintenance costs. *For more, see page 12.*



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ON THE COVER

JOINT TASK FORCE 73 IS FULLY OPERATIONAL CAPABLE: Soldiers and Airmen assigned to the Ohio National Guard's Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and high-yield Explosive (CBRNE) Enhanced Response Force Package, or CERFP, rescue a "victim" trapped in the rubble of a collapsed building resulting from a 7.5 magnitude earthquake near Toledo—an exercise scenario designed to test the capability of the innovative standing joint task force concept being tested and developed within the Ohio National Guard. The 73rd Troop Command, aka Joint Task Force 73, is the unit responsible for providing command and control for all state military assets deployed in support of civil authorities during a significant emergency in Ohio, and is the model for this new concept. *Photo by 2nd Lt. Kimberly Snow/Adjutant General's Department Public Affairs. See pages 10-11.*



on the web @ <http://www.ong.ohio.gov>

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Reflecting on progress made in the Ohio ANG

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

It is my great honor and privilege to serve with the great Americans who volunteer to be contributing members of our Ohio National Guard. I have served as the assistant adjutant general for Air for more than three years. During that time, the Ohio Air National Guard has faced many challenges and changes. However, through our collaborative efforts, both internal and external, we have adjusted and advanced. Together we move along the flight path that will lead us to continued relevant missions for the future. Your positive contribution, courage and dedication to our mission success is the "Wind beneath my Wings" and the reason we are the National Guard leader of all states. You are a high-powered team who serves selflessly for the betterment of our nation, state and community. I thank all of you and those who support us for your professionalism and dedication.

I recently reflected on the challenges, obstacles, changes and progress we have experienced since May 13, 2005. It was on that date that the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Commission recommendations were publicly announced. These recommendations had a direct impact on three of our four wings. The 121st Air Refueling Wing was to maintain its strength and mission while the 180th Fighter Wing was to gain strength and mission. However, in 2010, the 178th Fighter Wing would realign, losing their F-16 pilot training mission and the 179th Airlift Wing was to close. That closure was later changed to realign by the BRAC commissioners. We, the Airmen of the OHANG, faced the greatest challenge I had seen in 40 years of service.

We immediately focused on continuous and constant communication with Air Force, Air National Guard Headquarters, Joint Force Headquarters-Ohio and OHANG wing and geographically separated unit (GSU) senior leaders, as well as Ohio political and community leaders, and have maintained that dialogue since. In December 2006, our positive communication resulted in a HQ ANG planning document that included BRAC, Total Force Initiatives (TFI) and ANG reset or rightsizing issues. Because of the magnitude of the new mission areas and personnel effects, every wing and GSU mission was either directly or indirectly affected. To organize and communicate our vision throughout the OHANG, we established a council and three working groups. Brig. Gen. Robert Boggs, chief of staff, created and chairs the OHANG TFI Council. Chairs of the civil engineering, logistics readiness and aerial port and personnel transformation working groups are commanders from the wings and GSUs. Every wing and GSU in the OHANG has a commander or representative in each council and working group.

We have made tremendous progress in mission transformation since May 13, 2005. Our priorities since that day have been to maintain relevance, strength, geographic proportionality and flying missions at all OHANG bases, and to affect a smooth flow of mission change (readiness, training, infrastructure and equipment). On Aug. 10, 2007, I briefed then-Lt. Gen. Craig McKinley (director of the Air National Guard) and his staff on the ONG leadership priorities for future mission focus and vision for the OHANG at our air bases. The highlights of that briefing included exploring KC-135 (short-term) and KC-X (long-term) active-duty associate wings at the 121st ARW.

For the 178th Fighter Wing, short-term goals included increasing/completing the F-16 Foreign Military Sales (FMS) Formal Training Unit (FTU) before and extending the unit's presence beyond 2010 as well as executing tuition-based and lend lease F-16



You are a talented, dedicated and professional force who serves with integrity, impeccable service and a passion for excellence.

FMS FTU training options and executing Royal Netherlands Air Force air controller training at the 123rd Air Control Squadron. I also discussed increasing the Distributed Analysis & Reporting Team (DART) and Foreign Military Exploitation (FME) missions at the National Air and Space Intelligence Center (NASIC), Wright-Patterson AFB. Long-term goals for the 178th included a possible F-35 FMS FTU and expanding the DART and FMS missions.

For the 179th Airlift Wing, I discussed short-term goals including initial operational capability for Detachment 1, 200th RED HORSE, flying C-130s through 2010, an interim C-21 bridge mission until the C-27J aircraft arrive and consideration as a location for a joint C-27J FTU.

We also discussed long-range goals for the C-27J FTU and the operational mission for the 200th RED HORSE.

Short-term goals discussed for the 180th Fighter Wing included the unit's operational mission, the Air Sovereignty Alert (ASA) mission and exploring the possibility of an F-16 active-duty associate wing. Long-term goals for the 180th included an F-35 assignment and active duty associate wing.

The GSU missions are not forgotten; they appear to be very solid with regard to future relevance, although reset did affect them.

We maintain continuous dialogue with the Air Force and ANG senior leadership as we promote your/our priorities. Our federal and state leadership and delegations are actively involved in seeking relevant future missions.

A major contributing factor in our success has been your focus on mission execution with outstanding results. The OHANG is currently 112 percent staffed (the highest of any state). We are the reason the ANG will make end-strength this year and we remind (now NGB Chief) Gen. McKinley regularly. Our minority, female and officer strength continues to improve and our retention rates exceed the national goal and average. Your results from audits and inspections continue to be excellent and outstanding. Our operations tempo with volunteers is at the highest levels and is being achieved with a safety record that is second to none. You are a talented, dedicated and professional force who serves with integrity, impeccable service and a passion for excellence. Thank you for your positive contributions as we move through the most challenging times. Please stay focused on the basics and remind all Airmen of the importance of checklist compliance and accountability. I also ask that you thank those who support us on a regular basis—your Families and employers. As a positive and collaborative team, we will ensure the success of the OHANG into the distant future. I am proud of all of you and proud to be the commander of the Ohio Air National Guard. **AG**

Baton Rouge, La. leaders express gratitude for ONG's help after Gustav

To our friends in the Ohio National Guard... We are forever grateful and appreciative of the time you spent in Louisiana assisting with recovery efforts after Hurricane Gustav.

While lines on a map separate where we live, we are all one in kindred spirit and true American grit for getting a job done. We thank you again for being here and we pray the trip home was safe and the damage your Families received from remnants of Hurricane Ike's rain storms did not cause severe damage to your property or any loss of life to your Family.

Once again, we extend our sincerest thanks for your dedication to a mission and will cherish the fond memories of our Sunday send-off meal.

On behalf of the City of Baton Rouge and Most Blessed Sacrament Church Parish, I remain...ours in service to God and Country.

DARRELL OURSO
COUNCILMAN
EAST BATON ROUGE PARISH

251st chief's retirement marks nearly 40 years of service to Ohio ANG

This December, members of the 251st Communications Group bid a fond farewell to Chief Master Sergeant Philip Lambers.

His career has spanned more than 36 years in the Ohio Air National Guard. He has participated in several Joint Military Exercises throughout Europe, Korea and the Caribbean.

Chief Lambers was also involved in multiple state emergencies in support of Ohio—Xenia tornado of '74, blizzard of '78, Lucasville prison riot of '93, multiple flood relief activities and Katrina 2005.

The chief enlisted in April 1972 as a mate-

rial control specialist in the 269th Combat Communication Squadron. In 1978, he transferred to the 251st Combat Communications Group Headquarters, where he was assigned as a mobility plans technician and he also joined the technician force at that time.

He currently holds a primary career field in training and a secondary in materiel control and a tertiary Air Force Specialty Code in logistics plans. In July 1985, he was awarded an associate's degree in logistics management from the Community College of the Air Force.

He transferred to the Headquarters 251st Combat Communications Group group training manager position in March 1987 and was promoted to senior master sergeant on April 1, 1987. Chief Lambers was selected as the 1984 Senior NCO of the Year for the Tactical Information Systems Division (now Air Combat Command) and the 1984 Senior NCO for the State of Ohio and the 251st Group Headquarters and was the 1993 Senior NCO for the State of Ohio.

Over the years, Chief Lambers has given his time and efforts to the community. He has been a member and past president of the parents group of the talented and gifted program at Northwestern School.

He is also a charter committee member and current scoutmaster for his church's Boy Scout Program, Troop 316, where he has mentored 27 young men to the rank of Eagle Scout. He has received some of Scouting's highest awards to include the Silver Beaver and the Tecumseh Legends award. Phil has completed the BSA Wood badge program and has gone on to become a member of the training staff where he continues to mentor other adult leaders. He is a member of the COPE Committee



COURTESY PHOTO

CMSgt. Phillip Lambers (right) of the 251st Communications Group, pictured with his wife, Brenda, retired in December after more than 36 years of service in the Ohio Air National Guard.

at BSA Camp Birch assisting in overseeing their outdoor climbing program.

Chief Lambers is active in the Partners in Education program at Horace Mann Elementary, the local ANG Kid Safe Program, and Fellowship Christian Church. He enjoys all types of outdoor activities especially canoeing and kayaking.

He has been happily married for 32 years to the former Brenda Sue Teach of Springfield, Ohio. They have two children: son Ben, 29, who lives in Marshall, Texas with his wife Erin; and daughter Sara, 27, who lives in the Springfield area with her husband Nathan.

Chief Lambers has been a friend and mentor to many people both in and out of the military. Asked what he will do after retirement his response was, "I will continue to be involved in the community but, Brenda has plenty lined up for me to do so don't volunteer me for anything!"

SMSGT. PAUL WILLIAMS
251ST COMBAT COMM. GROUP



OHARNG HISTORICAL COLLECTIONS

HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHT

Celebrating the centennial of Army aviation

As the Army celebrates its centennial birthday of aviation, the state of Ohio has played a key role in the first 100 years of this branch. Ohioans Wilbur and Orville Wright delivered the first military airplane, a Wright flyer, to Fort Meyer, Va. on August 20, 1908. Lt. Frank Lahm, namesake of the Mansfield Airport, completed a solo flight in 1909, becoming the first Army pilot. Organized on June 20, 1927, the first aviation unit for the Ohio National Guard was the 37th Division Aviation, consisting of the 112th Observation Squadron, 112th Photo Section and 112th Medical Section. The unit was stationed at the Cleveland Airport. In the photo on the left, planes of the 37th Division Aviation fly over the Erie Proving Grounds, near Camp Perry, in 1937. Submitted by Staff Sgt. Joshua Mann, OHARNG Historian

Community Outreach can happen on many levels, in many ways

Last year, the adjutant general brought together representatives from every organization in the Ohio Army and Air National Guard whose missions involve reaching out to or interacting with the general public and formed the Community Outreach Task Force. As the task force develops a strategy which will shape the means, messages and media that the Ohio National Guard will use to communicate with the diverse audiences within the state of Ohio, many Guardmembers at the unit and individual levels have been asking how they may maximize community outreach opportunities on their end.

Community outreach has the potential to occur not only where and when our Soldiers and Airmen interact with local employers, universities, community leaders and youth; but also when energized and informed National Guard Champions, after positive and educational experiences with the Ohio National Guard, take it upon themselves to "tell the story" of the Ohio National Guard and serve as our ambassadors to the general public. These positive and educational experiences come not only from events executed at the unit or departmental levels, but from day-to-day interaction with individual Soldiers and Airmen throughout the force.

Whenever units in the Ohio National Guard resolve to include community leaders in training, ceremonial or community relations events, they can always be counted on to do an outstanding job. A new aspect of community outreach for members and units to consider is sustainment of the relationships that those events may bring. Does your organization "fire and forget" the dozens of Guard-friendly centers-of-influence it comes into contact with every year, or do they "keep them hooked" and ensure long-lasting, mutually-supportive relationships? It's those leaders that the organization can "hook" that will become your Ohio National Guard Champions.

There are many simple but effective ways to build and sustain these relationships, and individuals and organizations have shown no shortage of creativity in building an elite cadre of Ohio National

reaching to communities to employers OUT

Russell P. Galeti Jr.



Guard Champions. Among them, units can:

- Ensure local business, educational, religious and community leaders are incorporated into open houses, deployment and welcome home ceremonies, training exercise visits, equipment demonstrations, Family readiness activities and morale, welfare and recreation festivities.
- Communicate with those same leaders during unit deployments via notes, cards or e-mail to keep them informed of the unit's mission and how individual Soldiers or Airmen are faring.
- Search for opportunities to recognize and thank organizations and leaders that have been especially interested and supportive, reinforcing the value of their service as an Ohio National Guard Champion.

NATIONAL GUARD CHAMPIONS

As the task force develops and implements strategy, and popular support for our Soldiers and Airmen endures, many opportunities will present themselves at the individual and unit levels to grow and sustain their cadre of informed and supportive Ohio National Guard Champions. **EG**

Russell P. Galeti Jr. is the public information officer for employer and community outreach with the Adjutant General's Department, and also an infantry platoon leader with Company A, 1st Battalion, 145th Armored Regiment.

NATIONAL NEWS

National Guard's first four-star general ready to take Minutemen forward

ARLINGTON, Va.—Air Force Gen. Craig R. McKinley officially became chief of the National Guard Bureau and was promoted to the rank of general by Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates in a Nov. 17 ceremony at the Pentagon.

The crowd of more than 300 from all ranks, services and many states' National Guards then watched Gates administer the oath of office to McKinley, who swore in as the first four-star general to lead the National



McKinley

Guard in its 372-year history.

McKinley succeeds Army Lt. Gen. H. Steven Blum, who served some five and a half years as chief of the Bureau and in January becomes deputy commander of U.S. Northern Command, the first Guard officer to hold that position.

McKinley is the fourth Air Guard officer to serve as CNGB. He most recently served as director for the Air National Guard. **MSGT MIKE R. SMITH / NATIONAL GUARD BUREAU PUBLIC AFFAIRS**

New recruiting campaign touts ANG Airmen as 'Hometown Heroes'

BALTIMORE—Air National Guard officials said the music video "Hometown Heroes" will be a new element to the

Air Guard's recruiting campaign messages through Internet postings and other advertising outlets in conjunction with country music singer Laura Bryna's commercial release of the song.

Officials said that Bryna will continue to promote the Air Guard through radio, television, print advertising and the Internet.

The campaign is similar to the Army National Guard's music video "Citizen-Soldier," released by the popular rock band "Three Doors Down."

This fall, the Army Guard released its new music video and song "Warrior," which partners Army recruiters with rap-rocker Kid Rock and NASCAR driver Dale Earnhardt Jr. **MSGT MIKE R. SMITH / NATIONAL GUARD BUREAU PUBLIC AFFAIRS**

Governor combines veteran-related offices into new cabinet-level agency

Last May, at Beightler Armory, Ohio Gov. Ted Strickland signed into law legislation that established the Ohio Department of Veterans Services (DVS). DVS has assumed the duties of the Governor's Office of Veterans Affairs, the Ohio Veterans' Home Agency and the Ohio War Orphans Scholarship Board. Previously, these agencies had all been governed by separate authorities.

Since then, the governor has appointed Bill Hartnett, a U.S. Navy veteran of the Korean War era and former legislator, as director of DVS. As director, Hartnett will serve as a member of the governor's cabinet. In addition to the duties listed above, the department partners with county veteran service offices to support the veterans of the state. To contact DVS, call the department at 1-877-644-6838 or online at <http://dvs.ohio.gov/>.

Governor expands GI Bill for veterans, Family members

On July 8, Gov. Strickland signed an executive order establishing The Ohio GI Promise, which changes Ohio's residence requirements to allow all veterans of the U.S. Armed Services, their spouses, and dependents who choose to attend Ohio colleges and universities to do so at in-state tuition rates.

The new program was created as a result of the new GI Bill passed by Congress and signed into law by President George W. Bush on June 30, which doubles college benefits for eligible troops and veterans, and provides housing stipends to those students.

In addition to modifying residency requirements for veterans and their Families, the executive order will also:

- Establish The Ohio GI Promise Council. The Ohio GI Promise Council will be charged with marketing educational opportunities in Ohio for veterans nationwide and ensuring that Ohio's colleges and universities have the best programs and support services available for veterans.

- Launch the Ohio GI Promise Hotline and website. A 1-877-VETS-OH-1 hotline and website at <http://universitysystem.ohio.gov/veterans> will serve as contact points to educational opportunities for veterans who are interested in finding out more about specific colleges and programs.

National Defense Authorization Act reaps benefits for Ohio National Guard

On Oct. 14, President Bush signed the 2009 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA). The NDAA includes nearly \$24 million for military construction and the purchase of training simulators for troops in the Ohio National Guard.

legislative look

with johann klein



The funded projects include:

- \$13.9 million for a new combat communications complex at the Springfield Air National Guard base in Clark County;
- \$2 million for a new barracks at the Camp Perry Training Site in Ottawa County;
- \$2 million for a new barracks at the Ravenna Training and Logistics Site in Portage and Trumbull counties;
- \$1.6 million for perimeter security facilities at the Rick-enbacker Air National Guard Base in Franklin County;
- \$3.72 million for training simulator systems at various National Guard facilities around the state; and
- \$800,000 for secure network systems at the Toledo Air National Guard Base in Lucas County.

The NDAA also increases full-time manning for the Army National Guard and authorizes an additional 3,564 personnel, including 2,110 Active Guard Reserve (AGR) slots. The law also authorizes a 3.9 percent pay raise for Servicemembers, which takes effect Jan. 1, 2009. For more information about the provisions of the NDAA, visit the National Guard Bureau website at www.ngb.army.mil/news/archives.

Johann Klein is legislative liaison for the Adjutant General's Department

COLUMBUS

Command profile



Brig. Gen. Tom Botchie
121st Air Refueling Wing

Age: 56 (but I feel younger)

Full-Time Position: wing commander

Hometown: Columbus, Ohio

Family: Jane, wife;
two dogs, Max and Emmy

When I was younger, I wanted to:

be a pilot (in lieu of working)

Most recent achievement: being selected as a brigadier general

The last good movie I saw was:

To Kill a Mockingbird
(for probably the 10th time)

The book I'm reading is:

AFMAN 10-100, The Airman's Manual
(to prepare for our first Organizational Readiness Inspection in 12 years)

My favorite recreational activity:

being outdoors, camping or gardening and landscaping our five acres

Heroes: my parents

Nobody knows I'm: looking forward to retiring, helping build Habitat for Humanity houses

and taking cooking lessons

I'm better than anyone else at: keeping two houses show-ready

I'd give anything to meet:

Abraham Lincoln

My biggest pet peeve is:

People who don't have personal accountability

The three words that best describe me: a people person

If I could leave today's

Guardmembers with one piece of advice it would be: Reach outside your comfort zone to challenge yourself and grow as a National Guardmember

Joint Task Force 73 proves to be

Fully Operational Capable



ALL PHOTOS (EXCEPT BOTTOM RIGHT) BY 2LT KIMBERLY SNOW / ADJ. GEN. DEPT. PUBLIC AFFAIRS

ABOVE: Members of the Ohio National Guard Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and high-yield Explosive (CBRNE) Enhanced Response Force Package, or CERFP—evacuate a pregnant female “victim” to the safety of a medical aid station. TOP RIGHT: CERFP members prepare a victim to be hoisted out of a tunnel: MIDDLE RIGHT: Members of the Joint Task Force 73 headquarters plan during the exercise. BOTTOM RIGHT: CERFP members check an evacuated victim for radiation.

SSGT DOUGLAS NICODEMUS / 121ST ARW PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Ohio National Guard tests innovative emergency response joint task force

Story by 2nd Lt. Kimberly Snow
Adj. Gen. Dept. Public Affairs

WALBRIDGE—The rescue worker slowly circled the rubble pile, his expression intent, as he and the others searched for signs of life. He ignored the sweat stinging his eyes as it trickled down beneath a bright yellow hard hat and stopped suddenly, raising a hand with palm facing out—a signal for the others to freeze—as he cocked an ear toward the pile.

“We got someone over here!” he shouted as the others raced over.

The moaning—a woman’s—grew louder.

“Ma’am, can you hear me?” called one of the others. “I’m a medic with the Air Force.”

“I’m having a baby!” she responded.

“How bad is the pain?” he asked.

“It’s real bad,” she replied.

“Don’t push!” he said.

“I have to!” she cried.

Several rescuers quickly and methodically began clambering up the rubble pile,

drawn toward the source of the moaning as another reported the situation on a hand-held radio.

“We have a priority on extraction here,” he said into the radio. “There’s a woman in labor.”

As the woman continued to cry for help, the rescuers—Soldiers and Airmen assigned to the Ohio National Guard’s Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and high-yield Explosive (CBRNE) Enhanced Response Force Package, or CERFP—began formulating a plan to get the woman down from the pile to a medical aid station.

The woman was one of many “victims” trapped in the rubble of a collapsed building resulting from a 7.5-magnitude earthquake near Toledo, Ohio—an exercise scenario designed to test the capability of the innovative standing joint task force concept being tested and developed within the Ohio National Guard. The 73rd Troop Command, aka Joint Task Force 73, is the unit responsible for providing command and control for all state military assets deployed in support of civil authorities during a significant emergency in Ohio, and is the model for

this new concept.

“Maj. Gen. (Gregory L.) Wayt, Ohio’s adjutant general, had the vision of having a headquarters in Ohio that could command and control the National Guard response units during a natural disaster or weapons of mass destruction event,” said Brig. Gen. Jack Lee, 73rd commander. “That headquarters would train with the civilian first responders and be able to talk their language at a disaster scene and control the military response that comes in to aid those civilian first responders.”

That vision was recently realized through a Fully Operational Capable (FOC) exercise conducted over several locations in Northwest Ohio—Camp Perry Training Site near Port Clinton and the Walbridge Armory and Owens Community College Center for Emergency Preparedness in Wood County. With the vast array of resources within its ranks, including the CERFP, the 52nd Civil Support Team (Weapons of Mass Destruction) and the state’s Quick Reaction Force, the 73rd was an obvious choice for such a unit.

“This exercise ensures the Ohio National Guard is prepared to deploy ready units to accomplish federal, state and community missions and, in conjunction with other local, state, and federal agencies, facilitate a seamless, effective response to any incident,” said Maj. Gen. Gregory L. Wayt, Ohio’s adjutant

general.

Exercise planning began in April when the Joint Force Headquarters-Ohio and 73rd Troop Command staffs jointly developed the concept and scenario. Participating units provided input to maximize training value, said Lt. Col. Walter M. Duzzny, Joint Force Headquarters-Ohio deputy operations officer for domestic operations and officer in charge of the exercise's white cell—a team of about 25 people that controlled and monitored the exercise.

"We drive the exercise through inject play—events that are given to the joint task force to provide them with scenarios that they're going to react to," Duzzny said. "The injects are unknown to them so it increases training value. They don't want to know what's going to happen. It's in their best interests not to know; it adds realism to the training."

The white cell kicked off the exercise Aug. 7 by alerting unit leaders and key personnel of a small earthquake in the Toledo area. The tremor started a dialog between the Ohio National Guard Joint Emergency Operations Center and the Ohio Emergency Management Agency, so when the earthquake was followed the next day by the catastrophic 7.5 magnitude earthquake, the units were already poised to respond when they got the governor's order.

Although only the governor can order the Ohio National Guard to state active duty, when an emergency arises, Ohio's

civil and military agencies immediately begin talking to one another in anticipation of the request. In this FOC exercise, as in the majority of the units' training and evaluation exercises, the troops are working hand-in-hand with their civilian counterparts, including local and state emergency management, fire and law enforcement personnel. These interagency exercises enable all involved to understand the other's resources and capabilities better, and allow for more precise planning and incident management.

"The time to exchange business cards is not in the middle of an incident," said Maj. Gen. Matthew L. Kambic, Ohio's assistant adjutant general for Army.

That lesson was learned and the seed for a standing joint task force was planted during the National Guard response to Hurricane Katrina in September 2005—particularly when Ohio's hastily-assembled Joint Task Force Buckeye coordinated several states' National Guard efforts in some of the worst-

hit counties on the Gulf Coast.

In months following the hurricane, with after action reviews conducted and problem areas identified, Wayt began looking at Ohio's organizational structure and capabilities, and formulating a plan. A standing joint task force from the Ohio National Guard could move in and set up a command post anywhere in the country to coordinate civil-military efforts in the event of a catastrophic event, either natural or man-made. With Ohio's homeland defense and response units situated under one command, the components were in place to make the vision a reality. He tasked the 73rd and imposed a challenging deadline for operational readiness.

"We accomplished this in about a year, which is a very short amount of time," said Lt. Col. Paul McCallister, administrative officer for the 73rd. "With transformation, most units got about two to three years. We got a year."

In that year, the headquarters element has undergone initial operational capability testing and its subordinate units have conducted and completed a variety of operational readiness training and testing exercises. With each event, the Soldiers and Airmen assigned to the units have gained in both proficiency and confidence for this critical homeland defense mission, said Lt. Col. Scott Smith, commander of the Ohio CERFP. It is also a mission the troops

are passionate about. "We live in Ohio. We have Families in Ohio," Smith said. "It's exciting for these Soldiers to be able to help protect our Families, our employers and our neighbors. So this is a mission that touches home for everybody."

The units that fall under the Joint Task Force 73 umbrella are equipped with state-of-the-art chemical detection and decontamination, search and extraction, and communication systems, which lends to troop confidence. And the interagency training facilitates sharing of tactics and techniques to identify and troubleshoot problem areas before a real-world crisis arises. That training has paid off, he said.

"We are ready. We are really ready. We are 100 percent ready," Smith said. "There's no doubt about it. When called, we will be ready and we will deploy on time and we will accomplish our mission and we will save lives. We are ready." **OG**

are passionate about. "We live in Ohio. We have Families in Ohio," Smith said. "It's exciting for these Soldiers to be able to help protect our Families, our employers and our neighbors. So this is a mission that touches home for everybody."



SSG Jacqueline Cover reasons with a civilian displaced by the earthquake.

Quick Reaction Force ready to aid authorities during civil unrest

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

WALBRIDGE—As certain Ohio National Guard first responders were testing their skills evacuating "casualties" from the rubble of a collapsed building, military police Soldiers trained to provide security at disaster sites were on the scene as well.

As another element of Joint Task Force 73's Fully Operational Capability exercise, Soldiers of the 323rd MP Company—part of Ohio's National Guard Reaction Force/Quick Reaction Force—worked to contain as well as comfort displaced victims at a simulated Speedway convenience store/gas station that was serving as a medical treatment center, and make sure JTF 73 first responders could safely perform their mission.

"Basically, we provide presence, control, PR (public relations) and, if we need to, we can help disperse—riots and personnel," said Staff Sgt. Jacqueline Cover, an acting-platoon sergeant with the 323rd Military Police Company, Toledo.

National Guard Reaction Forces provide every state with a ready combat arms force capable of delivering, at the request of the governor or president, a unit of 50-75 personnel within 4-8 hours and a follow-on force of up to 400 personnel within 24-36 hours.

Other Soldiers playing the roles of displaced civilians acted uncooperative, wandered out of cordoned areas and some even spoke in foreign languages—all elements introduced to challenge the MPs to maintain a calm demeanor and control the situation.

"I'd rather the Soldiers learn here in this environment—than when we actually get deployed to a situation," Cover said. "I'd rather make the mistake here than in the real world."

The training at Owens Community College was very realistic, according to several MPs. About 20 of the same MPs had just served in August in Shelby, Ohio, assisting local civilian law enforcement with patrols and traffic control after heavy rains and flooding hit the area. **OG**

“This exercise ensures the Ohio National Guard is prepared to... (help) facilitate a seamless, effective response to any incident.”

—Maj. Gen. Gregory L. Wayt,
Ohio adjutant general



A1C JAMAL SUTTER / 49TH FIGHTER WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

SSgt Joshua Myers (left) and SSgt Roxanne Wallace, cable/antenna installers with the 220th Engineering Installation Squadron, Zanesville, control the lift of an antenna with pull ropes at Holloman Air Force Base, N.M. during the Ground Air Transmit Receive project.

AROUND THE OHIO AIR NATIONAL GUARD



220th EIS upgrades, relocates GATR site

Story by Capt. Albito Lopez
220th Engineering Installation Squadron

HOLLOMAN AIR FORCE BASE, N.M.—Three units from the Air National Guard, including one from Ohio, arrived at this southern New Mexico base last July to help upgrade a critical piece of communications infrastructure.

Airmen from the Zanesville, Ohio-based 220th Engineering Installation Squadron (EIS), took the lead on the project to combine the existing 49th Communications Squadron's Ground Air Transmit and Receive (GATR) sites to a single location. They were supported by Airmen from the Springfield, Ill.-based 217th EIS, and the Oklahoma City-based 205th EIS.

The mission had been maintained from two separate buildings, a configuration that resulted in interference with local microwave communications. The consolidation of the facilities resolved the radio interference issues and is expected to reduce long-term maintenance costs.

Thirty-five Airmen from the 220th and seven from the 217th joined forces in tackling this seven-week project. The 205th provided line trucks required to reach, mount and remove antennas and telephone poles for the project. Master Sgt. Jason Daft, 220th project team chief, led the initial removal, installation and implementation phases of the extensive project. Due to the project's broad scope and the different specialists required to successfully complete the

mission, teams were divided into separate ground radio and cable/antenna teams with vehicle maintenance support. A two-week rotation cycle of personnel was implemented to provide the necessary manpower to complete the seven-week project with five team members deployed for the duration of the entire project.

Unit members were divided into teams to offer flexibility to attack the project from multiple fronts, improve efficiency and meet project timelines. Because a project of this magnitude and complexity involved —many unit members arriving and departing the location, including a replacement of the project team chief—continuity among the deployed teams was essential to successful completion.

"The project is demanding, but we have some of the best technicians in the Air Force," Daft said. "Just as important, we have received incredible support from the host base, especially the ATCALs and Civil Engineering folks."

Chief Master Sgt. Mark Poole of the 220th said despite the best laid plans, improvisation is usually necessary and the base civil engineering personnel provided the technicians with the means and equipment to complete the project, including a backhoe and ground rod driver.

"These two items alone saved us two days of hand digging and allowed us crucial time to focus on other aspects of the project," he said. **EG**

Rickenbacker medical staff trains in Hawaii

By Senior Airman Kristin Crain
121st Air Refueling Wing
Public Affairs

HONOLULU—The 121st Air Refueling Wing Medical Group, located at Rickenbacker Air National Guard Base in Columbus, completed a two-week joint-forces training mission with Army and civilian medical personnel April 26 at Tripler Army Medical Center in Honolulu, Hawaii.

At the facility, members received valuable training not available to them at home station.

"Training like this is important because nothing compares to true clinical settings for teaching and practicing the skills that our people are expected to know," said Senior Master Sgt. Bob Schraft, senior health technician. "Suturing a pig's knuckle and inserting IVs into medical dolls can teach you basic skills but nothing compares to direct patient care."

Public health and bioenvironmental engineering section members spent time learning techniques for testing water from members of the water lab.

Army Sgt. Jessica Houfek and Spc. Nkumu Mandungu regularly test the water that is used by Oahu Army installations and recreational centers. Wing members were given the opportunity to visit the Hale Koa Hotel, an Armed Forces facility at Waikiki, to test the pH and chlorine levels in the pools and test for bacteria in the pools and ocean.

“Given that we will most likely be deploying with the Army at some point, it’s good to learn what the Army is doing from a preventative medicine standpoint and to be familiar with their structure,” said Lt. Col. Daniel Moore, bioenvironmental engineer for the 121st Air Refueling Wing.

In the entomology lab, Army 1st Lt. Edgar Echevarria and Spc. Edward Watson taught members of the 121st Environmental Health Office the process they use to collect samples of mosquito populations in the areas where Army members operate on Oahu.

Entomologists test four major regions of the island monthly. Weekly, they set 48 traps at nine sites on one of the four major regions of the island, setting more traps in areas where more Soldiers train and live. The traps use carbon dioxide to attract female mosquitoes by simulating the breath of a mammal.

Wing members collected and identified two mosquito genera—Aedes and Culex. Watson said that identifying the genus of the mosquitoes prevalent at collection sites is important because they are vectors of different diseases. For example, Culex mosquitoes are the primary carriers of West Nile Virus, while Aedes has been known to transmit dengue and yellow fever.

Nurses, technicians and additional wing members were given the opportunity to observe and participate in medical procedures throughout the hospital, including Tripler’s operating room, intensive care



121ST AIR REFUELING WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

LtCol Sally Mowad (right), acting chief nurse for the 121st Air Refueling Wing Medical Squadron, observes a double bypass open-heart surgery during a two-week joint-forces training mission with Army and civilian medical personnel in Hawaii.

not from beginning to end,” said the captain. “I was able to help prep the room and the patient for surgery, and they had me help place the epidural.”

Members of the health services management office were able to work hands-on with the Composite Health Care System II, a Department of Defense electronic health care record system.

The broad range of training with Soldiers better prepared the members for worldwide deployment.

“This training gives our people the opportunity to experience what they would most likely be doing if they mobilized in a joint-forces environment because you have differences in culture, organization and procedure so you can benefit from their experience and hopefully exchange ideas,” said Lt. Col. Stephen Markovich, 121st Medical Group commander.

“At home we don’t do actual patient care so this was an opportunity for our Airmen to be hands-on in everything from labor and delivery to the ICU,” he said. “They were able to apply what they’ve learned in a training environment between mannequins, presentations and career development courses—you need to lay hands on patients eventually.” **AG**

A RED HORSE rises in Ohio

MANSFIELD—The Air National Guard’s oldest Rapid Engineers Deployable Heavy Operations Repair Squadron, Engineers (RED HORSE) set itself anew here July 20, with the historic activation of a new 200-person detachment, 37 years after the squadron’s inception.

Although a morning storm at Mansfield Air National Guard Base shortened the activation ceremony for Detachment 1 of the 200th RED HORSE Squadron (RHS), hundreds of its red-capped civil engineers were still able to witness their unit’s new flag unfurled outside.

Airmen from the squadron’s headquarters at Port Clinton, Ohio, outside Camp Perry, who hold more worldwide deployments under their belts than most can recall, joined them. Then a bulldozer of lightning, thunder and heavy rain pushed their formation indoors.

“It’s not very often you get to see a flag going up anymore,” said Maj. Daniel Tack, detachment commander. Officials said it was a historic moment for Air Guard civil engineering because the detachment now makes the 200th a fully-manned, 404-person RED HORSE and one of only two such National Guard squadron-detachment combinations within a single state. **MSGT MIKE R. SMITH / NATIONAL GUARD BUREAU PUBLIC AFFAIRS** **AG**



MSGT MIKE R. SMITH / NATIONAL GUARD BUREAU PUBLIC AFFAIRS

With the activation of a new 200-person detachment, Airmen from the Ohio Air National Guard’s 200th RED HORSE Squadron stand in formation during a flagging ceremony in Mansfield.

The 37th IBCT

"FREEDOM ISN'T FREE, IT T

OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM

JANUA



COL Richard T. Curry, 37th Infantry Brigade Combat Team commander, slaps a newly-awarded combat patch onto the right-shoulder sleeve of a 237th Brigade Support Battalion Soldier during a June 14 ceremony at Camp Virginia, Kuwait.

Unit conducts combat patch ceremony on Army birthday

Story and photo by
Spc. Kimberly Johnson
37th IBCT Public Affairs

CAMP VIRGINIA, Kuwait—On the Army's 233rd birthday, Ohio Army National Guard members added history to their own ranks.

The 237th Brigade Support Battalion, 37th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, on June 14 donned the shoulder sleeve insignia-former wartime service—commonly known as a combat patch.

"The significance of a combat patch is that it's special recognition of a Soldier's service," said 237th BSB Command Sgt. Maj. William J. Horne. "But more importantly, it recognizes a point in his career and the relationship with his unit in a combat zone."

Horne said he wanted to hold the ceremony on the Army's birthday so his troops could remember the day for themselves and the Army. While most of the troops received their first combat patch, several had one or more previous deployments and now must choose which patch to wear on their right sleeve.

"One of the most prideful choices a Soldier makes is when that Soldier chooses his combat patch," Horne said.

Lt. Col. Gerard M. Garvey, commander of

237th BSB, received his second combat patch during the ceremony.

"This one is special to me because I am the commander," Garvey said. "I have the opportunity to personally recognize and pay tribute to the Soldiers for their service overseas in a time of war."

There's a general camaraderie in wearing the same uniform, but an even closer bond in wearing the same shoulder sleeve insignia.

"It's a bond. Nothing brings you closer than the 'remember when' times that these Soldiers now share," Garvey said.

The guest speaker was Col. Richard T. Curry, 37th IBCT commander, who emphasized the significance of the combat patch.

"The best part of awarding the combat patch is watching the Soldiers realize they've now accomplished something special," Curry said. "I always remind them that fellow Soldiers look at them a little differently now. Those who have yet to receive a combat patch, it's a look of envy. Those who have one, it's a look of understanding because they've been there, too." ●

Welcome Back!



Spc. Caleb L. Ortiz of Headquarters Battalion, 37th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, embraces a family member at the unit's welcome home ceremony at Camp Virginia, Kuwait. For more articles as well as video news pieces



Siblings and Ohio National Guard Soldiers 1st Lt. Brandon Bass (left) and Sgt. Brittany Bass pose with their hometown newspaper, the Hudson Hub-Times.

Planning your next Family reunion—how about Kuwait?

Story and photo by
1st Lt. Stefanie Kuntz
371st Sustainment Brigade

ALASAD, Iraq—With the current pace of mobilizations, Soldiers are increasingly required to separate from their loved ones for tours overseas. For Families with multiple Soldiers in their ranks, the effects swell as overlapping deployments keep spouses, siblings and parents separated for prolonged periods of time.

1st Lt. Brandon Bass arrived in Al Asad, Iraq, this past June to begin a yearlong tour as a battalion captain assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 371st Sustainment Brigade. His younger sister, Sgt. Brittany Bass, had been

Gazette



MAKES FOLKS LIKE YOU AND ME"

RY-DECEMBER 2008

HOME FINAL



2LT KIMBERLY SNOW / ADJ. GEN. DEPT. PUBLIC AFFAIRS

s and Headquarters Company, Special Troops
at Team, embraces his Family Dec. 7 during the
tenberg University in Springfield. For more on the
historic deployment, including more photos and
and music videos, log onto www.ong.ohio.gov.

Ohio National Guard leaders visit deployed Soldiers

Story and photo by
Spc. Kimberly Johnson
37th IBCT Public Affairs

CAMP ARIFJAN, Kuwait—Ohio's adjutant general and state command sergeant major traveled overseas to Kuwait and Iraq to visit deployed Servicemembers this summer.

Maj. Gen. Gregory L. Wayt and Command Sgt. Maj. William L. Gilliam journeyed thousands of miles to spend four days in mid-July visiting with Soldiers from the 37th Infantry Brigade Combat Team stationed in Kuwait. In Iraq, they visited Ohio Soldiers of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 371st Sustainment Brigade, the 583rd Law and Order Detachment and several Air National Guardmembers who volunteered for individual deployments.

"I met with Lt. Gen. James Lovelace, commander of U.S. Army Central, and he



State CSM William L. Gilliam speaks to Soldiers of the during a town hall meeting in July.

said he has never seen such professional Soldiers as those of you from the 37th," Wayt said. "You are a part of a winning team, and I could not be more proud of what you are doing here."

As the senior enlisted Soldier in Ohio, Gilliam expressed his pride in the Soldiers.

"I would hug each and every one of you if I could," Gilliam said with a smile. "But being a command sergeant major, I don't hug Soldiers."

Added Wayt: "The bottom line is that we couldn't do what we do around the world without our Citizen-Soldiers and the dedication you have to the mission of the 37th, to your community, to your state and to your country." ●

Troops perform flag detail proudly during time overseas



LEFT: Soldiers fold the American flag during a Nov. 9 retreat ceremony at Camp Arifjan.

mobilized with Company A, 237th Support Battalion, 37th Infantry Brigade Combat Team since early January and is a member of the quick reaction force on Camp Virginia, Kuwait. Both Soldiers are Ohio National Guardmembers.

While en route to Al Asad at one point, 1st Lt. Bass and his unit stopped at Camp Buehring, Kuwait—a staging post for troops moving into theatre. The two installations are a short drive from each other, which enabled the units to arrange two visits for the Bass siblings—one at each camp.

"My brother and I talked about how much our deployments have made us realize how fortunate we are and how much we take for granted on a daily basis," Sgt. Bass said. "It's comforting to meet my brother's battle buddies and know he's with such a great group of Soldiers." ●

Story and photo by
Spc. Kimberly Johnson
37th IBCT Public Affairs

CAMP ARIFJAN, Kuwait—When members of the 37th Infantry Brigade Combat Team arrived at this Southwest Asia duty station for a yearlong tour in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, they inherited a duty which they undertook

with a great deal of reverence—rendering honors to their nation's flag.

"My Soldiers want to get it right each and every time," Thomas said. "They go the extra mile to ensure they are in the proper uniform and they look and act professional.

"As of today, we have flown over 310 flags for different Servicemembers," he said.

As the brigade prepared to return home from their yearlong deployment, so did they prepare to entrust the duty to their replacements in the 45th Fires Brigade, Oklahoma National Guard.

"This program my Soldiers do here is successful because of their sense of duty, honor and pride," Thomas said. "I could not be prouder of them. They are what a great unit is made of." ●

CUTTING HURRICANE GUSTAV DOWN TO SIZE



LEFT: SGT Justin D. Camp of the Loraine, Ohio-based 837th Mobility Augmentation Company and Justin I. Parker, a student at Riveroaks Elementary School in Baton Rouge, La., show each other where their hometowns are on a map. **RIGHT:** PFC William M. Mercer of the 837th helps remove debris from the playground at Riveroaks Elementary School.

Ohio National Guard's MAC gives back

Story and photos by
Spc. Eunice Alicea Valentín
196th Mobile Public Affairs Det.

BATON ROUGE, La.—Like toy figurines from a Pixar-animated movie, Soldiers are at work in a school playground. The children observe in admiration as Soldiers climb onto fallen 20-foot trees, cranking saws and cutting through the bark. Colorful tether balls lie in piles of debris and a play set is buried under the branches of a tree.

Students at Riveroaks Elementary School returned to school Sept. 11 after Hurricane Gustav—the second worst the city of Baton Rouge has experienced in recent years—stormed through Louisiana as a Category 2 storm in late August.

“I was watching the news,” third-grader Justin I. Parker said, “I saw the hurricane may hit part of Louisiana.”

Several schools and Head Start program buildings were significantly

damaged, which caused delays in classes restarting. While the Baton Rouge Public School Board and city contractors were working those issues, the needs of schools like Riveroaks Elementary were on hold, Principal Shilonda Shamlin said.

Power lines and fallen trees pocked the school playground and the children were not able to enjoy recess outside.

“We keep them active in class with math drills and musical chairs,” Shamlin said.

More than a handful of the combat engineers on the school grounds were parents themselves and understood how sacred these playing fields can be to the children.

Soldiers in orange hard hats worked quickly to make the playground safer. And overcast skies and occasional showers did not discourage them from completing their mission.

“We’re already ahead of schedule and will finish clearing the grounds (in a few days),” said Sgt. 1st Class Sam J. Livingston of Ohio Army National Guard’s 837th Mobility Augmentation Company (MAC), at the time.

“Our community is in high spirits and grateful for the help the National Guard is providing,” Shamlin said.

Parents also demonstrated their appreciation by thanking Soldiers as they dropped their children off at the start of the school day.

“There is no damage to our school, only to our beautiful trees and playground,” Shamlin said. “Seven trees on the playground are uprooted.”

Riveroaks’ faculty and other Baton Rouge residents saw similar damage to their homes as they cleaned up the remains of trees that crashed down on rooftops, lawns and vehicles in neighboring areas.

“Clearing these grounds is necessary to protect flying debris from causing worse damage in case of another storm hitting,” Livingston said.

While the adults took a more logical approach to clearing the playgrounds of debris, Justin and other students understood that now they will get back to playing on the basketball court and soccer on the field a lot sooner.

“I’m glad the Soldiers are here to clean up the playground,” Justin said.

The 837th MAC is made up of combat engineers stationed in Lorain, Ohio, and these Soldiers were just a small group of the 1,500 Ohio National Guard Soldiers activated in support of Hurricane Gustav Relief efforts.

To show appreciation, students wrote thank-you letters to the Soldiers. One by one, the children from Mrs. Blank’s kindergarten class presented their homemade cards to a proud Soldier, and marched back into a single file line.

“There’s nothing better than to help these children restore their playground,” said Staff Sgt. Willy G. Sobczak, a combat engineer with the 837th.

Soldiers of 837th held a flag-raising ceremony Sept. 12 outside of the school and conducted a Meal, Ready-to-Eat (MRE) tasting for the students. **BG**



SPC Matthew Garofalo of the Ohio Army National Guard's 1484th Transportation Company loads a case of water into a vehicle Sept. 11 in Plattenville, La.

1484th Transportation Company Soldiers aid Louisiana residents

Story and photo by Spc. Sam Beavers
196th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

LABEDIEVILLE, La.—After many days of traveling and what seemed like an eternity of waiting, Soldiers from the 1484th Transportation Company were able to do what they came here to do—help the residents of Louisiana affected by Hurricane Gustav.

“It has been a long journey, and today Soldiers are able to see the fruition of that journey,” said Cpt. Bill Epley, commander of the 1484th.

That day was Sept. 10 in Labedieville, Plattenville and Pierre Park, La., where 1484th Soldiers received operational control of three commodities distribution sites from the Louisiana National Guard.

Epley, as well as site noncommissioned officers, said the transition went smoothly as about 20 Soldiers at each site handed out thousands of pounds of food, water, ice and plastic tarps.

“The sites have good organization, probably the best it can be,” said Charles Rodgers, a volunteer working with the Army Corps of Engineers who was in charge of monitoring the distribution sites.

The citizens benefiting from the sites also thought they were well-run and expressed their appreciation for the National Guardmembers manning them.

“Its awesome,” said Doug LeBlanc, a Louisiana resident waiting in line at the Labedieville distribution site. “We really would be in jam without this.”

Not only did the residents appreciate the National Guard presence, but the Soldiers enjoyed helping as well.

“It feels good to be helping out,” said Pfc. Derek Luna of the 1484th.

For Luna, giving out essential supplies to Louisiana residents was especially heartwarming because three years ago when Hurricanes Katrina and Rita hit, he was the beneficiary of the National Guard-run distribution sites.

“They helped me out three years ago and I was excited to come down here and return the favor,” Luna said. **SG**

To read more articles, view photo galleries and watch video news stories on the Ohio National Guard's response to Hurricane Gustav, log on to www.ong.ohio.gov.

Ohio, Serbia continue cooperation, familiarization



SPC SAM BEAVERS / 196TH MOBILE PUBLIC AFFAIRS DETACHMENT

CAMP GRAYLING, Mich.—There is more than one way to open a door.

Soldiers from the Ohio Army National Guard's Company B, 2nd Battalion, 19th Special Forces Group showed their counterparts in the Serbian 63rd Parachutist Battalion just that June 14 while conducting a joint demolitions exercise at Camp Grayling, a National Guard installation in northern Michigan.

The two countries' elite troops were working together for the second time through a unit-level exchange with the National Guard Bureau State Partnership Program, which teams National Guard states with developing democracies throughout the world, to build long-term relationships and foster trust and cooperation between countries. Their first exchange was conducted nine months prior in Nis, Serbia, as the two countries celebrated their first-year anniversary of military cooperation.

"The relationships that have been established have gone beyond me and General Ponoš (Lt. Col. Gen. Zdravko Ponoš, chief of Serbian Armed Forces)," said Maj. Gen. Gregory L. Wayt, Ohio adjutant general. "Members of our staffs have been text messaging each other and building personal relationships. Members of the 63rd Parachutist Battalion and our Bravo Company 2-19 are building relationships. This partnership just keeps getting stronger."

The June exchanges at Camp Grayling, Mich., and Columbus, Ohio, as with the September 2007 exchange, involved several contingents, this one also including operations personnel as well as public affairs teams.

The focus of the operations delegation during the visit was a



SFC STEVE JOHNSON / 196TH MOBILE PUBLIC AFFAIRS DETACHMENT

LEFT: MSG Rod Goss, team sergeant in Company B, 2nd Battalion, 19th Special Forces Group instructs Soldiers from the Republic of Serbia's 63rd Parachutist Battalion, Special Forces Brigade on how to use explosives to breach a door June 14 at Camp Grayling, Mich. **ABOVE:** A Serbian Armed Forces soldier marches a group of fellow students while practicing drill and ceremony exercises during the Basic Noncommissioned Officers Course (BNCOC) April 22 at Rickenbacker Army Enclave in Columbus.

general officer and sergeant major orientation, Wayt said. The delegation traveled with Wayt to Fort McCoy, Wis., where the Ohio Army National Guard's 371st Sustainment Brigade had been for the previous two months as they prepared to deploy to Iraq.

"We wanted to show them how we do post-mobilization training, how officers and noncommissioned officers get units ready to deploy," Wayt said. "This is part of that relationship."

One chief goal for Ponoš is to develop the Serbian noncommissioned officer corps, Wayt said.

"The Serbs are spending a lot of time and effort in building their NCO corps," said Col. Jerry Rees, director of joint operations for the Ohio National Guard.

Part of that effort has involved studying the structure and function of several foreign militaries, as well as sending Serbian troops to other countries' noncommissioned officer academies, including Ohio's 147th Regiment, Regional Training Institute. A group of about a dozen Serbian and Hungarian noncommissioned officers attended and graduated from the Basic Noncommissioned Officer Course and Total Army Instructor Training Course at the Columbus-based 147th this past April.

The chief of the Public Relations Department in the Serbian Ministry of Defense, Navy Capt. Petar Boskovic, and members of his staff, along with the chief of the Public Relations Department for the Serbian Armed Forces general staff, Lt. Col. Robert Sreckovic, arrived in Columbus June 8 for a weeklong exchange with the Ohio National Guard's public affairs staff.

The exchange included the role of public affairs in the broader, statewide response to natural disasters or other such events. In coordination with the Ohio Emergency Management Agency (OEMA), they provided a detailed introduction to the process by which the state responds to natural or man-made disasters and how the National Guard and its public affairs operations function in a coordinated manner as part of the larger response.

"Our goals are essentially the same—to tell the organizational story, to ensure that the public knows us and trusts us and to generate support for our members and their Families," said Dr. Mark Wayda, the Ohio National Guard's director of government and public affairs.

ADJ. GEN. DEPT. PUBLIC AFFAIRS **86**

Combined staff exercise highlights September exchange in Serbia

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

BELGRADE, Serbia—It was a familiar scenario for many Ohio National Guardmembers who were part of the approximately 40-person contingent that traveled in early September to the capital here for a U.S. European Command Military to Military Contact Team multi-part exchange through the National Guard State Partnership Program.



Serbian Armed Forces COL Bratislav Martinovic (left) and Ohio Army National Guard CPT Andrew Barrowcliff conduct map reconnaissance during an exercise.

The main event for the weeklong exchange was a combined staff exercise between the Serbian Armed Forces Joint Operations Command and the Ohio National Guard Joint Force Headquarters, to learn how each other's militaries formulate plans and make decisions. Serbia currently uses the NATO five-step military decision making process (MDMP), while the U.S. military employs a seven-step process.

The exercise scenario—dubbed Joint Exercise Tamis '08—revolved around a flood, a situation with which the Ohio National Guard has much experience, assisting with Ohio flood relief operations nearly every year. Prior to the exercise, many of the Soldiers and Airmen had just took part in planning the deployment of about 1,500 Ohio National Guardmembers to Louisiana to assist civilian authorities in Hurricane Gustav recovery efforts.

The scenario was based on actual flooding that occurred in Serbia a

few years back—due to heavy rainfall during the previous week in Blueland (Serbia), the water level of the Tamis River and its tributaries had risen above normal levels and flooded several villages along the border with Brownland (Romania). The mission was to deploy Blueland Armed Forces to evacuate displaced citizens, protect property, establish security, and repair roads and embankments.

The combined staff exercise would require the staff of the Serbian Armed Forces Joint Operations Command to take the lead, assisted by Ohio's Joint Force Headquarters Staff, to conduct a mission analysis, develop varied courses of action and brief the deputy commander of the Joint Operations Command so a final plan could be approved.

Col. Milan Mojsilovic, deputy commander for the Serbian Armed Forces Joint Operations Command, and Lt. Col. Greg Schnulo, deputy chief of the joint staff for the Ohio National Guard, co-directed the integrated exercise, which involved more than 50 officers and senior noncommissioned officers—about 25 from each country's military, said to Col. Jerry Rees, the ONG's director of joint operations.

It was the first time a state's Joint Force Headquarters has conducted an exercise of this magnitude with a partner country.

Working in a multi-national environment at the joint staff level "is something that will become significantly more common as we work together in the international community," Rees said.

What started out as a cautious, "Hello," exchanged at the beginning of the week had morphed into a friendly, "Zdravo," the equivalent Serbian greeting, by the end of the week. As the week progressed, members of both the Ohio JFHQ and SAF JOC staffs became more comfortable with each other and more familiar with how they each conducted MDMP.

"What was most impressive for me was the teamwork," Mojsilovic said at the culmination of the exercise. "It was impressive to see at the beginning of the week, on the left side were the ONG members and on the right side were the SAF members. Today, in front of me, I have one (joint) staff."

In addition to the combined staff exercise, the weeklong event was comprised of three other segments occurring simultaneously—a visit by Maj. Gen. Gregory L. Wayt with his counterpart, Lt. Col. Gen Zdravko Ponoš, chief of the Serbian Armed Forces; an air force exchange among pilots and crew members; and a senior Army and Air noncommissioned officer development symposium. **8G**

Partnership unofficially began in WWII

PRANJANI, Serbia—They were peasants who selflessly risked their lives to aid Allied troops who were caught behind enemy lines during World War II. More than half a century after their heroism, they are finally getting some recognition.

The villagers of Pranjani and their place in history have been chronicled in the 2007 book, "The Forgotten 500: The Untold Story of the Men who Risked All for the Greatest Rescue Mission of World War Two," by Gregory A. Freeman, as well as through the work of Lt. Col. John Cappello, Air Force attaché to the U.S. Embassy in Belgrade, who has organized several local and regional presentations and photographic exhibitions to educate Serbians about their contributions.

During the second half of World War II, hundreds of American Airmen were sent on dangerous missions over Europe during which their job was to target oil refineries that were providing fuel for Nazi Germany's aircraft, tanks and vehicles. These missions would cost many Americans their lives. Those who survived the

Nazi retaliations had to bail out of their planes over foreign territory in order to survive. They landed in the hills of then-Yugoslavia, mainly in Serbia, enemy occupied territory that was controlled by Gen. Draza Mihailovich, his Chetnik forces and the peasants who were loyal to them. The Airmen were now among freedom fighters, loyal to the democratic Allies.

Pranjani villagers hid the Airmen in their houses, feeding them and providing them with medical treatment, until the Halyard (meaning the "lifter") Mission was conducted, airlifting the Airmen from a makeshift airfield and back to the safety of Allied territory.

As part of an Ohio-Serbia State Partnership Program exchange in September, an Ohio National Guard contingent paid homage to the current citizens of Pranjani, some of whom were alive during World War II and helped with the mission. Guard leaders presented a framed State of Ohio burgee, in appreciation for the Pranjani citizens' assistance those many years ago. The Ohio delegation also toured the site where the makeshift air strip once existed in what is now a rural cornfield, one very similar to any you would see dotting the Southeastern Ohio countryside. **ADJ. GEN. DEPT. PUBLIC AFFAIRS 8G**



STEVE TOTH / ADJ. GEN. DEPT. PUBLIC AFFAIRS

LtCol Greg Schnulo (left) and COL Jerry Rees (right) present a framed Ohio burgee to the citizens of Pranjani, Serbia.

BUCKEYES TRAINING BUCKEYES



Story and photos by Spc. Ryan A. Cleary >>> <<< 196th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

CAMP GRAYLING, Mich.—Soldiers dressed in full combat gear peered upward at their 11-foot-high destination. Beads of perspiration gathered on their brows as they waited their turn to throw the grappling hook through the opening and scale the wooden wall.

As the first Soldier began to climb, the others, from the Ohio Army National Guard's Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 137th Aviation Regiment, watched intently from below.

The instructor, from the Pre-mobilization Training Assistance Element, Ohio Army National Guard, demonstrated proper scaling techniques during a Military Operations in Urban Terrain scenario June 11 during the Annual Training 2008 period at Camp Grayling.

The PTAE, a program in which Ohio troops teach their own, is conducting the training based on tactics, techniques and procedures learned in the Global War on Terrorism. These skills, often learned at great cost, are passed down by Soldiers returning from theater to those readying for deployment.

"It's the Soldier skills that you lose when you get MOS (military occupational specialty) specific," said 2nd Lt. Carla Cavanagh, of HHC, 1-137th. "And it's been very rewarding since you never know what you're going to encounter."

From supply and logistics to medics and pilots, the Soldiers of the 137th were learning mission-critical skills that will make them more proficient in their warrior tasks overseas and help them survive on the battlefield.

"The training is very new to the National Guard, and it's very important," said Staff Sgt. Frank Loera, non-commissioned officer in charge and primary instructor for the reflexive-fire range. "If I can assist in cutting a Soldier's deployment time, it makes me feel like I'm doing the job I'm supposed to be doing."

By delegating some of the required pre-mobilization training to the PTAE during the troops' annual training periods, Soldiers' time away from home is cut by about 21 days and the quality of training is better since it is Buckeyes training Buckeyes, said Lt. Col. Scott Jonda, commander of the Ohio PTAE.

On ranges, instructors placed top priority on informing their students of proper tasks, conditions and standards. Safety is a principle concern with the PTAE staff, and instructors stringently-enforced standards.

"Especially on the reflexive-fire range, safety is paramount," Loera said.

Proper technique and competency in warrior skills such as urban operations, reacting to direct and indirect fire, locating improvised explosive devices and reflexive fire—just a few of the skills taught by the PTAE—are equally important, even when troops don't realize it.

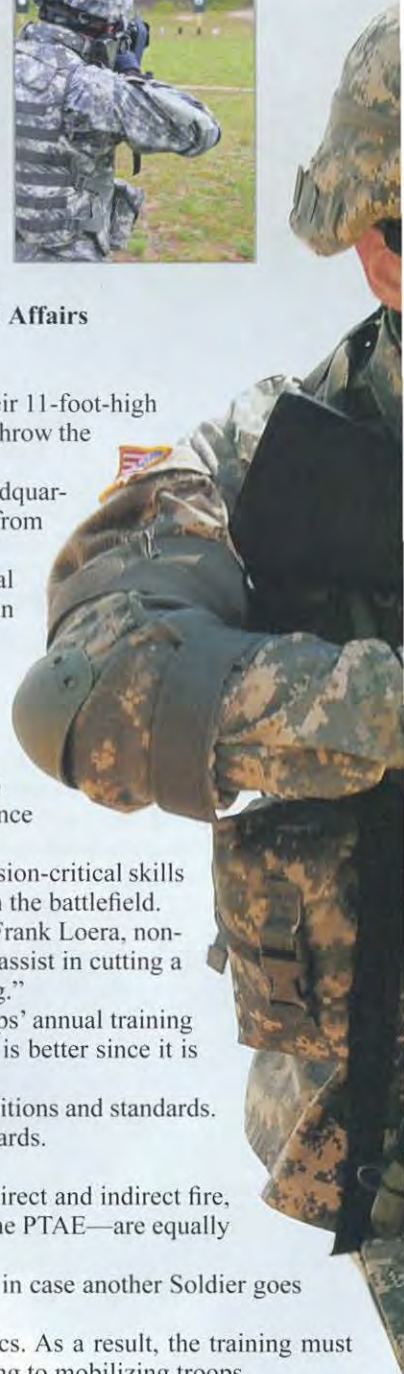
"A lot of medics think they don't need this, but you may find yourself needing to step up in case another Soldier goes down," said Cleveland, Ohio-resident Spc. Mario Whitney of the 1-137th.

With an ever-evolving battlefield, Army doctrine continues to adapt to new enemy tactics. As a result, the training must continue to adapt—and the PTAE is one of the main delivery systems of this adaptive training to mobilizing troops.

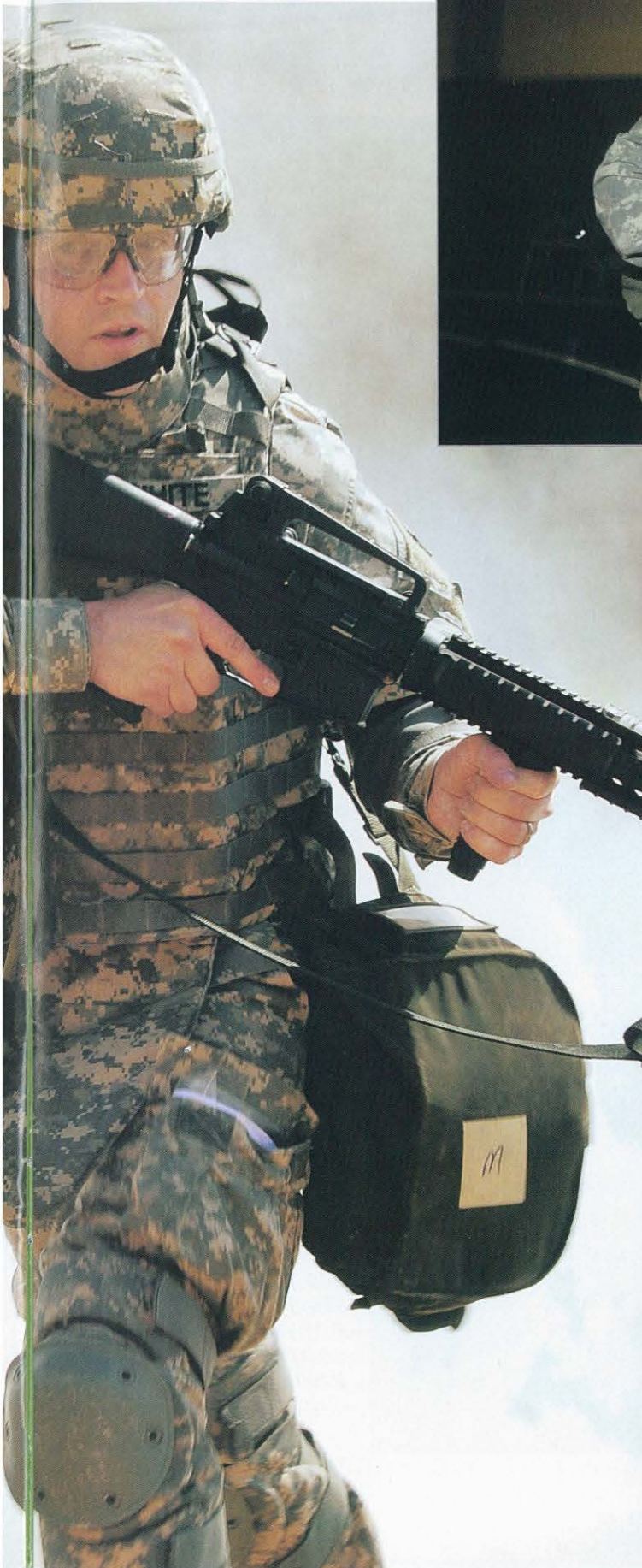
"I'm a medic and don't get this training a lot, and you can get tasked to do anything, or you can find yourself down and you have to know what to do in an unexpected situation," said Sgt. Julie Toth of Gahanna, Ohio, a medic with the 1-137th.

For most PTAE instructors, these unexpected situations are not unfamiliar territory—most have deployed in support of the Global War on Terrorism. In fact, volunteers must apply and interview before being selected. This ensures only the most reputable and credible instructors are teaching Ohio's Soldiers.

"We do a lot better job than the active Army," said Staff Sgt. Matt Hunt, platoon sergeant for the PTAE's Company C. "It's more realistic when you come out like this, it's just more fun for the Soldiers. It's not just another day and we volunteered for it because we're passionate about it." **AG**



OHIO'S PTAE PREPARES FELLOW SOLDIERS TO DEPLOY



Road tripping during annual training

1487th Transportation Company Soldiers practice skills with long-haul mission between two states

Story and photos by
Spc. Diego J. Robles
196th Mobile PA Det.

CAMPGRAYLING, Mich.—Soldiers from the 1487th Transportation Company don't conduct what many troop might consider a typical annual training.

Primarily made up of truck drivers, the Soldiers trained this year by driving a loop between Camp Grayling, Mich., Newark, Ohio, and Camp Perry, near Port Clinton, Ohio.

Their mission during annual training 2008 was to support mobilizing units by transporting their gear and equipment efficiently and safely. They conducted trailer transfers from Camp Grayling to Camp Perry and then to Newark. Sgt. 1st Class Ward M. Dohner, 2nd Platoon sergeant, said his Soldiers can haul anything, anywhere.

"We've been doing this since the sixth (of June) and we'll do it until the 24th," Dohner said.

Although most of the transfers had been done with empty trailers, Dohner said his platoon still met deadlines and "hits the road hard."

"We achieve all our goals with consistency the way the postman delivers the mail at noon," Dohner said.

Driving is not always easy, said

Staff Sgt. Mark T.B. Shields. He's been with the unit for 18 years and has deployed several times.

"Driving a truck is interesting because you get to see (parts of) this country you wouldn't have otherwise," Shields said.

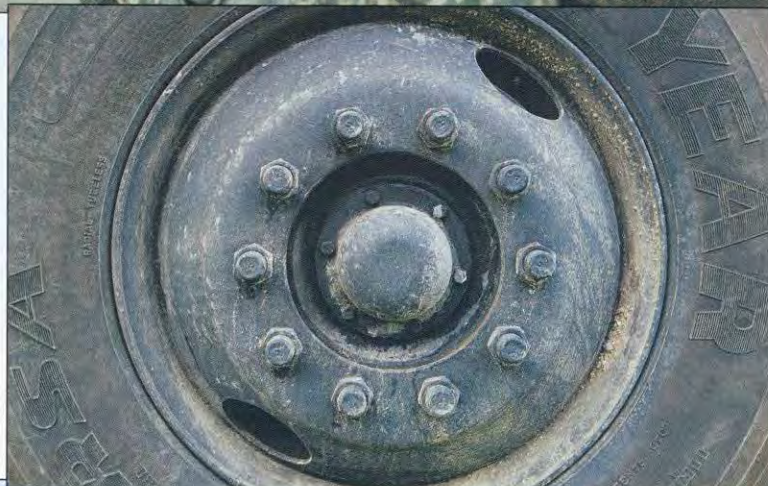
The job requires long hours with early wake ups and late nights, but having his wife, Sgt. Jennifer Allcorn-Shields, in the unit doesn't hurt, he said.

Drivers are prohibited from driving more than 10 hours or 500 miles without at least an eight-hour break. Dohner said this sometimes proves difficult because of the nature of the job and the demands they see before and after annual training.

This annual training period, the platoon drove routes back and forth between Camp Perry and Camp Grayling; a six-and-a-half-hour, 300-mile trek. Due to the restrictions, however, the drivers could not do a complete loop and instead included Newark in the loop because it's only a 280-mile round trip from Camp Perry.

"As we are getting ready for the back-haul, everybody wants their tents picked up, their water buffaloes and broken-down Humvees towed back home. We can do it, but we'll do it safely and within the (regulations)," Dohner said. "Logistics and transportation is one of the fundamentals of a successful military and that's why people should take what we do seriously." **AG**

To read more articles, view photo galleries and watch video news stories on the Ohio Army National Guard conducting annual training, log on to www.ong.ohio.gov.



A week for Guard kids

Camp Kelly's Island provides venue for fun, bonding



TOP LEFT: Ohio National Guard Family Readiness Program staff member SGT William Ingram helps a camper with a craft project. **LEFT:** MG Gregory L. Wayt, Ohio adjutant general, checks his notes while talking to campers and their families at Camp Kelly's Island (above). With him is Faith Hinton, daughter of MAJ Pat Hinton of the 371st Sustainment Brigade.

Story and photos by Steve Toth, Adj. Gen. Dept. Public Affairs

KELLY'S ISLAND—A record 168 children of military Servicemembers had the opportunity this August to learn and experience things that they won't necessarily find in a book, in a scenic setting along the shores of Lake Erie.

I don't think we knew what we were getting into when we started this," quipped Lt. Col. Robert "Buck" Bramlish, Ohio National Guard Family Readiness Program director, speaking about Camp Kelly's Island, a collaboration of the ONG and Operation: Military Kids, part of the 4-H/Army Youth Development Program.

In just a few short years, the ONG's Camp Kelly's Island has doubled in attendance from about 80 campers attending over a long weekend to now a weeklong time frame.

They may be outgrowing the campsite, but Bramlish wants to get the word out about the program. The camp is open to any Servicemember's child, age 9 to 14, regardless of the Servicemember's component or branch, he said. Cost per camper, which is subsidized by several sponsorships, was just \$45 this year, and included room, board and activities.

Officially launched in April 2005, Operation: Military Kids is a nationwide effort to support children impacted by their parents' deployment. Since its inception, OMK has touched 65,000 military youth and provided information to 7,200 community members across the United States, according to information from the OMK website.

The main goal of Camp Kelly's Island is to connect children of Servicemembers, especially Ohio National Guardmembers, who parents may be currently deployed or facing an imminent deployment, according to Sue Ann Carroll, Ohio National Guard Family Programs state youth coordinator. Through shared experiences and interaction, it helps build resilience and strength in children who are potentially facing a traumatic event with one of their parents leaving home for a year or more.

"It's pretty cool," said Mikayla Zentz, whose father, Sgt. 1st Class Jeffery Zentz, recently returned from duty in Kuwait with the 37th

Infantry Brigade Combat Team. "(You learn) you're not the only one who has parents who are deployed."

Throughout the week campers participated in and experienced an array of activities, including canoeing, fishing, crafts, archery, conducting a military-style flag detail, making friendship bracelets, witnessing a CH-47 Chinook helicopter landing and participating in an interactive demonstration and scavenger hunt with a Naval Reserve SEAL Team—the SEAL members showed the campers how they use camouflage during their missions, and at the end the campers attempted to find SEALs who had hidden in some very innovative ways and locations.

"They have fun. Some of them are homesick at first. For some of them, it's their first camping experience," Carroll said. "They go home exhausted and can't stop talking about it for weeks."

Carroll said, overall, parents give her very positive feedback, usually gauged by the reaction and comments from their children after returning home from camp.

"We get very positive feedback," Carroll said. "Last year, we got an e-mail from a mother—(for) her son (whose father was deployed); it was the highlight of (the son's) time during his (father's) deployment. (The mother) thinks that's the thing that helped (the son) make it through the deployment."

Maj. Gen. Gregory L. Wayt, Ohio adjutant general, visited on the final day of camp to take part in the closing ceremonies along with about 250 Family members who took a ferry from Marblehead to Kelly's Island to attend.

"These (camps) are the most important things we do for our Families," Wayt said. "It's a place for (the children) to make friends that last a lifetime."

Bramlish noted one plan for the future is to hold a camp where military parents don't just drop off their children, but stay and eat, sleep, participate and bond with them for a week. For more information on future camps, go to www.ong.ohio.gov/Family or contact Carroll at sue.ann.carroll@us.army.mil or 1-877-460-2177 **86**

To watch a video news story on Camp Kelly's Island, log on to www.ong.ohio.gov.



SRA JODI JOICE / 180TH FIGHTER WING

Col Mark E. Bartman, 180th Fighter Wing commander and U.S. Rep. Marcy Kaptur (D-Toledo) walk among the rows of solar panels at the 180th Fighter Wing's Alternative Energy site—part of an effort to reduce the 180th's use of limited fossil fuel and dependence on foreign energy sources.

180th Fighter Wing marks opening of alternative energy site on base

TOLEDO—The 180th Fighter Wing took a step closer this fall to becoming fully energy independent.

U.S Rep. Marcy Kaptur (D-Toledo) and Col. Mark E. Bartman, 180th commander, pulled the symbolic electric switch Sept. 27, officially opening the Alternative Energy Site as dozens of guests and distinguished visitors cheered.

Opening the site commemorates the completion of Phase One. It celebrates more than two years of hard work and dedication, because of a concert of local business leaders uniting with military and political leaders to see the project to fruition.

“Today what we are about is to produce a prototype Guard research site like none other in America,” said Kaptur. “This is one of the most satisfying moments of my congressional career.”

In January 2006, Kaptur obtained Defense Department Research Development Testing and Engineering funds for the 180th FW to develop a renewable energy site. The DOD's program objective is to demonstrate the usefulness of renewable energy sources to reduce U.S. dependence on fossil fuel and reduce harmful emissions generated by burning fossil fuels for energy.

Kaptur was instrumental in bringing the Alternative Energy Site here, and secured the necessary \$8.2 million dollars for fiscal years 2006-08 to fund the development of a 730-kilowatt solar electric generation plant. The congresswoman said she was honored to be a part of the foresight of community leaders who held a “glimpse of

the future.”

A 10-acre area of the 180th FW was identified and research and development began in June 2006, with the construction of the renewable energy site starting in October 2007. The 180th FW Alternative Energy Site will be constructed over a three-phase period. The first phase, now just completed, will provide 200 kilowatts of electric production to the unit. The project's second phase, scheduled to be completed in January 2009, will bring the site's energy production to 504 kilowatts. The project's third phase, scheduled for completion by next October, will provide about 25 percent of the electrical demand at the base through the use of about 10,500 solar panels which could provide an annual utility savings of an estimated \$100,000.

“We are at a very interesting crossroads in the area of alternative energy,” Bartman said. “Our future in Northwest Ohio looks pretty bright and sunny.” **TECH. SGT. ANNETTE R. KORNASIEWICZ / 180TH FIGHTER WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS**

OHARNG Special Forces company deploys to Afghanistan

GROVEPORT—Applause from Family members and friends filled the Groveport Recreation Center as about 60 Soldiers from Company B, 2nd Battalion, 19th Special Forces Group (Airborne) exited the gymnasium after a call to duty ceremony Sept. 19.

Unit members soon will deploy in support of Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan over the next year.

“These are the ambassadors of peace, hope and compassion,” said Maj. Gen. Matthew L. Kambic, Ohio's assistant adjutant general for Army. “This unit has served more in this campaign than any other in the Ohio National Guard.”

These Soldiers will go on to write another chapter in the in history of the Ohio National Guard during the Global War on Terrorism, Kambic said.

Since the beginning of the Global War on Terrorism, in the wake of the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, Bravo Company has deployed to Kosovo, Oman and Iraq. The men of Company B, have operated under a high operational tempo since the unit's federal recognition in 1996, but this tempo

has increased significantly over the past seven years, Kambic said.

Maj. Larry Henry, Company B commander, noted the difference in his unit's deployment, as compared to other types of units, is that they deploy knowing that they be conducting offensive operations throughout their deployment.

“We do not look forward to being away from our Families, but we do not shrink from our nation's call,” Henry said. “These are ordinary men, who do extraordinary things.”

The Soldiers of Company B have a history of answering that call. During the unit's existence, members have deployed to Haiti, Eritrea, Jordan, Austria, Norway, Poland, Hungary, Morocco and Kuwait as well. **SFC. ZACHARY R. FEHRMAN / 196TH MOBILE PUBLIC AFFAIRS DETACHMENT**

Ohio Army, Air National Guard recruiting at historic levels

COLUMBUS—The statistics are astounding as Ohio made recruiting and retention history, solidifying the future of the Ohio National Guard.

Both the Ohio Air and Army National Guard exceeded their enlistment goals for the 2008 fiscal year, which ended Sept. 30. Both branches attribute their success to changes in the way they do business, as well the unprecedented caliber of applicants waiting to join the ranks.

The Army National Guard had its second-highest recruiting year ever, ending with 10,926 Soldiers, and the Air National Guard surpassed its goal for the first time in eight years, finishing the year with 112.3 percent of its authorized strength. **CPT MICHELLE SMITH / ADJ. GEN. DEPT PUBLIC AFFAIRS**

AMVETS, Ohio National Guard join forces to assist veterans with jobs

COLUMBUS—AMVETS (American Veterans) of Ohio, in partnership with the Ohio National Guard announce the opening of a veteran-friendly web site, www.ohiovetscan.com.

Launched in September, the website lists veteran-friendly employers and job openings. Veterans, National Guardmembers, reservists and members of the active components can also post their resumes on the site.

A fully automated site that will allow all veterans and employers to post and update their information as the need arises will be launched in early spring 2009.

For more information contact: George Ondick, executive director, AMVETS

Department of Ohio, at 1395 E. Dublin Granville Road, No. 222, Columbus, Ohio 43229, by phone, (614) 431-6990 or via e-mail, ohamvets@aol.com; or Lt. Col. Lisa Gammon, Ohio National Guard Employer Outreach officer, at 2825 West Dublin Granville Road, Columbus, Ohio 43235, by phone, (614) 336-7106 or via e-mail, lisa.gammon@us.army.mil. **OHIO NATIONAL GUARD EMPLOYER OUTREACH**

Girl Scout salutes female Soldiers

RICKENBACKER AIR NATIONAL GUARD BASE—A Girl Scout from Amanda, Ohio, has taken it upon herself to salute female Soldiers with donated items she collected for the Ohio Army National Guard—specifically for female Soldiers deployed overseas.

Shantae O'Hare, 17, has been a Girl Scout for 12 years and recently completed a project earning her the Girl Scout Gold Award, the organization's highest honor. The project, dubbed 'Girl to Woman' involved many hours dedicated to collecting items and promoting the needs of female Soldiers in Iraq and Afghanistan. O'Hare's father, Staff Sgt. Dale O'Hare, is a helicopter maintenance technician with the Company D, 1st Battalion, 137th Aviation Regiment at Rickenbacker Army Enclave in Columbus. Shantae worked independently on the project for almost a year and collected more than 20 boxes.

The Girl Scout Gold Award requires a lot of time and dedication. According to the organization website, the Gold Award "...focuses on a 14- to 18-year-old Girl Scout's interests and personal journey through leadership skills, career explorations, self-improvement, and service...."

O'Hare placed donation boxes at establishments around Amanda. Her efforts and public promotion netted items including toiletries, perfume, body wash, gum, batteries and phone cards. O'Hare also received cash and gift cards which she then used to purchase more items for the boxes.

O'Hare said she

was inspired by watching news events and noticing the many women in the National Guard performing tough jobs in the dust and heat, often away from modern facilities. The project was her way to recognize their service and let them know that their work is appreciated, she said.

"Working on this project has helped me to grow," O'Hare said. "I have gained confidence, leadership and speaking skills."

Amy Rosier, secretary of the unit Family readiness group, accepted the donation and will work with the Ohio Air National Guard to ship the items to the Iraqi and Afghanistan theaters. **SPC JEFF ROSIER / CO. D, 1-137TH AVIATION**

State Warrant Officer Candidate School offers challenges, opportunity

COLUMBUS—Warrant Officer Candidate School is a rigorous school that is both mentally and physically challenging.

The 147th Regiment (Regional Training Institute) WOCS program consists of three phases:

■ Phase I, Distance Learning—candidates report to Rickenbacker Army Enclave to begin their training by conducting initial classes online. During this phase, candidates not only learn about themselves while writing their autobiographies, but they also get to know the other candidates as they establish their strengths and weaknesses.

■ Phase II, Monthly Resident Training—candidates are attached to the RTI for five months where they receive academic instruction and are placed in leadership roles. While in a leadership role, they are held responsible and accountable for not only their actions but their squad members' as well. They are given several diagnostic

Army Physical Fitness Tests to ensure they are physically fit for the third and final phase. Also during Phase II, candidates are given additional duties which must be completed along with other assigned tasks. These additional duties help prepare junior officers in planning, preparing and gathering resources to accomplish a mission. The candidates also have to conduct Army Warrior Tasks and battle drills. Every candidate will present a block of instruction



COURTESY PHOTO

During the final two-week period of Army National Guard Warrant Officer Candidate School, candidates participate in teambuilding exercises such as the Leadership Reaction Course.

and supervise the training. They also receive training in Army Drill and Ceremonies and officer customs and courtesies. Also during Phase II, candidates complete two- and four-mile road marches with a 50-pound load.

This year, the RTI WOCS class implemented a community project. Class 08-001 worked with the Columbus Recreation and Parks Department and assisted in maintaining the grounds at city parks.

■ Phase III, Field Learning Exercise (FLX)—During this two-week period, candidates prepare for and conduct an FLX at Camp Atterbury, Ind., during which they occupy and support a forward operating base (FOB). They also conduct lanes training and Military Operations in Urban Terrain (MOUT) training. During this time, candidates in leadership positions are involved in experiential learning while emphasis is placed on lessons learned from Operations Enduring and Iraqi Freedom. Candidates are also involved in teambuilding exercises such as the Leadership Reaction Course. During this phase, candidates are continually evaluated on their leadership skills and are integrated with candidates from other states to make-up full platoons. At the conclusion of this phase, candidates will complete a mandatory 6.2-mile road march with a 50-pound load.

Completion of Phase III results in the appointment of the candidate to warrant officer in a ceremony at the Indiana War Memorial in Indianapolis.

Ohio was one of the original 13 states to stand up the Regional Training Institute (RTI) Warrant Officer Candidate School (WOCS) program in 2006. Since then, Ohio has graduated 48 candidates in three classes and the program has proven to be very successful in producing quality leaders and technical experts for the Ohio Army National Guard.

For more information on WOCS or other commissioning routes, contact Warrant Officer Anthony Phillips at (614) 376-5054 or anthony.phillips5@us.army.mil. **CW5 D.K. TAYLOR / STATE COMMAND CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER**



SPC JEFF ROSIER / CO. D, 1-137TH AVIATION

Girl Scout Shantae O'Hare (second from right) delivers donated items for female Soldiers deployed overseas. Also pictured are O'Hare's parents, SSG Dale (right) and Pamela O'Hare (second from left) and Company D, 1st Battalion, 137th Aviation Regiment Family Readiness Group Secretary Amy Rosier.



TODD CRAMER / ADJ. GEN. DEPT. PHOTO LAB

Ohio's assistant adjutant general for Army, Maj. Gen. Matthew Kambic (left), presents SSG James Wilson Jr. (right), a recruiter from Cleveland-area's Delta Company, with the Recruiting and Retention Noncommissioned Officer of the Year and Rookie of the Year awards during the battalion's annual dining out.

OHARNG Recruiters earn 2008 honors

COLUMBUS—Fiscal Year 2008 was a record-setting year for the Ohio Army National Guard's Recruiting and Retention Battalion, which capped off one of its highest recruiting years ever by earning the National Guard Bureau's Director's Diamond award—the top award for achievement of all assigned recruiting and retention missions.

Army National Guard Director Lt. Gen. Clyde Vaughn presented the award during the 2008 National Guard Bureau Strength Maintenance Conference, held in October in Orlando, Fla. Ohio and Georgia were the only recipients of the award out of 54 states and territories.

Ohio recruiters met or exceeded NGB strength maintenance goals in six mission assignments—recruit sustainment, accessions, officer strength, retention, attrition and enlisted strength—to attain the top award.

The battalion's recruiting and retention effort was critical to the Ohio Army Guard's growth of the total force to 10,926 Soldiers, reaching 108 percent of Ohio's yearly strength goal. In addition, the Recruit Sustainment Program was recognized for an unprecedented year-long ranking as the nation's most successful program, with a Soldier ship rate of 93 percent (the NGB ship rate goal is 75 percent) and a 91 percent military occupational specialty school graduation rate.

Recruiting and retention personnel also received top company, team and individual honors during the battalion's annual dining out held Nov. 1.

Staff Sgt. James Wilson Jr., a recruiter with Cleveland-area's Delta Company, was selected as the Recruiting and Retention Noncommissioned Officer of the Year and also as Rookie

of the Year. Wilson enlisted more than 34 Soldiers and finished the year at 173 percent above his assigned mission.

In regional competition, Delta Company's 1st Sgt. Vincent Coleman was selected 2008 RRAC IV Regional Master Seven winner among all company first sergeants. Other RRAC IV winners included Sgt. 1st Class Robert Hooper, Automation NCO of the Year, and Sgt. 1st Class Tracy Ballog, Marketing NCO of the Year.

Other State award-ees are as follows:

Recruiting and Retention Battalion Non-commissioned Officer of the Year – Staff Sgt. Michael Doney; Battalion Career Counselor of the Year – Sgt. 1st Class Fachon Jennings; Military Entrance Processing Station (MEPS) Counselor of the Year – Sgt. 1st Class Robert Scott; Battalion Sergeant Major Award – Diane Farrow, marketing director; Sergeants' Major Team Award – Delta Company, Team 9 (Sgts. 1st Class David Hunt and Stephanie Bacskey, Staff Sgts. James Wilson, Jr., Edith Santiago, Vanessa Hickling and Christopher Simon, Sgt. John Sill and Spc. William Becker); Delta Company – Pvt. Roger Young Top Recruiting and Retention Area Team Award, Best RSP Ship Rate, Best RSP Attendance Rate, and Best RSP Company; Golf Company – Best RSP Company Metrics; Powerhouse 6 "30 Club" winners (recruiters who enlisted more than 30 recruits) – Sgts. 1st Class Mark Campbell, Jason Hillebrand, James Youngdahl, Staff Sgts. Vanessa Hickling, Sandra Mesenberg, Shawn Rosen, Philip Swincher and James Wilson; Joshua O'Bannon RSP Leadership Award – Hillebrand. **SFC TRACY BALLOG / OHARNG R&R BATTALION**

Ohio Army ATAG gets second star

COLUMBUS—Ohio has a new star. Brig. Gen. Matthew L. Kambic was promoted Sept. 5 to the rank of major general, making him Ohio's first two-star assistant adjutant general for Army.

For Kambic, it is always about the team. "I have the same job, the same responsibilities, there is no difference," he said. "But it says a lot about our team that there is a

two-star general position for the Army National Guard in Ohio. It tells me that the capacity and contribution of our organization is recognized as significant to our state and country."

His wife, Patti, pinned on his additional star. Also present were son Matthew, currently a staff sergeant in the Ohio Air National Guard. His other son, Spec. Andrew Kambic, was at the time deployed with Company C, 1st Battalion, 148th Infantry Regiment to Southwest Asia in support of the Global War on Terrorism. **CPT MICHELLE SMITH / ADJ. GEN. DEPT. PUBLIC AFFAIRS**

Soldier competes in Miss Ohio USA®

PORTSMOUTH—An Ohio Army National Guardmember from Cleveland was in the running to become the 2009 Miss Ohio USA®.

2nd Lt. Elena Gonzalez competed for the title against more than 50 contestants from throughout the state during a Nov. 20-22 competition here.

Gonzalez, a native of Euclid, near Cleveland, won the opportunity to represent Ohio after winning the title of Miss Euclid USA® in July 2008. The competition marked the second such contest for the 23-year-old medical platoon leader and logistic operations officer for the Cleveland-based 237th Brigade Support Battalion. Gonzalez entered her first pageant when she competed for Miss Teen Ohio USA® as a high school student in 2003.

A December 2007 graduate of The University of Toledo with a bachelor's degree in biology, Gonzalez enjoyed a full scholarship through the Army ROTC program. She said the military has helped her prepare for the competitions in several ways.

"It's pushed me to do things that I never would have done in my civilian life, like rappelling or obstacle courses," Gonzalez said. "It's definitely been a confidence builder."

Soldiering and competing in pageants might seem an odd mix, but Gonzalez said she likes to push the envelope and do the unexpected.



CINDY HARPER / 237th BDE SPT BN

2LT Elena Gonzalez, a medical platoon leader and logistics management officer with the 237th Brigade Support Battalion, 37th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, works at the Green Road Armory in Cleveland.

"I like to break stereotypes. You can paint your nails and put on makeup and still be a Soldier," she said. "It has nothing to do with the internal drive for success. The military is just another avenue for success."

The winner of the competition was Natasha Vivoda, Miss Trumbull County USA®.
ADJ. GEN. DEPT PUBLIC AFFAIRS

121st ARW chief selected Ohio Vets Home Agency superintendent

COLUMBUS—Bill Hartnett, director of the newly created Ohio Department of Veterans Services, selected acting superintendent Richard D. Hatcher (Rick) to permanently fill the position he has occupied since April 2007.

The Ohio Veterans' Home Agency operates two facilities, in Sandusky and Georgetown. Almost 700 honorably discharged veterans call the OVH home and regardless of the care required, they enjoy the freedom and convenience of a small community as well as the comforts of a home-like setting.

Hatcher earned bachelor's degrees in business management and human resources management, and a master's of business administration. With more than 22 years in the Ohio Air National Guard, Hatcher currently holds the position of command chief master sergeant of the 121st Air Refueling Wing, Columbus, where he serves as the senior enlisted advisor to the wing's commanding general on issues affecting more than 1,400 enlisted members. **OHIO DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS SERVICES**

Servicemembers earn degrees through military experience

NELSONVILLE—On a hot Sunday afternoon in the Hocking College auditorium, Sgt. Maj. Doug H. Garloch and retired Sgt. Maj. Charles O. Jackson, did something that nobody had done before them. The two Ohio Army National Guard senior noncommissioned officers became the first students from the school's College at Work program to walk with their fellow students during graduation.

Garloch, of the 204th Engineer Detachment, and Jackson, former noncommissioned officer in charge of the Akron-Canton Recruiting Center, graduated June 8 with associate's degrees in business administration and military science. They earned the degrees mainly through military experience they already possessed.

"Every serving NCO needs a degree to be competitive in both the civilian and military worlds," said Command Sgt. Maj. William L. Gilliam, Ohio's state command

sergeant major.

Gilliam is one of the program's first graduates, now numbering about a half dozen. He said the program, accessed primarily through the Internet, is extremely user-friendly and gives NCOs another way to lead by example and pave the way for other enlisted Soldiers.

Hocking College development director Paul Harper described Hocking College as a technical school on the forefront of cooperation with the military.

"The Army has the largest field of trained technicians in the world—they are a perfect match for us," Harper said.

The College at Work program is currently compatible with Army recruiters and sergeants major because of their extensive experience and the administrative nature of their jobs. The program, part of the Ohio National Guard Distance Learning Network, requires participants to earn at least 15 credit hours from Hocking College.

Hocking College has a long-standing relationship with the Ohio National Guard. When annual scholarships were first awarded more than 30 years ago, 15 were awarded to Hocking College students pursuing careers in the military. This was the precursor to the 100 percent tuition-paid Ohio National Guard Scholarship Program and subsequently, College at Work.

Gilliam says the next phase will include degrees for first sergeants eligible for promotion. Ideally, after completing the First Sergeant Course, Soldiers would enroll in Hocking College and then receive an associate's degree upon completion of the U.S. Army Sergeants Major Academy.

Although the program currently focuses on sergeants major and recruiters because of their high level of administrative training, it is open to all Soldiers of any educational level or background.

For more information on the program, call 1-877-HOCKING, extension 7020, or go to http://www.hocking.edu/enrollment-information/college_at_work/index.htm. **SPC. DIEGO J. ROBLES / 196TH MOBILE PUBLIC AFFAIRS DETACHMENT**

Family bond makes training easier for two military police Soldiers

CAMP GRAYLING, Mich.—Many Soldiers talk about a sense of brotherhood or their fellow unit members feeling like Family, but in the 135th Military Police Company some Soldiers actually are Family.



SPC CHAD MENEGAY / 196TH MOBILE PUBLIC AFFAIRS DET.

SSG Scott Czerr (left), a military policeman with the 135th Military Police Company, Brook Park, talks with his niece, PV2 Jessica Czerr, a combat medic, also with the 135th. The Ohio Army National Guardmembers were at annual training together with their unit in June at at Camp Grayling, Mich.

Staff Sgt. Scott Czerr is Pvt. Jessica Czerr's uncle and, although they are in separate platoons, they are both in the 135th.

"It's easier," Jessica said about having her uncle in her unit. "He's there for me and I'm there for him."

Jessica joined the Ohio Army National Guard in May 2005 as a medic and her Uncle Scott rejoined the Ohio National Guard as an MP after a 10-year absence, due in large part to his close relationship with his niece.

Jessica moved in with her uncle when she was a junior in high school. She said her uncle's National Guard experiences did not influence her to join as much as the events of 9/11 did and the opportunity to challenge herself.

"A lot of people didn't think I could do it," Jessica said.

Scott had previously served with the 135th for nine years but came back to the unit in August 2006 because of a personal promise.

"I told her father I would take care of her," Scott said.

Now the pair has been in the same unit for a year and a half, and while the situation has its benefits, it also has its downsides.

"It's a challenge to remember to refer to him as Staff Sgt. Czerr instead of Uncle Scott," Jessica said.

Jessica also said it can be challenging because she has to watch what she says when talking with her friends in the unit in case her uncle is nearby. Like uncle and niece most times, at other times they are just like two competitive Soldiers.

"She beat me on the grenade course today," Scott announced to several people surrounding him during the unit's two-week annual training in June at Camp Grayling. **SPC SAM BEAVERS / 196TH MOBILE PUBLIC AFFAIRS DETACHMENT**

FMWRC brings affordable cruises, rewards program to military

ALEXANDRIA, Va.—If a cruise to “nowhere” or the best “somewhere” has been on your horizon of luxurious vacations for a long time, now’s the time to act.

Thanks to an agreement between the Army’s Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation Command and International Cruise & Excursions, one of the country’s top cruise wholesalers with 46 cruise lines originating in ports of call around the world, it’s now made cheaper and easier for members of the military to take to the seas and sail towards the setting sun.

The program, “Government Vacation Rewards,” became effective Sept. 8 and offers discounted prices, rewards points, and the ease of online booking.

According to retired Col. (Ret.) John R. Cully, I.C.E. vice president, this program enables National Guardmembers, reservists, and retirees who do not live near an installation to take part in discounted travel traditionally available to the active military only through ticket agencies.

“We want members of the military and their Families to be recognized for the stress they’ve been put under during this persistent conflict,” Cully said, “and we want to reward them.”

Five thousand reward points may be instantly redeemed on www.govvacationrewards.com and applied towards lowering the price of the first booking. With each successive booking, more points are awarded. **ROB MCILVAINE / FMWRC PUBLIC AFFAIRS**

Slow economy not weakening support of America’s troops

DALLAS—Concerns about a slow economy have not deterred the American public when it comes to supporting the troops. In fact, contributions to the Department of Defense authorized phone card initiative, “Help Our Troops Call Home,” this year has reached \$878,399.

Available to the public since April 2004, “Help Our Troops Call Home” allows anyone, even non-authorized exchange shoppers, to send Military Exchange Global Prepaid Phone cards to troops stationed in Operations Enduring and Iraqi Freedom.

“The generosity of the American public and the consistency with which they continue to support the troops is truly heartwarming,” said AAFES’ senior enlisted advisor, Chief Master Sgt. Jeffrey Helm. “With the holiday (season), it is important to maintain communication support by providing Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines and their Families the means to stay in touch with their loved ones.”

Since the program’s inception, 163,340 individual orders for more than 298,000 phone cards have been purchased. More than 27,000

have been earmarked for “any Service member” and distributed via charities such as the American Red Cross, Air Force Aid Society, Fisher House Foundation, Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society, Soldier & Family Assistance Center and USO.

By simply logging on to aafes.org or calling 800-527-2345, friends, Family members and even civic groups can take part in the “Help Our Troops Call Home” effort by sending any one of three Military Exchange Global Prepaid Phone cards, including a 550-minute denomination card capable of providing more than two hours of call time from any of 69 phone centers in Iraq, Afghanistan or Kuwait to the United States. **AAFES COMMUNICATIONS**

Music industry artists keep on rockin’ with second CD ‘For the Troops’

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz.—A number of top musical acts want to thank you for your service and the sacrifices you make for our country with the release of a new “For the Troops II” CD, available now for free download at the Army & Air Force Exchange Service (AAFES) Web site, www.aafes.com. For active duty service members or veterans, just use your valid military ID to log on to the site.

“I’m excited that the CD ‘For the Troops’ is back with a new roster of fantastic artists and great songs,” said John Ondrasik who performs under the pseudonym Five for Fighting and spearheaded the CD’s development. “After the response from last year’s effort, creating a sequel was a no-brainer. The CD ‘For the Troops II’ has a bit more rock and a few surprises, but at its core is a thank you to those whose sacrifice secures our freedom and that of our children.”

The complete track listing of “For the Troops II” is: 3 Doors Down – When I’m Gone; Daughtry – Home; Five for Fighting – Freedom Never Cries; Good Charlotte – I Don’t Want to Be in Love (Dance Floor An-

them); Gretchen Wilson – California Girls; Isaac Hayes – Theme From Shaft; Joe Perry – Shakin’ My Cage; Josh Groban – Machine; Jude – I Think It’s Time (Everything’s Alright); Keith Urban – Everybody; Maroon 5 – Won’t Go Home Without You; Roy Orbison – In Dreams; Alan Jackson – Where I Come From and Trace Adkins – Fightin’ Words.

“We strongly believe that music can be an effective and healthy mental break during times of stress or Family separation,” said TriWest President and CEO David J. McIntyre, Jr. “We are exceptionally grateful for individuals like John Ondrasik and the other artists, who are driven to thank our troops in memorable ways and who encourage others to

do the same. It is an honor for TriWest to serve America’s military Families, and we hope more Americans also remember to thank those who protect our safety and freedom.”

This is the follow-up to CD to “For the Troops” released last fall. Check out www.cdforthetroops.com for more information on the CD and the artists.

Ondrasik partnered with AAFES, TriWest Healthcare Alliance and the Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA) to produce and release both CDs. **KRISTEN WARD / TRIWEST HEALTHCARE ALLIANCE**



ONGSP APPLICATION DEADLINES

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

It is the responsibility of each individual student/Guardmember to hand deliver or mail a completed application to the **Ohio National Guard Scholarship Program** Office, located at the Adjutant General’s Department, 2825 West Dublin Granville Road, Columbus, Ohio 43235-2789, by the deadlines listed above.

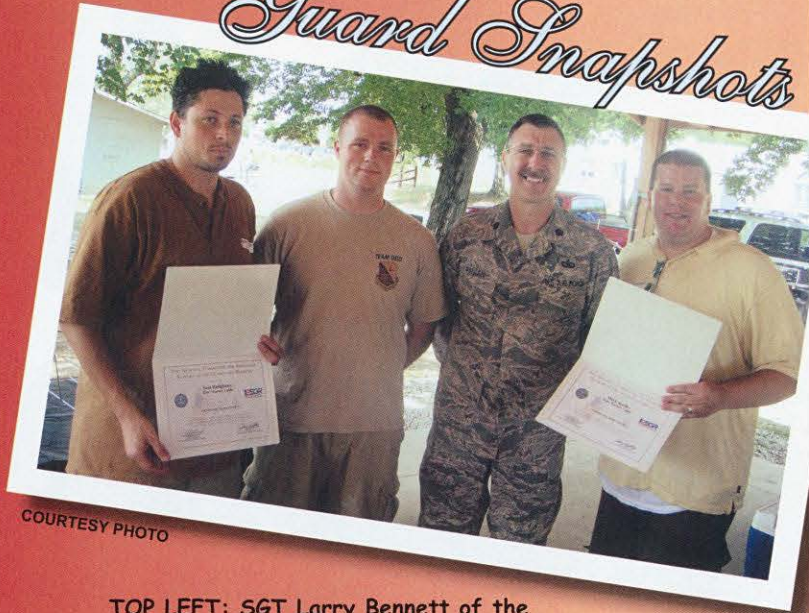
This must be done prior to each term a student attends school. You may also renew your application online at www.ongsp.org.

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

Guard Snapshots



SPC SAM BEAVERS / 196TH MOBILE PUBLIC AFFAIRS DET.



COURTESY PHOTO

TOP LEFT: SGT Larry Bennett of the 1484th Transportation Company, Green, examines an alligator Sept. 13 after it was rescued by Terrebonne Parish Sheriffs in Houma, La. Bennett was one of several Soldiers from the 1484th and 1485th Transportation Companies who worked with civilian law enforcement to evacuate residents affected by rising waters following Hurricane Ike. ABOVE: After receiving strong support from his employers during his deployment, SrA Wyatt Carpenter (second from left) of the 220th Engineering Installation Squadron, Zanesville, nominated two of his supervisors at Time Warner Cable for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) Patriot Awards (go to www.esgr.org). Carpenter and LtCol Bob Panian (third from left), 220th EIS commander, presented the awards to Sam Rutigliano (left) and Mark Shaffer. LEFT: SrA Greg Janson (left) of the 123rd Air Control Squadron, Blue Ash, demonstrates the features of a Field Deployable Environmental Control Unit to U.S. Rep. Jean Schmidt (R-Miami Township) during the 123rd's Family Day in September. BOTTOM LEFT: Max Friedhem shows SGT Nena Slate of Joint Force Headquarters how an aqueous waterless cleaning system can clean almost anything including wedding rings. The device is being marketed as a more effective way to clean Servicemembers' weapons, and was just one of many exhibitions that Guardmembers could participate in during the 37th annual Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States (go to www.eangus.org) conference in August. BOTTOM RIGHT: SPC Philip M. Stackhouse from Company E, 1st Battalion, 145th Armored Regiment, spends time with daughter Mya, 3, and wife, Diana, during a Sept. 29 call to duty ceremony in Akron. About 450 Ohio National Guard troops mobilized for the Multinational Force and Observers mission on Egypt's Sinai Peninsula.



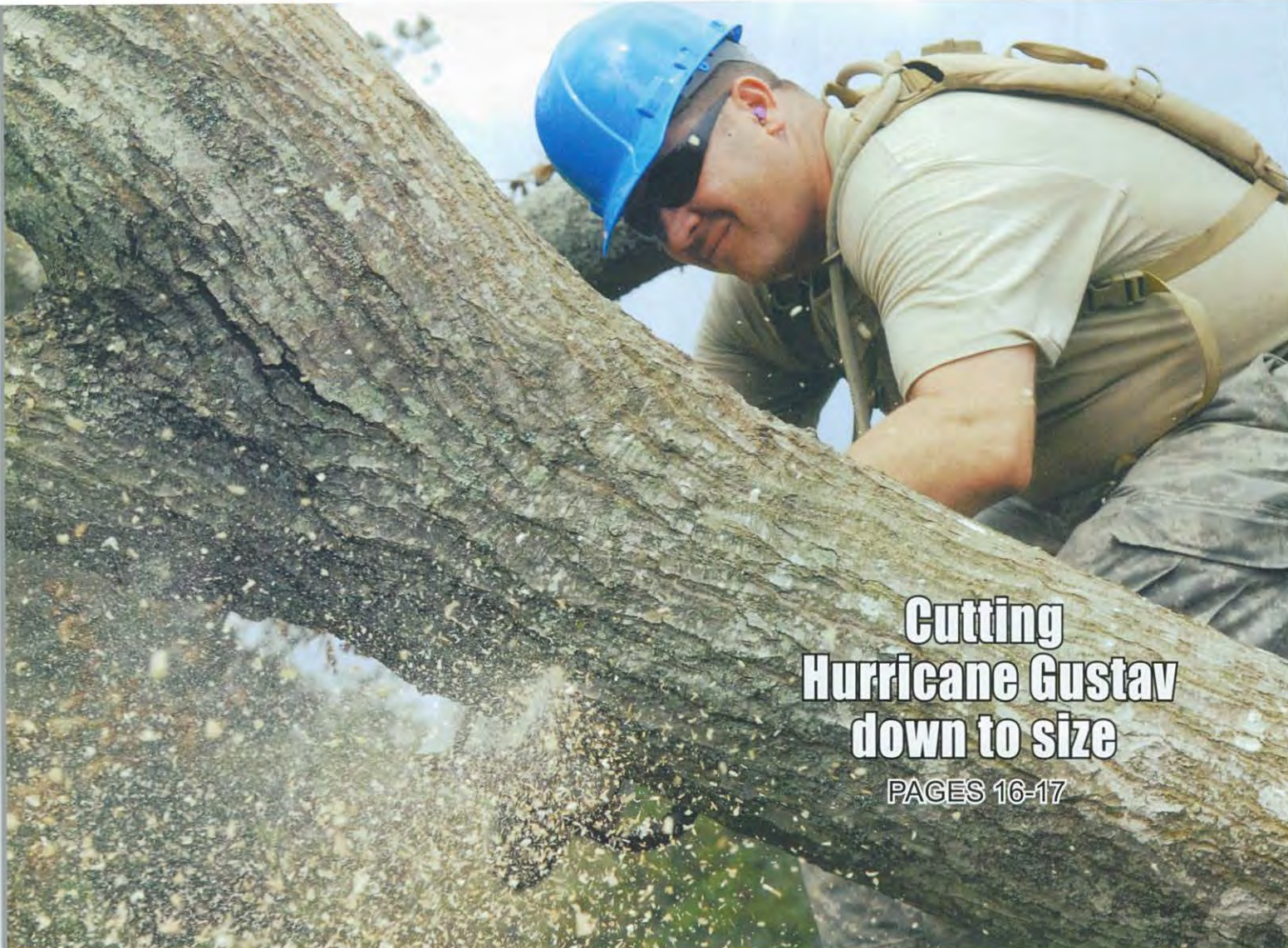
SRA ANTHONY GRAHAM / 178TH FIGHTER WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS



SPC SAM BEAVERS / 196TH MOBILE PUBLIC AFFAIRS DET.



2LT KIMBERLY SNOW / ADJ. GEN. DEPT. PUBLIC AFFAIRS



Cutting Hurricane Gustav down to size

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SPC EUNICE ALICEA VALENTIN / 196TH MOBILE PUBLIC AFFAIRS DETACHMENT

SFC Sam J. Livingston of the 837th Mobility Augmentation Company saws down one of several fallen trees at Riveroaks Elementary School in Baton Rouge, La. Nearly 1,500 Ohio National Guardmembers supported Hurricane Gustav relief efforts.

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