

The Ohio National Guard Alumni Newsletter



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The Ohio National Guard webpage is: <http://www.ong.ohio.gov/>. Click on Community Outreach and then Alumni Relations to register for the data base and direct receipt of the newsletter. Please take a few minutes from time to time and explore the entire website, particularly the many recent news releases about your Guard.

Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame Ceremony. The class of 2009 induction ceremony for the Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame will be held November 6, 2009 at the Franklin County Veterans Memorial, 300 West Broad Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215. A public reception will be held at 2:00 pm in the main lobby, with the induction ceremony scheduled for 3:00 pm in the auditorium. Three former Ohio Guard members will be inducted: John W. Twohig (deceased), Army, Phyllis A. Fitzgerald, Air, and Cyril (Cy) L. Sedlacko, Army. The OVHOF recognizes dedicated men and women who not only answered the call of duty and served our nation's armed forces, but have distinguished themselves as active leaders in their communities after military service.

Ohio National Guard Breaks Ground on New Camp Perry Facility A groundbreaking ceremony for a new barracks building was held on Oct. 13, 2009, at the Camp Perry Joint Training Center, Port Clinton, Ohio. The \$2 million facility was funded in the 2009 Federal Military Construction and Veteran's Affairs appropriations bill through the efforts of Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur and will house Soldiers, Airmen and other organizations utilizing the facilities at Camp Perry Joint Training Facility. This is the latest improvement in a series of facility enhancements to increase the capability of Camp Perry to support the conduct of modern military training and other related events.

National Guard Year End Strength. The Army Guard closed its books for the year with 358,391 Soldiers, or 100.1 percent of its fiscal year end-strength goal of 358,200. It also met its retention goal by retaining 36,672 Soldiers, or 106 percent of its goal of 34,593. The Air Guard surpassed its 2009 end-strength goal with 109,196 Airmen, or 102.3 percent of its goal of 106,756. The Air Guard also retained 17,904 Airmen, or 120.1 percent of its goal.

ATAG Army Awards. The following Army Guard units received recognition at the annual Fall Commanders Call held at Camp Perry Joint Training Center the weekend of 10 – 11 October. These awards for unit strength enhancement, are known as the "Big Five +2", and are based on a number of readiness enhancing metrics that were tracked from 1 October 2008 through 30 September 2009. The maximum attainable score was 99.96. Winners by category:

MSCs - 371st SUS BDE - 99.96, 16th EN BDE – 99.96

Battalions - 2-174th ADA BN (174th)- 96.40, 437th MP BN (73rd) – 89.27, 237th BDE SPT BN (37th) – 85.70, 112th TC BN (371st) – 85.70, 216th EN BN (16th) – 85.70

Large Company Size Units - Co A 237th BDE SPT BN (37th) – 99.96, 135th MP Co (73rd) – 96.40, 1194th EN Co (Vert) (16th) – 92.84, HHC 1-145th AR RGT (174th) -92.83, 1484th Trans Co (371st)– 89.26

Medium Company Size Units - HHC 112th EN BN (16th) – 99.96, HHB 1-174th ADA (174th) – 99.96, HHC 237th BDE SPT BN (37th) – 85.68, Co E 1-137th AV RGT (73rd) – 71.40, 285th ASMC (371st) – 64.28

Small Company Size Units - Co E 1-145th AR (174th) – 92.83, BTRY A 2-174th ADA (174th) – 92.83, 295th EN Det (16th) – 85.68, Co A (EN) STB (37th) – 85.68, 1937th SPT Det (CTT) (73rd) – 78.55, HHD 112th Tran BN (371st) – 74.98

Hometown Heroes Salute. The 179th Airlift Wing, Mansfield, Ohio, honored approximately 500 Airmen and their families in the first ever Hometown Heroes Salute Award Ceremony at Mansfield Senior High School on Saturday October 3, 2009 at 1:00 p.m. In August 2008, Gen. Craig R. McKinley, Chief of the National Guard Bureau, sanctioned the ANG Hometown Heroes Salute recognition program. The purpose of this program is to celebrate and honor Airmen, families, communities and those special supporters who have significantly contributed to supporting our Airmen and the ANG's mission.

Recognized in this ceremony were guardsmen who have deployed over 30 consecutive days in support of Operations Enduring Freedom, Iraqi Freedom, Noble Eagle and other peacekeeping operations across the globe since 9/11 through December 31, 2008. All recognized Airmen received a framed letter from the director that contains the Hometown Heroes Salute coin. Senior Airman Joseph D. Harwood, photographer at the 179th Airlift Wing, was instrumental in helping the National Guard Bureau in designing this nationally recognized coin. The honored Airmen's spouse or significant other received an engraved pen/pencil set with the ANG Hometown Heroes Salute Logo. Children received unique Hometown Heroes Salute dog tags. Lastly, each honored Airman received one Hometown Heroes Salute Logo Medallion to recognize their Center of Influence (COI) for outstanding support during their deployment.

147th Infantry Retirees Association Reunion. Former members and friends of the 147th Infantry met on Friday evening, Oct 2, 2009, at the Sharonville, Ohio, VFW post for their annual reunion. Approximately 100 attendees enjoyed an evening of friendship, recounting of past accomplishments and deeds, and a steak dinner prepared by the VFW post staff. Highlights of the evening were a presentation on current Ohio Guard activities by BG Jack Lee, 73rd Troop Command Brigade Commander, and remarks by COL (ret) Francis Folk, Second World War veteran and former 147th Commander. For additional information concerning the 147th Retirees Association, please contact CSM (ret) Jerry Reynolds at rockypi@prodigy.net.

1st Cleveland Cavalry Association Steak Roast. The annual Steak Roast was held at Woods King Armory in Cleveland on Saturday, October 10, 2009, and was attended by 107 members of the Association. A presentation was made to the attendees after the dinner by State CSM Whatmough on the current status of the ONG. Col (ret) Robert Labadie made comments and extended an invitation for members to attend the 6th of November induction ceremonies for the Ohio Veteran's

Hall of Fame. (John Towhig a deceased member of the Regiment and Association is being inducted.) Holiday party for members will be held 4Dec09 at 1700 at Woods King Armory. For additional information concerning the 1st Cleveland Cavalry Association, please contact President, George Ehrman, at ehrmangl@aol.com or on the web at <http://www.firstclevelandcavalry.org/>

This Week in Guard History. Oct. 19, 1944: Aachen, Germany --- Newly promoted Lt. Gen. Raymond S. McLain assumes command of the XIX Corps. Two of the three divisions under his command are from the Guard: the 29th, which had soldiers from Maryland, Virginia and the District of Columbia, and the 30th, with troops from North Carolina, South Carolina and Tennessee. But dealing with Guard units is no problem for McLain, who began his military career as a private in the Oklahoma Guard in 1912. By 1916, just before McLain's unit, the 1st Oklahoma Infantry, deployed to the Mexican border, he was promoted to first lieutenant. In 1917, as his regiment was assigned to the newly organized 36th Division from Texas and Oklahoma for its deployment to France in World War I, McLain was promoted to captain. He saw combat in France, where he was gassed, but recovered. In the period between the wars, McLain returned to the Oklahoma Guard.

Despite his lack of formal education---he never graduated high school---through determined study and effort, he earned the rank of brigadier general in command of the 45th Division Artillery from Arizona, Colorado and Oklahoma by the time of the 1941 mobilization. During the war, he had a variety of assignments including commanding the 90th Infantry Division, then fighting in Normandy. He found the 90th in complete disarray and worked hard to restore its morale and discipline. Upon his promotion to lieutenant general to command the XIX Corps, he becomes the first Guardsman since the Civil War to hold the rank. The next Guardsman to hold three-star rank would also be an Oklahoman, Lt. Gen. La Vern E. Weber, National Guard Bureau chief from 1974 to 1982.

Army Guard Changes of Command

148th Infantry Battalion, 17 October, 1830, Camp Atterbury Joint Military Training Center, Indiana.
Outgoing Commander: MAJ Perry Carper (Acting Commander)
Incoming Commander: LTC Walter Duzny

371st Special Troops Battalion, 8 November, 1300, Miller Armory, Newark, Ohio.
Outgoing Commander, LTC Randal O. Shears
Incoming Commander, LTC Mark J. Cappone

Upcoming Events.

The Ohio National Guard's First Returning Heroes Job Fair. Sponsored by the 1-145th Armored Regiment, October 21, 2009, 11:00 a.m.- 6:00 p.m., 4630 Allen Road, Stow, Ohio 44224
POC for further information is SSG Bryan Bowman at bryan.a.bowman@us.Army.mil or (614) 336-6782.

Free Military Family Fest, October 24, 2009, 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm, Zanesville Municipal Airport Hanger 7. All military past, present and future and their families are invited. There will also be a military veterans' car and bike cruise in. Lots of exhibits, prizes and information will be available. For more information call 740-452-2731.

Seventh Annual Veteran Owned Business Symposium, Tuesday November 10, 2009, Kent State University Student Center, Kent, Ohio. This event is being offered to provide area Veterans with an opportunity to: learn from a variety of business development resources, benefit from Government contracting workshop, network with Federal and State buying activities, and meet with Government, Prime Contractor and Private Industry Buyers Additional details will be forthcoming. Contact: Jane Stewart by email at: jstewart@LCPORT.org or by phone at: 440-357-2294.

Wright-Patterson AFB Retiree Appreciation Day. This event is scheduled for Friday, November 13, from 7:00 am to 3:00 pm at the Hope Hotel. All military retirees and spouses of all services are encouraged to attend. The annual event features guest speakers, free medical screening, refreshments, information booths and door prizes. For additional information, please contact the WPAFB Retirees Activities Office at 937-257-3221

Golden Corral's 9th annual Military Appreciation Monday dinner, Monday, November 16, 2009, from 5 to 9 pm in all Golden Corral restaurants nationwide. The free dinner meal is a special "thank you tribute" to any person who has ever served in the United States Military. If you are a veteran, retired, or currently serving, you are invited. No identification is required for the servicemember; however family members will pay normal meal costs. To locate a Golden Corral near you, visit www.goldencorral.com/locator.

50th Anniversary of the Rank of Chief Master Sergeant. "The Golden Anniversary of the Rank of Chief Master Sergeant" will be observed Dec. 1, beginning at 6 p.m. at the National Museum of the United States Air Force, at Wright-Patterson AFB, Dayton, Ohio. This event will honor all current and past chiefs, and is open to all military and civilians, regardless of rank. To register for the event and find out up-to-date information, visit <http://chiefgoldenanniversary.eventbrite.com>, or call CMSgt Paul Simpson at (937) 257-9128. Nov. 10 is the last day to purchase tickets. Military uniform is mess dress/semi-formal and business/formal attire for civilians.

Mobile Commissary Schedule

Woods King Armory, 4303 Green Road, Cleveland, Ohio 44128, November 13th (1300-1800), 14th (0930-1830), and 15th (0930-1730). For additional information: www.commissaries.com

Call to Duty Ceremonies

OMLT 1.4, January 2, 2010, 1000 hours, Reynoldsburg United Methodist Church.

Welcome Home Ceremonies

135th MP Company, October 18, 2009, 1700 at Kenston High School, 9500 Bainbridge Road, Chagrin Falls, OH 44023. Kenston High School is located at the corner of Bainbridge Road and Snyder Road. Please use the Snyder Road entrance for best access to the main parking lot.

Recent News Releases

ARMY Retires Huey, Vietnam Stalwart. The UH-1 Iroquois helicopter was officially retired in a ceremony held at Fort Myer, Va., one week ago, ending a service life of more than 50 years to the Army and close to 40 years in the Army Guard. The helicopter, known to most simply as the Huey, was first manufactured in 1956 and fielded to the Army in 1959. Its distinctive nickname came from the pronunciation of its first Army designation of HU-1---for helicopter utility---and later models featured the word Huey emblazoned on the pilot's foot pedals. It was also known for its familiar "whoop, whoop" noise while in flight. More than 15,000 of the aircraft were produced with about half of them being flown during the Vietnam War, linking the helicopter and the conflict probably forever.

"The UH-1, more than any other helicopter or any item of equipment, became the symbol of Vietnam," said Maj. Gen. Raymond Carpenter, the acting director of the Army National Guard. The helicopter earned a reputation for being rugged and able to fly after taking many hits from enemy fire. "I can also attest to you that it was not just a machine," said Brig. Gen. Alberto Jimenez, the Assistant Adjutant General for Maryland and the Army Guard's senior aviator. "It became part of us. It was our lives. It was our friend. It was the aircraft that took us in and out of Vietnam, and it was also the aircraft that saved many countless lives as we rushed the wounded and the sick out of the battlefield." The Army Guard first began receiving the aircraft in the early 1970s and, at one time, the number of Hueys in the Guard hovered around 1,500. "The 'whoop, whoop' of the [aircraft] will remain in our hearts," Jimenez said. "Thank you for a job well done."

Proposal Could Ease Way for Disability Payments. By Kimberly Hefling - The Associated Press, Oct 15, 2009 <http://www.ap.org>. Female soldiers and others serving in dangerous roles behind the front lines in Iraq and Afghanistan have long complained it was hard to prove their combat experience when applying for disability for post-traumatic stress disorder. That could soon change. The Veterans Affairs Department has proposed reducing the paperwork required for veterans to show their experience caused combat-related stress. Even just the fear of hostile action would be sufficient, as long as a VA psychologist or psychiatrist agreed. The VA says the change would streamline claims and recognize the "inherently stressful nature" of war service. The agency is accepting comment until Oct. 23. Veterans Affairs Secretary Eric Shinseki told lawmakers on Wednesday he's committed to improving trust in the claims process between veterans and the VA, and to helping veterans receive benefits they are entitled to. "We will change the culture," Shinseki said. "I will assure you of that." Sen. Patty Murray, D-Wash., called it a significant shift in policy.

“Before, and for a long time, I’ve been fighting many times over for the VA not to discourage people from saying they have PTSD,” said Murray, who serves on the Senate Veterans’ Affairs Committee. “We’ve have many cases where veterans were told it’s all in your head.”

Post-traumatic stress disorder can affect anyone who is traumatized by an experience. From the Iraq and Afghanistan wars, more than 134,000 veterans have sought help at a VA facility for possible PTSD, the VA says. The symptoms include flashbacks and anxiety, and for some, it’s so debilitating that it makes it difficult to work after they leave the military. While praising the VA’s effort, veterans service organizations have questioned the requirement for a VA psychologist or psychiatrist to agree the experience caused the disorder. Rep. John Hall, D-N.Y., who chairs a subcommittee with oversight over the disability claims system, said he’s concerned that the proposed rule isn’t comprehensive enough.

The debate is a reflection of the changing battlefield. A World War II-era law established that veterans who “engaged in combat with the enemy” receive special treatment when they seek disability compensation, so it’s less burdensome to prove an injury was from war service. Troops from an infantry or special forces unit are awarded a badge that makes it easier to prove they engaged in combat. Truck drivers, cooks and others in support roles aren’t eligible for the badge but can use other types of documentation or medals, such as a Purple Heart, to prove they were in combat. But veterans and service organizations that work with them have said doing so is often incredibly difficult, in part because of the lack of paperwork kept by many units. About half of all post-traumatic stress disability claims filed by veterans are denied — with the majority of denials coming because the veteran lacks sufficient documentation, the VA has said.

It is with deep regret and sorrow that we announce the following deaths:

George Galen Megimose, Sr., Columbus, October 1, 2009, retired Senior Master Sergeant, Rickenbacker Air Force Base.

COL (ret) Edmund Norwick, Jr., Lancaster, PA, October 1, Commander of the 107th Armored Cavalry Regiment from 1960-1962. A memorial service will be held on Saturday, November 7, 2009 at Christ Episcopal Church, 3445 Warrensville Center Road, Shaker Heights, Ohio 44122 at 11:00 a.m. COL (ret) Norwick was very active with the 1st Cleveland Cavalry Association, serving in almost every position on the Board.

MG (ret) Robert Moorhead, Indianapolis October 11, former Commanding General of the 38th Infantry Division, and a past President of AUSA. Calling hours are Sunday, October 18, 2009 at the Crown Hill Funeral Home, 700 W. 38th Street, Indianapolis, IN 46208, (800) 809-3366 from 1:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. Funeral services will be held Monday, October 19, 2009 at the Northminster Presbyterian Church, 1660 Kessler Boulevard East Drive, Indianapolis, IN 46220 at 11:00 a.m. .

COL (ret) Robert G. Radcliffe, October 11, Columbus, former State Training Officer. Calling hours are on Friday, October 23, 2009 at Scioto Ridge United Methodist Church, 4343 Dublin Road, Hilliard, Ohio from 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. Funeral service will follow at 11:15 a.m. Graveside service will be held on Saturday, October 24, 2009 at Grove Cemetery, Kenton, Ohio at 10:00 a.m.

Websites of Interest:

www.ong.ohio.gov/family Latest edition of the Buckeye Families News Letter from the ONG Family Readiness Program

Where Are They Now?

Terry L. Gaberdiel, SSG aka: Gabby, HHC 1-148th Inf Bn, Battalion Aid Station, 18Jul85 through 1May02. Terry and his wife, Erika are retired and in September 2005, sold their home in Elida, Ohio, and bought a 38' Gulf Stream Sunvoyager Diesel Pusher Motor Coach. They have been on the road traveling the United States ever since. Currently they are at the MWR Fam Camp, on the Sigsbee Military Complex, Key West, Florida, and will winter there. During their travels, they have taken advantage of staying at several of the MWR Fam Camps along the road. Terry is looking forward to his upcoming 60th birthday and drawing his retired pay.

If anyone wishes to contact Terry and Erika, please send me an email and I will pass it along to them.

If you would like to participate or have other ideas for future newsletter content, please feel free to contact me at 614-336-7336, or by email at james.chisman@us.army.mil. The Ohio National Guard that proudly serves around the world today is a direct reflection of your service.

COL (ret) Jim Chisman
Alumni Affairs Coordinator
Government Contractor