

The Ohio National Guard Alumni Newsletter
VOL 1, Edition 6 – April 24, 2009

The Ohio National Guard Alumni webpage remains operational at: <http://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 and explore the entire website, particularly the many recent news releases about your Guard.

Post-9/11 GI Bill – The Department of Veterans Affairs has released definitive information on the new educational benefit known as the Post-9/11GI Bill in a letter many of you may have received recently. Only active duty service performed after September 10, 2001, may be considered for determining eligibility for this new benefit. For additional information, including how to apply for benefits, visit the VA website at: www.gibill.va.gov

Mobile Commissary Program Reminder.

Defense Supply Center Columbus, 3990 East Broad St., Columbus, Bldg 17, Section 4; Saturday, April 25, 1000 – 1900, and Sunday, April 26, 1000 – 1700.

Woods King Armory, 4303 Green Road, Cleveland, 44128. Saturday, May 09 - 1000-1930 and Sunday, May 10 - 1000-1730.

Toledo ANG Dining Facility, 2660 S. Eber Rd., Swanton, OH. Saturday, June 27- 0900-1800 and Sunday, June 28-1000-1700.

Upcoming Events:

Major General Wayt's Town Hall Meetings

29 April 2009, Revere High School Auditorium 7:00-9:00pm, 3420 Everett Road, Richfield, Ohio 44286.

6 May 2009, Gish Film Theater & Gallery, 7:00-9:00pm, Located in Hanna Hall, Park in Lot A, Corner of South College Drive & East Wooster Street, BGSU Bowling Green, Ohio 43403

7 May 2009, Central Crossing High School, 7:00-9:00pm, Auditorium, 4500 Big Run South Road, Grove City, Ohio 43123.

The Ohio Military Hall of Fame: Class of 2009 Induction Ceremony, Ohio Veterans Plaza, State House, Columbus, OH, Friday, May 1, at 1130. For information on the OMHOF, visit their website at: <http://www.ohioheroes.org>

OSU Baseball - Family Readiness Event Includes Retirees. Make plans to be at OSU Bill Davis Baseball Stadium for the OSU vs. Michigan Game on May 2nd. Retirees are encouraged to attend. There will be a pregame tailgate in the stadium parking lot (parking in the stadium lot is free), which will begin at 1100 with City BBQ serving food at 1130. Pre-game activities include: City BBQ meal: (Pulled pork, 2 sides and a dessert), Rock Climbing wall, inflatable games, etc. The baseball game will begin at 1305. To purchase the special \$7.75 tickets, use the online ordering link below:
https://oss.ticketmaster.com/html/group_corp_start.html?l=EN&team=buckeyes&owner=6882571&group=28&err=&event=&customerID= The promo code is READYFAMILIES.

Tickets are available until April 28, 2009. Children 6 and under are free. Please contact Erin Berry at 614-336-7314 to make meal arrangements for children who are 6 and under. Bring your ticket with you to the tailgate. Meal vouchers will be handed out there. The stadium is located on Borror Drive just north of the Jerome Schottenstein Center. No refunds will be made if the game is cancelled due to inclement weather. If you have any questions, please contact Erin Berry at 614-336-7314.

Bob Hope Stamp Unveiling. On May 29, at 1000, at Beightler Armory in Columbus, the USPS will unveil a new stamp honoring Bob Hope. This event will not be public, however retirees are invited and encouraged to attend. Please make plans to participate in this national event honoring one of the great friends of the military. More details to follow.

Memorial Golf Tournament Military Appreciation Day. On Tuesday, June 2, there will be free admission for all current military and retirees with valid ID at Muirfield Golf Club, Dublin, OH. A retiree ID will also cover immediate family (spouse and children) admissions as well. Doors open at 0700. The day features practice rounds by the tournament players on the famed Muirfield course. There will be a military guest golf clinic with PGA professionals at 1330, the traditional Honoree ceremony featuring military recognition and reserved seating at 1500, and Jack Nicklaus' golf clinic at 1630. This will be a really fun day and we hope to have a large number of retirees attend.

Celebrate State Command Chief Chris Muncy's Service to Ohio and his move to Washington DC.

Date: May 16, 2009 – Saturday Night
Time: 1800-social/1900-Dinner

Uniform: Air Force Service Dress, Army Class "A" or Blues, or appropriate civilian equivalent
Location: Marriott Columbus Airport, 1375 Cassady Ave, Columbus, OH, 43219
Cost: \$25 per person (plus cash bar)
RSVP no later than April 27th with number of attendees and payment. Checks to HQ Ohio ANG. POC – Major Troy Shoffstall- (614) 336-7441
Rooms are available under "Ohio National Guard" at the government rate of \$99. Please call 614-890-8600 to reserve in advance.

Call to Duty Ceremonies.

B/2-107th CAV, Lebanon – May 2, 1000, at the Urbancrest Baptist Church.
C/2-107th CAV, Xenia – May 2, 1330, at the Dayton Masonic Temple.
204 EN Det, Columbus – May 11, 1000, Ohio Historical Society.

Legislation of Interest.

H.R.208, The National Guard Retired Pay Equity Act of 2009, co-sponsored by Representatives Joe Wilson (R-SC) and Dan Boren (D-OK), and its companion bill in the Senate, S.831, introduced by Senator John Kerry (D MA) and co-sponsored by Senators Saxby Chambliss (R-GA), Edward Kennedy (D-MA), Frank Lautenberg (D-NJ), Joseph Lieberman (D-CT), Pat Roberts (R-KS), Susan Collins (R-ME), Blanche Lincoln (D-AR), Mike Pryor (D-AR), Johnny Isakson (R-GA), Tim Johnson (D-SD), and Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI) would allow our retirees to draw retirement pay three months sooner for each aggregate of 90 days per fiscal year of deployed service performed after September 11, 2001 in support of a contingency operation or national emergency. For more information on this and other legislative initiatives, go to the National Guard Association of the United States website at: www.ngaus.org.

Recent News Releases

U.S. May Fill Afghan Civilian Posts With Military Personnel [The New York Times, April 23, 2009]. www.nytimes.com/ The Obama administration is finding that it must turn to military personnel to fill hundreds of posts in Afghanistan that had been intended for civilian experts, senior officials said. In announcing a new strategy last month, President Obama promised "a dramatic increase in our civilian effort" in Afghanistan, including "agricultural specialists and educators, engineers and lawyers" to augment the additional troops he is sending. But senior Pentagon and administration officials now acknowledge that many of those new positions will be filled by military personnel — in particular by

reservists, whose civilian jobs give them the required expertise — and by contractors. The shortfall offers more evidence that the government's civilian departments have not received enough money to hire and train people ready to take up assignments in combat zones. Unlike the armed services, nonmilitary agencies do not have clear rules to compel rank-and-file employees to accept hardship posts.

Reservists Might Be Used In Afghanistan to Fill Civilian Jobs.

[The Washington Post, April 23, 2009, Pg. 7] www.washingtonpost.com
Military reservists may be asked to volunteer to fill many of the hundreds of additional U.S. civilian positions in Afghanistan called for in the Obama administration's strategy for that nation and neighboring Pakistan, officials said. Although the State Department is still recruiting agronomists, engineers, accountants and other experts for Afghanistan, "pressure coming from the president for action is making us consider that some of the people might come from the reserves," one senior administration official said.

A Hero You Should Know. Michael O'Hanlon, [USA Today, April 23, 2009, Pg. 11]. www.usatoday.com/ A senior fellow at the Brookings Institution writes that every great military commander has a strong No. 2, and Lt. Gen. Lloyd Austin, now back from Iraq, filled that role admirably for Gen. David Petraeus, engineering dramatic turnarounds in the battles for Basra and Sadr City that were key to the success of the troop surge. With challenges as daunting as pre-surge Iraq, or Afghanistan today, the No. 2 person is as critical to operational success as the person in charge. No such person, no such command, exists in Afghanistan today. As effective as Petraeus is, he needed a strong No. 2 to succeed. And as good as Gen. David McKiernan is today in Afghanistan, he is being asked to do too much himself.

Websites of Interest

<http://www.dfas.mil/rna-news/march2009.html> - DFAS Retired Pay Newsletter

<http://www.socialsecurity.gov/woundedwarriors/> - The Social Security Administration established an expedited claims process for service members who were disabled on or after Oct. 1, 2001, regardless of where or how the disability occurred.

<http://www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/10017.html> - Social Security Military Service Fact Sheet.

http://www.gijobs.com/uploadedFiles/site_components/PR.Nov05Top25List.pdf - G.I. Jobs Magazine list of most-veteran friendly employers.

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

George Bleimes, age 85, of Minerva Park, retired Lt. Col., Ohio Air National Guard.

We are continuing the planning for the Adjutant General's Alumni Reunion to be held at DSCC in Columbus on September 19. Please hold that date as we complete the agenda. If you have ideas for future newsletter content or other alumni programs and would like to communicate with me directly, please feel free to call me at 614-336-7336, or by email at james.chisman@us.army.mil.
Thanks for your service.

COL (ret) Jim Chisman
Alumni Affairs Coordinator
Government Contractor