

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.

Joint Yellow Ribbon Campaign Event. On Sunday, November 8, 2009, the first Joint Yellow Ribbon Program event will be held at the John S. Knight Center in Akron. Soldiers from the 1-145 Armor Bn, and OMLT 1.1, will participate with Airmen from the 179th AW and the 121st ARW. The Secretary of Defense initiated the Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program which provides information, services, referral, and proactive outreach programs to Reserve Component Soldiers, Sailors, Marines, and Airmen and their Families through all phases of the deployment cycle.

The goal of the Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program is to prepare service members and families for mobilization, sustain families during mobilization, and reintegrate service members with their families, communities, and employers upon redeployment or REFRAD. The program includes information on current benefits and resources available to help overcome the challenges of reintegration. The 30, 60, and 90-day post-deployment or REFRAD requirements are for reintegration purposes only and are performed in IDT status.

Ohio CERFP Participates in Israeli Joint Exercise, by Spc. Zachary R. Fehrman, 196th MPAD TEL AVIV- - Navy war ships set at anchor in the Mediterranean Sea off the coast of Israeli as the Israeli Defense Forces joined by more than 1,000 U.S service members prepare for a potential missile attack against the capital city. Joint training exercise Juniper Cobra 10 (JC 10), a biennial event between the two nations, is designed to improve combined Israeli-U.S. missile defense operations, and this year the Ohio Army National Guard has a new role. Nine Soldiers and Airmen from the Ohio Army National Guard Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and high-yield

Explosive Enhanced Response Force Package (CERFP) will join other Soldiers from the 357th Air Missile Defense Detachment from Kaiserslautern, Germany and U.S. European Command.

Prior to JC 10 National Guard involvement has been limited to the staff level, but the ONG CERFP has made a name for itself. Since its inception four and a half years ago they have become the top rated CERFP in the U.S., according to Sgt. 1st Class David Nickerson, the noncommissioned officer in charge. "This is the first time the National Guard has had involvement on the ground. In the past, their involvement has been limited to the staff level and only one or two people," said Maj. Kevin Meislim, the National Guard Bureau Operations Officer. "This is the first year the National Guard will really have boots on the ground for operations." The Ohioans have been observing and participating in training with the Israeli Home Front Command (HFC) Search and Rescue School. The HFC is similar to the National Guard in structure and mission, made up of mostly reservists with the mission of serving the people of Israel through disaster relief, nuclear, biological and chemical operations, search and rescue, and supporting the Israeli Defense Forces.

BG Roger E. Rowe Quality Award. The winner of the 2009 Rowe quality award is LTC Robert "Buck" Bramlish. LTC Bramlish was recognized for his outstanding leadership of the state family readiness program. The Rowe award is named for BG (ret) Rowe, who was instrumental in the establishment of the quality culture within the ONG. It recognizes exemplary leadership and achievement in the areas of customer focus, process improvement, teamwork, and investment in quality knowledge. BG (ret) Rowe remains an active alumnus of the ONG and lives in the Pensacola, Florida area, with his wife Linda.

Ohio National Guard to Break Ground on New DSCC Facilities. A groundbreaking ceremony will be held at the Columbus Defense Construction Supply Center, 3900 E Broad Street, Columbus, on Monday, November 9, at 0900. This ceremony will initiate construction on three projects: Phase II of the Army Guard Combined Support Maintenance Shop, \$ 24,428,223; United States Property and Fiscal Warehouse, \$9,362,563; and the Army Guard Regional Training Institute, \$23,126,745. These are the latest projects in a total of nearly \$96,000,000 in new construction on a 70 acre enclave within DSCC. These projects are funded under the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) process and will support increased readiness and efficiency of the Ohio Guard.

Diversity Flight. Twenty community leaders participated in a diversity flight at the 121st ARW, Rickenbacker ANGB, on 17 September 2009. Maj. Gen. A.J. Feucht, Assistant Adjutant General for Air, provided the command briefing to the group. CMSgt Tamara Phillips, ONG State Command Chief, talked to the community leaders about her diversity journey, and what it takes to be successful in life, and the military. The community leaders were first provided a tour of the Army Aviation hangar that included static displays of armored vehicles, weapons, and helicopters. The participants then boarded a KC-135 Stratotanker and flew to northern Michigan to observe a mid-air refueling mission. The excitement was enhanced by the opportunity for the leaders to sit in the refueling pod for a bird's eye view of the action. All the diversity flight participants told SGM (ret) Arel Henderson, the flights sponsor, that this was one of the most exciting opportunities they have experienced. Maj. Gen. Wayt has established Diversity as one of his nine priorities as well as an ONG organizational value.

This Week in Guard History. Oct. 21, 1861, Loudoun County, Va. A Union assault across the Potomac River north of Washington, D.C., at a site named Harrison's Landing, better known to history as Ball's Bluff, is repulsed with heavy losses. While Confederate losses are rather light, the Union forces suffered 223 killed and more than 700 captured, several hundred of them wounded. Among the dead was Col. Edward D. Baker, a U.S. Senator from Oregon. Born in England, Baker came to America as a child and spent his early life in Illinois, where he met and became life-long friends with Abraham Lincoln. While there, he was elected to the House of Representatives in 1844. He resigned his seat in 1846 to command the 4th Illinois Volunteer Infantry in the Mexican War. He commanded the unit at the Siege of Vera Cruz and Battle of Cerro Gordo in Mexico. After the war he moved to California and then to Oregon, where he was elected as one of its two new senators in 1860.

When the Civil War started in April 1861, he raised a regiment in New York, but soon took a commission while still seated in the Senate as the commander of the 71st Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry. During the Battle of Ball's Bluff, his regiment found itself backed up against the river by Col. William Barksdale's Mississippi Brigade, which included the 13th, 17th and 18th Mississippi regiments. Baker was killed instantly by a shot in the head, the only seated member of Congress to die in combat during the Civil War. Several other interesting notes stem from this battle. Due to Baker's death and the high losses suffered in this operation, questions were raised in Congress about the Army's leadership. A Congressional Joint Committee on the Conduct of the War was established to oversee how the war effort was being handled. On the military side, Barksdale's Brigade would meet some of the very same units it fought at Ball's Bluff again at Antietam and Fredericksburg in 1862. Among these were the 7th Michigan and the 19th and 20th Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry regiments.

This Week in Ohio National Guard History

29 October 1947: Troop B, 2d Squadron, 107th Cavalry Regiment was organized and federally recognized at Lebanon as Battery B, 136th Field Artillery Battalion.

30 October 1907: Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 2d Battalion, 174th Air Defense Artillery Regiment was organized at McConnelsville as Company M, 7th Infantry Regiment.

1 November 1920: Company D, 128th Support Battalion was organized and federally recognized at Cincinnati as Troop H, 1st Cavalry Regiment.

2 November 1918: The 148th Infantry Regiment conducts the crossing of the Escault River in Belgium, inspiring the regiment's motto "We'll Do It."

8 November 1943: The 1st echelon of the 37th Infantry Division lands at Empress Augusta Bay, Bougainville.

Army Guard Changes of Command

371st Special Troops Battalion, 8 November, 1300, Miller Armory, Newark, Ohio.

Outgoing Commander, LTC Randal O. Shears

Incoming Commander, LTC Mark J. Cappone

371st Sustainment Brigade, 9 January, 2010, Outgoing Commander, COL Dan Tack, Incoming commander, LTC Maria Kelly, details to follow

237th Brigade Support Battalion, 9 January, 2010, Outgoing Commander, LTC Gerard Garvey, Incoming Commander, LTC Glen Worth, details to follow.

Medical Command, 6 February, 2010, Outgoing Commander, COL Terry Johnson, Incoming Commander, COL Brent Call, details to follow.

73rd Troop Command, 11 April 2010, Outgoing Commander, BG Jack Lee, Incoming Commander, COL Deborah Ashenhurst, details to follow.

Upcoming Events

179th AW Shadow Flight. Potluck at the Mansfield ANG Dining Facility, November 4, 1100.

Recruiting & Retention Battalion Awards Banquet. The 2009 Army Guard Recruiting and Retention Banquet will be held at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Dublin, Ohio, on Saturday, November 7th. POC for information is SFC William Wilkinson at 614-376-5011 or william.g.wilkinson@us.army.mil

112th Medical Brigade Association Fall Dinner. The 112th Med Bde association fall dinner will be held on Saturday, November 14th, at La Scala Restaurant, 4199 W. Dublin-Granville Road, Dublin, Ohio. For additional information or to make reservations, contact Larry Cook at 614-851-9645.

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

Applebee's Military Appreciation Day. In recognition of your service to our country, all veterans and current military personnel are invited to eat free at Applebee's Neighborhood Grill & Bar Restaurants this Veterans Day, Wednesday, Nov. 11, 2009. Proof of service includes: U.S. Uniform Services Identification Card, U.S. Uniform Services Retired Identification Card, Current Leave and Earnings Statement, Veterans Organization Card, photograph in uniform or wearing uniform. For additional details, visit: www.applebees.com/vetsday

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.

16th Engineer Brigade Ball, January 9, 2010, details to follow.

174th Air Defense Brigade Ball, January 23, 2010, details to follow.

371st Sustainment Brigade Ball, January 23, 2010, details to follow.

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

None currently scheduled.

Recent News Releases

President Obama Visits Dover AFB to Honor Fallen Soldiers, By Ben Feller, The Associated Press, Thursday, October 29, 2009; 2:59 AM Dover Air Force Base, Del. -- President Barack Obama made a midnight dash to this air base to honor the return of fallen soldiers, absorbing the ultimate cost of war as the United States endures its deadliest month of the Afghanistan campaign. On a clear fall night, Obama flew by Marine One helicopter to Dover Air Force Base to greet the flag-draped cases of 18 Americans killed in action this week. After landing, the president, wearing a dark topcoat, got into a motorcade to a base chapel, where he met privately with families of the fallen Americans. He had arrived on the base at 12:34 a.m. Thursday and was expected to be back at the White House before dawn.

Obama was taking part in a solemn process, to unfold in four movements: the transfer of the fallen 15 soldiers and three Drug Enforcement Agency agents from the back of the C-17 to a transport vehicle to a base mortuary. As part of the official party, Obama was to go on the plane, each time

witnessing silently as a chaplain said a prayer for the fallen, the family, the country and the war effort. A president of two inherited wars, Obama is winding down U.S. involvement in Iraq, but the troubled war in Afghanistan is only widening. His dramatic visit to witness remains of the fallen comes as he weighs whether to send more troops into the Afghan war zone. The White House kept Obama's plans off his schedule, informing a small group of traveling reporters in advance on condition of secrecy. <http://www.ap.org/>

President Obama Signs Veterans Health Care Bill. President Barack Obama signed the Veterans Healthcare Reform and Transparency Act on October 22, a law that will create predictable funding for veterans' health care. The law fundamentally changes how the Department of Veterans Affairs receives health care funding. The reform calls for appropriations a year in advance after more than two decades of regular budget delays, Obama said from the White House East Room. Obama said that because of budget shortfalls, new doctors, nurses and critical staff aren't hired on time. New health care facilities and programs often are put on hold, leaving veterans to pay the price for the government's neglect, he said. "This is inexcusable. It's unacceptable. It's time for it to stop," he said. The law gives VA more funding predictability so officials can better budget their needs, recruit better-trained professionals and upgrade equipment.

Mostly, Obama said, the law gives veterans better access to quality care. "Keeping faith with our veterans is work that is never truly done," he continued. "Today's veterans expect and deserve the highest quality care, as will tomorrow's veterans, especially our men and women in Iraq and Afghanistan." Veterans groups were also supportive of the new legislation. It has been a top priority for veterans organizations for a decade. "With this legislation, politics can no longer stand in the way of VA funding and VA Secretary [Eric] Shinseki is more effectively set up for success," said Paul Rieckhoff, founder and executive director of Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America. The VA provides health care for more than 23 million Americans. As much as 25 percent of the American population qualifies for VA care either as veterans or as family members of veterans.

New DFAS MyPay Access Requirements. The Defense Finance and Accounting Service will soon implement new myPay access requirements to increase the security of user information. This change will require you to establish a new user name (login ID) and password to access your account. Customized login IDs and passwords will allow you more flexibility and opportunities to increase the security of your personal information.

When logging into myPay the first time following implementation of the new security enhancements, you will be allowed to use your existing login ID and PIN and will be prompted to change your login credentials. New login IDs will require six to 129 alphanumeric characters that will be unique to one user only. If you attempt to create a login ID that has already been established you will be prompted to create a different login ID. Help screens will contain the login ID requirements.

You will be required to establish a password to accompany your customized login ID. Passwords must be no less than eight and no more than 15 characters. Help screens will contain the password requirements. If you have established a Restricted Access PIN, you will also be prompted to establish a limited access login ID and password using the same requirements. Use of the myPay interactive voice response system, which allows telephone access to certain pay information, may still be entered using the Social Security number and myPay PIN. While this security enhancement

is intended to help keep your information secure and prevent unauthorized access to pay accounts, DFAS encourages you to take appropriate actions to keep your login IDs and passwords private. This can include storing them in a lockable and secure place, memorizing them and destroying any written record, and not sharing them with anyone. Questions regarding this myPay change may be directed to the Centralized Customer Support Unit toll free at 1-888-DFAS411 or 1-888-332-7411, commercial (216) 522-5096, Defense Switching Network (DSN) 580-5096 (7:00 A.M - 6:30 P.M. / Eastern time).

Guard Equipment in Iraq will be Returned to States. Equipment that National Guard units took to Iraq will not be left behind as a way to fulfill Iraqi security forces requirements, a Defense Department official said on Wednesday, October 21. There has been much discussion of how equipment used in Iraq would make its way back to the Guard and what happens when some equipment is not returned stateside. But that won't be a problem, at least according to Michele Flournoy, Undersecretary of Defense for Policy, who told the House Armed Services Committee during a hearing on redeployment that the Guard will be taking back all its equipment. "In fact, reserve units serving in Iraq are being offered the opportunity to take theater-provided equipment back to their home station to fill any authorized shortages," said Flournoy.

More than three million pieces of equipment are in Iraq. The U.S. plans to sell some of it to the Iraqi forces as the drawdown of American forces continues. Rep. Gene Taylor, D-Miss., said that one of his state's National Guard units that returned from Iraq had only 60 percent of its equipment to use when Hurricane Katrina hit. He asked if equipment currently in Iraq will be made available to state and local agencies. Alan Estevez, Acting Deputy Undersecretary of Defense for Logistics and Materiel Readiness, said that agencies will be able to request surplus equipment from Iraq. Lt. Gen. Kathleen Gainey, director of logistics on the Joint Staff, told the committee that the National Guard Bureau is one institution she's working with as she oversees the process of equipping the ISF. "We were able to arrive at a previously stated recommendation ... for sourcing Iraqi security forces without having to expend National Guard ... equipment," Gainey testified.

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

SSG Paul "Rob" Prine, Security Clearance Manager for J1, October 18, 2009, after a long battle with brain cancer. A memorial service will be held on Saturday, October 31, 2009 at Hillcrest Baptist Church, 2480 West Broad Street, Columbus, Ohio 43204, (614) 274-4333 at 11:00 a.m. The official interment ceremony will be scheduled at a later date. His family requests that in lieu of flowers, contributions may be made in the name of "SSG [Rob](#) Prine" to the following charitable agencies: Carringbridge.org, Awarriorwish.org, and Memoriesoflove.org.

Websites of Interest:

www.dvs.ohio.gov Ohio Department of Veterans Services

www.yourmoneynowonline.org Ohio Treasurer of State's online program for assistance in financial planning, credit, debt, savings, taxes, and fraud/scams.

http://dvs.ohio.gov/ohio_veterans_home.aspx Ohio Veterans Homes

Where Are They Now?

MSG (ret) Larry Hale. Larry recently retired for the second time from the Ohio Guard. In the words of LTC Robert Bramlish, Director of Family Programs for the ONG, "I cannot begin to tell you all how much Larry Hale has meant to the Ohio National Guard, its team members and families. It is an ONG love story... how he finished one 40 year Guard career and then pivoted and began a second 4 year career with us in the ONG Family Readiness Program. He was one of our first hires, and a stroke of luck for me to stumble into an old friend ready for a new "passion" career. What you all may not know is what he has meant to me as the program director. His wisdom, calm manner, and strategic thinking helped this organization grow from a babe in the woods to the king of the hill. He brought people together. His leadership coupled with his compassion set an example that was sometimes hard to keep up with - Truly special - Larry Hale". There is an informal retirement dinner for Larry scheduled for Tuesday, November 3, 1800, at Champps in the Crosswoods Center, Columbus. For reservations and further information, please contact Robin Robbins at 614-336-6357 or robin.robbins1@us.army.mil

If you would like to be highlighted in the "where are they now" segment, 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