

The Ohio National Guard Alumni Newsletter



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September 18, 2009

This edition of the Alumni Newsletter is a condensed version for distribution at the 2009 Alumni Reunion. September 19. Normal publication will resume with the next edition. All the slide presentations from the reunion will be available in the near future on the Alumni Relations webpage at <http://www.ong.ohio.gov/AlumniTest.aspx>

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.

Ohio Air National Guard members Exert Courage Under Fire, 2nd Lt. Erika Wonn, 121st Air Refueling Wing Public Affairs. Two Ohio Air National Guard firefighters were recently credited with saving 10 civilian homes and countless lives and property when they jumped into action while volunteering in an off-base area outside of Baghdad International Airport, Iraq.

Senior Master Sgt. Judson Shull, from the Mansfield-based 179th Airlift Wing, and Airman 1st Class Robert Bissett, from the Columbus-based 121st Air Refueling Wing, Ohio Air National Guard, are deployed to Sather Air Base at Baghdad International Airport, where they provide air field fire protection. The firemen were off duty, volunteering to educate Iraqi Boy and Girl Scouts about fire prevention and safety Aug. 29 when a fire broke out in a nearby Iraqi housing facility. "You could see plumes of smoke billowing from the houses," said Bissett, a Pataskala, Ohio native. "We jumped in our truck with no gear and rushed to the fire." When the pair arrived at the scene, two homes in a 12-unit housing development were in flames. Shull, a Belleville, Ohio, native, rushed to the back of the complex while Bissett went around front. When they were satisfied all of the residents had been cleared to safety, the two waited for the Iraqi fire department to arrive. When they arrived, Shull went inside with the firemen to assist and provide guidance while Bissett grabbed an ax to ventilate rooms and help search for hot spots. After the fire was under control, the two firemen stepped back while the Iraqi firemen completed their overhaul procedures.

"It's our duty to act. We happened to be in the right place at the right time," Bissett said. "We were just glad we could help." The two Airmen were credited by Iraqi officials with keeping the fire from spreading throughout the housing complex, which could have destroyed 10 more Iraqi homes, and may have had worse consequences.

Army Guard Changes of Command

155th Chemical Battalion, Saturday, September 19, 2009, 1600, Kessler Armory, Middletown.
Outgoing Commander: LTC Scott M. Smith
Incoming Commander: MAJ David Mason Jr.

1-134th Field Artillery Battalion. Saturday, September 26, 1730, Camp Perry
Outgoing Commander: LTC Steven M. Schemine
Incoming Commander: MAJ Craig W. Baker

148th Infantry Battalion, Date and Location to be announced
Outgoing Commander: MAJ Perry Carper (Acting Commander)
Incoming Commander: LTC Walter Duzzny

This Week in Guard History: Sept. 7, 1986: Off the Coast of Florida --- An F-106 Delta Dart of the 125th Fighter-Interceptor Squadron encounters a Soviet Air Force Tu-95 bomber flying parallel to the 12-mile limit of U.S. airspace as it makes its way from Russia to Cuba. These are routine flights by the Soviets and are just as routinely met by Air Guard fighters, which act as "escorts" to be sure the bombers pose no threat to the U.S. homeland. Since 1953, Air Guard fighter-interceptor units have performed an air defense mission, challenging unidentified aircraft flying into American airspace. Air Guard pilots and aircraft stand alert 24 hours a day, every day. This mission grows each year and, in 1965, the 22 interceptor squadrons fly 30,000 hours and complete 38,000 alert sorties. By 1988, the Air Guard would provide 86 percent of the Air Force units assigned to national airspace security.

Upcoming Events

121st ARW Hometown Hero Salute. September 27th, Rickenbacker ANGB.

179th AW Hometown Hero Salute. October 3rd, Mansfield.

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.

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

2-174th ADA Second Reunion – McConnellsville – September 20. Time is 1PM - ? at the McConnellsville Armory, 4497 Hawk Drive, McConnellsville, Ohio 43756. All former 2-174th, 210 ARCAT and 997th Ord Co members and their families are invited to attend.

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

None scheduled at this time

Welcome Home Ceremonies

1-145th Armored Battalion. The 450-person battalion will return in three phases from active duty this month in support of the Multinational Force and Observers in the Sinai. The first welcome home ceremony was held on Sept 17th with approximately 200 Soldiers returning. The second is scheduled for Sept 23rd with approximately 200 Soldiers returning and the last scheduled for Sept 30th with approximately 50 Soldiers returning. Dates and locations were not available at time of publication. For additional information, contact the Public Affairs Office at 614-336-7000.

Recent News Releases

Change in Non-Prior Service Enlistment Age. Change 1 to ANGI 36-2002, Enlistment and Reenlistment in the Air National Guard and as a Reserve of the Air Force, has raised the maximum enlisted age for non-prior service individuals to age 40. The change became effective on August 11, 2009. This change will provide Air Guard opportunities to older individuals who are interested in enlisting in the Air National Guard.

Army Guard Reaches End Strength Goal. Arlington, Va. The Army National Guard announced today that it reached its congressionally mandated end-strength goal of 358,200 this week, a

full month before the end of the fiscal year. In addition to achieving the end-strength goal, Army National Guard personnel readiness is at the highest levels in history. In 2005, only 77 percent of Army National Guard Soldiers were considered trained in a military occupational specialty. Today, over 91 percent are trained in a military occupation.

Maintaining this level of readiness will be a challenge for the Army National Guard. "I worry about having adequate resources next year to sustain our current level of readiness," said Army Maj. Gen. Ray Carpenter, the acting director of the Army National Guard. There has been a 40 percent drop in recruiting and retention funding for fiscal year 2010. These funding cuts have affected everything from enlistment and re-enlistment bonuses to advertising and marketing. The achievements in Army National Guard personnel readiness, recruiting and retention over the past few years have been historic. They occurred during two major wars and increased deployment requirements. Currently, the Army National Guard has over 65,000 mobilized soldiers.

Contractors Outnumber U.S. Troops In Afghanistan (New York Times). Civilian contractors working for the Pentagon in Afghanistan not only outnumber the uniformed troops, according to a report by a Congressional research group, but also form the highest ratio of contractors to military personnel recorded in any war in the history of the United States.

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

SFC (Ret) Terry Hoon, August 28, 2009, Military Pay Supervisor for the USPFO and former member of the 213th Maintenance Company, 637th Field Service Company, 137th Supply and Service Battalion, and the 512th Engineer Battalion.

Websites of Interest

Discounts for Service members. The Military.com discount center has thousands of exclusive discounts and coupons perfect for summer. Save on flights, car rentals, motorcycles, books, hotels, computers, tickets, toys, games, home and garden and more. Browse coupons now. <http://web50.military.com>

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