

The Ohio National Guard Alumni Newsletter

VOL I, Edition 3 – March 13, 2009

We are very close to having the alumni website operational at <http://ong.ohio.gov>. It should be operational by March 20, after which alumni can self-register for the newsletter as well as access other content.

Guard Facts:

4.7% of the defense budget doesn't seem like a lot until you give it to your National Guard. It provides 28% of the Air Force's airlift capability; 40% of the Army's Brigade Combat Teams; 62% of the Air Force's air traffic control capability; 36% of all in-flight refueling missions; 90% of all domestic combat air patrols in the War on Terror; more than 513,000 Guardsmen mobilized since 9/11; more than 800 domestic disaster relief and emergency response missions annually; and is the front door to Homeland Defense in hours. Always Ready, Always There. www.ngb.army.mil

News of the past two weeks:

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

LTC (Ret) Robert Comar, veteran U.S. Army, WWII, Korean War, former Flight Instructor and Commander of the Columbus Army Aviation Facility, OHARNG. Burial will be at Arlington National Cemetery. Contributions may be made in his memory to USO World Headquarters, Department WS, PO Box 96860, Washington, DC 20090.

LTC (Ret) Carlos William "Bob" Guisinger, Feb. 28, former member of 166th Infantry, 37th Infantry, 73rd Infantry, and the Adjutant General's Department. Contributions may be made in his memory to the Boy Scouts of America, 1901 East Dublin Granville Road, Columbus, Ohio 43229 or to Cat Welfare, 741 Wetmore Road, Columbus, Ohio 43214.

COL (Ret) Jack Rowlands, March 1, former commander of the 737th Maintenance Battalion. Contributions may be made in his memory to Kobacker House-Hospice, 3595 Olentangy River Road, Columbus, Ohio 43214.

The following is the process for requesting funeral honors for a deceased veteran: First attempt to contact Ft Knox at: 502-624-6051, 502-624-1650, or 502-624-3164. If unable, call the State MFH Coordinator, Robert King, at 614-336-7289 or by email at Robert.king5@us.army.mil. Ft Knox will require a copy of the veteran's NGB Form 22 (Guard) and/or DD 214. Copies of the documents can be obtained at the following: <http://www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records/get-service-records.html>

You may also telephone the NPRC Customer Service Line (this is a long-distance call for most customers): 314-801-0800.

Federal Stimulus Package Funding for Ohio National Guard Projects

INSTALLATION	PROJECT TITLE	CATEGORY	FED AMT (\$1,000)	STATE AMT (\$1,000)
AKRON (HAWKINS)	ROOF REPLACEMENT PROJECT	ROOF	150	150
BEIGHTLER	STATEWIDE OCCUPANCY SENSORS	ENERGY REDUCTION	375	375
BEIGHTLER	HVAC RENOVATION	ENERGY REDUCTION	1,500	1,500
CLEVELAND	WINDOW & DOOR REPLACEMENT	ENERGY REDUCTION	59	59
GREEN	WINDOW & DOOR REPLACEMENT	ENERGY REDUCTION	75	75
GREEN	ROOF REPLACEMENT	ROOF	400	400
LIMA	ROOF REPLACEMENT PROJECT	ROOF	150	150
MIDDLETOWN	PLUMBING RENOVATION	ENERGY REDUCTION	125	125
SANDUSKY	PLUMBING RENOVATION	ENERGY REDUCTION	125	125
STOW	WINDOW & DOOR REPLACEMENT	ENERGY REDUCTION	59	59
WALBRIDGE	WINDOW & DOOR REPLACEMENT	ENERGY REDUCTION	59	59
BEIGHTLER	Beightler 70KW Solar Panels	ENERGY REDUCTION	560	0
CAMP PERRY	WATER DISTRIBUTION UPGRADE	ENERGY REDUCTION	695	0
CAMP PERRY	ELECTRIC DISTRIBUTION UPGRADE	UTILITIES MODERNIZATION	1,300	0
CAMP PERRY	CPJTC TOWER WINDOW REPLACE	ENERGY REDUCTION	49	0
CAMP RAVENNA	CRJMTC 25 KV PV Power System	UTILITIES MODERNIZATION	200	0
CAMP RAVENNA	CRJMTC TTB ROOF REPAIR	ROOF	75	0
DSCC BLDG 11	DSCC Bldg 11 Sec 10 Upgrades Prepare Bldg 11 Section 10 for personnel needed to provide a Soldier Readiness Processing Center by; adjusting wall partitions, reconfigure electrical and communication lines, and reconfigure fire and life safety equipment.	ENERGY REDUCTION	100	0
DSCC BLDG 24	DSCC Bldg 24 EXT Fire Prot	ENERGY REDUCTION	500	0
RICKENBACKER	918 roof replacement	ROOF	741	0
RICKENBACKER	RAE Waterline renovation	UTILITIES MODERNIZATION	600	0
TOLEDO	Toledo 81KV PV	UTILITIES MODERNIZATION	648	0
		TOTAL	8,545	3,077

Retired Ohio Guard Member named Columbus Police Chief:

Mayor Michael Coleman, on March 4, announced the selection of Deputy Chief Walter Distelzweig as the City of Columbus' 31st Police Chief. During his 36 years of public safety service, Walt served a parallel career as a Warrant Officer and Army Aviator with the Ohio Army National Guard, retiring with over 20 years of distinguished ONG service.

Media Releases:

Bonuses for recent war veterans appear on fast track. State lawmakers are moving quickly to place a measure before voters that would give bonuses to Ohio veterans who served during recent wars. If approved by voters in November, the resolution would use debt financing to pay for up to \$200 million in bonuses to Ohio veterans who served during the Iraq, Persian Gulf and Afghanistan conflicts. It would provide up to \$1,000 to veterans who served in combat zones and up to \$500 for those who served elsewhere. It also would pay a \$5,000 death benefit to the family of any Ohio military member killed in the line of duty.

Retirement and Survivor Benefit Income

For taxable year 2007 and prior years, military retirement income is subject to Ohio individual income tax, but is eligible for a credit of up to \$200. Income from a survivor benefit plan is also treated as retirement income and is eligible for the same credit.

Military retirement income may also be subject to school district income tax, if the taxpayer resides in a district that levies the tax.

Effective for taxable years beginning after Dec. 31, 2007, military retired pay and SBP benefits are exempt from state income tax and school district income tax. This pay can be deducted from federal adjusted gross income. Eligible taxpayers can contact the Defense Finance and Accounting Service to request an adjustment of their Ohio withholding. Federal civil service retirees who received credit for their military service can deduct only that portion of their pension. <http://tax.ohio.gov/faqs/Income/military>

Alumni Spotlight:

BG (Ret) James M. Abraham, former Assistant Adjutant General for Army, was recently awarded the Department of the Army Outstanding Civilian Service Award for his visionary leadership in the development of the Simultaneous Membership Program (SMP) and his continued service to the Ohio University Army ROTC Society of Alumni and Friends. A graduate and former Assistant Professor of Military Science at Ohio University, BG (Ret) Abraham spearheaded the innovative SMP pilot partnership program with the Ohio Army National Guard and Ohio University Army ROTC, which allowed National Guard Soldiers to enroll in the ROTC program and be commissioned upon graduation. MG Matt Kambic, Assistant Adjutant General for Army, presented the award and spoke of BG (Ret) Abraham's impact on the Army and our National Defense. Since its inception this innovative SMP program has commissioned over 40,000 officers into the Reserves, National Guard, and Active Duty Army. For more information, go to the web site at <http://www.ohio.edu/armyrotc/upload/Alumni-Newsletter-Fall-2008>

Ohio Training Center Name Changes

Major General Gregory L. Wayt, Adjutant General of Ohio, has approved facility name changes for all three of the Fort Ohio training centers:

Ravenna Training and Logistical Site will now be **Camp Ravenna Joint Military Training Center**. This name identifies the facility as an ARNG training center and clearly communicates that it is a joint military training facility for all of the Armed Forces.

Camp Perry Training Site will now be called **Camp Perry Joint Training Center**. This new designation communicates that Camp Perry is a 'joint' training facility used not only by the Armed Forces, but other non-DOD law enforcement agencies as well.

Camp Sherman Training Site will be designated as **Camp Sherman Joint Training Center**. Like Camp Perry, this designation communicates that Camp Sherman is also a 'joint' training facility used by the Armed Forces and other non-DOD law enforcement agencies.

These changes reflect the transformation of Ohio Training Centers from peacetime training missions to wartime pre-deployment and homeland defense training missions.

Upcoming Events:

Ohio Women Veterans Conference 2009. A conference open to all women currently serving and all women veterans. It will be held Saturday, April 4, at the Aladdin Shrine Center, 3850 Stelzer Road, in Columbus. For information and registration, contact Rebecca Lee at 740-474-3650.

Websites of interest:

<http://www.militaryhandbooks.com> – a compendium of free handbooks for alumni.

<http://www.spacea.info/faq.html> - provides a wide range of information on space available travel for retirees.

<http://www.firstclevelandcavalry.org/> - First Cleveland Cavalry Association

For the latest in Ohio Air and Army Guard news releases go to: <http://ong.ohio.gov/>

I have been traveling around the state meeting with our various alumni associations. If you would like me to attend an upcoming meeting of your group, please let me know. If you have ideas for future newsletter content or other alumni programs and would like to communicate with me directly, please feel free to

contact me at 614-336-7336, or by email at james.chisman@us.army.mil. I am also soliciting suggestions for a permanent title for the newsletter.

Thanks for your service.

COL (ret) Jim Chisman
Alumni Affairs Coordinator
Government Contractor