

BUCKEYE GUARD



Historic change for Ohio National Guard

Ashenhurst appointed 81st adjutant general

LINEAGE LINK UP

**Troop C, 2d Squadron,
107th Cavalry Regiment
Xenia**



MISSION:

To conduct reconnaissance and surveillance supporting the development of the brigade's situational awareness and knowledge in the area of operations.

DATE & PLACE OF BIRTH:
31 July 1876, Hillsboro, Ohio

PARENT UNIT:
Scott Dragoons

CAMPAIGN CREDIT:

World War I: Champagne-Marne, Aisne-Marne, St. Mihiel, Meuse-Argonne, Lorraine 1918, Champagne 1918, Ypres-Lys

World War II: Air Offensive - Japan, Guadalcanal, Northern Solomons

War on Terrorism: Campaigns to be determined

AWARDS:

Army Superior Unit Award, Streamer embroidered 2004-2005



Staff Sgt. Eddie Berrera watches as Spc. Howard and Spc. Stevenson fire the Browning Automatic Rifle during training in 1960. The Soldiers were assigned to Company E, 1st Battle Group, 147th Infantry in Hillsboro.



1st Sgt. Rodney Rose, Co. A, 1st Bn., 148th Inf. hands out candy to children in Kosovo, 2004.



Company D, 1st Ohio Infantry, 1917.

BUCKEYE GUARD

roll call

Spring 2011

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ADJUTANT GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT

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Gov. John Kasich

Adjutant General
Maj. Gen. Deborah A. Ashenhurst

Assistant Adjutant General, Air
Brig. Gen. Mark E. Bartman

Assistant Adjutant General, Army
Col. John C. Harris Jr.

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Maj. Gen. Deborah A. Ashenhurst, Ohio adjutant general, speaks to the Soldiers of the 196th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment Feb. 24, 2011, during a welcome home ceremony at the Reynoldsburg United Methodist Church following the unit's yearlong deployment to Iraq. This is the second deployment to Iraq for the Columbus-based unit. (Ohio National Guard photo/1st Lt. Kimberly Snow)



The Ohio National Guard on the Internet

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

Our dedication must continue to meet the challenges ahead

It is with great pleasure that I take this opportunity to tell you how excited I am to be your new adjutant general. My struggle is to find the right words to express what a great honor it is for me to serve the service members of this great organization. As we hear and often repeat, the Ohio National Guard is held in high regard throughout the nation and abroad. The professionalism and dedication of our Soldiers and Airmen is unmatched. I am proud to represent you to our new governor, to our senior leaders in Washington D.C., to the combatant commanders and to our state partner countries.

As I reflect on my first few months in the position, I am surprised at how comfortable I am in the seat, but I should not be surprised. I am surrounded by the team of great leaders with whom I have worked throughout my career. This is the team that has been instrumental in the achievements for which the Ohio National Guard is recognized, and they are the team that is developing the next set of leaders to rise to a greater level of readiness, relevancy and greatness.

I must caution that we cannot rest on our past successes. We have many challenges before us.

I must caution that we cannot rest on our past successes. We have many challenges before us. In our Air Guard we are working our way through numerous mission changes, emerging missions and realignment. In our Army Guard we must receive, train on and integrate all the new and modern equipment that continues to roll into our organizations. We must validate the abilities of our newly-formed Homeland Response Force and establish the policies and procedures for utilization of this new capability.

We are faced with great challenges throughout the force because of reduced and reducing financial resources, both state and federal. Through appropriations initiated by individual members of the Ohio Congressional delegation, the Ohio National Guard has received more than \$155 million for critical projects and programs since 2006. Change in the way the Congress is dealing with spending requests by individual members is requiring us find new ways to fund

initiatives for our future. The dynamics of being an operational reserve as our requirements to combatant commanders increase will create more challenges and opportunities for our service members, Families and employers.

I feel strongly that our joint efforts in pooling and tracking capabilities and resources are on target and we must think, react and respond with a mindset of jointness. I recognize that our services will remain distinct, but also know that



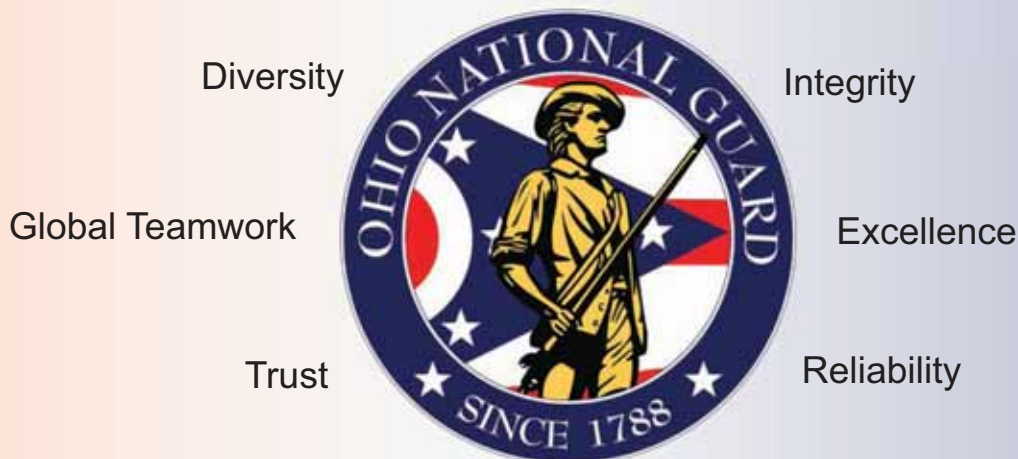
Maj. Gen. Deborah A. Ashenhurst
Adjutant General

we will be a stronger, more relevant force when we learn to utilize our resources based on capability and availability, not on segregation by service. This is particularly necessary to support our fellow citizens in Ohio and throughout the nation.

I will be remiss if I don't take this opportunity to share my expectation that as a member of the military and particularly a member of the team that forms the Ohio National Guard – Soldiers, Airmen and civilians – you will live by the core values of our organization. Our values are enduring and transcend our work and duty status. I expect you to embrace these values: integrity, excellence, reliability, diversity, global teamwork and trust in all aspects of how you conduct yourself. I expect you to hold your fellow service members and co-workers to these values. It is through the quality of our team that we are regarded as a trusted organization that our fellow citizens can rely on to be there in their times of need.

I am humbled to be your leader. I am honored to serve you, your Families and your employers. I look forward to watching your outstanding effort and the results that effort will continue to bring, and I stand ready to help you be successful in your mission. 8G

 @OhioAdjGen



Looking inward essential to moving forward

As I begin my tenure as commander of the Ohio Air National Guard, I am reminded of a story about a newly-elected member of a state legislature. On his first day of work, he realized his nameplate was not attached to his door by nails, screws or even glue, but was fitted into a holder allowing the nameplate to easily slide in and out.

I hope you find that story humorous as I did. It should remind us all that we are stewards of the taxpayers' money on both the federal and state levels. It is important to ensure that we are always striving for excellence in all we do and demonstrate unflinching integrity first. And last but not least, we should all remember that if we do not serve our country before we serve ourselves, the nameplate on our door can easily be removed.

As we move forward into the second decade of the 21st century, now is a great time to review where we have been and where we need to go. The United States Air Force has been at war for more than 20 years now, and the National Guard has been an integral part of that endeavor. Yet we, the Ohio Air National Guard, are currently dealing with staffing levels well above 100 percent with a waiting list of qualified applicants at every wing. Although a desirable position to be in, we need to ensure that the Ohio Air National Guard is headed in the right direction.

It is important to ensure that we are always striving for excellence in all we do and demonstrate unflinching integrity first.

Recently, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff called for a "proactive self-examination – institutionally and by individual leaders – and appropriate course corrections, as needed." Consequently, I ask each and every Airman to review where you are professionally and personally. Review our procedures and search for opportunities. We may need to find new ways or methods to succeed in the future. Look for those hidden nuggets that can take us to the next level or prepare us for the possibility of future base realignments and closures.

Gov. Kasich recently said in a letter to all state employees, "I believe that public service is a noble calling and, like many of you, I have spent most of my life in pursuit of that calling." I too have spent the majority of my adult life in the service of our great nation and the state of Ohio. Now is the time to ensure we are on the right track and heading in the direction that we all want to go. I am humbled and honored to be serving you in this role, and I am excited for the future of the Ohio Air National Guard. Together we can ensure the citizens of Ohio are proud of their National Guard! ⚡



Brig. Gen. Mark E. Bartman
Asst. Adjutant Gen., Air

Our service means many things

It is an honor to be selected as the assistant adjutant general for the Ohio Army National Guard. Having served in a variety of roles ranging from platoon leader to chief of staff, I believe I'm prepared for the challenges the Ohio Army National Guard will face in the next few years. After almost 30 years of military service, I am more convinced than ever that the Ohio National Guard is one of the finest institutions in our nation. More importantly, I



Col. John C. Harris, Jr.
Asst. Adjutant Gen., Army

believe that serving in the Guard is one of the most rewarding careers any man or woman could embark upon. As such, every Soldier who joins our ranks should be a better citizen for the experience. Leaders have a moral obligation to ensure our members leave military service more self-confident and prepared for the rigors of life than their contemporaries.

Service means we need to contribute, not only while we're wearing the uniform, but in every facet of our lives. As respected members of our communities, we must leverage the admiration society affords us to create opportunities to teach and mentor our peers as well as the next generation. It also means we must recognize that the time we spend with our Families is an investment in the future – ours and theirs.

Regarding the immediate future, it is important that we become more agile and adaptable as a team to meet the challenges the next few years will bring. We must continue delivering our units to mobilization stations fully manned and trained, while maintaining a high state of readiness for domestic response. This we will need to accomplish while facing federal and state budgets that are not as robust as those we've enjoyed for the last few years. Additionally, we must make our Army Guard more environmentally sustainable, which means reducing energy consumption while maintaining the same high training standards we've sustained for the last ten years.

National Guard Bureau will undoubtedly impose strength caps on us for the next few years. Therefore, we must focus on filling vacancies and ensuring our Soldiers are qualified in their military occupational specialties in order to increase readiness. Unfortunately, the days of recruiting our way to higher readiness levels are in the rearview mirror.

Every Soldier, Family member and civilian employee has my commitment that I will lead the Ohio Army National Guard in a manner that allows each of us to make a contribution and fulfill our personal goals. I will strive to ensure that every member of our team is rigorously trained while treated with dignity and respect. I will ensure that the demands of duty and readiness are balanced with Family, employment and quality of life. Most of all, I will make sure we continue to build the Ohio Army National Guard into a premier organization comprised of ambitious and motivated men and women. I'm very much looking forward to the journey. ⚡

A reflection on 2010

In 2010, the Ohio National Guard Community Outreach Office continued to reach out to key community members including employers, physicians, lawyers, women, minorities, educators, media and Ohio National Guard alumni, who either directly or indirectly affect service members' readiness and quality of life. We conducted 57 events or meetings that were attended by 610 people and in our first year of operation, our program earned first place in the 2009 Army National Guard media awards.

We greatly extended our reach to employers in 2010, making 1,438 employer phone calls or email event invitations – a 30 percent increase over the previous year. In all, 302 civilian employers attended Outreach-sponsored events including joint employer, call to duty and welcome home ceremonies, reintegration events, annual training and other employer-focused events, giving them a much better understanding of the Ohio National Guard.

Employer Outreach encouraged Soldiers and Airmen to help strengthen the Ohio Employer Support of Guard and Reserve programs, and our members nominated 651 employers for ESGR Patriot Awards and 94 employers, almost double those from the previous year, for the Secretary of Defense's prestigious Freedom Award.

Employer-focused communication strategies launched in 2010 included a "Succeeding at Work" brochure distributed to 6,000 Ohio National Guard members that provided best practice recommendations for Soldiers and Airmen to build and maintain strong employer relationships. We also sent an informational mailing to about 550 employers of the more than 2,100 Soldiers preparing to deploy with the 37th Infantry Brigade Combat Team. We developed a key community "Ask" to specifically target employers, educators, women and minorities, alumni and civic leaders, offering specific ways to become further engaged with the Ohio National Guard. After about six months, we collected 68 "Asks" from Outreach event attendees and referred them to the appropriate offices, including State Family Programs (20), ESGR (16), Employer Outreach (16) and Diversity (16).

We have begun developing elements for the adjutant general's statewide local elected official program to proactively cultivate relationships on behalf of the adjutant general in select regions. We also designed a contacts management database to help analyze where organizational support exists and shape the development of creative strategies to cultivate it where it does not.

Our Alumni Affairs program kept alumni informed and explored methods for engaging them in support of Ohio National Guard Families through 14 issues of the alumni newsletter. We also initiated the Alumni Advisory Council and our annual reunion showcased the 121st Air Refueling Wing and 73rd Troop Command, including the Homeland Response Force.

Outreach implemented strategies to strengthen support for Family readiness and mailed more than 2,100 invitations to Regional Inter-Service Family Assistance Committee (RISFAC) meetings to key community members. Two of our association partners shared RISFAC invitations with their members

reaching
to communities to employers
OUT Lt. Col. Kathy Lowrey



statewide. Outreach also actively partnered with transition assistance in development of the employment support initiative.

In 2010, more than 125 people attended nine association outreach meetings. We continued work with Ohio AMVETS, Ohio Department of Job and Family Services, National Guard Bureau Partners in Education, Ohio School Board Association, Buckeye Association of School Administrators, Dayton Area Chamber of Commerce, Ohio State Bar Association, Columbus Bar Association, Ohio Academy of Family Physicians and Fore Hope. Maj. Gen. Gregory Wayt, then adjutant general, gave a presentation to the Dayton Area Chamber of Commerce and his interview was published in their magazine. Wayt and other TRICARE subject matter experts also met with physician association leaders to explain our need for more TRICARE providers. We cultivated new relationships with the Ohio State Medical Association, Ohio Osteopathy Association, Health Net Federal Services, Governor's Office for Women's Initiatives and Outreach, U.S. Department of Labor, Southern and Northern U.S. Attorneys offices, and the 9th Coast Guard legal assistance office.

In consultation with the Ohio National Guard judge advocate general, Outreach helped build awareness among civilian attorneys about the unique legal needs of military members. Two bar associations volunteered to reenergize their military and veteran affairs committees, three continuing legal education courses were offered to civilian lawyers, an article was written for two bar associations describing the lawyer's role in the Soldier Readiness Process and a working group was initiated. This working group met three times with Ohio's two U.S. Attorney offices, ESGR, the Department of Labor and the 9th Coast Guard legal assistance office to build relationships, promote understandings and share resources. These meetings greatly improved the inter-agency case referral process.

We conducted several orientation flights to teach key community members about the Ohio National Guard and our diversity and educational programs and initiatives and to encourage them to become ambassadors. Attendees included 18 women, 20 minorities, 22 educators and 16 media members.

The 2010 contributions of the Ohio National Guard Community Outreach Office were a direct reflection of the collaboration and teamwork of Guard members and our civilian ambassadors. The attendance and number of events, employer-focused communication campaigns, unique Outreach products and programs, and meaningful Outreach responses to service member and Family quality of life issues was the result. Outreach is proud to work with you to promote readiness and well-being of service members and our Families. We look forward to furthering our collective good work in 2011. Ⓔ

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

Alumni News Update

staying connected

Jim Moore



An introduction from your new alumni affairs coordinator

Greetings,

My name is Jim Moore and I am pleased to introduce myself as the Ohio National Guard's new alumni affairs coordinator.

I recently retired from the Ohio National Guard after 32 years of service, most of them as an Active Guard Reserve Soldier in Ohio. I am married to my wonderful wife, Kim, and have two great kids, Brady and Koree. I graduated from Franklin University with a Bachelor of Science in Applied Management.

While serving in the 1st Battalion, 134th Field Artillery Regiment, I was appointed as the battalion Family readiness group liaison. In that role, I attended all of the Regional Inter-Service Family Assistance Committee (RISFAC) meetings from the group's inception. I learned a lot from local volunteer organizations, schools, Veterans of Foreign Wars, AMVETS, businesses and the other civic-minded individuals who participated in those meetings. I look forward to carving out a role through RISFAC where our alumni can actively support our brothers- and sisters-in-arms currently serving.

As your new alumni affairs coordinator, my goals are to continue producing a quality and professional newsletter, provide information on demand for anyone who contacts my office, leverage alumni talent and connections in support of regional Family readiness groups and coordinate an enjoyable annual alumni reunion.

A strong and diverse alumni advisory council is one of the keys to an effective alumni affairs program. This collaborative effort will generate many ideas and working solutions to Soldier/Airmen and Family issues. Together, I look forward to building a strong and diverse alumni council and overall program with you, that when called upon, will respond with a helping hand to military Families.

James M. Moore
Alumni Affairs Coordinator

Ohio Airmen support Operation New Dawn

Story by Staff Sgt. Tina Maddock

About 40 members of the 178th Security Forces Squadron from Springfield Air National Guard Base, Ohio, deployed to Iraq in support of Operation New Dawn in January.

The Airmen are providing force protection to all personnel at their deployed location, said Chief Master Sgt. Michael Stewart, the 178th Fighter Wing Security Forces Squadron manager.

"I feel very good about going to Iraq to help," said Staff Sgt. Jake McKinnon of the 178th. McKinnon has been with the wing for five years, and this is his first deployment.

Before the Airmen deployed to Iraq, they received a month of training at the 178th that led up to "Desert Defender" training exercise at Fort Bliss, Texas. The Air National Guard's 204th Security Forces Squadron operates "Desert Defender" at the Air Force Regional Training Center, which prepares active-duty, Guard and Reserve security forces for area security operations in Iraq and Afghanistan.

During the training, which lasts about two weeks, instructors at Fort Bliss shared a great deal of information and experience with the deploying Airmen, McKinnon said. Some of the training included clearing buildings, counter-sniper procedures, convoy movements and other tactics to prepare the service members for deployment.

"They are definitely prepared and ready to perform the mission they are assigned to do," Stewart said.

"The training we all endured pulled us together - like a family, if you want to call it that," McKinnon said.

The Airmen will be deployed to Iraq for six to eight months.

"The Airmen's morale is high," Stewart said. "They are ready to get in there and get the job done." ¶

(Air Force Master Sgt. Mike R. Smith of the National Guard Bureau contributed to this report.)



Airmen from the 178th Fighter Wing Security Forces Squadron prepare to board a C-130 Hercules cargo airplane Jan. 4, 2011, for training at Fort Bliss, Texas, prior to deploying to Iraq in support of Operation New Dawn. (Ohio National Guard photo/Senior Master Sgt. Joseph R. Stahl)

legislative look

with Johann Klein



National Guard members continue to push for revised definition of “veteran”

The 112th Congress has once again taken up legislation that broadens the definition of the word “veteran” in the U.S. Code. The bill, S. 491, has been referred to the Senate Committee on Veterans Affairs.

The Honor America’s Guard and Reserve Retirees Act was introduced, but did not pass in the Senate during the 111th Congress. The bill would have allowed anyone who served 20 years in the reserve component to be considered a veteran, something that current law denies unless the retiree served at least 180 consecutive days of federal active duty.

Under both proposals no additional benefits would come with the law and no money would be spent by the federal government. The idea had broad congressional support because many members felt that those who served 20 or more years in the armed forces deserved to be recognized as veterans.

State legislation would change child custody rules for deployed service members

Legislation is pending in the Ohio General Assembly that would substantially change existing child custody law for deployed service members. House Bill 121 will help balance the equities involved with child custody and visitation rights in situations that require military service members to be separated from their Families for an extended period of time.

Specifically, House Bill 121 states that no permanent orders altering existing custody arrangements should be entered while the custodial parent is unavailable due to military service. The custody order that was in place before the absence of a military parent should be reinstated within a set time upon the return of the military parent, provided that reinstating said custody would not damage the best interests of the child.

This bill also allows a service member with visitation rights to petition the court to allow those visitation rights to be delegated to a third party during the service member’s absence due to military service.

Pending legislation would protect deploying service members

Ohio House Bill 109 was introduced in February. The bill would benefit members of the National Guard by allowing service members who are called to active duty for more than 90 days to terminate their residential lease.

As an operational reserve force rather than a strategic reserve force, the National Guard now serves as a partner with the active duty armed forces. This means that an increasing number of reserve component service members who lease a residence are deploying for missions abroad.

By amending 5321.20 of the Ohio Revised Code, House Bill 109 would bring state law into parity with the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act in the United States Code. The SCRA was signed into law in 2003 and expanded and improved the former Soldiers’ and Sailors’ Civil Relief Act. ¶

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

Command profile



CSM Adoree C. Georskey
371st Sustainment Brigade Special Troops Battalion
Command Sergeant Major

NAME: Adoree C. Georskey

AGE: 46

FULL-TIME OCCUPATION: City of Columbus employee

HOMETOWN: Chardon, Ohio

FAMILY: One daughter, three brothers, two sisters, nine nieces and nephews

WHEN I WAS YOUNGER, I WANTED TO: Drive my dad's race car

MOST RECENT ACHIEVEMENT: Appointed as command sergeant major of the 371st Sustainment Brigade Special Troops Battalion

THE LAST GOOD MOVIE I SAW WAS: The Shawshank Redemption

THE BOOK I'M READING IS: America's First Battles 1776-1965

MY FAVORITE RECREATIONAL ACTIVITY IS: Trying to match up with my daughter on the basketball court

THE ONE THING I TREASURE MOST: Time spent with Family

HEROES: My daughter who has been through two deployments and my mom for the sound advice and guidance

NOBODY KNOWS I: Have a sense of humor!

I'M BETTER THAN ANYONE ELSE AT: Listening

I'D GIVE ANYTHING TO MEET: Our Founding Fathers

MY BIGGEST PET PEEVE IS: Late NCOERs and EPS packets

THE THREE WORDS THAT BEST DESCRIBE ME: Honest, integrity and Mom

IF I COULD LEAVE TODAY'S GUARDMEMBERS WITH ONE PIECE OF ADVICE IT WOULD BE: You only have one opportunity at living on this earth so stay focused and along the way, enjoy life. Set your goals and visualize success regardless of obstacles. Accept that you are going to experience setbacks and make mistakes and that it's part of life. Learn from your setbacks and mistakes, pull yourself together and move forward. Accept responsibility for your actions and seek guidance from your Family, friends, clergy and even your Guard Family. The Guard has fantastic programs which offer support to our Soldiers and their Families. Utilize these support systems. And finally, remember your NCO support channel is available to you and your Families every day regardless of time of day.

Learning to lead: one of the Ohio National Guard's newest commanders shares insights

Story by Capt. Kristina Gaskins
Ohio National Guard Public Affairs

A new young lieutenant has just earned his commission. He is excited to have the new rank and responsibilities he has earned and before going to his unit, he ensures his uniform is immaculate, his boots are clean and he has everything he needs for his new leadership role.

Arriving at his unit, he proudly proclaims who he is. He is given a quick nod, and before he knows it he is either virtually ignored or given menial tasks. Deflated, he remembers the high hopes he had coming to drill. He doesn't know what he is supposed to do or how to do it, his leaders are busy, and he hasn't even met his platoon yet!

"In comes the brand new 'L.T.' and everyone wants to pat them on the head and tell them to keep their mouths shut, eyes open and learn," said retired Maj. Gen. Matthew Kambic. "But they really don't tell you what you're supposed to be learning."

This is not an uncommon scenario to many newly-commissioned officers and noncommissioned officers fresh out of school. They went through rigorous training on tactics and learned how important it is to know their job and do it well. What they were not taught, however, was that the leader they will become and their success will be determined by them, and the actions they take now will determine the path their career will take.

Elaine Maxwell said "Whether I fail or succeed shall be no man's doing but my own ... I can clear any obstacle or be lost in the maze. My choice; my responsibility; win or lose, only I hold the key to my destiny."

The truth of this statement resonates in the first few years of a new leader's career. The choices he makes in this pivotal time will determine what kind of leader he will become and what his contributions to his organization will be. He will either "clear the obstacles" and make his mark wherever he goes or he will be "lost in the maze."

Many young leaders fall into the trap of allowing themselves to "go with the flow" in their organizations. They are nervous to ask questions or offer suggestions to improve a process because they aren't sure yet if their voices will be heard or they are scared of appearing inexperienced or egotistical. They may not get involved because they are not sure what they should be getting involved in. It is the responsibility of their leaders to guide them through the initial stages of leadership and mentor them, but it is the responsibility of the new leader to take a proactive approach in their new role.

One of the most important things a new leader can do to grow as a leader and help improve his organization is to get involved. Attend unit training, readiness and staff meetings.

Join officer and enlisted associations and professional associations to learn more about the organization. Attend military balls and social events; this is a great place to network and learn more about others throughout the organization. The more involved and knowledgeable a new leader is regarding his unit, the more he can contribute and the easier the transition will be to positions of higher authority and responsibility.

Always ask questions and strive to learn something new every day. As a leader, there is no room for egotism or pride. It is okay to not know something, but it is not okay to not know something and act as if you do. The key to being a good leader is knowing what you don't know and then working on it until you do. Dive into regulations and field manuals, research into topics that may be unfamiliar and ask others who have more experience in the field. Mentors are invaluable assets to a new leader; find one that is respected and trustworthy and set up a meeting to ask for words of advice.

Leadership is about continuous learning, applying this knowledge, and passing it on to others. Learn as much about as possible about your role, the unit, training and readiness;

once the knowledge base is there, teach others who may have the same questions. A leader is not about "me." When you accept the responsibility of leadership, there is no "me." It is about the Soldiers, the team and the overall organization. By utilizing the cycle of continuously learning, applying knowledge and passing it on, the leader and the organization will thrive.

Brig. Gen. Rufus Smith, commander of 174th Air Defense Artillery Brigade, said there are three domains to being a successful leader: institutional, operational, and self-development.

"Identify military schools to attend that will increase your institutional knowledge," Smith said. Operationally, plan your career out, know where you are going and what needs to be done to get there, he said. Finally, self-development through civilian education and continuous self

improvement is a key to a successful career.

By getting involved in an organization, asking questions, continuously learning and taking care of personal affairs, new leaders will quickly find they can easily fill their new role and contribute to making the organization successful. They will be given more responsibility and become an integral part of a team while building a strong team in their subordinates. New leaders will be able to think critically about new methods or processes and not be afraid to voice these suggestions. They will also be prepared to step into a position of higher authority at a moment's notice.

The responsibility of a leader is to be the best he or she can be and teach others to do the same. To accomplish this, you must always strive for improvement, actively seek knowledge, dive head first into whatever is going on and not be afraid to make a mistake. Perhaps the best way to begin a leadership career is to keep in mind the philosophy of Gen. Colin Powell: "Whenever you start, give it your best ... you've got to study for it, work for it, fight for it ... because no one is going to hand it to you." ⚔





Maj. Gen. Deborah A. Ashenhurst (left), Ohio's first female adjutant general, greets Col. Maria Kelly, Ohio's first female brigade commander, following a Women's History Month observance March 8, 2011, at Beightler Armory in Northwest Columbus. Kelly, who currently commands the 371st Sustainment Brigade, was the event's featured speaker. (Ohio National Guard photo/1st Lt. Kimberly Snow)

Ohio's first female adjutant general brings wealth of experience to position

Story by Mr. James Sims, II
Ohio National Guard Public Affairs

In the early morning hours on Jan. 10, 2011, history was made.

Brig. Gen. Deborah A. Ashenhurst was sworn in as Ohio's 81st adjutant general. When Ohio Gov. John Kasich appointed Ashenhurst to the cabinet-level position, she made history by becoming the first woman to hold the position in the 222-year history of the Ohio National Guard. Ashenhurst is one of only two women serving as adjutants general in the 54 states and territories.

"I am here to prove that leadership isn't gender specific, just go do the work and you will have the opportunity for advancement," Ashenhurst said. She received her second star on Jan. 20.

A Springfield, Ohio-native and a graduate of the State University of New York, Ashenhurst enlisted in the Ohio Army National Guard in 1978 and was commissioned as a second lieutenant in 1980. She lives in Hilliard, Ohio, with her husband, retired Col. Jim Ashenhurst. Although the pace of her schedule is often hectic, she makes time to enjoy her granddaughter, running and the theater.

Looking back she credits her father for her love of military service. Col. Robert D. Green served nearly 40 years in the Ohio Army National Guard and the United States Army. When asked about her father, Ashenhurst's countenance changes and her tone is clearly somber and reflective.

"My dad raised us in a strong, strict environment, very disciplined. We were taught that you've got to give back and you should always lead a life of service," she said.

Ashenhurst's father passed away on Dec. 17, 2010.

"Before he passed away he got to see his daughter become the adjutant general, and that brought him great joy."

Ashenhurst's former assignments were diverse and challenging positions that prepared her for leadership at the highest levels. Her first assignment as an engineer officer was in the 54th Rear Area Operations Center. Soon she was awarded command of Company C, (Medical) 237th Forward Support Battalion, and then served as the battalion's executive officer.

Ashenhurst then served as the executive officer for the 73rd Troop Command and as the director of installation resources before becoming the deputy commander of the 73rd Troop Command. In 2009, Ashenhurst took command of the 73rd Troop Command and the unit was designated as one of the

first two Homeland Response Force (HRF) units in the nation.

“The HRF greatly improves our ability to defend the homeland,” Ashenhurst said. “Our organic decontamination, medical and search and extraction elements are trained and have demonstrated their life-saving abilities.”

When Hurricane Katrina struck the Gulf Coast region in August 2005, National Guard units from across the nation responded and the Ohio National Guard was one of the first units to arrive and provide relief. Ashenhurst reflected on the large convoy from Ohio to the Gulf Coast.

“I had the privilege of commanding the convoy that provided food, water and much-needed relief to residents,” Ashenhurst said. “I will never forget the impact and the difference we made while deployed.”

Ashenhurst talked about what she deemed incredible changes in the military since she joined in 1978. She said systems and technologies have advanced exponentially and she has witnessed greatly-expanded roles and leadership opportunities for women.

“I am proof that women can do it,” Ashenhurst said. “You don’t have to sacrifice a Family for the military. You really can have it all.”

Growing up in the Ohio National Guard has created lasting friendships and memories for Ashenhurst. She talks fondly about Officer Candidate School and remains in touch with some of her classmates.

“In many ways, the Guard is like my Family,” she said, “I have bonds of friendship that will last a lifetime.”

If you ask around the organization, you will hear the same consistent chorus with a resounding refrain. People who know the new adjutant general will tell you she is the right person at the right time to do this job.



Maj. Gen. Deborah A. Ashenhurst, Ohio adjutant general, Maj. Marshall Jackson, commander of the 196th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment and unit 1st Sgt. Steve Toth applaud the members of the 196th as they enter the auditorium for their Feb. 24, 2011, welcome home ceremony at the Reynoldsburg United Methodist Church in Reynoldsburg, Ohio. (Ohio National Guard photo/Douglas Nicodemus)

Col. John Harris, the assistant adjutant general for Army, has known Ashenhurst for more than 15 years.

“She is an amazing woman,” he said. “She has the right amount of experience and an incredible ability to bring out the best in those around her. I am looking forward to building upon the previous successes of the organization.”

Ashenhurst is very approachable and has served as a mentor to junior officers and enlisted members throughout her career. Capt. Kristina Gaskins has known Ashenhurst for five years.

“Taking time to sit down and mentor junior officers and service members throughout the organization is part of what makes her a great person and a perfect selection to lead the Ohio National Guard.”, Gaskins said.

Ashenhurst sites a number of reasons for accepting the appointment. She often makes reference to the men and women who comprise the Ohio National Guard saying that they are truly the best of what Ohio and this nation has to offer.

Ohio’s Citizen-Soldiers and -Airmen have been deployed on multiple tours of duty and have put aside their personal lives, Families and careers to defend this nation. We are continually grateful for the support from the Families of our service members and from their employers.

The way ahead is fraught with shrinking budgets and reduced resources. They will be key issues facing the Ohio adjutant general and her 17,000-member organization. Kasich recently outlined a plan to fix Ohio’s \$8 billion deficit in its next two-year budget.

“We are a unique organization, we received both state and federal funding and will need to cut costs and reduce expenses without compromising readiness,” Ashenhurst said.

Fiscal challenges aside, Ashenhurst is confident that the Ohio National Guard is able to respond with ready units.

“We will continue to be prepared to support missions abroad while maintaining a strong stateside force in order to ensure we can serve Ohio communities when needed,” Ashenhurst said. “The governor will never have to worry about not having his National Guard ready to help the citizens of Ohio.” ☞



Maj. Gen. Deborah A. Ashenhurst, Ohio adjutant general, shakes the hand of Sgt. Kimberly Johnson of the 196th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment, following the unit’s Feb. 24, 2011, welcome home ceremony at the Reynoldsburg United Methodist Church in Reynoldsburg, Ohio. Johnson is followed by Sgts. David Scott and Michael Carden, also of the 196th. (Ohio National Guard photo/Douglas Nicodemus)

C-RAM: sky watchdog

Ohio Guard unit adjusts to operations in Iraq

Story and photos by Cpl. Daniel Eddy, 196th MPAD

An insurgent spends days scouting the spot. He moves at night so his actions are cloaked by darkness. He emplaces the payload he has spent countless hours preparing. Everything is in place. He lights the mortar – directed right at a U.S. military forward operating base.

As the rocket or mortar hurdles toward the compound, a Counter-Rocket, Artillery and Mortar (C-RAM) weapon system sounds the early warning and lights up the sky. Within seconds, the mortar is destroyed. The insurgent won't be taking any lives tonight – not on the watch of Joint Task Force 1st Battalion, 174th C-RAM.

The 1-174th is an Ohio Army National Guard air defense artillery battalion headquartered in Woodlawn, near Cincinnati. U.S. Army and Navy personnel assigned to Joint Task Force 1-174th C-RAM, United States Forces – Iraq, operate and maintain multiple C-RAM systems across Iraq, ensuring the safety of service members 24 hours per day.

The C-RAM, a land-based version of the Phalanx weapon system used aboard U.S. Navy ships to protect vessels from incoming

missiles, was first used in Iraq in 2005. The Army has adopted the technology and is now using it to protect U.S. bases from threats lobbed over the walls.

“We [have] 20-millimeter rounds that we will fire at a rapid rate in a pretty significant quantity,” said Capt. Lawrence Bogan, commander of the battalion’s Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, and a Hilliard, Ohio, native. “We provide an early warning to alert of incoming indirect fire and then engage, basically shooting down a bullet with another bullet.”

When the C-RAM fires it can be heard miles out, and when standing next to it one can feel the ground rumble underfoot. But before the 20 mm rounds can intercept the indirect fire, Soldiers and Sailors must quickly take measurements.

“When we get a confirmation of an incoming round, that’s when we go into our engagement battle drill,” said Cincinnati-native Staff Sgt. Ryan Osner, noncommissioned officer-in-charge of the unit’s engagement operations

cell.
“We

have to confirm the air space is clear.

Once the air space is clear, we

send the order to send-fire permit. The

gun will track and then the gun will engage.

Simultaneously, the warning system will send out

the ‘incoming call’ to (speakers) near the projected point

of impact.”

Osner said in the beginning, the job was slow, scary and resulted in quite an adrenaline rush.

“Being able to shoot something down out of the air with all the technology and gun systems that we have is awesome,” he said

It’s a feeling that two years ago he didn’t expect to experience.

Around January 2009, the 1st Battalion, 174th Air Defense Artillery Regiment, initially received orders to deploy to Washington D.C. The mission required them

to work with the Norwegian Advanced Surface-to-Air Missile System and to train on the Avenger missile system the unit had been trained to operate. Then, in September 2009, the unit received orders

A Soldier holds the spent 20 mm round shell casings from a Gatling gun on a Counter-Rocket, Artillery and Mortar system used to shoot down incoming indirect fire on U.S. forward operating bases in Iraq. The C-RAM can track and calculate the trajectory and engage a rocket or mortar before it hits the base.



to deploy to Iraq to work with the C-RAM weapon system.

“The first question we all asked was, ‘What is C-RAM?’” said Lt. Col. Greg Gustafan, the joint task force commander and McConnellsville, Ohio, native. “That’s not an air defense weapon system that any of us have worked with.”

The C-RAM mission had been, up to now, an active-duty mission. JTF 1-174 is the first National Guard battalion in Iraq to assume the C-RAM responsibilities. The JTF,

Navy counterparts included, trained for 90-days at Fort Sill, Okla., to learn the C-RAM’s capabilities.

Bogan said the transition from Avenger to C-RAM was challenging because it’s a completely different weapon system and they have to coordinate with different organizational assets. With the Avenger mission, they would go on their own and perform their mission solo. He said the Soldiers have adapted well to the change on all levels throughout the training process.

“Everyone, from the moment we have started this, has taken it very seriously and that has been the piece that has made us the most (successful),” he said. “Everyone has paid very close attention and they have executed flawlessly to this point.”

A Gatling gun is one element of the C-RAM system, often referred to as a “system of systems.” Collectively, the C-RAM is made up of multiple computer and radar systems working together, which connect to the early warning system. All of those “brains” are tied into the machine’s “muscle” – the Gatling gun. Each system has redundant capability to ensure

the overall system is running at all times.

“You have off-the-shelf radar the Army uses in field artillery ... designed to pick up rockets and mortars launched at ground level,” Gustafan said. “These, in conjunction with our air defense radar systems allow us to cover the entire third dimension; from very high altitude to the trajectory more common to rockets and mortars at lower launch elevations.”

Gustafan said the computer systems can determine the trajectory of the round and predict where it will be at a certain point in the sky and from there, the radar and the Phaylanx gun go to work, tracking the round and determining the most effective firing solution.

The radar, however, picks up more than just rockets, artillery and mortars launched at the base. It detects anything in the sky, which includes helicopters, unmanned aerial vehicles, blast fragmentation from other sources and gunfire, Gustafan said.

“So what those (radar) operators have to do is be able to discriminate between (what) is on the screen and see what may meet the ballistic criteria to be a potential threat,” he said.

Osner said there’s a lot of learning involved in this mission, but he’s gained a lot of experience along the way.

“This is one of the proudest moments of my life – being in command of Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, and one of key members of the first National Guard battalion-sized unit to be entrusted with the C-RAM mission,” Bogan said. “I didn’t know this was the capacity that I would be doing it in, but helping people and saving lives is exactly what we were meant to do. We are proud to be a part of this task force, represent the 174th ADA Brigade and our great state of Ohio for the opportunity to perform this C-RAM mission, very proud.” BG



Lt. Col. Greg Gustafan (right), commander of Joint Task Force 1-174th Counter-Rocket, Artillery and Mortar, United States Forces – Iraq, and a McConnellsville, Ohio, native, talks with Command Sgt. Maj. Steve Woodall of the 116th Garrison Command, United States Division – Center, and a Meridian, Idaho, native, Jan. 27 after a test fire of the C-RAM weapon system at Camp Victory, Iraq. The Ohio National Guard air defense artillery battalion is responsible for the C-RAMs throughout the theater and is the first National Guard unit to perform this mission.

Training keeps firefighters ready to respond

Story by Master Sgt. Elizabeth Holliker
180th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

Emergency response teams rely on continuous training, education and practice scenarios in order to stay on top of their game for real-world emergencies. For the men and women of the 180th Fighter Wing Fire Department, fall 2010 provided an abundance of training and certification opportunities all geared toward maintaining and sharpening their life-saving skills and abilities.

In October, many of the 180th firefighters participated in six days of training at the Toledo Fire and Rescue Department Training Academy as part of a Rescue I certification course. The certification process consists of both classroom and hands-on training in confined spaces rescue, high- and low-angle rope rescue techniques and advanced auto-extraction procedures.

“In order to ride in an Air Force rescue truck as a crew member, you must be certified at this level,” said Master Sgt. Timothy Schnitker, wing fire chief. “All members who participated in this training were awarded their rope rescue and vehicle extraction certifications.”

“Completion of the confined spaces certification will take place later this year,” said Master Sgt. Brian Rozick, assistant fire chief of training for the 180th. “Upon completion, the firefighters will receive their Rescue I certification from the Department of Defense Fire and Emergency Services Certification Program.”

Later in the month, 33 members of the wing’s fire department

made the 280-mile trek to the Phelps Collins Combat Readiness Training Center in Alpena, Mich., to participate in live-fire training exercises. During their time in Alpena, firefighters trained on driving a variety of fire fighting vehicles, C-130 cargo airplane emergency egress and a variety of scenarios requiring them to extinguish aircraft fires.

“In addition to aircraft fires, firefighters combated structural fires that simulated search and rescue under real fire conditions,” Rozick said.

The 180th Fire Department schedules specialized training every spring and fall to maintain their required firefighting certifications. Much of the training is held at off-base locations like Alpena because they offer specialized equipment and facilities for live-fire and ropes rescue that are unavailable at their home station.

The firefighters provide support not only to the wing, but also to the Lucas County Port Authority and Toledo Express Airport and offers mutual-aid assistance to other local civilian emergency response units. To maintain the established working relationships with these organizations, the 180th trains with them throughout the year.

Because many fire departments throughout the Air Force and Defense Department provide support to outside civilian agencies, DOD adopted the International Fire Service Accreditation Congress standards for fire service training and certifications. This standardized training combined with multi-agency training opportunities allows for seamless integration during real-world emergencies.

“This kind of training combined with valuable training opportunities not only strengthens our readiness, it also promotes teamwork and provides real-world experience,” Schnitker said. ¶



Firefighters from the 180th Fighter Wing extinguish an aircraft fire during a training exercise at the Phelps Collins Combat Readiness Training Center, Alpena, Mich., Oct. 16, 2010. The firefighters are attending annual training to keep their skills sharp and maintain their certifications. (Ohio National Guard photo/Senior Airman Amber Williams)

Ohio National Guard hosts emergency response course

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

COLUMBUS, Ohio—The Ohio governor has declared a state of emergency. The northern part of the state is covered in a heavy blanket of still-falling snow, flash flooding cripples the state in the south, and a domestic terrorist has bombed and derailed a train. Reports of casualties are pouring into your joint operations center, citizens are calling to request assistance, and you can't reach the boss. So what do you do now?

Students from seven state National Guards recently converged on a classroom at the Rickenbacker Army Enclave here to learn just that.

The students, all Army and Air National Guard members, plus one civilian contractor, came from as far away as Washington state to attend the five-day Joint Operations Center (JOC) 101 course at the enclave's Distance Learning Center. The class teaches National Guard members and civilian employees their roles and duties when working in a joint operations center.

Instructors from National Guard Bureau teach the course, which they tailor to meet the needs of the hosting state. The two-part course begins with three days of informational briefings covering a range of topics from rules on the use of force and the Posse Comitatus Act – which governs the use of military in law enforcement within the United States – to maintaining situational awareness and understanding plans to conduct and maintain operations during emergencies. The briefings also discuss the relationship between military and civil authorities, how the National Guard fits into the National Response Framework and the Emergency Management Assistance Compact, which provides guidelines for state-to-state assistance.

"We want to make sure everyone understands what it entails," said Michael Deener, senior training manager for National Guard Bureau. "It's enlightening to the students when they find out there's a lot more here involved than answering the telephone and building PowerPoint slides. There's a lot of work in the JOC and it requires a good bit of background understanding."

The second part of the course consists of a two-day, scenario-based practical exercise in which all students are assumed to be working in battle stations within the Ohio joint operations center.

"It's a come-as-you-are fight," Deener said. "If you didn't bring it with you, we're not giving it to you. So we provide a scenario for them to react to and then we ask the students, 'What do you do? Now that you've got this governor's declaration of an emergency, how do you handle it?'"

The Ohio-tailored exercise was dubbed "Operation Buckeye Blizzard." In the scenario, the joint operations center staff closely monitors a winter storm that is dropping heavy, wet snow in the northern half of the state and causing flash flooding in the south. The JOC is initially called into action when heavy snowfall causes a building collapse at a shopping center, resulting in several deaths and injuries.

While managing the response to the building collapse, they begin receiving reports of a possible domestic terrorism incident – an explosion has caused a train derailment and a train car containing chlorine has ruptured, creating a chemical cloud in the area.

"So now you've got a train derailment with multiple cars on fire and it's in a populated area and there's a big smoke plume and the news people are reporting there are people on the ground choking and we find out its chlorine," Deener said. "You've got a chlorine car rupture and your gas mask won't protect you against chlorine. So what do you do now?"

The students work together using the previous days' training to manage the situation as they've been taught. The instructors closely monitor the students, ensuring they remain calm and take the appropriate actions. Occasionally, instructors role play as senior leaders, demanding information from the JOC staff.

Richard White, a JOC 101 senior instructor and retired Army nuclear, biological and chemical specialist with more than 34 years in consequence management, has amassed more than 15 years of experience working in forward tactical operations centers and joint operations centers at all levels. Acting in the role of Ohio adjutant general, he stormed into the JOC and began demanding answers from the student acting as the JOC operations officer.

"I told him 'I just got my rear end handed to me by the governor. I need this information now. The next rear end to get handed out is yours so let's get it done,' which made him change his priorities," White said. "I call it a flash-bang grenade. I throw them in and disrupt the momentum and have them react to it because that's the lifestyle of the JOC - a lot of uncertainties, a lot of changes in directions, a lot of frustrations, a lot of stress."

White said the student responded professionally and calmly – a key element to maintaining a positive working environment during an emergency.

"They embraced this opportunity and they took it in and learned from it," he said. "They cooperated together. You had the Air and the Army in the same room, talking apples and oranges, but trying to make sense of it. And they really did come together well and collaborate well." Ⓔ



Capt. Aaron Barrett (left) and Maj. Greg York, students in the Joint Operations Center 101 class held at the Rickenbacker Army Enclave Jan. 10-14, 2011, prepare to brief Col. Michael McHenry, Ohio's acting chief of staff, during the course's culminating event - a practical exercise based on a winter storm and domestic terrorism scenario. Barrett is the deputy liaison for the Ohio National Guard Homeland Response Force, and York is the assistant operations officer for the 16th Engineer Brigade.



Soldiers from Company A, 372d Infantry Battalion, conduct a formal pass in review during annual training at Camp Atterbury, Ind., in 1950.

A historical perspective of black service in the Ohio Army National Guard

Sgt. 1st Class Joshua Mann
Historian, Ohio Army National Guard

From the formation of the Northwest Territory Militia in 1788 until the termination of racial segregation in the Ohio National Guard in 1954 and since, black Soldiers from Ohio have distinguished themselves in service to their country even in the face of race, social and political barriers. When the Northwest Territory Militia was born on July 25, 1788, it called for all physically-qualified males ages 16 - 50 to perform military service, providing no restrictions on race or citizenship. Many black Soldiers enrolled in the militia and participated in defending the settlements from Indian raids. However, in September 1799, the territorial legislature passed an updated militia law restricting military service to “able-bodied, white male citizens.”

This restriction on military service, which many considered a rite of manhood in their communities, continued officially for the next 60 years. While Ohio Soldiers answered the call for the War of 1812 and Mexican War, no record of black Soldiers in either fight exists. However, although state and federal laws prohibited non-whites from serving in the organized militia, evidence does exist of black independent militia companies forming in Ohio prior to the Civil War. In 1854, William Nell in “The Colored Patriots of the American Revolutions” wrote: “A colored military company has been formed in Cincinnati, pronounced by competent judges to be well



commanded in Cincinnati, pronounced by competent judges to be well

Col. Howard C. Gilbert was the commander of the 2d Battalion, 372d Infantry Regiment, from its reorganization in 1924 until he was promoted to colonel and regiment commander in 1940. The World War I veteran first enlisted in the Ohio National Guard in 1893.

manned, well officered and well drilled. They have chosen the appropriate historic name of Attacks Guards.” By 1860, another black company, also named Attacks Guards, was formed in Athens County, Village of Albany.

Even with the formation of these independent units, President Abraham Lincoln’s call for troops at the outbreak of the Civil War in April 1861 continued to be answered by the all-white militia. In 1862, Ohio Gov. David Tod proposed the Ohio militia could improve by admitting black volunteer companies and declared the men “would serve as a model for the future advancement of the colored race in Ohio.” Ohio lawmakers commended the governor’s efforts, but refused to change the law.

Tod’s inspiration to change the law might have grown from the service of the Black Brigade of Cincinnati in September 1862. As Confederate troops moved north through Kentucky and toward Ohio, Tod called upon all loyal Ohioans to help defend the southern border at Cincinnati. On the night of Sept. 2, 1862, 700 black males were violently forced from their homes by Cincinnati Police. When William Martin Dickson arrived the next day to take command of the brigade, he found his troops laboring on the south side of the Ohio River at Fort Mitchell and angered by their treatment the



Cpl. Kevin Collier, a licensed nurse practitioner with Support Squadron, 107th Armored Cavalry Regiment, prepares an intravenous bag for use in the field at Camp Grayling, Mich., circa 1990.

previous night. Dickson sent the men home with instructions to return the next day at 5 a.m.

The following morning, nearly all 700 men returned and went to work digging trenches and fighting positions, building forts and making roads. Although they never participated in combat, the Black Brigade was the first wave of black volunteers to defend the state.

Many in the Black Brigade, inspired by their service, would later travel to Boston to enlist in the famous 54th Massachusetts Infantry. Tod, upset that these Buckeyes were lost in the credits of other states, detailed Capt. Lewis McCoy of the 115th Ohio Volunteer Infantry to begin recruiting black Soldiers. A camp was established near Delaware and although progress at first was slow, the nucleus of the 127th Ohio Volunteer Infantry was finally formed by the fall of 1863. Soon after, the War Department called for colored troops and the 127th became the 5th United States Colored Troops (USCT) and headed off to war. For one fight at Chafin’s Farm in Virginia on Sept. 29, 1864, Sgts. Powhatan Beatty, Milton Holland, Robert Pinn and James Bronson were later awarded the Medal of



Staff Sgt. Vincent W. Coleman, an ammunition specialist with Support Squadron, 107th Armored Cavalry Regiment, inventories ammunitions at an ammunitions transfer point during annual training at Camp Grayling, Mich., circa 1990.

Honor - the only black Ohioans to receive the award during the war.

Even after the service of the 5th and later the 27th, also assembled from Ohio's black Soldiers in the Civil War, Ohio's laws remained silent on black membership in the militia. New laws in 1878 looked to shape the Guard into a more ready force and opened military service to all male citizens. In 1881, the 9th Battalion of Infantry was formed from two existing black companies, the Du Quesne Blues of Springfield and Poe Light Guards of Columbus. In 1884, the Martin Light Guard of Xenia joined the battalion.

When war with Spain was declared in 1898, the 9th Battalion added a fourth company in Cleveland and was mustered into federal service in May. As the battalion prepared to leave Columbus, a political showdown forced the battalion commander to resign. His replacement was a regular Army officer and the third black graduate of West Point, Maj. Charles Young. A native Buckeye, Young was known as a strict disciplinarian and introduced the Guardsmen to the rigors of professional military life. The war would end before most Ohio units could see combat and the 9th Ohio returned home in January 1899.

The battalion quickly reorganized and in the years prior to World War I, answered many calls to aid Ohio citizens. In 1917, the 9th was drafted into federal service for World War I and was



Officers and noncommissioned officers of the 137th Anti-aircraft Artillery Battalion, 37th Infantry Division, look over a map while training at Fort Bliss, Texas, in 1952. The all-black battalion was called into federal service in January 1952, serving 2 years on active duty before returning to Ohio.

consolidated with all black units from five other states to form the 372d Infantry. In France, it was assigned to the French 157th Division and would receive the French Croix de Guerre for their actions in the Meuse-Argonne campaign. Lt. Robert C. Allen, one of the few remaining black officers in the regiment, became the first African-American to receive the Distinguished Service Cross.

Reorganization following the war was slow for the black units. It was not until 1924 that the battalion was formed, again taking shape as the 2d Battalion, 372d Infantry. Life for the battalion during this time was comprised of routine weekly drills, summer camps and the occasional call to state active duty. On March 10, 1941, the battalion was ordered into federal service and left Ohio for Fort Dix, N.J. After a brief basic training it was assigned "home guard" duties in Philadelphia and later New York, guarding the harbor, subway and other key installations. Following stops in Kentucky and Arizona, the 372d was finally sent to the Pacific and was assigned to defensive positions on Hawaii. The war ended before the battalion could see combat and the 372d was inactivated Jan. 21, 1946.

Reorganization of the Ohio National Guard following the war saw two segregated units on the rolls of the state - the 372d Infantry Battalion and the 137th Antiaircraft Artillery Battalion. Although President Harry S. Truman had barred racial segregation of the armed forces on July 26, 1948, the order did not affect National Guard units not in federal service. Additionally, many leaders of the two units made a concerted effort to keep their battalion segregated, fearing that the double-edged sword of integration would block promotions and key assignments for black Soldiers.

The 137th got its first taste of integration when it was ordered into federal service in January 1952 for the Korean War. It returned to Ohio in January 1954, just months before Gov. Frank Lausche issued Executive Order No. 39, which fully integrated the Ohio National Guard. Both units continued, fully integrated, until a 1959 statewide reorganization that ultimately disbanded the battalions. The lineage of both organizations continues at various company level units around the state. The battalion lineage of the 372d Infantry is perpetuated today by the 237th Support Battalion, who also wears the distinctive unit insignia of the former organization.

Since integration, black Soldiers have continued to serve with great distinction in the Ohio Army National Guard. Wilbur Jones became the first black command sergeant major in 1968, Evyonne Turner was sworn in as the first black female in January 1973, and Maj. Gen. Richard Alexander became the first black general officer and first black adjutant general in Ohio National Guard history when he was selected by Gov. Richard Celeste for the post in 1988. ⚔

Maj. Gen. Richard C. Alexander became the first black general officer and the first black adjutant general in the Ohio National Guard when he was selected for the post by Gov. Richard Celeste in 1988.





Cadet Patrick Aboudallah takes his oath of citizenship during a Jan. 14, 2011, naturalization ceremony at the St. Dominic Elementary School in Cincinnati. The new American citizen is already a Soldier in the Ohio National Guard, serving with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 216th Engineer Battalion, 16th Engineer Brigade.

Ohio Guardmembers earn citizenship

Story by Capt. Dion Goins, 216th Engineer Battalion

Photos by Cara Owsley, reprinted with permission, courtesy of the Cincinnati Enquirer

An emotional scene filled with smiles and tears played out Jan. 14 at the St. Dominic Elementary School in Cincinnati as 125 people became naturalized American citizens.

Two of the brand-new citizens, however, had already sworn to protect and defend the Constitution of the United States one year earlier – Cadets Patrick Aboudallah and Mark Clemente – as both are Soldiers in the Ohio Army National Guard.

The two new American citizens have even more in common with one another – both are assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 216th Engineer Battalion, 16th Engineer Brigade, are students at the University of Cincinnati and have been accepted into the Simultaneous Membership Program. The SMP puts the cadets on a path to become Army officers upon graduation. While citizenship is not mandatory for enlisted Soldiers, it is a prerequisite to become a commissioned officer in the United States Army.

A native of Lebanon, Aboudallah moved to Ohio six years ago with his family. Clemente, a native of the Philippines, moved with his family to Ohio five years ago. Both families moved to the United States for similar reasons – more opportunities and a better education.

Clemente said he joined the Ohio Army National Guard and wanted to become an officer in part to recognize all the sacrifices his parents have made to support their family. “This is my way of trying to pay that back to them,” he said.

A junior in the university’s pre-medical program, Clemente hopes to become a pediatrician. He has been in the service for a year and a half and said a good officer leads by example. “It’s not about me, it’s about the men and women who serve under me,” he said.

Aboudallah is a sophomore studying international business who enlisted in the Ohio Army National Guard just over a year ago. He said he hopes to make a career out of being a military officer.

“Being an American citizen means I’m part of the greatest country in the world, where I can be the best I can be and where I can achieve the American dream and do whatever I want,”

Aboudallah said. “I also wanted to know what it feels like to be enlisted and be a private, which is why I joined the SMP program so I could go to basic and get that training. I feel if I want to be a good leader I need to know what it is like to live the enlisted life.”

Aboudallah said being a great officer takes a lot of passion. “You need to know what you are doing and always do the right thing,” he said. “You have to have integrity, because if you don’t do the right thing no one will listen to you.”



Sgt. 1st Class Michael Vanover, Cadet Mark Clemente and Sgt. 1st Class Joshua Debord socialize Jan. 14, 2011, following Clemente’s naturalization ceremony at the St. Dominic Elementary School in Cincinnati. The new American citizen is already a Soldier in the Ohio National Guard, serving with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 216th Engineer Battalion, 16th Engineer Brigade.



The 1484th Transportation Company Family Readiness Group receives the 2011 Defense Department Reserve Family Readiness Award for the Army National Guard during a Feb. 18 ceremony at the Pentagon. Pictured are Dennis M. McCarthy, assistant defense secretary for Reserve affairs (from left), Capt. Angela Bailey, 1484th commander, Crystal Sandor, assistant FRG leader, Rita Stahl, unit FRG leader and Col. John Harris, Ohio's assistant adjutant general, Army. (U.S. Army photo/Sgt. Darron Salzer)

Ohio Guard unit honored at 2011 DoD Reserve Family awards

Story & photos by Sgt. Darron Salzer
National Guard Bureau

ARLINGTON, Va.—Family readiness group members representing all of the military reserve components were recognized during a ceremony at the Pentagon Feb. 18, 2011, in recognition of their outstanding Family support programs.

The assistant defense secretary for Reserve affairs, Dennis M. McCarthy, hosted the 2011 Department of Defense Reserve Family Readiness Awards presentation, and each unit received a plaque, certificate of appreciation and cash award from the Military Officers Association of America to be put toward their Family programs.

Capt. Angela Bailey, commander of the 1484th Transportation Company, Ohio Army National Guard, said it was an honor to be recognized with an award at this level.

“My Family readiness group goes above and beyond what they are asked of and are there for us every single drill weekend,” she said.

The 1484th FRG started a battle-buddy system, an innovative system of information cards that stitched together the unit’s Soldiers and Families, Bailey said.

This close-knit network of Family support helped the unit reach a 100 percent contact rate between deployed Soldiers and spouses or other Family members.

The ceremony receives support and sponsorship from the MOAA and its president, currently, retired Navy Vice Adm. Norb Ryan.

“We want to do whatever it takes to be able to help you get the mission done, so being able to recognize the Families is so important to our membership,” Ryan said.

“When you are overseas, knowing that your Family is taken care of helps you to do the mission, and that’s what these Family readiness groups are doing – keeping the Family in mind.” ¶

Piqua Guard unit hosts open house

Story and photo by Spc. Ryan Erlewine
Battery B, 1st Battalion, 134th Field Artillery Regiment

The Soldiers of Battery B, 1st Battalion, 134th Field Artillery Regiment, hosted an open house for their local community and media members Jan. 16, 2011, at their armory in Piqua, Ohio.

Soldiers started preparing for the event early in the morning by setting up various stations to teach the public about their National Guard unit. Each station was tied to tasks the Soldiers experience in a normal duty day.

Staff Sgt. Stephen Ritchie spent two hours constructing a small obstacle course for the event’s younger visitors. The course included low crawling, target shooting and wall climbing. Other stations included a mock grenade range that used tennis balls to simulate throwing grenades at various targets. Later in the day, the station was home to a smoke grenade demonstration. At another station, participants donned protective gas masks and entered a tent filled with fog from a fog machine.

Visitors also enjoyed several stations inside the armory. A weapons station allowed visitors to not only see the various weapons that Soldiers use and train with, but offered a laser target range so they could get a feel for the rifles the Soldiers use. Several of the younger guests also visited a station where their faces were painted in camouflage. A night vision goggle demonstration was also available.

In the parking lot, several of the unit’s vehicles were on display, and a rock climbing wall supplied by the Recruiting and Retention Battalion was also popular with guests. ¶



A young visitor peers through the gunner’s sight of an M119-A2 115mm artillery piece Oct. 16, 2010, at the Battery B, 1st Battalion, 134th Field Artillery Regiment open house in Piqua, Ohio. The unit held the event to give the public a glimpse of their local National Guard unit.

Statewide officer symposium enlightens future leaders

Story by Sgt. Brandy Hoffman
Photos by Capt. Jonathan Johnson
Joint Force Headquarters-Ohio, Public Affairs

COLUMBUS, Ohio—An auditorium full of officer hopefuls wait in anticipation - they will soon learn if they qualify for the next step in their military career path.

The Ohio Army National Guard hosted its second annual statewide officer symposium Jan. 22-23, 2011, at the Defense Supply Center Columbus. The objective was clear – to assist Soldiers in the process of commissioning as an officer or warrant officer while increasing the commissioned ranks of the Ohio Army National Guard.

“Lethal at the point of attack, but ladies and gentlemen all the time,” was the expectation set by Col. John Harris, Ohio’s newly-appointed assistant adjutant general for Army.

The symposium began with a two-hour block of briefings including branch-specific presentations from each of the Ohio Army National Guard’s brigade commanders, who gave the Soldiers an idea of what branch they might wish to pursue based on their interests and skills.

Harris told the troops their choice to become commissioned officers demanded a great sense of responsibility, versatility and adaptability. During his briefing, he asked attendees if



Staff Sgt. Tara Salee of the 1486th Transportation Company begins the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery Jan. 22, 2011, during the officer production symposium at the Defense Supply Center Columbus.



Staff Sgt. David White of Company D, 1st Battalion, 137th Aviation Regiment, completes paperwork during the Officer Production Symposium Jan. 22, 2011, at the Defense Supply Center Columbus. White wants to become a supply warrant officer.

they were ready to be “the next generation to perpetuate the excellence in the tradition of the greatest generation of World War II.”

After the briefings, the Soldiers began phase two of the process and visited designated stations to process paperwork and verify their eligibility. During phase three, Soldiers spoke more in depth with the commanders to help narrow down options such as choosing a branch and deciding on a commissioning source. After completing phase three, all eligible Soldiers proceeded to medical evaluation – the fourth and final phase.

Soldiers who completed all four phases were given the opportunity to sign a six-year contract and enroll in an upcoming Officer Candidate School or Warrant Officer Candidate School. Soldiers who did not make it through to the final phase learned what they needed to do to obtain that goal.

While the event’s ultimate goal was to access as many eligible Soldiers as possible into the commissioning program, Sgt. 1st Class Cheryl Carter, the noncommissioned officer in charge, said the event had a secondary purpose.

“The people here are more likely to have good leads for

Officer symposium (continued)

commissioned officers,” Carter said. “Most are here for information purposes.”

Some Soldiers were ready to take the next step toward commissioning and were there to polish their packets, Carter said. She said her team used best practices and lessons learned from the first symposium to improve the process.

Capt. Brian McGinniss, specialty branch manager for the Ohio Army National Guard, emphasized the need for specialty branch officers such as chaplains, doctors and lawyers. The process of becoming a specialty branch officer can take much longer due to the professional-level education requirements. McGinniss said pulling individuals from those specialties into the National Guard is a priority and programs like the Incentive

Physician Assistant Program (IPAP), which allows Soldiers to enter a physician training program after drilling for one year, are helping the Ohio Army National Guard meet this priority. The IPAP funds physician training in exchange for six years of service after graduation.

“The IPAP was definitely helping the cause of increasing specialty branch officers,” McGinniss said.

McGinniss also said potential specialty branch officers have choices over and above their traditional counterparts, but they all have alternatives.

“They took the first step in choosing to be here,” he said. “We give them all the education on the available benefits and they make the choice on which commissioning source they want to take.” ¶

From best buddy to battle buddy

Story by Staff Sgt. Christopher R. Wysong
Recruiting and Retention Battalion

Two buddies who met in high school and trained together as athletes in college now train side by side as Soldiers.

Spc. Justin Hornick and Pfc. Joshua Linkous, both assigned to C Company, Recruit Sustainment Program, Recruiting and Retention Battalion, met at a track meet at Dracut High School during their senior year of high school. They became friends and began learning, training and playing sports and video games together, and upon graduation, even attended the same college together – Shawnee State University in Portsmouth, Ohio.

Hornick and Linkous continued their athletics at Shawnee State where they competed together on the university’s cross country team. The pair enjoyed many successes with the team – both are listed on the team’s all-time top 25 roster and both made National Championship appearances – Hornick in 2008 and Linkous in 2008, 2009 and 2010. Linkous also made the Mid-South Conference’s All-Conference Team rosters with honorable mentions in 2007 and 2008, 2nd team in 2009 and 1st team in 2010. This past November, the pair also helped their team to a fourth-place finish at the 2010 National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics Men’s Cross Country Championships at Fort Vancouver National Historic Site in Vancouver, Wash.

Linkous was the first of the pair to join the Ohio Army National Guard, enlisting as a fire support specialist in February 2010 as a way to repay his college loans and serve his country. Hornick soon followed his friend, enlisting a month later as a combat engineer, also with the intention of repaying college loans and serving his country.

“I would love to be remembered as someone who would do anything for anyone, who puts himself at risk before his Soldiers, friends or Family,” Hornick said.

Shortly after Hornick enlisted, Linkous switched his military occupational specialty to combat engineer so he could join his buddy and serve with a unit closer to home. In January 2011, they left to attend Basic Combat Training and Advanced Individual Training at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., side by side as “battle buddies,” an Army term for partners in both garrison and combat. When they return fully trained, they will leave the Recruit Sustainment Program – which helps prepare new



Pfcs. Justin Hornick and Joshua Linkous pause for a photo on their way to the Gahanna, Ohio, Military Entrance Processing Station in January, just days before reporting to Basic Combat Training. The pair trained together as high school and college cross country team members and continue to train together as Soldiers in the Ohio National Guard. (Courtesy photo)

recruits for the rigors of Basic Combat Training – and transfer to the 811th Engineer Company (Sapper) in Amanda, Ohio.

Both Hornick and Linkous said their friendship helped them through school and will continue to help them through their future as Soldiers.

Hornick said persistence has taught him his most important life lessons.

“Never quit,” he said. “If you want something, go get it. Never let someone tell you [that] you can’t do something.”

Linkous agreed. “Never give up on anything,” he said.

As they prepared to depart for Basic Combat Training, Hornick said he and his battle buddy will always have each other’s backs, now and in combat. ¶

One team, one fight, two missions

Story by Staff Sgt. Shaina Dailey
and Airman 1st Class Brooke Khayo
123rd Air Control Squadron

VIRGINIA BEACH, Va.—The 123rd Air Control Squadron faced one of their busiest annual training periods to date in September when they supported the Fleet Synthetic Training Group commanders at Oceana Naval Air Station's Dam Neck Annex, while also validating one of their two unit type codes – or wartime tasks – at Fort Story, Va.

The joint coalition training included the U.S. Air Force, Navy and Marines as well as the German Navy. The joint environment gave some members of the 123rd who have not deployed a small taste of what to expect in a joint setting.

At Fort Story, unit members supported their command's request to validate the accuracy of the manpower and equipment necessary to mobilize a deployed radar system – one of their wartime tasks. The system consists of a transportable air surveillance radar system and all of its supporting equipment, including radio and satellite communication devices. Although two Air Control Squadrons – one active duty and one National Guard unit – had previously attempted the validation, neither was successful. Deployed radar systems have been in use for about ten years, but the number of personnel and exact equipment requirements to successfully deploy them were never validated. In their last trip to Iraq, the 123rd set up and effectively used a deployed radar system, which aided them significantly in this assignment.

In order to successfully validate the system, members established a link via satellite with the 103rd Air Control Squadron out of Orange, Conn. A mere 48 hours after they rolled on site at Fort Story, the 123rd became the first unit to successfully set up the system and all communications

equipment and establish a link with another unit at a distant end. The mission was so successful that Air Combat Command used the 123rd's techniques as the directive on how to deploy the system Air Force wide. While this accomplishment would have measured success for a normal annual training period, the unit's second assignment was just beginning.

Concurrently at Dam Neck, Va., unit members were beginning their Fleet Synthetic Training Group exercise with the Navy's Enterprise Strike Group, participants from the German Navy, the U.S. Marines and an Airborne Warning and Control System from Tinker Air Force Base, Okla. It marked the first time an Air National Guard unit deployed to participate in a Fleet Synthetic Training Group exercise, which allowed the squadron a chance to work through logistics, deploying and equipment setup as they would in the field, in addition to joint training benefits. The 123rd's goal for this exercise was to improve and refine mission readiness within the operations section, while also allowing other sections opportunities to establish communications, networks, power, HVAC and other needed proficiencies for training.

Operations personnel rotated through the operations modules during the course of the exercise, sitting their respective positions and learning more about their jobs than is typically available during normal scheduled unit training assemblies. The unit was linked via simulation with the Enterprise Strike Group and played out a fictional scenario based upon real-world events and possibilities. The exercise was important because it enabled the 123rd operations section a chance to not only work with the Navy, but to utilize new equipment, identify areas of improvement for future joint exercises and refine their techniques.

The Fleet Synthetic Training took place in port and was designed to prepare the strike group for the three-week composite training unit exercise period at sea. The FST was administered to test intelligence, air defense, surface defense, mine warfare and other warfare areas that a carrier strike group must be proficient in prior to deploying. The intent of the training is to ensure carrier strike groups are ready to fight the scenario-driven events in the exercise.

Vice Adm. Daniel Holloway, commander of U.S. 2nd Fleet, visited the 123rd for a firsthand look at how his carrier strike group interacted with Air National Guard's land-based command and control assets.

"The 123rd Air Control Squadron's participation in the Fleet Synthetic Joint Group Commander exercise added the joint-level realism necessary to prepare our fleet leadership for what they will face in the joint and multi-national environment that we operate in today," Holloway said. ¶

Airmen from the 123rd Air Control Squadron locate and prepare satellite communications equipment and status boards for set-up during an annual training event supporting a U.S. Navy exercise near Oceana Naval Air Station, Sept. 22, 2010. (Ohio National Guard photo/Senior Airman Justin Crum)



Guard partnership drives opportunities in trucking industry

Story by Capt. Matt Molinski
Ohio National Guard Public Affairs

“What are you going to do when we get back?” asked Sgt. Buckeye.

“I don’t know, there aren’t many jobs where I live – it sucks,” said Pfc. Cleveland.

“This deployment came around just in time. I was laid off from work and looking for something, anything,” Buckeye said.

“Same for me - and the problem is nobody is hiring. I hate going on unemployment, but that seems to be our only option,” Cleveland said.

Unfortunately, conversations similar to this happen throughout the Ohio National Guard too often, but the National Guard is stepping in to assist Soldiers with finding jobs in the transportation industry.

The U.S. Department of Labor predicts a nine percent growth in truck driving jobs between 2008 and 2018, and the National Guard’s Drive the Guard program offers an opportunity to be hired into one of those jobs.

“We want to offer opportunities to Soldiers to be able to work in a good occupation that pays well,” said Mike O’Connell from the Commercial Driver Training Foundation. The CDTF has partnered with the National Guard to approve schools to participate in the new program. In Ohio, approved truck driving schools include Hamrick in Medina, Roadmaster in Columbus, Napier in Hamilton, Tri-State in Middletown, Columbus and Dayton, Swift in Columbus and Clark State Community College in Springfield and Beavercreek.

“The trucking industry is going through a terrible shortage of drivers right now,” O’Connell said. “Between now and the end of 2011, we’ll need 400,000 additional drivers.”

Jack Collins, director of military admissions at Roadmaster Drivers School, said Guard members are ideal candidates for the jobs.

“Employers are looking for Soldiers because they are reliable, dependable and good workers,” he said.

Candidates must meet a few basic requirements to participate in the program - they must be over 21 and be accepted into the CDTF-approved school of their choice. Eligibility for current Soldiers requires that two years remain on their enlistment contract from the date they submit the application. Guard members can hold any military occupational specialty and continue to attend drills while attending truck driving school. Additional requirements can be found on the program’s website at www.nationalguard.com/drivetheguard.

Typically, the course is four weeks long and upon completion, the student receives a commercial driver’s license. The Drive the Guard program is unique because it guarantees the Guard member will receive a pre-hire letter with a motor carrier. After graduation, it is common for a participant to immediately attend employee orientation with a motor carrier the next day, and start with an annual salary of about \$36,000. Truck driving careers are somewhat unique because they don’t require an employee to live where the company is located. If a Soldier graduates and cannot locate a job in Ohio, they can stay in Ohio and work for companies in Nebraska, Arizona, Washington or any other state, O’Connell said.

“These are fantastic jobs for military people,” said Sgt. 1st Class John Williams, an instructor with the 2nd Modular Training Battalion, 166th Regiment, Pennsylvania National Guard. “We are used to being away from home, and it’s exciting traveling the country getting paid to see the 48 states and Canada,” he said.

Williams, an employee with Schneider National, Inc., has deployed twice to Iraq, and is currently serving on an Active Duty Operational Support tour at Fort Indian Town Gap.

Through it all, Schneider has supported his military service.

“There is even a passenger program,” Williams said. “If you are married, your wife can ride with you for a year.”

These types of programs help those who have been deployed away from home and want to spend time with their spouse.

There is more to the transportation industry than just truck driving, however. Positions also exist for mechanics, managers and several different types of drivers. Regional route drivers work Monday through Friday and have weekends off. Dedicated drivers work for specific companies transporting freight between distribution



Sgt. 1st Class John Williams enjoys the benefits of driving for Schneider National, Inc. while serving with the Pennsylvania National Guard. (Courtesy photo)

centers and stores.

Service members do well in the trucking industry because the work culture and jargon are similar to the military, Williams said. Many former military members are employed and keep the same standards of discipline and team work they learned in the service.

In the past there has been a negative stereotype of truck drivers, but that is no longer the case, Williams said. “The majority of drivers are health conscious, and all the operating centers have gyms,” he said. “It’s not uncommon to see trucks with mountain bikes strapped to them.”

When a driver stops for the day, he can stay in shape in a number of ways.

“I’m a golfer,” Williams said. “I kept my golf clubs in my truck. I’d park my truck when I was done with my day and hit courses all over the nation.” Ⓔ



Endurance and marksmanship key to Ohio team's success

Story by Capt. Kristina Gaskins
Ohio National Guard Public Affairs

Photos courtesy of 2nd Lt. Stephanie LaFratta
Ohio National Guard Biathlon Team

During the warmer months, many people compete in endurance events such as triathlons or duathlons that combine multiple sports. In the colder months, these athletes must normally take their training inside a gym. Athletes who participate in the biathlon, however, embrace the colder winter months. In this endurance event, participants compete in the snow with a weapon on their back.

The biathlon is an endurance sport that combines cross-country skiing with marksmanship. Participants "skate-ski" a hilly loop ranging from a 1 km. super sprint to a 7.5 km. (women) and 10 km. (men) distance, then try to shoot down five 50-meters targets from both the prone and standing positions. For each missed target, competitors must ski a 150-meter penalty loop. Each loop can take anywhere from 45-60 seconds to complete. The athlete with the best overall time wins the contest, so participants must be good at skiing and marksmanship in order to place well.

"You only see it every four years in the Olympics ... up until this past Olympics it wasn't covered very well," said Bill Pifer, current coach of the Ohio National Guard team. Pifer has been with the team since it organized in 1983.

Lt. Col. Thom Haidet, who has participated, coached and coordinated the Ohio National Guard Biathlon Team since 1983, said the biathlon is a misunderstood, often-overlooked sport in America. He said there is a huge misconception about what it is in America, but it is huge in Europe.

"The biathlon is an ever-changing sport," he said. "In Europe, there are over 50,000 spectators. The U.S. is lucky to have fifty per event."

The biathlon team began as a regular Army program with a mission to improve Soldiers' combat abilities. The National Guard took over the program, and Ohio's team was organized

in 1983. Their first competition was in the 1984 National Guard Bureau Biathlon Championships.

Since then, the National Guard program has consistently produced world-class athletes. Those who excel during competitions can be chosen to compete in national and international competition, to include the Biathlon World Cup and Winter Olympic events. In fact, the National Guard Biathlon Team is the only DoD organization that consistently sends Soldiers to the Olympics. Members of the National Guard All-Biathlon Team have served on the 1988, 1992, 1994, 1998 and the 2002 Winter Olympic biathlon teams.

2nd Lt. Stephanie LaFratta and Cadets Lauren Ladd and Rob Weber are all familiar with the sport, all having placed in the top three in their division at the Central Regional Biathlon



Cadet Eric Bender clears his shooting targets at the Central Regional Biathlon Jan. 12-15 at Camp Ripley, Minn. The Ohio National Guard Biathlon Team competed in the 2011 Central Regional Biathlon to prepare for the national competition in March.

Jan. 12-15 at Camp Ripley, Minn. The regional event is held annually to prepare novice and experienced biathlon athletes alike for the National Championships, held Mar. 6 this year in Vermont by the National Guard Bureau.

For Ladd and Weber, both members of the University of Toledo ROTC program and who are engaged to be married, this was their first year on the Ohio National Guard team and their first competition. Ladd placed third in the overall Senior Women's Division (21 and up), and Weber placed third in the novice category, which is comprised of Soldiers and Airmen competing for the first time.

Weber and Ladd both decided to join the team after speaking with a cadre member at the University of Toledo.

"(He) was talking to us about what it was like ... and his experiences when he did it as a cadet," Weber said. "It sounded like something that we both like; we both like exercising and working out."

The team trains year around by running, biking, swimming, roller skiing and strength training. They practice with dry fire shots and firing live rounds from a .22 caliber rifle and culminate their training in West Yellowstone, Montana, where they spend one week skiing and shooting.

"Before we went, I did roller skis first, and practiced that way and once we got to Yellowstone I picked it up right away," Ladd said, "I had done downhill skiing before but never cross country."

LaFratta, who just completed Officer Candidate School, participated on the team last year. She was also new to skiing when she tried out for the team.

"I had never been on a pair of skis before," LaFratta said. "It took me a week to learn how to ski and a month later I was in competition."

LaFratta, who placed first last year in the Senior Women's Novice Division at the national competition and second this year in the Senior Women's Division at the regional

competition, said the sport is physically and mentally challenging.

"The hardest thing is getting your heart rate under control and making sure you focus on targets and shooting, because anyone can learn how to ski, but once you get out there and do the skiing part it is coming to the range and seeing what you can do there," LaFratta said. "It's a thinking sport as well ... you have to be on top of your game mentally."

LaFratta said the sport improves her Soldiering abilities. "It hones in on a lot of skills we need as Soldiers. You won't come up on an enemy where your heart rate is calm, (you are) going to come up to them with your heart racing like we do when we come up to a target."

The Ohio National Guard Biathlon Team is always looking for more athletes, Haidet said. The most important part of trying out is being aerobically fit. Team membership has been sporadic throughout the years due to the war, but Haidet said there are usually 10-15 athletes on the team each year.

"You have to have an aerobic background, be a runner or a biker or roller blade or something aerobic, because we can always teach anyone to ski and help with their shooting, but you need that aerobic background," Pifer said.

Haidet said anyone interested in joining the team must tryout in one of their sessions scheduled throughout the year. "The biathlon team is open to both Army and Air athletes, and not everyone knows this program is available for their participation if they dare to work hard and have fun," he said.

For Weber and Ladd, participating in the event helped them to decide which branch of service they wanted to enter into after graduation. They both decided to join the Ohio Army National Guard upon commissioning so they can keep participating in the sport. Ⓔ

For more information on the Ohio National Guard Biathlon team, contact Lt. Col. Thom Haidet at thomas.haidet@us.army.mil.



The 2011 Ohio National Guard Biathlon Team poses for a group photograph on the Madison River in Yellowstone, Mont., prior to the 2011 Central Regional Biathlon. The team was in Yellowstone to train for the biathlon held Jan. 12-15, 2011, at Camp Ripley, Minn.

Background and above left: Competitors representing all 50 U.S. states line up to start the relay competition of the 2011 Central Regional Biathlon at Camp Ripley, Minn., in January. The Ohio National Guard Biathlon Team competed in the event Jan. 12-15 to prepare for the national competition in March.

Former Cincinnati Reds players visit 178th Fighter Wing

Story by Senior Airman Amy N. Adducchio
178th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

Three African American baseball players who made the leap from segregated to desegregated baseball in the 1950s and 1960s joined the 178th Fighter Wing for a presentation Feb. 5 at the Springfield Air National Guard Base in Ohio.

Jane Esprit, the 178th Fighter Wing Family readiness coordinator, arranged to have former Cincinnati Reds baseball players Charlie “Whip” Davis, Leo “Chico” Cardenas and Chuck Harmon speak to the 178th through the “Seniors With A Purpose” program.

SWAP’s original mission was to encourage minority youths to take interest in baseball, but it has evolved to include the importance of integrity and morals. Tony Williams, SWAP treasurer and 20-year neighbor of Harmon, introduced the former Reds players and facilitated the event.

Because of racial segregation at the time, these men played for the Negro League.

“There will be no more like them,” Williams said. “There will never be another Negro League. There are about 100 Negro League players still alive.”

Several years after Brooklyn Dodgers General Manager Branch Rickey desegregated professional baseball, the Cincinnati Reds introduced their first African American Reds player, Harmon, in 1954. In addition to his baseball career, Harmon played on two championship basketball teams in high school, and served three years in the U.S. Navy.

Davis was a pitcher for the Memphis Red Sox from 1950 to 1955 and received his nickname from country music singer Charley Pride, who was at that time a Memphis Red Sox player, Davis said. Pride was the relief pitcher for Satchel Paige in the 1953 East/West All Star game. Davis became a Red when Major League Baseball held the 2008 Negro League Draft, which honored members of the Negro League who didn’t switch over to the MLB.

Cardenas, a short stop who emigrated from Cuba and spoke no English, played nine of his 16 MLB seasons for the Reds. Cardenas played in four All Star games and won a Golden Glove award in 1965.

The former Reds talked about how the game, players and etiquette have changed. They also answered questions from those in attendance.

When asked about friction surrounding desegregation, Cardenas simply replied, “My game is baseball.” The three said they liked baseball so much they didn’t worry about racism.

“These guys are the equivalent of the Tuskegee Airmen,” said Master Sgt. Wes Haines, 178th Mission Support Group first sergeant and presentation attendee. Haines grew up watching and playing baseball, he said. “We have three gentlemen here who paved the way, and it’s great to be able to hear their perspectives.”

According to Negroleaguebaseball.com, more than 150 former Negro League players were integrated into professional baseball. With the best Negro League players gone, the league came to a close in 1952, Williams said.



Gene Smith, athletic director for The Ohio State University, speaks to Soldiers and Airmen at the Ohio National Guard Headquarters Feb. 3, 2011, in observance of Black History Month. Smith is the university’s first black athletic director. (Ohio National Guard photo/Tracy Kromer)

Gene Smith speaks to troops for Black History Month

Story and photo by Tracy Kromer
Ohio National Guard Public Affairs

The Ohio National Guard welcomed guest speaker Gene Smith, athletic director for The Ohio State University, during a gathering at Robert S. Beightler Armory in Northwest Columbus Feb. 3, 2011, in celebration of Black History Month.

Smith spoke candidly, sharing personal accounts of growing up in Cleveland and working alongside his father, an electrician and entrepreneur. From a young age, he learned discipline, gaining a strong appreciation for life after listening to fellow electricians speak of their lives and concerns about future opportunities within their community, he said.

Smith attended an all-black school until the ninth grade, when his father decided to enroll him into St. Peter’s Chanel – a Catholic (formally) all-white, male high school – at a pivotal point in his life.

“I did not understand white culture until my time at Chanel,” he said. “Diversity is the one true thing we have in common and we should celebrate it every single day.”

Athletics entered his life during Smith’s junior year. Instead of attending a two-year community college to become an electrician like his father, he attended Notre Dame University, participated in football and earned a bachelor’s degree in business administration. While pursuing a master’s degree in international relations, Notre Dame officials offered Smith an opportunity to stay on as a graduate assistant for the football team. After his first season, the university’s coach left and Smith received a fulltime position on the coaching staff that eventually led him to Arizona State as director of athletics.

Smith turned down The Ohio State University twice before an influential friend



Charlie “Whip” Davis (seated, from left), Leo “Chico” Cardenas and Chuck Harmon visit 178th Fighter Wing in Springfield, Ohio, Feb. 5 for a Black History Month celebration. (Ohio National Guard photo/Staff Sgt. Antonio Vega)

of his wife convinced him to at least “hear what they had to say.”

“It was my social responsibility,” he said. “The Ohio State University never had an African-American athletic director.”

Smith said he made it his mission to fill the pipeline with a pool of young athletic administrators who presidents can interview to have an opportunity to become athletic directors.

“I have a responsibility as an African-American athletic director to inspire those who want to be where I am. I’m finally that role model and I accept that honor. I accept that blessing,” he said.

178th Fighter Wing member named ANG Airfield Management Airman of Year

Story by Senior Master Sgt. Joseph R. Stahl
178th Fighter Wing

Senior Airman Joshua Curtis, an airfield manager with the 178th Fighter Wing Operations Group, was selected as the 2010 Air National Guard Airfield Management Airman of the Year by the director, Air, Space and Information Operations.

Chief Master Sgt. Will Uithoven, 186th Air Refueling Wing, Meridian, Miss., airfield manager and vice chairman of the Airfield Management Advisory Council, contacted the 178th to encourage them to submit Curtis for the award.

“This type of work ethic deserves acknowledgement,” Uithoven said. “We often find good Airman that are worthy of recognition, but sometimes is hard to capture on paper. This was not the case for Airman Curtis.”

The 186th Air Refueling Wing is in the midst of a mission conversion and is losing many of their airfield managers due to this change, so they needed volunteers to fill in. Curtis volunteered for a 90-day tour.

Curtis said he recognized that the resident airfield managers spent a lot of time continuously having to train new people who came in for 90-day rotations. He wanted to relieve some of this burden so he took it upon himself to develop a guide, the Project Liberty Management Guide.

Project Liberty is a program for training pilots and crew who fly the MC-12 twin-engine turboprop aircraft, which is a sensor-equipped Hawker Beechcraft C-12. The MC-12 is used for intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance missions in Afghanistan and Iraq.

The guide helps new people answer questions or get information they would need to perform their job without disturbing the full-time airfield managers.

“This guide helps take the load off of them,

as far as training, and they could spin people up faster because when you first get down there, you can’t immediately start because you need to get trained on the airfield. So this guide helped them to get people on the job quicker,” Curtis said.

Uithoven provided the 178th with the information to include in the award application.

“Airman Curtis possesses an unbelievable can-do attitude. He is an Airman that we all wish we had in our work centers,” Uithoven said. “He is highly motivated and is not the type of Airman that just sits around waiting for instruction. He is thirsty for knowledge and constantly looking for a better way to accomplish a task or streamline a process. He volunteers at work as well as off duty.”

Senior Master Sgt. Benjamin Ross, airfield manager at the 178th, and Chief Master Sgt. Ottis LeMaster completed the lengthy application process required to nominate Curtis for the award.

“It was a big effort, they put a lot of time and effort into it,” Curtis said.

Curtis said his career aspirations are to become a military aviator. He knows the path that he must take, and is well on his way toward achieving that goal.

“Flying has always been a passion of mine,” said Curtis, who began flying lessons at 14 and completed his first solo flight at 16, before he had a driver’s license.

Curtis joined the Ohio Air National Guard after high school, and is taking advantage of the tuition program as a senior at Wright State University majoring in organizational leadership.

Upon graduation, he would like to pursue a commission and become a pilot in the Air Force.

Curtis will compete with the active duty Air Force Airfield Managers Airman of the Year for the highest award. The overall winner will be announced in the spring.



Senior Airman Joshua Curtis of the 178th Fighter Wing participates in the **Springfield, Ohio, Memorial Day parade** May 31, 2010. (Ohio National Guard photo/Senior Airman Amy Adducchio)

Father surprises deployed son on Christmas Eve

Story courtesy of Task Force Thunder
Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan

An Ohio Air National Guardsman deployed to Afghanistan received a special gift this past Christmas Eve from his father, who was also deployed and serving in Kuwait.

Army Lt. Col. James R. Herd, deputy program director for the Logistics Civil Augmentation Program in Kuwait, surprised his son, Staff Sgt. Jonathan Herd, an engineer apprentice assigned to the Task Force Thunder Engineering and Installation Team based out of Bagram Air Base, with a Christmas Eve visit.

As part of the engineering and installation team, the younger Herd moves around Afghanistan a lot on missions. So when an opportunity for James to fly to Afghanistan surfaced while his son Jonathan was actually on base, he said he had to grab that special opportunity.

“This was a Christmas present for his mom since she has been worried about both of us,” James said.

Jonathan said he was surprised to see his father. “I really just couldn’t believe it,” he said. “I had just got off the phone with him last night.”

Little did Jonathan know, his father placed the phone call to ensure Jonathan would be at Bagram Air Base, and everything else fell into place from there. “It was just an opportunity that happened – one of those Christmas miracles,” he said.



Deployed father and son, Army Lt. Col. James R. Herd and Ohio Air National Guard Staff Sgt. Jonathan Herd, display their Buckeye pride during a surprise visit Dec. 24, 2010, by the elder Herd to his son’s base in Bagram, Afghanistan. The Ohio Guardsman deployed to Afghanistan with the Zanesville-based 220th Engineering and Installation Squadron in November 2010. (Courtesy photo)

196th Mobile Public Affairs

Detachment Soldiers named as nation's best

The Department of Army honored journalists from the Columbus-based 196th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment with six awards including four first place finishes in its 2010 Keith L. Ware Communications Competition.

First place honors were awarded to Spc. Amy Gregory who earned the "Rising Star Award" for outstanding new broadcaster, Sgt. Chad Menegay for photojournalism, Staff Sgt. Nicholas Pavlik for deployed b-roll package and the 196th Broadcast Section for its regional television newscast "Balad and Beyond." Sgt. Michael Carden earned 2nd place for news story and Spc. Benjamin Wise earned 3rd place for deployed television feature report.

The competition comes on the heels of the National Guard Bureau media contest, announced earlier this month, where the 196th far outpaced the competition, earning 15 broadcast and print honors, with nine first place awards. Sgt. Chad Menegay earned the prestigious Paul D. Savanuck Journalist of the Year award after taking first place in both sports story and photojournalism, and Spcs. Benjamin Wise and Amy Gregory took 1st and 2nd place honors, respectively, in the "Rising Star" award for Outstanding New Broadcaster.

Other first place winners included the 196th Broadcast Section for regional television newscast, Staff Sgt. Steve Engle for television spot production and television news report, Staff Sgt. Nicholas Pavlik for deployed television feature report and deployed b-roll package and Sgt. Michael Carden for news story. Second place honors were awarded to Wise for deployed television news report and deployed television feature report, Cpl. Dan Eddy for photojournalism and the 196th Print Team for field newspapers. 1st Lt. Kimberly Snow earned honorable mention for news story and Sgt. Sean Mathis from Joint Force Headquarters-Ohio earned honorable mention in the photograph category.

Military service inspires fashion career

Story by Tracy Kromer
Ohio National Guard Public Affairs

Friends since childhood, Jermaine Jenkins and Andre Wilson are two former Ohio National Guard members with business savvy and entrepreneurial spirit. In 2005, they formed JWORK Limited, passionate to give back to their community and inspire fellow veterans of the U.S. Armed Forces.

JWORK is a military-inspired clothing brand with an online presence, designed and custom-made in Columbus, Ohio. Jenkins, company CEO and designer, began designing jerseys in 1996 and said he has always had an interest in fashion.

"Much of what I liked I could not afford," Jenkins said.

Improvising with clothing design became his way of expressing personal style and having a voice in fashion.

JWORK - initially a nickname Jenkins inherited during his high school basketball career, now stands for Justified Wealth of Real Kings. "I heard it in my mind. It's powerful, not about wealth, but about what it means to you," Jenkins said.

"We like to see what understanding people come up with on their own," Wilson said.

The JWORLD brand has a strong military inspiration, and its slogan, 'five-star lifestyle clothing,' means "having the best of the best in life - it's about enjoying yourself and where you're at in your life," Wilson said.

The brand has evolved from its beginnings designing custom jerseys, now expanding to polo shirts, graphic T-shirts and hoodies. "We want to create real pieces with a vintage flair," Jenkins said.

Jenkins and Wilson joined the Ohio National Guard together in 2001. Their experiences and cultural exposure while deployed overseas influenced the direction of JWORLD. Jenkins remembers sketching out designs, inspired by the mix of cultures and clash of different uniforms, mailing each idea back home to Columbus, he said.

"Being in the military helped us learn business ethics," Jenkins said.

"We have that 'never-quit' attitude," Wilson added.

During his deployment to Iraq, Jenkins remembers purchasing a plain Ecko T-shirt size 4X at the local post exchange - the only available size. Because he normally wears a size medium, the shirt hung on him like a bed sheet.

Experiences like this further fueled the pair's long-term goals with brand presence, hoping for an opportunity to offer a stylish alternative to veterans and Soldiers in post exchanges across the country.

Jenkins earned the Purple Heart Medal after being blinded for nearly a month when a roadside bomb exploded near his vehicle during a mission. He said the experience was valuable.

"As a designer, not being able to see, you use your imagination a lot. You dig deep into yourself, think about family and those close to your heart," Jenkins said.

It was then he realized he wanted to be an entrepreneur and designer, reinvigorating his passion and causing him to refocus his energy on the company.

With the launch of the company blog and websites - www.jworklimited.com and www.jworktv.com

- where the pair documents daily life inside JWORLD, their business mission is clear - to make it to the next level.

After a business acquaintance suggested reaching out to MTV to tell the JWORLD story, Wilson immediately wrote in. Hard work paid off and MTV took notice, selecting JWORLD to be featured on an episode of "The Opening" on mtvU, MTV's college network, during the week of Feb. 21, 2011. "The Opening" is a documentary of life changes individuals go through as they transition into career paths while following their passion.

Jenkins offered advice to any fellow Guardsmen considering starting a new business endeavor. "It is very challenging, but doable," he said. "Remember basic training and dig deep. You can do this."

Both Jenkins and Wilson feel an overwhelming responsibility to give back to those lost, their families and other veterans, they said. They understand the struggle. Their message is both powerful and humbling... "You can do this."



Andre Wilson (left) and Jermaine Jenkins, co-owners of JWORLD Limited, a military-inspired clothing line headquartered in Columbus, Ohio, work on new designs for their season two line releasing in April 2011. (Courtesy photo)

TRICARE improves online communication, access

Story by Donna Miles
American Forces Press Service

Additions to the TRICARE military health plan's website are giving beneficiaries easier access to their personal health data, more convenient appointment scheduling and better communication with their health care providers, the top TRICARE official reported.

TRICARE Online, the military health system's patient portal, already enables users who get care at a military treatment facility to schedule appointments, track their medications, order prescription refills and view and even download their personal health records, Navy Rear Adm. (Dr.) Christine S. Hunter told American Forces Press Service.

Later this year, patients also will be able to get their laboratory and X-ray results through the

portal, along with secure messaging from their health care providers, Hunter said.

"You will be able to go there and it will say you have two messages from your doctor," she said. "You will click on it, and it may be the nurse telling you that you are overdue for something, and maybe a lab result and an explanation of the findings."

The next goal will be to expand these capabilities so beneficiaries can track what immunizations they received and when, and get a "heads up" from their health care provider when they're due for their next one, she said.

Meanwhile, TRICARE plans to increase the number of clinics that offer online appointment scheduling and tailor the process to offer the broadest selection of openings so beneficiaries can select what's most convenient for them.

In addition, health care providers will begin using the portal to get patients to fill out forms and questionnaires at their convenience before they arrive for their appointments.

TRICARE Online offers the best of both worlds, Hunter said. It helps to build a closer relationship between beneficiaries and their health care providers while taking advantage of technology and health care tools to make that relationship more convenient and accessible 24/7.

Beneficiaries increasingly are taking advantage of the new capability. Almost 311,500 active users have logged into the system over the past year, officials reported, with an average of 2,800 new user registrations each week.

Since January 2010, beneficiaries have scheduled almost 200,000 medical appointments and requested more than 61,500 prescription refills through the system. During the week of Jan. 9 - 16 alone, they scheduled almost 3,000 appointments and refilled more than 1,000 prescriptions.

TRICARE officials also report increased use of the "blue button" feature that enables beneficiaries to access their personal health data and, if they choose, save it to a file on their computer.

Hunter said this feature is particularly helpful because it enables beneficiaries to download their records when they need to seek medical care away from their regular health care facility, and empowers them to better partner with providers about the treatment they receive.

Medina maintainers conduct AT at national training center

Story by Capt. Claudio Garciacastro
212th Maintenance Company

The 212th Maintenance Company conducted their 2011 annual training period Jan. 5-22 at the National Maintenance Training Center at Camp Dodge, Iowa.

The unit concentrated training on improving

their support maintenance operations, providing command and control, protecting the force and providing sustainment – all considered mission essential tasks for the 212th. Although the unit's top priority was conducting maintenance operations, or 'turning wrenches,' they also conducted driver's training, ground satellite system training and warrior task training.

The Maintenance Control Team, led by Master Sgt. Richard Lantz and 1st Lt. Cameron Amigo, conducted a two-day training course on the Standard Army Maintenance System-Enhanced (SAMS-E), the Army's maintenance tracking system and database, completed a Composite Risk Management class and briefed all sections on maintenance reports so that they were ready to begin maintenance operations immediately upon arriving at Camp Dodge.

Soldiers assigned to the automotive team received training on diagnosing faults and ordering parts, as well as battle damage assessment and repair, shop environment, safety, composite risk management, man-hour accounting usage and maintenance request forms and inspection worksheets.

The Allied Trades Team practiced basic machine set-up and operation, correct tool selection, cutting speed and feeds and materials identification. They also practiced metal inert gas (MIG) welding and tungsten inert gas (TIG) welding. Each day, the team reviewed the composite risk management board and took turns briefing on machine shop hazards.

Soldiers assigned to the Communications and Electronics Team received training on the AN/GRM-122 radio test system needed to troubleshoot the Single Channel Ground and Airborne Radio System (SINCGARS). Because the 212th doesn't have any of the test systems, the troops jumped at the chance to get some hands-on training. The C&E received training on troubleshooting and maintaining night vision devices and assisted the Iowa National Guard's 3655th Maintenance Company with inspecting, testing and completing services on the devices for Iowa Guard units. The C&E also completed two SINCGARS installations and received instruction on the use of the PRM-34 portable tester that checks for receiver sensitivity, frequency and transmitter power.

Safety was a prime concern for the unit during the AT period and Soldiers developed and practiced safe working habits throughout the training period. As a result, the 212th earned a Safety Award and two Soldiers were presented with safety coins. Lt. Col. Bruce Walton, NMTC commander, also awarded two Soldiers Army Achievement Medals and two others received Coins of Excellence from the National Maintenance Training Center.

In all, unit Soldiers applied nearly 3,000 man-hours of direct labor and completed more than 150 maintenance tasks with an overall efficiency of 74.69 percent, exceeding

the Army standard of 70 percent. The unit also completed more than 200 maintenance training hours with five Soldiers earning certifications required to repair or service automotive air conditioning units.

Also during the two-week period, the Soldiers trained on the Humvee Egress Assistance Trainer, Interactive Gunnery Trainer and Engagement Skills Trainer to improve their weapons skills and conducted Humvee and Light Medium Tactical Vehicle driver's training.

Hungarian troops earn Ohio medal

Story by Capt. Emily Estapa
Office of Defense Cooperation

Col. Robert Duggleby, the senior defense official at the American Embassy in Budapest, Hungary, presented the Ohio Commendation Medal to members of the Hungarian Defense Forces Jan. 7 on behalf of Maj. Gen. Gregory L. Wayt, who recently retired as Ohio adjutant general.

Wayt honored the Hungarian troops in recognition of their dedication to duty and loyal service while serving as members of Operational Mentor and Liaison Team (OMLT) 1.4 in Afghanistan.

The Ohio National Guard is partnered with the Hungarian military through the National Guard Bureau State Partnership Program. The two countries have deployed five OMLTs together in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, with a sixth rotation preparing to deploy this spring. The two countries' troops train together in Hungary and Germany before deploying to Afghanistan to fulfill their mission of training and building the Afghan Army.



Col. Robert Duggleby, the senior defense official at the American Embassy in Budapest, Hungary, presents the Ohio Commendation Medal to Hungarian Army troops assigned to Operational Mentor and Liaison Team 1.4 during a Jan. 7 welcome home ceremony in Budapest, Hungary. The joint Hungarian-U.S. OMLT is the fourth such unit to deploy together in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. (Courtesy photo)

Changes will effect Ohio National Guard Scholarship Program participants

Submitted by Toni Davis
Ohio National Guard Grants Coordinator

Recent policy and statutory changes to the Ohio National Guard Scholarship Program will affect all participants current and future. The Ohio General Assembly recently revised the language that governs the program in several important ways.

First, all institutions of higher education will be required to certify actual enrollment within 30 days of the end of each academic term. If an institution does not supply the ONGSP with certification by 30 days after the end of the term, the institution will not be eligible to receive payment from ONGSP or the student. The scholarship program will continue to send the list of approved participants by our established deadlines for each term and each school with approved participants will receive a roster of approved applicants before the end of the deadline month.

Second, the Ohio General Assembly reduced the minimum six credit hours required for eligibility to only three. Starting with the winter quarter/spring semester 2011 term, participants must maintain a minimum three credit hours to remain eligible for tuition assistance through this program.

The Ohio General Assembly also inserted language to instruct schools regarding eligible payments under the ONGSP for students who receive benefits under the new Chapter 33 Post 9/11 G. I. Bill. The statute previously provided that the ONGSP scholarship would not be reduced by the amounts received by the student under the Montgomery G. I. Bill, and that provision has not changed. But the new section of the Ohio Revised Code does provide that ONGSP scholarship eligibility will be reduced by the percentage of tuition paid under the new Chapter 33 Post 9/11 G. I. Bill.

Under section 5919.34(F) of the Ohio Revised Code, a former member of the Ohio National Guard retains eligibility for the ONGSP at the rate of one academic term for each academic term that former member was on active duty. The Ohio General Assembly has now added expiration to that extended eligibility. The post-service eligibility expires after five years.

In a separate action, the Ohio General Assembly amended section 3333.42 of the Revised Code to indicate Ohio National Guard members, spouses or dependent children are not to be charged rates higher than those of an Ohio resident, regardless of the actual residence of the National Guard member.

In the past, ONGSP has accepted partial applications as sufficient to meet the application deadline, allowing the student to complete the application sometime after the deadline. Starting with the winter quarter/spring semester 2011, Nov. 1 deadline, participants will now be required to submit complete and accurate applications by the deadline. All incomplete applications will be disapproved and the applicants notified. It is imperative that the participants submit their applications to the scholarship office well in advance of the established deadline. This will allow any discrepancies to be addressed and corrected before the deadline. All disapprovals will be sent out via email when able or regular mail when not. The ONGSP will not be held liable for any illegible or inaccurate email or mailing addresses. This change will not affect applicants who have met the complete and accurate requirement, but then decided to transfer schools after the deadline.

Initial applicants will no longer be required to complete and send the initial application (AGOH 621-2) to the scholarship office. Their online submission will suffice. The AGOH Form 621-2 will be discontinued and the only hard-copy application for use will be the AGOH 621-3. However, a Statement of Understanding (AGOH 621-1) should be part

of the members enlistment packet and be maintained in their personnel file at MEPS (Army)/ ARMS (Air). Also, for online applications, the confirmation box to acknowledge the participant has read, understood and signed the Statement of Understanding must be marked. The application submission will not go through without it. If an initial applicant is unable to apply online, a hard-copy AGOH 621-3 will be accepted and processed manually.

The current flat rate to private schools chart has been updated to include three, four and five credit hours. The revised rate chart changes will begin with the winter quarter/spring semester 2011 term as follows:

Former members who wish to use the program after discharge should send a legible DD 214 to the scholarship office to determine

Credit Hours	SEMESTER	QUARTER
12 or more	\$4,311	\$2,847
11	\$3,960	\$2,640
10	\$3,600	\$2,400
09	\$3,240	\$2,160
08	\$2,880	\$1,920
07	\$2,520	\$1,680
06	\$2,160	\$1,440
05	\$1,800	\$1,200
04	\$1,440	\$ 960
03	\$1,080	\$ 720

if they are eligible. Once discharged, participants will not be able to apply online. Those wanting to take advantage of the post-service extension must submit a complete and accurate hard-copy AGOH 621-3 to the ONGSP office by the established deadlines. Their submission will not be complete without their DD 214 on file in the ONGSP office.

Please be advised that as of Nov. 1, 2010, ONGSP will no longer award tuition assistance for any late applications regardless of the post-office date. Applicants should check with the ONGSP office for receipt of their application prior to the deadline date.

Deadline dates	
1 July	Fall
1 November	Winter Qtr/Spring Semester
1 February	Spring Quarter
1 April	Summer

For more information, please contact any of the following: Toni Davis, 614-336-7143 or toni.davis7@us.army.mil; Angela Wallace, 614-336-7053 or angela.wallace3@us.army.mil; Magaly Lopez, 614-336-7032 or magaly.lopez@us.army.mil. You may also reach us toll-free at 888-400-6484 and by fax at 614-336-7318.

Ohio Department of Veterans Services encourages Veterans to learn about benefits

Your military service may be worth more than you think. As a veteran, you could qualify for assistance with health or education, a loan for a new home and many other benefits. If you served in the Persian Gulf War or after Oct. 7, 2001, you may also be eligible for the Ohio Veterans Bonus. The Ohio Department of Veterans Services wants to connect you to what you've earned. Contact the County Veterans Service Network at 1-877-OHIO VET (1-877-644-6838) or online at www.dvs.ohio.gov.

Guard Snapshots



The spouses of the Ohio National Guard's newest chief master sergeants were honored at the annual Chief's Recognition Dinner during the Joint Senior Leaders Call in February in Columbus. Pictured are James Ashenhurst (from left), husband of Ohio Adjutant General Deborah Ashenhurst, Christi Bartman, wife of Assistant Adjutant General for Air Brig. Gen. Mark Bartman, Sheila and Chief Master Sgt. Joseph Pryor from the 200th Red Horse Squadron and Brent Phillips, husband of State Command Chief Master Sgt. Tamara Phillips. (Ohio National Guard photo/Senior Master Sgt Renee Frey)



Ohio's top recruiter for 2010, Staff Sgt. Jeremy Allnutt of Company I, Recruiting and Retention Battalion, Toledo, is recognized by Maj. Gen. Raymond Carpenter, acting director, Army National Guard, for his accomplishment at the Director's Strength Maintenance Awards ceremony, Sunday, Dec. 5, 2010, in Orlando, Fla. Allnutt was selected as Ohio's Chief's 54 representative based on his overall number of accessions, success in non-prior service, female and CAT 1-IIIA recruiting. (Courtesy photo)



Col. Mark Bartman, Ohio's assistant adjutant general for Air, is promoted to brigadier general at the Joint Senior Leaders Call Feb. 17, 2011, by his children, Nathan and Ashley, while 1st Lt. Joyella Colucci helps his youngest daughter, Aubrey, replace the rank insignia on Bartman's uniform hat. (Ohio National Guard photo/Senior Master Sgt Renee Frey)



Sgt. Maj. Donald G. McIntyre of Headquarters Battery, 2d Battalion, 174th Air Defense Artillery Brigade dances with his wife, Marcella .McIntyre, at the annual 174th Air Defense Artillery Regiment Ball. Soldiers from the 174th and around the Ohio Army National Guard attended the annual ball Jan. 22, 2011, at the Hilton Columbus. (Ohio National Guard photo/Sgt. Peter resge)



Ohio Air National Guard members promoted to chief master sergeant in the past year were recognized at a dinner during the Senior Leaders Call in February in Columbus. Two of those recognized were promoted the previous year, but deployed during the 2010 event. (Ohio National Guard photo/Senior Master Sgt Renee Frey)

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The Ohio State University head football coach Jim Tressel (front row, far right) and Bob Tucker, OSU football's director of military appreciation (front row, far left) pose with recruits and recruiters from the Ohio Army National Guard's Recruit Sustainment Program Dec. 18, 2010, during a military appreciation visit to the Woody Hayes Athletic Center in Columbus. **The troops were invited to attend the team's final home field practice leading up to the 2010 Sugar Bowl and were treated to a private autograph signing with the coaches and players.** (Ohio Army National Guard photo/Sgt. 1st Class Tracy Ballog)