

The Ohio National Guard Alumni Newsletter



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The Ohio National Guard webpage is: <http://www.ong.ohio.gov/>. Click on Alumni Affairs 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 and stories about your Guard.

Governor, Adjutant General, Announce Homeland Response Force for the Ohio National Guard. Ohio Governor Ted Strickland recently announced the Ohio National Guard has been authorized to field a Homeland Response Force (HRF) by the U.S. Department of Defense and the National Guard Bureau. To meet the readiness requirement of the HRF, more than 140 new full-time jobs will be added to the Ohio National Guard's force. Ohio and Washington are the first two states to field this national capability.

"This authorization underscores the incredibly high level of skill and preparedness demonstrated by our Ohio men and women, and reinforces the confidence that I and our federal leaders have in our Ohio National Guard, especially Adjutant General (Maj. Gen.) Gregory L. Wayt," Strickland said. "I'm proud that Ohio has been chosen with such a critically important designation, and I know that our Guard will fulfill their duty with strength and professionalism."

The HRF will consist of approximately 570 Soldiers and Airmen, trained and equipped to identify, respond to, and mitigate the effects of a chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear or high-yield explosive (CBRNE) event. HRF's are designed to respond rapidly to various contingencies within Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) regions or support adjacent FEMA regions within six to 12 hours of receiving an activation order from the governor and the adjutant general. Organic to the HRF are security, search and extraction, decontamination, medical triage and a command and control element. "The addition of this HRF is nationally significant and greatly improves our ability to defend the homeland," Wayt said. "Our existing decontamination, medical and search and extraction elements are nationally certified and have demonstrated their abilities to save lives." The Homeland Response Force (HRF) mission is accomplished by JTF 73 (52d CST; CERFP; Security Forces).

Ohio's 37th IBCT Receives Alert Order. The Ohio National Guard has received an alert order for a possible mobilization of the 37th Infantry Brigade Combat Team to Afghanistan, departing in the summer of 2011. The text of the DOD press release announcing that alert order can be found at: <http://www.defense.gov/releases/release.aspx?releaseid-13568>

an alert order is one step in a process leading to mobilization. The intent of the alert order is two-fold. First, it gives the individual soldiers the opportunity, along with their families and their

employers, to prepare their private lives for their upcoming deployment. Second, it gives the National Guard and the 37th IBC command the time and resources necessary to meet the training and validation requirements prior to the unit reporting to the mobilization station, a base somewhere inside the United States, to complete their training prior to moving into theater. The full deployment, including the likely 2 months at the mobilization station, will last 1 year.

At some point in the future, probably around six months from now, the next step of the process will occur; the Department of Defense will issue a mobilization order for the 37th BCT. It is possible, though not likely, that the mobilization order will never be issued and the unit will not deploy. Much more likely is that the order will come and it will provide additional clarity as to the exact number of soldiers, missions, etc., for the 37th BCT. Within the parameters of operational security, we shall make that additional information available as we receive it.

The 37th BCT is an Ohio Army National Guard formation, headquartered in Columbus, Ohio. BCTs contain approximately 3,500 Soldiers, and the 37th is no different. While the 37th BCT is headquartered in Ohio, it is composed of units of both the Ohio and Michigan National Guards, split about 2/3-1/3. The 37th BCT is comprised of 18 command and subordinate units in Ohio with 12 command and subordinate units in Michigan. They will deploy under the command of Col. Jim Perry of the Ohio National Guard.

TAG Announces New Deputy Assistant Adjutant General for Air. On June 7, Maj. Gen. Wayt announced the selection of Col. (Dr.) Steve Markovitch as the DAAG – Air. Col. Markovitch has over 29 years of service to the Ohio Air National Guard and brings to this position a wealth of knowledge and experience from his service not only as the State Air Surgeon, but in his capacity as a rated pilot.

Ground Breaking for New Facilities at Camp Ravenna. On Friday, June 4, 2010, ground was broken for a new barracks facility and utilities upgrade project at the Camp Ravenna Joint Military Training Center located at 1438 State Route 534 SW, Newton Falls, Ohio 44444. Congressman Tim Ryan from Ohio's 17th Congressional District was an instrumental force in securing funding for these and various other construction projects at the Ravenna facility and joined Maj. Gen. Gregory L. Wayt, Ohio adjutant general, for the event.

“Congressman Ryan really understands the importance of these projects both for the Ohio National Guard and for Ohioans,” Wayt said. “These projects will not only help the local economy in the short term, they will continue to keep training dollars in Ohio well into the future. Instead of sending our Soldiers away for training, they will remain in Ohio to train at our own facilities.” The new 7,940 square foot two-story barracks facility will accommodate 116 beds and includes laundry facilities and a supply room along with Internet connectivity. The project is scheduled for completion on March 1, 2011, at an estimated cost of about \$2 million. The \$1.6 million utilities upgrade project consists of the design and construction of water and sanitary sewers on Camp Ravenna and is scheduled for completion in December 2010. The Portage County Board of Commissioners and Neighborhood Development Services, Inc have agreed to share the costs of the upgrade, and the Portage County Board of Commissioners will bear operation and maintenance costs.

The event also acknowledged Ryan's efforts in securing funding for several other projects including two recently completed facilities – a separate \$1.8 million, 7,289 square foot barracks building completed in January 2010 and a \$1.5 million 44,000 square foot engineer schoolhouse renovation completed in December 2009 – as well as an upcoming 5,500 square foot live-fire shoot house to train Soldiers in the complexities of urban combat. The shoot house is scheduled for completion in 2011.

Attention Disabled Veterans and Families. There is an organization, in conjunction with Disabled Sports USA and The Wounded Warrior Project, that offers an adventure sports water ski weekend scheduled for 5-8 Aug in Columbus, Ohio. The sponsoring organization, The Adaptive Adventure Sports Coalition (TAASC) would like to invite you and your family to a three day adventure featuring water skiing, kayaking and sailing. TAASC provides all the necessary instruction and equipment as well as meals, camping facilities and activities. All skill levels welcome. Please come and join other veterans and participants in supporting the TAASC motto, "If you can do this, you can do anything!". The TAASC organization also provides these activities to the physically and mentally handicapped year long. For more information, please visit www.TAASC.org or contact David Ganger at 740-587-2373.

Recent News Releases

Air Force Seeking Stop Loss Airmen. The Air Force continues to seek Airmen who were involuntarily held on active duty "stop-loss" between Sept. 11, 2001, and Sept. 30, 2009, to determine if they may be eligible for the Retroactive Stop Loss Special Pay compensation of \$500 for each month they were affected as a result of stop loss. Eligible individuals have until Oct. 21, 2010, to file their claim. To file a claim, download a stop loss claim application at the Air Force Personnel website <http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/stoploss/>. For more information on program eligibility and claims instructions, visit the ARPC stoploss page, <http://www.arpc.afrc.af.mil/library/slsp/index.asp> or call the Total Force Service Center at (800) 525-0102.

Secretary Gates Concerned About Pessimism on Afghanistan. Washington, June 17, 2010 – Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates is concerned about emerging public pessimism and cynicism regarding the outcome of U.S. operations in Afghanistan, Pentagon Press Secretary Geoff Morrell said here today. Gates says Americans need to remember what was happening in Afghanistan a year ago to appreciate how far the country has progressed since then, Morrell said. "I don't know that he's laying the blame with anyone in particular," the press secretary said. "It just seems as though there is a great deal of not just skepticism, but cynicism about ... our operations there, and an effort to prematurely judge the outcome of the strategy."

Morrell stressed that last year, the Taliban had increased their control over many areas in the country. The Taliban controlled whole swaths of Regional Command – South and the trend in Regional Command – North was going in the wrong direction. "In the year since, that growth has been halted, and we are taking back territory from the Taliban," Morrell said. "Their momentum has been thwarted, but it is still far too soon for us to say it has swung completely in our favor." The

International Security Assistance Force and the Afghan National Security Forces have regained the initiative and continue to make headway, he said. "But I would remind you that this new strategy has really only been under way in earnest for a few months now, and the full complement of surge forces are not in theater yet," Morrell said. "And not all of those that are in theater are yet in the fight. So we need to give, I think, the strategy a chance to work."

Still, the clock is ticking, Morrell acknowledged. "The American people and those of our coalition partners are growing tired of war," he said. "After all, we've been at this for nearly nine years." There is time to prove that the plan is working, Morrell said. There will be a study of the strategy and its effectiveness at the end of the year. By then, officials should be able to judge how the strategy is progressing. What's more, there is a year before the July 2011 transition date, when coalition forces begin to turn over responsibility to Afghan National Security Forces. "A lot can happen in a year," Morrell said. "We have a lot of work to do, no doubt, between now and then. But there is still a lot of time left on the clock for us ... to change the conditions on the ground. "And the conditions on the ground, I would remind you, are what are going to determine the pace and the breadth of the drawdowns to come in July 2011," he said.

This Week in Guard History

June 1916, Washington, DC — The National Defense Act of 1916 is signed into law. One of the most important pieces of Guard legislation in the nation's history, it greatly increased federal supervision of, as well as federal pay for, the National Guard. The law gave the federal government more control over what units the states could raise and how they would be equipped and trained. Most importantly for Guardsmen, it authorized federal pay for 48 days of armory drill a year, as well as for 15 days of annual training (previously the federal government paid for five days of summer camp, and nothing for drills). It established a separate Militia Bureau (re-named the National Guard Bureau in 1933) to oversee federal spending on the Guard. And it settled the issue of how to employ the National Guard outside the United States (where they were limited by the Constitution in their service as militia) by stating that, in the event of an emergency, Congress would draft the National Guard into federal service. It was by this means that the National Guard was sent to fight in World War I.

This week in Ohio Guard History

6 June 1944: The 112th Engineer Combat Battalion and 987th Field Artillery Battalion take part in the invasion of Normandy.

23 June 1846: The 148th Infantry Regiment was organized from companies in South-Central Ohio as the 2d Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry and mustered into Federal service 23 June 1846 at Camp Washington, Ohio for the Mexican War.

23 June 1918: The 37th Division, less artillery and trains, arrive in Brest, France.

Changes of Command

LTC Greg Betts has been announced as the new Commander, General Studies Battalion, 147th Regional Training Institute. Change of command information to follow.

Charlie Company, 148th Infantry Regiment, 9 July 2010, 1400 hrs, 500 Riverside Drive Tiffin, Ohio 44883. Outgoing Commander: CPT Craig K. Colton, Incoming Commander CPT Aaron A. Combs.

Upcoming Events

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: Shotgun 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.

The Columbus Crew Soccer Team is Celebrating Operation: Military Kids Night by offering a special discounted \$16 seat to military kids and their families, Saturday, June 26th, 7:30 pm. Come out and receive a free team poster while enjoying Bob Evans Buck-a-Brat Night. After the game take part in the Autograph Alley where Crew players will be signing autographs. Tickets may be ordered via the web at: <https://oss.ticketmaster.com/html/go.html?l=EN&t=crew&o=1851915&q=85> Promo Code: Military, or can be ordered by phone at 614-447-4128.

SGM James E. Vogel, Storage and Distribution Warehouse Supervisor, USPFO, Technician Retirement Dinner, 28 June 2010, 6:00 PM, The Place Off the Square, 50 North Second Street, Newark, OH 43055. \$20.00 per Person RSVP NLT 21 June 2010 To LTC John Dernberger, 614-336-7228 or john.dernberger@us.army.mil

Promotion Ceremony in honor of CW4 David Rohrbacher, JFHQ - J4, 29 June 2010, 1300, Classroom 2, Beightler Armory, Columbus, Ohio.

AMVETS and the Ohio National Guard Present Veterans Career Fair, Wednesday, July 14, 2010, 10am-2pm, Ohio National Guard Armory, 5999 Airport Drive NW, North Canton. This event is free to veterans, active duty troops and members of the National Guard and Reserves. Join AMVETS and the Ohio National Guard in welcoming 40-50 of the Akron-Canton area's top employers. In addition to opportunities to meet employers, you will be able to attend workshops on

resume writing, interviewing, and social networking for employment. Bring several copies of your resume to share with employers. Come “dressed for success” in business attire or uniform. ohiovetscan.com . For more info email: info@ohiovetscan.com

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.

ONGEA Annual Banquet celebrating NCO excellence, July 24, 2010, 6:00 pm, Longaberger Alumni House, The Ohio State University, 2200 Olentangy River Road, Columbus, OH 43210-1035. Cost: \$35 per person (plus cash bar). RSVP no later than July 15th The program will recognize the Service members of the Year, both Air and Army National Guard. Questions can be directed to VP-Air Eric Wallace at (740) 403-2537 or vp-air@ongea.org.

Mobile Commissary and AAFES Site Sales. 31 July, 1 August at Green Road Armory, Cleveland, and 7-8 August at McConnelville Armory.

Flag Folding and Retirement Ceremony. Ceremony to fold the interment flag of Pvt. Rodger Young, ONG Medal of Honor recipient, WWII. July 31, 2010, 2:00 pm, Northcoast Veteran’s Museum, Williams Park, 411 N. Main St. Gibsonburg, OH 43431. Pvt. Young’s Medal of Honor can be seen at the museum that day. A ceremony will also be held to retire worn and tattered flags.

CSM William J. Horne, 237th Bde. Sup. Bn., Retirement Dinner, recognizing his 34 years of Army service, Saturday, July 31st, 2010, 1800. Marriott Hotel, 26300 Harvard Road, Warrensville Heights Ohio 44122. For information and registration, contact SFC Manuel Perez at (614) 336-6020, or by email at manuel.perez2@us.army.mil

The 39th Annual Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States Conference will be held in St. Louis, MO August 8-11. For information and registration materials, <http://www.memberconnections.com/links/link.cgi?l=1285011&h=160777&e=LCNG-20100503105248>.

The 132nd General Conference of the National Guard Association of the United States will be held in Austin, Texas, August 20-23. Registration information can be found on the Ohio National Guard Association website at www.ongaa.org or by phone at 800-642-6642.

180th FW retirees reunion, August 21, Toledo Express Airport, 2660 South Eber Road Swanton, OH 43558. Details to follow.

37th DVA/148th Infantry Regiment Annual Reunion, August 27-28, Camp Perry Joint Training Center, Port Clinton, OH. For 148th Infantry information and registration materials contact Bruce Eberly at 937-773-8625 or mabeberly@aol.com For 37th DVA registration materials contact Mandy Oberyszyn at 614-228-3788 or mandy@37thdva.org

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 and registration materials available soon.

2/174 ADA Reunion, September 19, 2010, 1400, McConnelsville Armory, 4497 Hawk Drive McConnelsville, Ohio 43756. Activities include military displays and a world class potluck meal. Come join us for a time of renewing old friendships, fun and good food. RSVP to one of the following by Aug 1st, 2010: Bob Kirkwood, 740-697-0303 or kirkrb77@att.net; Bob Foster, 740-982-6796 or rlrark6720@yahoo.com; or Al Minnich, 740-455-2069.

28th Annual Adjutant General's Golf Outing, August 30, 2010, 0730, East Golf Club, www.eastgolfclub.com, 6140 Babbit Road , New Albany, OH 43054, 614-855-8600. Four Person Scramble - \$75.00/person entrance fee, Includes 18 holes w/ cart, cookout and two beverages of choice. Participation is open to active and retired Ohio National Guard members, their families and employers, employees of the Adjutant General's Department and Corporate Members of the Ohio National Guard Association. Cash Prizes for First, Second and Third. POC: Bill Pierce bill.k.pierce@us.army.mil, or 614-336-7000, or James Sims - james.simsii@us.army.mil, or 614-336-7126. Registration Deadline is 15 August 2010.

Retirees of the Howitzer Battery, 2/107th ACR, of the Alliance Armory Reunion Event. The US Armed Forces Retirees Club of the Alliance Armory, Ohio Army National Guard, is planning a reunion party for all former and retired members on September 25, 2010 at the Alliance armory, 1175 West Vince Street, Alliance, Ohio from 2:00 pm to 6:00 pm. For more information on the reunion, please contact either of the following individuals: Dave Leasure 330-206-2311 or Dwyane Bigler 330-904-0524.

Save the Date – Steak Fry/ OSU Tailgate Party and Organizational General Meeting of the Northwest Ohio Chapter of the AUSA, Findlay, Ohio, October 16th. Details to follow.

Save the Date - Retirement Dinner for Maj. Gen. Harry "A.J." W. Feucht, Jr., Assistant Adjutant General for Air, Saturday, October 30, 2010, National Museum of the United States Air Force, Wright-Patterson AFB, OH. More details to follow.

Call to Duty Ceremonies

OMLT 1.5 – 2July10

112th Eng. Bn. – 7July10

Welcome Home Ceremonies

16th Engineer Brigade - 26June10

OMLT 1.3 – 21July10

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

SSG (ret) Fran Horan, May 15, 2010, former member of the Det 1, 155th Maint in Chagrin Falls (Mess NCO), also Troop C 1/107th ACR, Chagrin Falls, Ohio prior, and later member and full time supply NCO of HHT 107th ACR Cleveland (Green Rd Armory) Ohio.

TSgt Eric O. Taylor, May 19, 2010, member of the 178th Fighter Wing, 178th Maintenance Squadron.

Stephanie Sykes, May 25, 2010, sister of SPC Westley Sykes, 174th ADA BDE.

Brenda Cutright, May 28, 2010, mother of SGT Steven Nelisse, Camp Ravenna Joint Military Training Center.

CPT Richard S. Gresh, 838th MP Company, June 4.

Crystal Messersmith, June 10, 2010, mother of MSG Donald Messersmith, Camp Perry Joint Training Center and mother-in-law of Julie Messersmith, 180th Toledo Air Guard Fighter Wing.

SGT Matthew D. Jarvis, Det 1, 1485th Transportation Company, June 10, 2010.

Mildred "Millie" Good, June 16, 2010, mother of Pamela Howe, full time technician at AASF #1 and a member of Co B 3/238th AVN RGT.

Websites of Interest:

<http://www.defense.gov/> Defense Link

<http://ohmr.ohio.gov/> Ohio Military Reserve

<http://navalmilitia.ohio.gov/> Ohio Naval Militia

Where Are They Now?

MG (ret) Ronald Young. On June 7, Secretary of Defense Robert M. Gates appointed Major General (Ret.) Ronald G. Young, former Ohio Assistant Adjutant General for Army, as Executive

Director of the National Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR). In the news release, Secretary Gates noted that General Young has comprehensive national level experience leading and caring for Soldiers and Airmen including direct oversight of family readiness and reintegration programs supporting over 450,000 Air and Army National Guard members and their families.

Prior to this appointment, General Young served as Acting Director of the National Guard Bureau Joint Staff as well as Director of Manpower and Personnel in the office of the Chief, National Guard Bureau. He has an extensive military background with over 42 years of service including command at every level from detachment to brigade and three separate general officer-level commands. "General Young has a proven success record in management and leadership. He comes to this position with a tremendous knowledge of the Reserve components. His expertise in personnel issues and family readiness will be a great asset as ESGR moves forward," said Dennis M. McCarthy, assistant secretary of defense for reserve affairs.

ESGR is a Department of Defense agency with the mission of gaining and maintaining the support of public and private employers for the men and women of the National Guard and Reserve. ESGR operates through volunteer committees in each U.S. State and Territory to accomplish this mission. For more information about ESGR Employer Outreach Programs, or ESGR volunteer opportunities, please call 800-336-4590 or visit www.esgr.org.

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