

The Ohio National Guard Alumni Newsletter



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July 27, 2009

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 and explore the entire website, particularly the many recent news releases about your Guard.

By now, everyone should have received the registration packet for the Ohio National Guard Alumni Reunion to be held at DSCC in Columbus on September 19th. If you have not received it and desire to attend, please contact COL (ret) Jim Chisman.

New NGAUS President. Maj. Gen. Tod Bunting, NGAUS chairman of the board, announced on July 22nd the selection of Maj. Gen. Gus L. Hargett Jr., the current Adjutant General of Tennessee, as the association's next president. Hargett will retire from uniformed service at the end of year and take his new post Jan. 1, 2010. He will succeed retired Brig. Gen. Stephen M. Koper, who is retiring from NGAUS after serving as the association's chief executive officer for more than five years. The NGAUS president oversees the activities of the nation's oldest military association from the National Guard Memorial near Capitol Hill. This includes providing the Guard with unified representation before Congress and a variety of other functions to support a nationwide membership of nearly 45,000 current and former Army and Air Guard officers. Koper's tenure in Washington coincides with one of the association's most challenging and successful periods in history. Steve is a former Ohio Air National Guard Officer and former Executive Director of the Ohio National Guard Association. www.ngaus.org/

Ohio Army National Guard Soldier Awarded Ohio Cross. Maj. Gen. Wayt, the Ohio adjutant general, awarded the Ohio Cross to Spc. Ryan H. Kilgour during a June 6 ceremony. Months earlier, Kilgour, a plumber/pipefitter with the 1194th Engineer Co (Vertical), rescued a woman while traveling to a golf tournament at Ohio University.

"My friend and I were driving along when we saw a lot of junk all over the road," said the 32-year-old boiler maker from Jackson. "We then saw smoke, pulled over and got out of the car. At the bottom of this hill was an SUV upside down on its top and on fire." Dressed in shorts and flip-flops, Kilgour raced down the hill, while his friend called 911, and pulled a dazed woman from her burning vehicle. When the police and ambulance arrived, the two men continued on their journey.

“Ryan is a brave Soldier,” said Wayt before a gathering of Kilgour’s peers and family. “He and his friend could have kept going, but they stopped, and that decision saved a life.” The Ohio Cross, awarded to any Ohio military member who distinguishes him or herself by gallantry and selfless service at the risk of his or her life, must be presented by the governor or adjutant general.

“This medal is a tremendous honor,” Kilgour said. “But any one of these Soldiers would have done the same thing.”

Ohio Army National Guard Retired Records Section. Also known as the Adjutant General of Ohio Library, is located at Beightler Armory in Columbus, Ohio. The Retired Records Section maintains enlisted and officer discharge records on everyone who served in the Ohio Army National Guard since 1900. Former Ohio Army National Guard members can obtain a copy of their records by sending a written request to the address listed below, a fax to: 614-336-7305, or by email to: retiredrecordsoh@ng.army.mil

For Ohio Army National Guard members who were discharged prior to 2000, the request must include last and first name, middle initial, last four of Social Security Number or full Service Number, year of discharge and phone number. Those discharged in 2000 or later need to provide full Social Security Number. Also, please specify the format in which you would like the documents sent to you (email, mail, pick-up or fax). To request discharged records on family members who served in the Ohio Army National Guard please contact the Retired Records Section at 614-336-7038.

Ohio Army National Guard
ATTN: Retired Records Section
2825 West Dublin Granville Road
Columbus, OH 43235-2789

The U.S. Army's Spirit of America. This is a free, patriotic, live-action show which will return to Columbus, Ohio, Sept. 18-19. Tickets are FREE. The show last traveled to Columbus in 2002 and is proud to return to celebrate the Year of the Noncommissioned Officer. Show times are Friday, September 18, 2009 (10:30 a.m. & 7:30 p.m., and Saturday, September 19, 2009 (2 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.) at Nationwide Arena. Bringing history to life, the free, patriotic, live-action show tells the history of our nation through the eyes of the America Soldier. The show includes battle scenes, short periods of simulated gunfire, and performances by the Army's elite ceremonial units. The show features the U.S. Army Band "Pershing's Own" and Soldiers from the 3rd U.S. Infantry Regiment (The Old Guard), the oldest active-duty infantry unit in the Army. Elements of the Old Guard include The Old Guard Fife and Drum Corps, the Caisson Platoon, the Commander-in-Chief's Guard and The U.S. Army Drill Team. Please visit www.soa.mdw.army.mil for more details and ticketing information. For Groups of 10 or more, please contact Nationwide Arena Group Ticket Office at 614-246-3033 to request tickets.

Lowe’s and Home Depot Military Discounts. There has been some confusion concerning military discounts at these very popular home improvement stores. Lowe’s does have a year-round 10% discount applicable to military members and retirees. Just show your ID card at the check out. Home Depot does not have a uniform policy on military discounts. Some stores offer 10% at all times and others just on certain announced dates. Check with your local store for their policy.

Many other stores offer military discounts to anyone who has an ID card. It is always a good idea to ask.

Air Force Sets Up Toll-Free Line for Retirees. Air Force retirees and surviving spouses who are not connected to the Internet can use a new toll-free telephone number to get answers to their questions about pay, annuities, medical and health care, and other benefits. The number is (800) 558-1404. Persons with Internet access are encouraged by the Air Force to pass the phone number along to those who do not. Those with Internet access can still use www.retirees.af.mil for benefits information.

This Week in Guard History:

July 22, 1954: Phenix City, Ala. --- Gov. Gordon Persons declares martial law in Russell County after a key witness in an upcoming grand jury inquiry is murdered to prevent his testimony about local corruption and vote fraud. About 150 Alabama Guardsmen, under the command of Maj. Gen. Walter Hanna, commander of the 31st Infantry Division, start moving into the city and surrounding areas to "clean up" what has been called the "most wicked city in the United States."

Phenix City has been known for years as a den of gambling, bootleg liquor and prostitutes, all aided by corrupt cops and other officials. Located just across the state line from Fort Benning, Ga., the city thrives on the soldier trade. After several failed attempts to clean up the situation, the killing of the witness is the last straw. Hanna and his men replace the sheriff and deputies, while all the local judges are replaced by ones sent by the governor from outside areas. All the slot machines, roulette tables and other gambling equipment are destroyed, the prostitutes run out of the county and the corrupt officials jailed, fined or otherwise prevented from taking action. The mission ends in January 1955. A determined general, backed by at least 300 Guardsmen, finally succeeds in cleaning up the "wicked city" once and for all.

Upcoming Events.

216th Engineer Battalion Change of Responsibility Ceremony. The ceremony will be held at Camp Ravenna Joint Training Center, Tactical Training Base on 6 August 2009 at 1900. The outgoing Command Sergeant Major Manny Castillo and the incoming Battalion Command Sergeant Major is Steve Shepherd. CSM Castillo will continue his service in his new position as the 37th IBCT Recon SGM.

Casing of the Colors Ceremony for the 237th Personnel Services Battalion, 337th Personnel Detachment, and 437th Personnel Detachment. The ceremony will be conducted Saturday, 15 August 2009 at 1300 hrs at the Defense Supply Center Columbus, Building 20 Auditorium with a reception to follow.

TAG Rifle Matches, Camp Perry Joint Training Center, 29-30 August 2009
Awards ceremony is 1400, 30 August.

Mobile Commissary Schedule

Woods King Armory, 4303 Green Road, Cleveland, Ohio 44128, 14 and 15 November.

For additional information: www.commissaries.com

Upcoming ONG Retiree/Alumni Events

180th FW Retirees will hold their annual picnic on August 15, starting at 1100, at the 180th's base in Toledo.

148th Infantry Reunion (27th) – Camp Perry – August 28-29.

37th Division Reunion – Camp Perry – August 28-29. Associated with the Camp Perry events, there will be a golf outing on August 28. For more information, contact CW4 (ret) Jerry Wilson at 614-486-4186.

NIKE reunion (13th) – Camp Perry – September 11-13. This event has been cancelled for this year.

The Ohio National Guard Alumni Reunion – DSCC, Columbus – September 19.

2-174 ADA Reunion – McConnelsville – September 20.

Friday, 25 September, 2009, retirement dinner in honor of Maj. Troy L. Shoffstall and Chief Master Sgt. Wesley A. Smith of the Ohio Air National Guard. Details to be published.

437th MP Bn. reunion (8th) - Sunday, Sep 27th, 2009, at the armory, 475 Victoria Road, Youngstown, Ohio. Time is 12-6 PM. All former members of the 437th MP Bn. are invited.

147th Infantry Retirees Association – Friday, Oct 2, 2009, at the Sharonville, Ohio, VFW post. More details to follow.

The First Cleveland Cavalry Steak Roast will be held Saturday, 10 October at 1700, at the Green Road Armory in Cleveland.

Call to Duty Ceremonies

585 Military Police Co., Marysville, August 13, 2009, 1300, Marysville High School.

HHC 16th Engineer Brigade, September 1, 2009, 1300, Vineyard Church, 6000 Cooper Road, Westerville, OH 43081.

HHB 1/174ADA Bde., September 4, 2009, 1600, Hastings Middle School, Upper Arlington

Welcome Home Ceremonies

B/2-19 Special Forces, July 28, 1300, Groveport Recreation Center, 7370 Groveport Rd Groveport, OH 43125; and August 5, 1500, also at Groveport Recreation Center. (Unit is returning in two phases)

Operational Mentor and Liaison Team 9.1, August 28, (Tentative)

Recent News Releases

DOD Announces new Tricare regional care contractors

FALLS CHURCH, Va. (AFRNS) -- Department of Defense officials have announced the selection of new Tricare managed care support contractors for the North, South and West Tricare regions in the United States.

Tricare Management Activity administers the health care plan for 9.4 million servicemembers, retirees and their families worldwide. Managed care support contractors provide health, medical and administrative support services to eligible beneficiaries in each of the three Tricare regions within the United States. The third generation, or T-3, contracts are worth an estimated \$55.5 billion over the base and five options periods. Transition from the current contracts is scheduled to begin immediately, with the start of health care delivery under the new contracts anticipated to be April 1, 2010. The transition will occur during the base period and health care delivery will begin with the first option. The Tricare West region retains its current contractor, TriWest Healthcare Alliance Corp. The selected contractors in both North and South are new.

Aetna Government Health Plans of Hartford, Conn., is selected for the North region where Health Net Federal Services is the current contractor. UnitedHealth Military & Veterans Services of Minnetonka, Minn., is selected for the South region where Humana Military Healthcare Services is the current contractor. "We expect all of our managed care support contractors to provide top quality health care and the highest possible customer satisfaction," said Ellen Embrey, acting director of TMA. "Delivering quality health care to our nation's heroes and their families is our number one priority -- with a special emphasis on our wounded warriors."

Although two new contractors have been selected, the three-region structure in the United States and all of the Tricare benefit options offered under the current contracts remain the same. The T-3 contracts feature financial incentives to encourage exceptional customer service; high-quality care; detection of fraud, waste and abuse; increased electronic claims processing; better program management, improved preventive care and cost savings. To apply these incentives fairly, Tricare has improved methods to measure and assess network provider, beneficiary, and military treatment facility commander satisfaction.

As with the current contracts, the new contracts require prime service areas around military treatment facilities and Base Realignment and Closure sites. Under T-3, some prime service areas may be discontinued, and as a result some beneficiaries will no longer be offered Prime. These beneficiaries still retain Tricare coverage under the Standard or Extra plan. Tricare Standard is the most flexible of the Tricare options and is available everywhere, said officials. Tricare Extra is a discount given to Tricare Standard beneficiaries when they use a Tricare network provider. Officials remind beneficiaries that both Tricare Prime and Standard are excellent options with high satisfaction rates.

“TMA and all the managed care contractors are dedicated to making a smooth transition with minimal impact on beneficiaries,” said Admiral Hunter. “We will ensure that key information flows to all of our beneficiaries and stakeholders, in particular those affected by the changes in contractors or providers.” States included in each region and other contract information can be found at a special Web page at www.tricare.mil/T3contracts.

Senate Passes National Defense Authorization Act. July 24, www.ngaus.org. On Thursday, July 23, the Senate passed S.1390, The National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2010 (FY10 NDAA) by a vote of 87-7. The House passed their version of the FY10 NDAA, H.R. 2647, last month. Specifically, the bill:

- *Authorizes a 3.4 percent across-the-board pay raise

- *Requires the Secretary of the Army to submit a report to Congress assessing the feasibility of creating a trainee, transients, holdees, and students (TTHS) account within the Army National Guard

- *Directs the Secretary of Defense to report to Congress on the initial implementation of the Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program in fiscal year 2009 and plans for further implementation in fiscal year 2010

- *Mandates the addition of two members to the DOD Military Family Readiness Council, one from the National Guard and one from a reserve component other than the National Guard

- *Authorizes travel and transportation allowances for reserve component service members on active duty for more than 30 days to travel from a temporary duty station to their permanent duty station and back again when training at the temporary duty station is suspended for five days or more

- *Extends eligibility for TRICARE Standard to gray area retirees.

- *Enhances transitional dental care for members of the reserve components on active duty for more than 30 days in support of a contingency operation

- *Both the House and Senate must now reconcile their different versions through a Conference Committee, which will most likely occur after the August recess.

Army Guard on Course to Reach End Strength Goal. July 17, www.ngaus.org. The Army National Guard is changing recruiting policies to lower its end strength by the end of the fiscal year. These changes will enable the Army Guard to decrease its end strength from 362,493 soldiers to a congressionally mandated force of 358,200 by Sept. 30, according to information from the National Guard Bureau. The Army Guard devised a successful recruiting effort to grow from 330,000 in 2005

to more than 362,000 in 2008. To adjust this year, the Army Guard is making changes that will affect both soldiers coming into the Guard and those transitioning out.

For those enlisting in the Army Guard, the enlistment age is lowered to 35 years of age from 42. Medical and bad conduct waivers will not be granted to new enlistees, and enlistment bonuses will be eliminated for all soldiers currently not serving in Iraq or Afghanistan. The service, too, will shift its focus to officer and warrant officer recruiting and encourage current enlisted members to consider these options.

The current strength of the Ohio Army Guard as of July 26, is 11,542 with a year end goal of 11,144. 17 July, www.ngaus.org.

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

Vicki Lynn Mann, July 17, mother of SSG Joshua Mann, Command Historian for the ONG and Vice President of the 148th Infantry Veterans Association.

Websites of Interest:

<http://www.airmanonline.af.mil/>. Online July/August Issue of Airman Magazine

<http://twitter.com/NGAUS1878> Link to NGAUS twitter website:

Links to the National Guard social media websites:

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/TheNationalGuard>

<http://www.facebook.com/TheNationalGuard>

<http://www.youtube.com/user/TheNationalGuard>

<http://www.twitter.com/thenatlguard>

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. 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