

# 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's Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. Greg Wayt, also serves as President of the Adjutants General Association of the US (AGAUS). Click on the following link to read an interview with him printed in the February Edition of National Guard Magazine. <http://www.ngaus.org/content.asp?bid=15370>

**Are You Eligible for Cash Reimbursement of "Shadow Area" Post Deployment/Mobilization Respite Absence (PDMRA)?** Ohio Army National Guard Soldiers and former Soldiers who were mobilized or demobilized at any point during the period or 19 Jan 2007 thru 18 Aug 2007 may be eligible for cash reimbursement of unused Post Deployment/Mobilization Respite Absence (PDMRA). PDMRA is administrative absence earned by Soldiers as compensation for multiple qualifying mobilization periods during a 72 month period (36 months for Active Guard Reserve Soldiers). The program was announced by the Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD) on 19 January 2007, but the implementation guidance was not published until 18 August 2007. Because of the delay in the publication of this implementing guidance, some Soldiers, who were mobilized or demobilized during this time-frame, may not have received this PDMRA benefit. Soldiers and former Soldiers who did not receive this benefit, but were otherwise eligible to receive it may be entitled to receive a one-time cash payment as compensation.

By law, all payments must be paid not later than 28 October 2010 and the National Guard's goal is to have all Soldiers and former Soldiers paid not later than 1 October 2010. The Ohio Army National Guard is in the process of developing guidance and regarding the process for receiving these payments. That guidance will be published in the very near future and will be disseminated through this Alumni publication. It is imperative that you update your current mailing address with the Ohio Army National Guard, as soon as possible, to ensure you receive this guidance and to ultimately receive payment if you are eligible. If you believe you may qualify, please contact MSG Parmi at (614) 336-7385 or email: [shirley.parmi@ng.army.mil](mailto:shirley.parmi@ng.army.mil).

**Ohio National Guard Association Presents Award to Senator Brown.** The Ohio National Guard Association (ONGA) presented U.S. Senator Sherrod Brown with the Major General Charles Dick Award for Legislative Excellence on Sat., Feb. 27, during a ceremony at the ONGA 2010 Winter Dinner Dance in Columbus. The award is presented to a state legislator or congressional member who has made outstanding contributions in support of the Ohio National Guard. "Senator Brown has

been a champion for the Soldiers and Airmen of the Ohio National Guard for almost two decades,” said Maj. Gen. Gregory L. Wayt, Ohio adjutant general. “On behalf of the almost 17,000 members of the Ohio National Guard, we honor him for his staunch support of our organization.”

Retired Brig. Gen. Robert L. Lawson, executive director of the Ohio National Guard Association said Sen. Brown “has developed a very strong personal relationship with the Ohio National Guard and we are proud to present him with this recognition.” Brown has worked tirelessly and ensured the Ohio National Guard members have superior equipment and facilities for training, and is active in working with the Department of Defense and the National Guard Bureau to ensure that critical missions and jobs remain in Ohio.

“Senator Brown affords the National Guard the opportunity to become part of the larger debate on issues of importance to our Soldiers and Airmen at times when our input can have the greatest impact,” said Wayt.

Also honored at the event were Brig. Gen. (ret) Steve Koper, and COL (ret) Don Griffith, who were inducted into the ONGA Hall of Fame for their extraordinary contributions to the ONG and the ONGA.

**Military Community Loses Pioneer.** The first woman appointed to the rank of major general in the Air Force and the Department of Defense passed away February 15. Retired Maj. Gen. Jeanne M. Holm was a driving force in achieving parity for military women and making them a viable part of the mainstream military. The Portland, Ore., native attained the rank of two-star general in 1973 after a career that began 31 years earlier in 1942 when she enlisted in the Army. Holm entered Women's Army Air Corps in January 1943, where she received a commission as third officer, the WAAC equivalent of second lieutenant. Holm also became the first woman to attend the Air Command and Staff School, Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala., in 1952.

She was promoted to brigadier general July 16, 1971, the first female airman to be appointed in this grade. She was promoted to the grade of major general effective June 1, 1973, with date of rank July 1, 1970 - the first woman in the armed forces to serve in that grade. In recognition of Holm's pioneering career, Air Force officials renamed the Air Force Officer Accession and Training Schools at Maxwell-Gunter Air Force Base, Ala., the Jeanne M. Holm Officer Accession and Citizen Development Center in June 2008. Its mission is Air Force officer recruitment and training within the Air University. Holm also authored two books about women in the military. "Women in the Military: An Unfinished Revolution" was published in 1982 and was updated in 1994. Four years later she wrote "In Defense of a Nation: Servicewomen in World War II."

During World War II, Holm was assigned to the Women's Army Corps Training Center at Fort Oglethorpe, Ga., where she commanded a basic training company and then a training regiment. At the end of the war, she commanded the 106th WAC Hospital Company at Newton D. Baker General Hospital, W.Va. She then left active military duty in 1946. In October 1948 during the Berlin crisis, Holm was recalled to active duty with the Army and went to Camp Lee, Va., as a company commander. The following year she transferred to the Air Force, when a new law integrated women in the regular armed forces. Holm served in a variety of personnel assignments, including director of Women in the Air Force from 1965 to 1973. She played a significant role in eliminating restrictions on numbers of women serving in all ranks, expanding job and duty station assignments for women, opening ROTC and service academies to women, and changing the policies on the

status of women in the armed forces. During her tenure, policies affecting women were updated, WAF strength was more than doubled, job and assignment opportunities expanded, and uniforms modernized. Holm retired in 1975. She served three presidential administrations: special assistant on women for President Gerald Ford, policy consultant for President Jimmy Carter, and first chairperson of the Veterans Administration's Committee on Women Veterans for President Ronald Reagan.

**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.

**The 2009 Phillip A Connelly Award for the State of Ohio.** Support Company, 216th Engineer Battalion, under the leadership of Sgt. 1st Class David Hall, was awarded the 2009 Phillip A Connelly award for the state of Ohio at their February 2010 drill. The unit finished first out of 8 companies that were participating for the award. The Phillip A Connelly Awards Program was established in 1968 to recognize excellence in Army Food Service. The International Food Services Executives Association (IFSEA) provides judges for the annual competition and chooses the winner based on site location, administration, leadership, organization, efficient use of equipment and personnel, and food palatability.

## **Recent News Releases**

**The Department of Defense Announced the Current Number of Reservists on Active Duty as of 23 Feb 2010.** The Army, Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard announced a decrease in activated reservists, while the Air Force announced an increase. The net collective result is 137 fewer reservists activated than last week. At any given time, services may activate some units and individuals while deactivating others, making it possible for these figures to either increase or decrease. The total number currently on active duty from the Army National Guard and Army Reserve is 110,806; Navy Reserve, 6,574; Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve, 16,790; Marine Corps Reserve, 6,399; and the Coast Guard Reserve, 762. This brings the total National Guard and Reserve personnel who have been activated to 141,331, 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/d20100223ngr1.pdf> .

**VA to Take a Second Look at Gulf War Disability Claims.** The Veterans Affairs Department says it will take a second look at the disability claims of what could be thousands of Gulf War veterans suffering from illnesses they blame on their war service, the first step toward potentially compensating them nearly two decades after the war ended. VA Secretary Eric Shinseki said the decision is part of a "fresh, bold look" his department is taking to help veterans who have what's

commonly called “Gulf War illness” and have long felt the government did little to help them. The VA says it also plans to improve training for medical staff who work with Gulf War vets, to make sure they do not simply tell vets that their symptoms are imaginary — as has happened to many over the years.

The changes reflect a significant shift in how the VA may ultimately care for some 700,000 veterans who served in the Gulf War. They also could improve the way the department handles war-related illnesses suffered by future veterans, because Shinseki said he wants standards put in place that don't leave veterans waiting decades for answers to what ails them. The decision comes four months after Shinseki opened the door for as many as 200,000 Vietnam veterans to receive service-related compensation for three illnesses stemming from exposure to the Agent Orange herbicide. About 175,000 to 210,000 Gulf War veterans have come down with a pattern of symptoms that include rashes, joint and muscle pain, sleep issues and gastrointestinal problems, according to a 2008 congressionally mandated committee that based the estimate on earlier studies.

A law enacted in 1994 allows the VA to pay compensation to Gulf War veterans with certain chronic disabilities from illnesses the VA could not diagnosis. More than 3,400 Gulf War have qualified for benefits under this category, according to the VA. The VA says it plans to review how regulations were written to ensure the veterans received the compensation they were entitled to under the law. The VA would then give veterans the opportunity to have a rejected claim reconsidered. The VA doesn't have an estimate of the number of veterans who may be affected, but it could be in the thousands. Of those who deployed in the Gulf War, 300,000 submitted claims, according to the VA. About 14 percent were rejected, while the rest received compensation for at least one condition.

### **This Week in Guard History.**

March 4, 1945: Manila, Luzon, Philippine Islands — The forward elements of the 37th Infantry Division out of Ohio, along with other American forces, enter the outskirts of the Philippine capital. For the next month, they will be engaged in the deadliest city fighting to take place in the Pacific Theater.

While fighting house-to-house, the "Buckeyes" of the 37th will liberate 1,330 western civilians held in Old Bilibad Prison and capture the walled government complex known as the Intramuros, which the Japanese turned into a fortress. After thousands of innocent civilians are killed, mostly by rampaging Japanese troops, the city is finally secured by the Americans.

### **This week in Ohio Guard History**

8-12 March 1944: The battle for Bougainville's Hill 700 takes place. Companies E, F and Headquarters Company, 2d Battalion, 148th Infantry, later receive the Presidential Unit Citation for their heroic actions in retaking the hill.

## Changes of Command

**2nd Battalion, 174th Air Defense Artillery Regiment**, 7 March 2010, 1100, Clarence E. Miller Armory, 4497 Hawk Drive, McConnelsville, OH 43756. Outgoing Commander, LTC Jeffrey D. Schultz, Incoming Commander MAJ Michael B. Nelson.

**A Battery 1-134th Field Artillery Regiment** 20 March 2010, 1300, 2561 Harding Highway East Marion, OH. Outgoing Commander, Captain Don Stranathan. Incoming Commander, Captain Brandon Skiver.

**371st Sustainment Brigade Change of CSM Responsibility**, 21 March 2010, 1400, Kettering Armory. CSM Scott M. Barga succeeds CSM William A. Myers, who retires on 31 March 2010 after more than thirty years of military service.

**1st Battalion, 137th Aviation Regiment**, 28 March 2010, 1400, Rickenbacker Air National Guard Base, Army Aviation Support Facility #2, 7750 S. Access Rd, Bldg 918. Outgoing Commander LTC Anthony P. DiGiacomo II, Incoming Commander LTC Stephen L. Rhoades.

**73<sup>rd</sup> Troop Command**, April 11, 2010, 1430, Building 931 Rickenbacker. Outgoing Commander, BG Jack Lee, Incoming Commander, COL Deborah Ashenhurst.

## Upcoming Events

**Uncasing Ceremony to Commemorate the Activation of the 212th Maintenance Company**, 6 March 2010, 1400 hours, Medina Armory, 920 West Lafayette Road, Medina, Ohio 44256. Commander: CPT Claudio Garcia-Castro, 1SG: 1SG Dennis Taylor

**1st Battalion, 148th Infantry, Viale Memorial Mess**, Saturday, March 6, 2010, 1800, Holiday Inn French Quarter, Perrysburg, Contact SFC John Stockdale 28846 Tracy Road Walbridge, Ohio 43465, Off: 614-336-6671 or by email at [John.Stockdale@us.army.mil](mailto:John.Stockdale@us.army.mil).

**Army Guard Officer Candidate School Dining Out**, March 20, 2010, 1800, 1800, Fawcett Center, on the campus of The Ohio State University, 2400 Olentangy River Road, Columbus, OH 43210. For registration or information contact OC Donnell Carrington: [donnell.carrington@us.army.mil](mailto:donnell.carrington@us.army.mil), or by mail: Donnell Carrington, 66111 Pasqual Ave., Columbus, OH 43213. Cost is \$40 per person or \$75 per couple.

**Cincinnati Recruit/Military Veteran Opportunity Expo.** A free hiring event for veterans who already have civilian work experience, men and women who are transitioning from active duty to civilian life, members of the National Guard and reserves, and military spouses. Veteran-friendly

employers, franchisors, and educational institutions will be in attendance offering a variety of opportunities. The Expo will be held at Great American Ballpark Cincinnati, OH 45202, Thursday, March 25, 2010, 11 am to 3 pm. To register for the event or for more information on RecruitMilitary Veteran Opportunity Expos, please visit [www.recruitmilitary.com](http://www.recruitmilitary.com).

**Retirement Celebration for Colonel Rick D. Hall, former State Aviation Officer and AASF#2 Commander.** When: 6pm Friday, 26 March 2010, Where: Makoy Center, Hilliard Cost: \$32 per person. Dinner: Silver Buffet, Dress: Business Casual RSVP: NLT 15 March to CW3 Henry Mentrak 614-336-7068 [Henry.mentrak@us.army.mil](mailto:Henry.mentrak@us.army.mil) or COL Stuart Driesbach 614-530-9841. Make checks payable to: CW3Henry Mentrak.

**ONG Annual Family Readiness Conference**, 9-11 April 2010 at the Columbus Marriott Northwest, 5605 Blazer Parkway, Dublin, Ohio 43017, (614) 791-1000. Registration for this event must be accomplished online no later than 19 March 2010. A non-reimbursable conference registration fee of \$20.00 for adults and \$15.00 for participating children (ages 6 and above) will be assessed. All registrations will be processed online at [www.ong.ohio.gov/family](http://www.ong.ohio.gov/family) or directly at <https://www.regonline.com/nationalguard>. If you are unable to register online, please contact our Family Readiness Office at (800) 589-9914 or (614) 336-7358 or your Wing Family Program Coordinator (Air National Guard).

**Mobile Commissary and AAFES Site Sales.** Where: DSCC, 3990 East Broad St., Columbus, OH, Bldg 17, Section 4. When: Saturday, April 17 (1000-1700), Sunday, April 18 (1000-1600). Who: Military personnel (Active, National Guard, and Reservists), retirees, and their dependants with a valid military ID card. Parking is located around Bldg 17 with designated handicap parking. Forms of payment: Visa, MasterCard, Star, American Express, Check and Cash. Items for sale: cereals, laundry & paper products, canned goods, juices, diapers, fresh meat (hamburger, steak, roasts), and produce.

The Pass & ID Office, Bldg 52, will be open as an additional service in providing ID's from 1000-1400 both days to assist military, retirees, and dependents obtain Military and/or Dependent ID cards. To obtain a new ID card, Retirees (Self Sponsor) and Dependents over the age of 18 will need to bring two forms of valid identification with Sponsor present. Valid identification consists of: Military ID card and/or Military Dependent ID card Valid/Unexpired State License Valid/Unexpired State ID Valid/Unexpired Passport Original Birth Certificate with state seal Original SSN Card Original Voter Registration Card Unexpired Permanent Resident Alien Card.

Pass and ID will also be available to issue decals for vehicles. To obtain a vehicle decal you must have a valid unexpired State License and valid registration in the sponsor or spouse's name, and Military or Dependent ID card. For additional information contact 614-692-3141.

**Retirement Celebration for Brigadier General Jack E. Lee, Commander, 73<sup>rd</sup> Troop Command Brigade.** May 1, 2010 at the Ohio Statehouse, 1 Capitol Sq. Columbus, OH 43215. Social hour at 5:30pm followed by dinner at 6:30pm. Parking under the Statehouse is included with the cost of dinner. Dinner choices include: Chicken Picatta or Vegetable Lasagna for \$40 or Rib eye for \$45.

Response is requested by April 12th, 2010. Respond to SFC Annette Wood at 614336-6094 or [annette.wood@us.army.mil](mailto:annette.wood@us.army.mil). Please make checks payable to 73rd Officer Mess Fund. Local lodging is available at the Hyatt on Capitol Square. Go to: <https://resweb.passkey.com/go/OhioArmyNationalGuard> before April 16th, 2010 to reserve a room. The Columbus per diem rate is honored. Uniform: Army Dress, Class A or appropriate civilian attire

**ONGA/ONGEA Joint Conference.** The annual conferences of the Ohio National Guard Officers Association and the Ohio National Guard Enlisted Association will be held on April 23 and 24 at the Faucett Center on the campus of The Ohio State University. For details and registration information, please go the following websites:

Officers: [http://www.ohionga.org/Guard%20Post/2010-01-Guard-Post-web\[1\].pdf](http://www.ohionga.org/Guard%20Post/2010-01-Guard-Post-web[1].pdf)

Enlisted: <http://www.ongea.org/2.html>

**2/174th ADA Retirees 2nd Annual Golf Outing.** 16 May 10 at Fullers Fairways in Zanesville. More information to follow.

## **Call to Duty Ceremonies**

**196<sup>TH</sup> Public Affairs Detachment (Mobile)**, March 7, 2010, 11 am, Groveport Recreation Center, 7370 Groveport Road, Groveport, Ohio, 43125.

**Operational Mentor and Liaison Team (OMLT 1.5)**, late April, 2010, details to follow.

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

Louis Testa, February 17, 2010, father of 1LT Aaron Testa, Operations Officer for the Family Readiness Office and currently deployed as the PAO with the 16th Engineer Brigade in Iraq.

Chief MSgt (ret) Ralph E. Lozier, February 17, 2010, former member of the 179<sup>th</sup> AW. He was the founder and editor of the "Shadow Flight" newsletter (for over 400 military members and retirees of the 179th Airlift Wing). He is survived by his wife of 22 years, Patricia A. Jeffries Schulties Lozier; stepsons, Brian (Bonnie) and Barry Schulties and their families; one sister, Roberta J. Donahue of Kentucky; and several nieces, nephews, and cousins.

LTC (ret) Donald A. Campbell, February 23, 2010, life long member of the 107th Armored Cavalry Regiment and a member of the Board of Trustees of the First Cleveland Cavalry Association.

Maj.(ret) Terri Adducchio, March 1, long term member of the 178<sup>th</sup> FW. In lieu of flowers, donations to MVH Foundation – Terry Adducchio Ankeny Memorial Fund are requested and would be greatly appreciated. ([www.mvhfoundation.org](http://www.mvhfoundation.org)).

Mary Wilhoit, March 4, mother of SGM (ret) Ted Wilhoit, 371<sup>st</sup> Support Group.

### **Websites of Interest:**

United State Armed Services Committee Website for live hearings, etc.:

<http://armed-services.senate.gov/>

Quadrennial Defense Review: <http://www.defense.gov/QDR/>

Women's' Health Care Opportunities at the Columbus VA Clinic:

[http://www.columbus.va.gov/Womens\\_Health\\_Care\\_at\\_the\\_Columbus\\_Outpatient\\_Clinic.asp](http://www.columbus.va.gov/Womens_Health_Care_at_the_Columbus_Outpatient_Clinic.asp)

### **Where Are They Now?**

#### **LTC (ret) Clyde E. Thomas**

I recently received the following E-mail from SGT Tammy White, of JFHQ. Tammy is one of our Soldiers who supported the 2009 Alumni Reunion and shared the following information:

“I met retired LTC Clyde E. Thomas during the Alumni Reunion in 2009 that was held at DSCC. During the reunion I had the pleasure of sitting down and chatting for a few minutes with him and his son John Thomas. We discussed his career as a Soldier, where he had been and what he has done. LTC Thomas was here when Beightler Armory opened and knew Gen. Beightler himself. Since our meeting at the alumni reunion, we have stayed in contact and he has been a source of historical conversation for me. In the spirit of friendship LTC (ret) Thomas has given me an honor that is beyond words. He has submitted a donation in my name to the National Museum of the United States Army, where my name will appear in the registry permanently at the entrance. Mr. Thomas is one of the Founding Sponsors of the museum and has been a vital part in helping to build this new national landmark that is under construction on the Potomac River in VA”.

LTC (ret) Thomas served in the 6th Infantry Div. from 1946 to 1948, and joined the 37th Div of the ONG in 1948. He deployed with the Division to Camp Polk, LA during the Korean War and rose to the rank of MSG, earning a direct commission to 2LT in 1953. He continued to serve in the 37th Div Hq. until his final assignment at the Pentagon, where he retired in 1981. He has also funded a membership for SGT White in the 37th Division Veterans Association. Clyde credits his career mentors and believes it is important for alumni to share information and build relationships with our Soldiers of today, so that they can better understand and learn from the distinguished history of the ONG. LTC (ret) Thomas lives in Delaware, OH.

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](mailto: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