

The Ohio National Guard Alumni Newsletter



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The Ohio National Guard webpage is: <http://www.ong.ohio.gov/>. Click on 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 ANG 2010 State Awards Banquet. By: Capt. Nicole L. Ashcroft and Tech. Sgt. Jodiviah Stepp, Ohio Air National Guard Public Affairs. The 180th Fighter Wing hosted the 2010 Annual Ohio Air National Guard State Awards Banquet on May 13, 2010 at the Toledo Club located in Toledo, Ohio. The banquet celebrates the accomplishments and contributions of individual Airmen, officers and Ohio Air National Guard units for their fiscal-year 2009 achievements. History was made when the 179th Airlift Wing received the Alan P. Tappan Award for an unheard-of third consecutive year.

Recognized Airmen included: Honor Guard Member of the Year, Staff Sgt. Michael Swick, 179th Airlift Wing; Honor Guard Program Manager of the Year, Staff Sgt. Matthew Haas, 180th Fighter Wing; First Sergeant of the Year, Master Sgt. Heidi Bunker, 179th Airlift Wing; Senior NCO of the Year, Master Sgt. Richard Brenly, 179th Airlift Wing; NCO of the Year, Master Sgt. Brian Owens, 179th Airlift Wing; Airmen of the Year, Senior Airman Justin Beers, 269th Combat Communications Squadron; and Company Grade Officer of the Year, Capt. Frank Skrobak, 123rd Air Control Squadron.

The Hippocrates Award, received by the 121st Air Refueling Wing, is presented to the most outstanding medical group in the Ohio ANG based on their overall achievements and contributions to the medical profession, unit, community, state and nation. The Individual Readiness Award, given to both a wing and Ground Support Unit (GSU), is chosen based upon a units bench strength and depth, diversity, career development and progression, physical readiness and individual performance improvement measures. This year's recipients were the 121st Air Refueling Wing and 123rd Combat Control Squadron.

Also awarded to both a wing and GSU is the Mission Readiness Award, based upon a units effective staffing, individual readiness, war readiness training effectiveness and mission capable index standards. Recipients of the Mission Readiness Award were the 179th Airlift Wing and 269th Combat Control Squadron. The 178th Fighter Wing received the Ground Safety Award based upon their unit performance relating to unit mission, personnel safety, environmental safety and enhanced public image. The Flying Safety Award is presented to a unit based on their training, plans, assessments, emergency response, maintenance activities, flight management, accident information and unit safety initiatives for the Flying Safety Award. The 2010 Flying Safety Award

recipient was the 180th Fighter Wing. Additionally, the 180th Fighter Wing received the Public Affairs Program of the Year and 179th Airlift Wing was selected as Best Newsletter of the Year. Presented to one of the seven non-flying units is the Pasquale A. Gicale Award, in honor of former 251st Combat Communication Group Commander, Col. Pasquale A. Gicale. This award was given to the 123rd Air Combat Control Squadron for their unit manning, retention, diversity, unit fitness rating, on-the-job training effectiveness and professional military education compliance.

Lastly, the Alan P. Tappan Award, in honor of Col. Alan P. Tappan who was an industrialist, veteran of three wars and vital leader in the development and evolution of the Ohio Air National Guard is presented to one of the four wings for outstanding performance. A multitude of criteria is reviewed for this award, including; unit manning, retention, diversity, unit fitness rating, on-the-job training effectiveness, professional military education compliance, unit mission achievements, internal/quality improvement, and community service. This years Alan P. Tappan Award went to the 179th Airlift Wing for an unprecedented third year in a row.

Ohio National Guard Announces New Missions for Springfield Air Base. The Ohio National Guard and 178th Fighter Wing hosted an event Friday, May 14, 2010, to celebrate the decision by the Air Force and the Department of Defense to establish new missions at the Ohio Air National Guard base located at the Springfield Beckley Municipal Airport. Ohio Governor Ted Strickland, U.S. Senator Sherrod Brown and Congressman Steve Austria announced May 7 that the U.S. Department of Defense had determined to assign an MQ-1 Predator mission and expand the National Air and Space Intelligence Center (NASIC) mission on the Springfield base. NASIC is headquartered at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base nearby and the 178th already has a squadron working with the organization.

“There is much to be happy about,” said Maj. Gen. Gregory L. Wayt, Ohio adjutant general. “In 2005, the Air Force and the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Commission nearly shut down this base, and now, we are establishing cutting-edge missions that should ensure the viability of this base long into the future.” Strickland, Austria, former Congressman Dave Hobson, State Senator Chris Widener, State Representatives Bob Hackett and Ross McGregor, Springfield Mayor Warren Copeland, Yellow Springs Mayor David Foubert, Clark County Commissioner Roger Tackett and other elected and private sector officials participated.

Engineer Brigade to Present Memorial Sign to Parents of Fallen Soldier. BAGHDAD – In October 2005, Company B of the Ohio-based 612th Engineer Battalion lost one of its own when 20-year-old Sgt. Jeremy Hodge, from Rushsylvania, Ohio, was killed in action when an IED detonated near his vehicle during a mission here. Since that time, the Task Force Iron Claw Academy (TFICA) has been conducting classes inside of a schoolhouse at Camp Liberty named "Hodge Hall," in memory of their fallen sergeant. Appropriately, TFICA was responsible for training U.S. and Iraqi Security Forces how to identify and safely respond to IEDs that are discovered on route clearance missions. As drawdown plans continue and the Iraqi Security Force is now capable of executing independent route-clearance missions, TFICA has closed its doors and the sign proclaiming it as Hodge Hall has been taken down; eventually to be presented to Hodge's family.

"I think it is important to honor him and his sacrifice," said 1st Lt. Craig Smith, former officer in charge of TFICA. "It also sent a clear message to the students, that they have a very tough and dangerous mission, and they had better take it seriously." Smith is honored to be presenting the sign to the Hodge Family. "The Hodge's had to bear what no parent should have to," he said. "I would hope that they realize that Jeremy has not been forgotten, nor the sacrifice that he made. Every U.S. Soldier that came through TFICA saw that sign and learned about Jeremy." [The "Hodge Hall" sign, recently removed from the Task Force Iron Claw Academy at Camp Liberty, stands refurbished and ready for its trip to Ohio where the 16th Engineer Brigade will present it to the family of Sgt. Jeremy Hodge, a member of the 612th Engineer Battalion killed in action here in October 2005. U.S. Army photo by Spc. Dan George.](#)

Col. Robert Phillips, the commander of the 612th En. Bn. at the time of Hodge's death, has deployed to Iraq again as chief of staff for the 16th Engineer Brigade. "It was nice to see that after five years Hodge Hall was still being used," said Phillips. The Soldiers who were responsible for the removal and preservation of the Hodge Hall sign were keenly aware of its meaning and where the sign was headed. "It was an honor to be able to have a part in getting the sign down," said Spc. Scott Vaughan, of Belding, Mich. Once the 16th Engineer Brigade completes its deployment, the sign will leave Iraq and be presented to Hodges' mother and step-father, Michelle and Steve Norris, during a fallen Soldier memorial service. The idea for the personal exchange was suggested by Brig. Gen. Glenn C. Hammond III, the current commander of the 16th EB. "We're giving the family a memorial that they can put up somewhere. It is an honor to take the sign home with us when we leave here," Hammond said. Hodge Hall may no longer display Sgt. Jeremy Hodge's name, but his legacy will continue on in the hearts and minds of the Soldiers who followed in his footsteps.

Military Reunion Notifications. Do you have an upcoming reunion for a military fraternal organization planned and you want to get the word out to those who are not on your mailing list? It can be done at no cost with a little planning in advance by taking advantage of the various means of publicizing reunions using the following resources. Be prepared to provide your branch of service, organization name, date and place it will occur in, and contact name, address, phone number, e-mail and web address website for potential attendees to communicate with:

American Legion Magazine – Submit by mail to The American legion magazine, Attn: Reunions, PO Box 1055, Indianapolis IN 46206 or Fax (317) 630-1280, or email reunions@lwgion.org, or via web site www.lwgion.org/reunions. (Note: Submit six months in advance).

DAV Magazine – Submit to Reunions, DAV Magazine, PO Box 14301, Cincinnati OH 45250-0301 (Note: Submit six months in advance).

Military.com online – Complete form at www.military.com/Resources/ReunionEntry/1,11585,,00.html

MOAA – Submit via www.moaa.org/membership/comm_findpeople.htm. Reunion should appear on the MOAA Web site within 24 hours. Information submitted also will be considered for inclusion in MOAA's magazine for members only.

FRA Magazine – Submit via mail to FRA Reunions, 125 N. West St., Alexandria VA 22314 or email reunions@fra.org or post online at www.fra.org.

Reunion Magazine - Email editor@reunionmag.com to register or send to Reunions magazine, PO Box 11727, Milwaukee WI 53211-0727 or Fax 414-263-6331.

VFW Magazine – Mail to Reunions, VFW Magazine, 406 W. 34th St., Suite 523, Kansas city MO 64111 or complete and submit a form online at www.vfw.org/magazine/51.html. (Note: Submit four months in advance.

VVA – Send an email to theveteran@vva.org

Kings Island Offers Free Admission to Military. Kings Island amusement park will honor the men and women who serve in the armed forces by offering free admission on holidays. Kings Island's Tribute to the Armed Forces program will offer a free regular admission ticket to any active or retired military personnel on the Sunday and Monday of Memorial Day and July 4 weekends. Along with their own free admission, active and retired military will be able to purchase discount admission tickets for members of their immediate family at a special military discount price of \$29.99 for up to six family members. A valid military ID must be presented at the Kings Island ticket window on May 30 and 31 or July 4 and 5 to receive this offer. For more information, visit Kings Island's website at www.visitkingsisland.com.

Recent News Releases

Mobilized Reserve, May 11, 2010. The Department of Defense announced the current number of reservists on active duty as of May 11, 2010. The total number currently on active duty from the Army National Guard and Army Reserve is 99,843; Navy Reserve, 6,459; Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve, 18,108; Marine Corps Reserve, 6,767; and the Coast Guard Reserve, 834. This brings the total National Guard and Reserve personnel who have been activated to 132,011, including both units and individual augmentees. A cumulative roster of all National Guard and Reserve personnel who are currently activated may be found at <http://www.defense.gov/news/d20100511ngr.pdf>

Military Compensation Review Update. Defense Department officials announced on May 11 the start of the congressionally mandated 11th Quadrennial Review of Military Compensation. The review's focus, officials said, will be on combat pay, compensation for reserve-component servicemembers, caregivers and survivors and pay incentives for critical career fields. Thomas L. Bush, a recently retired senior executive who worked in the office of the undersecretary of defense for personnel and readiness and as the principal director for manpower and personnel in the office of the assistant secretary of defense for reserve affairs, was tapped to lead the review. He will report to Clifford Stanley, undersecretary of defense for personnel and readiness. The last review, released in two volumes in 2008, focused on housing allowance, retirement pay, Tricare health system premiums, pay incentives for health care professionals and quality of life. Retired Air Force Brig. Gen. Jan D. "Denny" Eakle chaired the 10th review and said upon its release that the first question for any quadrennial review of compensation is whether military pay is comparable to that in the private sector. The second is whether military pay is adequate to maintain the force.

VA Application for Health Benefits. Veterans will find it easier and faster to apply for their health care benefits now that the Department of Veterans Affairs has updated its online Form 10-10EZ,

"Application for Health Benefits." This revised online application provides enhanced navigation features that make it easier and faster for Veterans to apply for their health care benefits. This new version also allows Veterans to save a copy of the completed form for their personal records. The most significant enhancement allows Veterans to save their application to their local desktop and return to the application at any time without having to start over. Previously, Veterans had to complete the form in a single session. This updated online form, along with the revised VA Form 10-10EZ, reduces the collection of information from Veterans by eliminating some questions. In addition, there are minor changes to simplify the wording of questions and provide clarity in the instructions. Veterans may complete or download the 10-10EZ form at the VA health eligibility website at <https://www.1010ez.med.va.gov/sec/vha/1010ez>. To have the VA Form 10-10EZ mailed to you or if you have any questions, call at 1-877-222-VETS (8387) or visit the VA health eligibility website at www.va.gov/healtheligibility.

Tricare Gray Area Retirees Update. Retired National Guard and Reserve personnel may be able to buy Tricare health coverage as soon as October 1, 2010, as part of the National Defense Authorization Act for 2010. Until this became law, reserve-component retirees did not have the option of Tricare coverage until reaching the age of 60. After the start-up date, which was given to NGAUS by an official with the Tricare Management Activity, these so-called "gray area" retirees who are not yet 60 may purchase Tricare Standard and Extra coverage. The law requires premium rates to equal the full cost of the coverage. This differs from Tricare Reserve Select for reserve members, who pay 28% of the cost of coverage. Premium rates are not yet available for the "gray area" retirees' coverage. For more information, go to www.tricare.mil.

Wounded Warrior Web Site Upgraded. The Department of Defense announced this week that its National Resource Directory <https://www.nationalsresourcedirectory.gov/> web site for wounded, ill and injured service members, veterans, their families and those who support them, recently received a comprehensive system upgrade to provide users with easier access. This Web site is a collaborative effort between the Departments of Defense, Veterans Affairs (VA) and Labor (DOL), and compiles federal, state, local and non-profit resources for wounded warriors, veterans, family members and caregivers in a single, searchable site. "We worked closely with users of the National Resource Directory to find out how to make the information they need easier to find," said Noel Koch, deputy under secretary of defense.

This Week in Guard History.

May 17, 1968: Phu Cat Air Base, Vietnam. The second Air Guard unit to arrive in Vietnam is Iowa's 174th Tactical Fighter Squadron. When not engaged in combat operations, many of the airmen volunteered their time to work with abandoned children in nearby orphanages. The medical personnel treated Vietnamese civilians for a variety of diseases and injuries under the MEDCAP (Medical Civic Action Program) project. Some Guardsmen wrote home about the bad conditions at the orphanage and had their families, with the help of local churches and businesses, gather donated clothes, toys, books, and school supplies to help the children.

This week in Ohio Guard History

19 May 1952: Company A, 1st Battalion, 148th Infantry Regiment (Walbridge) is organized at Toledo as Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 3d Battalion, 107th Armored Cavalry.

22 May 1951: Troop A, 2d Squadron, 107th Cavalry Regiment (Greenville) is organized as Battery B, 180th Antiaircraft Artillery Battalion.

23 May 1921: The 211th Maintenance Company (Newark) is organized at Dresden as Battery F, 135th Field Artillery.

Changes of Command

HHD, 147th Regional Training Institute, 5 June 2010, 0900 hrs, Bldg 930, Rickenbacker Columbus, Ohio 43217. Outgoing Commander CPT Travis L. Ressler, Incoming Commander 1LT Benjamin D. Mackley.

Upcoming Events

Mobile Commissary and AAFES Site Sales. 31 July, 1 August in Cleveland, 7-8 August at McConnelsville, Details to follow.

2/174th ADA Retirees 2nd Annual Golf Outing. A Four Person "Best Ball" Golf Scramble will be held Sunday, May 23, 2010 at Fuller's Fairways, Zanesville, Ohio. Registration begins at 7:30 AM with a Shotgun Start at 8:30 AM. Registration Fee is \$50 per person or \$200 per team (4 Man Scramble Best Ball Format and Scoring). Proceeds from the event will go towards operation of the Retiree Association and to help the Family Support Association to assist Families of deployed Soldiers in need. To register, contact CPT Bob Lytton at 614-336-6727. or by email at robert.lytton@us.army.mil Registration Fee includes: Green Fees and Cart for 18 holes, with Lunch and Beverages to be served during the presentation ceremony at the end of the event.

Cuyahoga County Memorial Day Traditional Observance. Sunday - May 30, 2010, 11:00 a.m – 1:00 p.m., Cuyahoga Community College Western Campus, 11000 Pleasant Valley Rd, Parma. Assemble with veterans to honor the service men and women who gave their lives for our country and those who served and are no longer with us. Open to the public - no cost. Families welcome. Activities include: Parade, Remembrance Ceremony, Gold Star families' recognition. Military displays, Free All-American hot dog buffet. For information call 216-987-3193 or 216-373-2625

Ohio National Guard Wreath Laying Ceremony. In honor of Our Ohio National Guard Fallen Heroes on Friday, May 28, 2010, at 2:00 P.M. Beightler Armory Memorial 2825 West Dublin Granville Road, Columbus, Ohio 43235.

Military Appreciation Day at the Memorial Tournament, Tuesday, June 1, 2010. All active, reserve, National Guard, retired and immediate family will receive complimentary admission, simply show your military ID. Gates open at 7:00 A.M. Free exclusive PGA/Military golf clinic – 1:30 P.M. Honoree Ceremony – 3:00 P.M. (Seve Ballesteros). Jack Nicklaus Golf Clinic – 4:30 P.M.

COL Daniel L.Tack Retirement Celebration Luncheon, Thursday, June 3, 2010, Crowne-Plaza North, 600 Metro-Place North, Dublin, OH 43017. Time: 1130-1330. Cost: \$20 per person. Duty Uniform. RSVP to LTC Thomas Haidet at thomas.haidet@us.a.rmy.mil or 614-906-6482 NLT 15 May 2010. Please make checks payable to 371st SB Officer Mess Fund.

2010 Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) Employer Recognition Banquet. Saturday, June 5, 2010, 1800, Columbus Marriott Northwest, 5605 Blazer Pkwy., Dublin, OH, 43017. For additional information and registration materials, please contact COL (ret) Anthony "Chip" Augello at 614-336-7444 or anthony.augello@us.army.mil; or Mr. Joe Varrasso at 614-336-7378 or joseph.varrasso@us.army.mil. The cost is \$35 per person and the deadline for reservations is May 28, 2010.

178th FW June Event Celebration and Reunion. The 178th Fighter Wing is holding a Hail and Farewell Celebration and Reunion on June 5, 2010. The 162nd FS will hold a Pilot Reunion on Friday, June 4, 2010 as well. This celebration is to commemorate the outstanding history of excellence by the 178th FW, which has flown U.S. aircraft since 1947. Due to BRAC, the wing will lose its American F-16s this fiscal year. A tail flash and nose art contest is in the works to commemorate this event as well. The Saturday celebration will culminate in a full unit reunion that evening for all former and present members. For information on this event and other retiree information from the 178FW, please go to www.178fw-alumni.com for full details. Please take the time to register on this site to ensure that you receive all the latest information for retirees and former members of the 178th Fighter Wing.

Retirement Dinner for LTC Gerard Garvey, Saturday, 5 Jun 2010, 1800, Clarian Inn and Conference Center, 240 East Hines Hill Road, Hudson, OH 44326, (330)653-9191. Dinner will be buffet style, \$30 per person. Include check with RSVP to SPC Petiya ashley.l.petiya@us.army.mil or 614-336-6963. Please make check payable to: Officer Mess Fund. Mail to: HQ 237th BSB, 4304 Green Rd., Cleveland, OH 44128.

15th Annual Governor's Cup Golf Tournament, Free for Veterans, Activity Duty, Guard and Reserve, Monday, June 7, 2010 Noon Shotgun Start, Riviera Country Club, 8205 Avery Road Dublin, Ohio 43017. Limited availability, register early. Contact: Liz Flick, Member, Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame Foundation, 614-451-2405, 1395 E. Dublin Granville Rd. Suite 222, Columbus, Ohio 43229.

1/137 Aviation Regiment Commercial Point Welcome Home. The city of Commercial Point has been a source of much support to the Soldiers of the 1/137 during their recent deployment. They will honor the unit on Saturday, 12 June 2010, with a parade starting at 1100. There will also be a helicopter flyover and landing at 1230. At 1300, there will be a "Welcome Home Event" at 26 W. Scioto St. in Commercial Point, Ohio 43146. The welcome home event will be a combined effort of the City of Commercial Point and the Battalion's Family Support Groups. Friends, alumni, and

family members are encouraged to attend. For additional information please contact Maj. Wayne Thomas at wayne.allen.thomas@us.army.mil or by phone at 614-336-6459.

121st ARW Chief's Council Golf Outing, 21 June, 2010, Homestead Springs Golf Course, Groveport. Support Military members and families. For more information contact: CMSgt Greg Roberts, 614-492-3445 or Gregory.Rogers@ang.af.mil; or CMSgt Tony Jones, 614-492-4321 or Tony.Jones@ang.af.mil.

178th Fighter Wing Golf Outing, Monday, June 21, 2010, Locust Hill Country Club, Springfield, Ohio. Team Best Ball: Shot Gun Start at 0830. Entrance fee: \$45.00 per person. Includes: golf cart for two, lunch, beverages, and door prizes. Registration deadline: June 12, 2010. Participation is open to employees and friends of the 178th Fighter Wing active and retired Ohio National Guard members, their families, and sponsors. For additional information, contact Jane Esprit, 5319 Regula Ave. Springfield, Ohio 45502 (937) 525-2583 jane.esprit@ang.af.mil.

Second Squadron, 107th Cavalry, 2010 Red & White Ball, July 17, 2010, The Millennium Hotel, Downtown Cincinnati, 150 West 5th Street, Cincinnati, OH 45202-2393, (513) 352-2100 www.millenniumhotels.com. E5 and above: \$35.00 per person, includes plated dinner, E4 and below: \$25.00 per person, includes plated dinner. Contact SFC Friend for details: at michael.d.friend@us.army.mil, or by phone at 614-336-6553, RSVP by June 23, 2010.

The 39th Annual Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States Conference will be held in St. Louis, MO August 8-12. For information and registration materials, <http://www.memberconnections.com/links/link.cgi?l=1285011&h=160777&e=LCNG-20100503105248>.

2010 Alumni Reunion Date Set. The date and location for the 2010 ONG Alumni Reunion have been established. The date is Saturday, September 18, at Rickenbacker Air National Guard Base. We are currently developing the program and will have additional information including possible social activities for Friday, September 17, and discounted lodging at a nearby hotel. More information to follow.

37th DVA/148th Infantry Regiment Annual Reunion, August 27-29, Camp Perry Joint Training Center, Port Clinton, OH. Details to follow.

Call to Duty Ceremonies – none currently scheduled

Welcome Home Ceremonies

1192nd Engineer Company, Monday, 31 May 2010, 1300 World Harvest Church, 4595 Gender Road, Canal Winchester, Ohio 43110

1483rd Transportation Company, June 10, time and location TBD (Toledo Area)

With sorrow we announce the passing of the following members of the ONG family:

LTC (Ret) Edgar Crosley, 90, March 31, 2010, Akron, former member of the Ohio Army National Guard.

Mr. Robert Moore, May 4, 2010, father of SFC Stacey Hambel, JFHQ-JAG and father-in-law of SFC Keith Hambel, 147th Regiment (RTI).

SPC Matthew Duane Matney, May 14, 2010, member of the 135th MP CO.

LTC Thomas P. Belkofer, May 18, 2010, Kabul, Afghanistan, former member of the Ohio Army National Guard, assigned to Hq. 10th Mountain Division, Ft. Drum, NY.

Websites of Interest:

The May 2010 Issue of Soldiers Magazine: <http://www.army.mil/soldiers/>.

The May-June 2010 Issue of Airman Magazine: <http://www.airmanonline.af.mil/>.

Where Are They Now?

Don Teague, former Captain and Army Aviator in the Ohio Guard, is an Emmy Award winning journalist and author. He is currently a correspondent for CBS News, appearing regularly on The CBS Evening News, The Early Show, and Sunday Morning. Don worked as an NBC News correspondent from 2002 until 2009. While working for NBC News, he covered stories as varied as the war in Iraq, hurricane Katrina, and the seizure of children from a polygamist ranch in Texas. Since joining CBS News in 2009, Don has covered major stories including the mass shooting of soldiers at Fort Hood, Texas. He holds a Master of Science in international studies from Troy State University and a Bachelor of Arts in broadcast journalism from San Diego State University. Don lives in Texas with his wife Kiki, two teenaged daughters, four horses, three dogs, and a donkey. His first book, [Saved By Her Enemy](#), was published by Simon and Schuster/Howard Books in March, 2010.

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