

# The Ohio National Guard Alumni Newsletter



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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 from time to time and explore the entire website, particularly the many recent news releases about your Guard.

**Army National Guard Retirement Information Guide.** The ARNG Retirement Guide is now available on the Alumni Affairs web site at: [http://www.ong.ohio.gov/Alumni\\_News/ARNG\\_Retirement\\_Information\\_Guide.pdf](http://www.ong.ohio.gov/Alumni_News/ARNG_Retirement_Information_Guide.pdf). This guide provides information pertaining to earning credit towards retired pay for non-regular service and all related matters. The information is provided to complement official information for ARNG Soldiers as they approach and enter the retired stage of their military lives. It does not replace existing guidance provided by Human Resources Command, St. Louis (HRC-STL) in AR 135-180, Qualifying Service for Retired Pay Non-regular Service, and other instructions and information provided by them.

Retired pay for non-regular service, the complement to retired pay granted to Regular and other members at the end of at least 20 years of active service, was authorized for members of the Reserve Component in 1949. There have been few changes over the years, such as the requirement for the 20 Year Notification of Eligibility for Retired Pay at Age 60 (NOE) in 1966, referred to throughout the Guide as the 20 Year NOE, and the several laws and programs that have resulted in the Reserve Component Survivor Benefit Plan (RC-SBP). An important change is the cancelation of the SBP reduction, which used to be reduced from 55% to 35% when the SBP recipient reached age 62. Effective Apr 08, the SBP payment is and will remain 55% as long as the recipient is eligible, regardless of the annuitant's age.

The 60-points Inactive Duty Training (IDT) limit per anniversary year has been changed several times, as well, resulting in the limit today of 130 IDT points per year. There have also been the addition of Inactive Duty Funeral Honors Duty points not subject to the IDT point caps, the Temporary Early Retirement Authority, currently not authorized, to help draw-down the forces when needed, the authorization to issue a 15 Year Letter Notification of Eligibility for Retired Pay at Age 60 (NOE), referred to throughout this Guide as the 15 Year NOE, for retired pay for individuals disqualified from continued military service due to medical disqualification or disability, and most recently, the implementation of a reduced eligibility age for the payment of retired pay for periods of service performed under certain conditions.

Retirees not yet drawing retired pay (gray area retirees) who have submitted their Application for Retired Pay (DD 108), and (DD 2656) Data for Payment of Retired Personnel, should contact US Army Human Resources Command at 800-318-5298, or on the web at <https://www.hrc.army.mil>, if they have questions or need information. Retirees not yet drawing retired pay who have not submitted their application should receive their application packet from HRC approximately one year prior to reaching their 60<sup>th</sup> birthday, assuming they have current address information in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS). Whether you have received an application packet from HRC or not, you should contact the Ohio National Guard RPAM office at 614-336-7277 at least six months prior to your 60<sup>th</sup> birthday for assistance in completing the application.

**Air Guard Retired Pay Application Process.** Air Guard retirees should contact the Air Reserve Personnel Center at 800-525-0102 or on the web at <http://www.arpc.afrc.af.mil> for all retirement questions and issues. The process for Air gray area retirees works in a similar fashion as the Army Guard in terms of timing and notification, but is handled at a centralized level. However, the need to maintain current information in DEERS is just as critical. Any gray area retiree who has not received an application for retired pay by age 59 and a half, should immediately contact ARPC.

**Only 13 Percent of Eligible Vets Seek Stop-Loss Pay.** Only 13 percent of the Army veterans believed to be eligible for retroactive stop-loss pay have applied for the special entitlement program funded by Congress with \$534 million last year. The retroactive pay is belated compensation to former and current service members who were involuntarily extended on active duty because of stop-loss from Sept. 11, 2001, through Sept. 30, 2008. The program pays eligible applicants \$500 for every month they were involuntarily retained beyond their contracted terms of service. So far, payments have averaged \$4,500 per approved application. Personnel officials believe as many as 120,000 Army veterans are eligible, a figure that represents most of the 170,000 members of all services that Pentagon officials estimate may qualify.

The application window for the program opened Oct. 21, but as of early February only 16,000 former Soldiers had applied, according to Maj. Ray Whitley, project manager for the Army's retroactive stop-loss pay task force. Of the applications received, 5,000 have been processed by the Army and forwarded to the Defense Finance and Accounting Service for review and payment. So far, 2,500 Army applicants have been paid, Whitley said. Application processing, originally snarled by administrative problems, was further complicated in December when Congress passed a law that prohibits the special pay to applicants who received a retention bonus while they were in stop-loss status. At the time that measure took effect, about 2,000 Army applications were being processed by DFAS and were returned to the service to verify eligibility. Whitley said 1,800 of those applications were cleared for payment, while the others were denied or are still being verified. Claims that were approved and paid before Dec. 19 are not subject to the bonus restrictions of the new law.

In authorizing the retroactive stop-loss pay program last June, Congress stipulated that all claims must be received by the services not later than Oct. 1, 2010, even though the processing of many cases will continue well beyond that date. Point of contact for Retroactive Stop Loss inquiries is

CW2 Julie Chapman for enlisted issues at (614) 336-7103 and CW4 Carol Hudy for officer issues at (614) 336-7172.

**New TRICARE Standard Handbook.** Get the e-Version Now. Hot off the press and filled with helpful tips and information, the newest TRICARE Standard and Extra handbook is now available to all TRICARE Standard beneficiaries. The 68-page handbook includes information on accessing routine, urgent, and emergency care, as well as TRICARE's prior authorization and referral requirements. Also provided are sections on what is covered by TRICARE Standard's health and pharmacy benefits, and how to coordinate TRICARE with other health insurance. Information on claims, appeals, grievances, reporting fraud and abuse and much more can also be found in the new TRICARE Standard handbook.

TRICARE Standard and Extra are available to family members of active duty service members, retired service members and their families and others including those who purchase TRICARE Reserve Select. With TRICARE Standard, beneficiaries manage their own health care and have the freedom to seek care from any TRICARE-authorized provider. TRICARE Extra provides discounted cost-shares for seeking care from network providers. The "TRICARE Standard Handbook: Your Guide to Using TRICARE Standard and TRICARE Extra" is available now on the TRICARE Smart Site at <http://www.tricare.mil/standardhandbook>.

TRICARE Standard beneficiaries can expect to see the annual TRICARE Standard Health Matters newsletter, containing the latest updates and information about their benefits, in their mailbox in March 2010. Receiving the newsletters from TRICARE is one more reason to keep personal information current in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS).

**Update on Delay in the Implementation of TRICARE for Gray Area Retirees.** To get an update from Congress on the implementation date of TRICARE for Gray Area Retirees, last month representatives of the National Guard Association of the United States (NGAUS) met with the legislative assistants for Senator Ben Nelson (D-NE) and Representative Robert Latta (R-OH), whose offices led the effort to authorize the coverage in the 2010 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA). Those offices indicated that the monthly premium for the coverage was still being determined by the Department of Defense. They did not expect the coverage to be available until October 1, 2010. Last month, TRICARE Management Activity reported that the coverage would not be available for another 11-18 months because pricing for the coverage had yet to be determined by the Secretary of Defense.

**Contract Extensions on TRICARE.** TRICARE has officially extended current provider coverage to March 31, 2011 while it considers several protests of contracts awarded that were due to start April 1, 2010. This decision is designed to make the transition to regional, or "T-3," contracts smoother. TRICARE Management Activity (TMA) Deputy Director Rear Adm. Christine Hunter says "Extensions to our current contracts will allow time for transition to the T-3 contracts, while ensuring beneficiaries continue to receive high-quality care and outstanding customer service." The T-3 contracts awarded in July 2009 are worth approximately \$55.5 billion. We will continue to monitor this dispute and keep you posted on any changes beyond March 31, 2011.

**LOWE'S Expands Support of the Military with Year-Round Discount.** Lowe's Companies, Inc. announced this week that it is expanding its support of the military by offering an all day, every day 10 percent discount to all military personnel who are active, reserve, retired or disabled veterans and their family members, with a valid, government-issued military ID card. All other military veterans will receive the discount on the Memorial Day, Fourth of July and Veterans Day weekends.

"Lowe's was founded on the heels of World War II by veterans Jim Lowe and Carl Buchan and has always been a supporter of the military," said Larry D. Stone, Lowe's president and chief operating officer. "The year-round discount program is one way we are reaffirming our commitment to the thousands of men and women who are serving throughout the world, as well as their family members at home."

The discount is available on in-stock and Special Order purchases up to \$5,000. Excluded from the discount are sales via Lowes.com, previous sales, and purchases of services or gift cards. While Lowe's has had a military discount program in the past during select times of year, the new policy will allow those who are serving to benefit from the discount whenever they need it the most.

In addition to offering military discounts at specific times during the year, Lowe's has extended benefits for its employees serving in the military and offers employment opportunities to military personnel after their military service has ended. Currently, more than 12,000 Lowe's employees are military veterans or reservists.

## **Recent News Releases**

**Secretary of State Clinton Hops a Ride With Gen. Petraeus.** Traveling as the United States Secretary of State is normally a privileged affair, with the Air Force providing a Boeing 757 with a cabin and rollout bed. But when you've got mechanical trouble, you might as well be any air traveler stuck at O'Hare or Port Columbus, as Hillary Clinton discovered when her plane was grounded in Saudi Arabia with a faulty fuel valve on Tuesday, February 16. Mrs. Clinton had to wait for five hours in a V.I.P. lounge at the Jeddah airport as her aides desperately tried to find another government plane to take her home. Salvation came in the form of Gen. David H. Petraeus, who was in the country for a meeting with King Abdullah and stopped in Jeddah with his Boeing 737 to give Mrs. Clinton a lift home.

The trouble was General Petraeus was meeting with the king at his desert camp outside Riyadh, so Mrs. Clinton had to wait until she could get in touch with him to arrange the ride. As she knew from her own meeting with King Abdullah the previous day, visits with the king tend to run long. The delay meant that Mrs. Clinton flew through the night and landed at Andrews Air Force Base at 9 a.m. on Wednesday, but in time to keep three scheduled appointments with President Obama.

**F-35 Program May Breach Cost Growth Limits.** Gen. Norton A. Schwartz, the Air Force chief of staff, told reporters this week the F-35 Lightning II Joint Strike Fighter program might breach the Nunn-McCurdy limits on cost growth and require a total program review. "I would say it is a possibility and maybe even likely," Schwartz said at the Air Force Association's air warfare symposium, according to a report by Air Force Times. The Nunn-McCurdy law, which was passed in 1982 and revamped in 2006, requires a review of the program in which the Pentagon once again must prove the program's necessity and detail the costs to Congress. This takes place when a program's unit cost exceeds 150 percent of the original projected cost, according to Aviation Week.

Trouble with the program became public earlier this month when Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates fired the program's leader, Marine Maj. Gen. David Heinz and promised to replace him with a three-star rank. The replacement has not yet been named. Gates also withheld more than \$600 million in payment from the airplane's manufacturer, Lockheed Martin. The jet's test schedule has been extended to 2015 and billions of dollars have been shifted into testing. The Pentagon, too, announced a delay of at least one year in the program.

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

Feb. 18, 1988: Palmerola Air Base, Honduras — Despite an intense debate about the use of National Guard personnel for "nation building" in Central America, 52 members of the 110th Civil Engineer Squadron of the Michigan Air National Guard deploy here for 17 days of annual training. While in-country, they assisted other American and Honduran military units in base construction and improvement.

During the late 1980s, there was a serious attempt by some governors to prevent the president and Defense Department from employing Guard units on annual training to potential hot spots in Latin America. In 1990, the Supreme Court would find that DoD does indeed have the authority, with presidential approval, to deploy Guardsmen anywhere in the world for training, even over the objections of the governors.

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

23 February 1945: The 37th Infantry division, lead by the 145th Infantry Regiment, captured the walled city of Intramuros in Manila, Luzon.

## 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

**73<sup>rd</sup> Troop Command**, April 11, 2010, 1400, Building 931 Rickenbacker. Outgoing Commander, BG Jack Lee, Incoming Commander, COL Deborah Ashenhurst.

## Upcoming Events

**Ohio National Guard Association Winter Dinner Dance**, Saturday, February 27, 2010, 1800, Villa Milano Banquet Center, Columbus. Details at: <http://www.ohionga.org/Winter%20Dinner%20Dance%20Page.htm>. Questions may be directed to CW5 James Markley, 614-336-6618.

**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. Deadline for reservations is March 1.

**37th Annual ONGEA Conference and Awards Banquet**, Longaberger Alumni House, OSU Campus, Columbus, Ohio, May 8, 2010. Register on-line at [www.ongea.org](http://www.ongea.org)

## Call to Duty Ceremonies

**200TH REDHORSE Squadron and Det 1, OANG**, 1600, February 28, 2010, Mansfield Senior High School, 124 N. Linden Rd. Mansfield, OH 44906

**196<sup>TH</sup> Public Affairs Detachment (Mobile)**, March 7, 2010, details to follow.

**Operational Mentor and Liaison Team (OMLT 1.5)**, April 25, 2010, details to follow.

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

Debra Dingledine, February 4, 2010, mother of SFC Kelly Iliff, S4 NCO for the STB, 37th IBCT.

SGT, (ret) Ernest Layton Jackson Jr., February 5, 2010, former member of the 324th MP Co, 107th CAV and 237th FSB.

Michael Knetz, February 10, 2010 father-in-law of Officer Candidate Michael Antonas.

Rita Santos, February 11, 2010, mother of SFC Kataline Miller-Wiseman, unit administrator with 73rd TRP CMD.

Penny Hoffman, February 12, 2010, wife of 52nd Civil Support Team member MSgt Dustin Hoffman.

John Barrett, February 17, 2010, father of SGT Erin Ahrens, Med Det and father-in-law of CW2 Steve Ahrens, 1194th En Co.

Marilyn White, February 12, 2010, former employee of the USPFPO Supply & Services Transportation Office.

Donna Sherwin, February 17, 2010 mother-in-law of SGT Beverly Sherwin, HRO.

**Websites of Interest:**

37<sup>th</sup> Division Veterans Association <http://www.37thdva.org/>  
178<sup>th</sup> FW Alumni Website <http://178fw-alumni.com/page9.php>

**Where Are They Now?**

**LTC (ret) Andrew (Andy) Morrow**

Since retiring in early 2008, former LTC Andrew Morrow has been working for Rolls-Royce Energy in Mt. Vernon, Ohio. His company provides large (40,000 hp and 70,000 hp) industrial turbine engines for use in the Global Oil and Gas and Power Generation markets. Andy is a Project Engineer, currently working on a \$400 million project for a Russian company, Gazprom. Andy credits his previous service, specifically as an Aircraft Maintenance Officer/Maintenance Test Pilot, with providing him many transferrable skills that enabled him to make the transition to his new

position. Andy tells us he misses the people he worked with in the Guard and the great leadership the Guard has had in the past and present. "I don't know if it is because I worked for the Guard for so many years or not, but it still feels more like my family to me. Not being out on the flight line doing a maintenance test flight is also killing me!"

Andy and his wife, Cindy, who works as a contractor for the USPFO at Beightler Armory, have a son and a daughter. Their son Chris serves in the Ohio Air National Guard (121<sup>st</sup> ARW).

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