

ALUMNI NEWSLETTER



OHIO NATIONAL GUARD

Volume 3, Edition 10 — October 1, 2011

2-174th ADA BN Retired and Past Members Association visits current unit Soldiers training at Ravenna

A contingent of members from The 2-174th ADA BN Retired and Past Members Association, Ohio Army National Guard, McConnellsville, Ohio, visited members of the 2-174th ADA Avenger BN during the battalion's recent Pre-Deployment training at Camp Ravenna Joint Military Training Site in northeast Ohio on August 13, 2011. Members of the Association observed the battalion and were briefed by unit Soldiers on training, operations and unit equipment.

Lt. Col. Michael Nelson, Maj. Bob Lytton, Command Sgt. Maj. Bryan Hardesty and 1st Sgt. Tony Fish welcomed the group to Ravenna and gave them the "VIP" treatment throughout the day. The group was very impressed with not only the equipment, but the high level of professionalism of the unit's Soldiers.

Darrell Carson (1st.Sgt. Ret.) commented, "WOW, how things have changed since I was in. The equipment is better, smaller and much more user friendly. Even the G-M tool box is high-tech to what we had". Jerry Sterner (Lt. Col. Ret) said this of the battalion's soldiers, "These young men and women are extremely impressive. They are very confident in their equipment, their training, their abilities and their mission". This confidence and level of professionalism was noted throughout the ranks, from the BN CDR down to the Spc. by all the Association members present.

Bob Kirkwood (1st.Sgt. Ret.) stated, "These soldiers truly are among America's best".

The 2-174th ADA BN Retired and Past Members Association is comprised of past members of the battalion who have retired or

been discharged from the 2-174th ADA BN. The Association provides a means to gather, recognize and honor all retired and past members, (to include their families), of the 2-174th ADA BN for their service to the battalion, their communities and their country. In this connection, the Association conducts an Annual Reunion and/or other activities for all retired, past members and their families. Furthermore, the Association promotes fellowship and establishes channels of communication between its membership and their families and those who are currently serving in the 2-174th ADA BN and their families.

If you would like more information about The 2-174th ADA BN Retired and Past Members Association, the Reunion, or Association activities, please feel free to contact one of the following:

Bob Kirkwood, 740-697-0303 or kirkrb77@att.net

Bob Foster, 740-982-6796 or rlrark6720@yahoo.com

Darrell Carson, 740-987-5671 or



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Editor's Note

The newsletter you are reading is read in Ohio and around the world.

If you would like to submit an article, let other alumni know about an upcoming event or provide a helpful suggestion please email james.m.moore2@us.army.mil.

No submissions will be accepted after the 10th of the month unless the article is for later issues.

Submissions that are not added to the latest newsletter will be considered for inclusion in future months.

Military balls

**Brigadier General Robert C. Clouse, Jr.
Commander, 16th Engineer Brigade**

**Cordially Invites You To The 19th Annual
Engineer Regimental Ball**

On Saturday, the fifth of November 2011 at Five-thirty in the evening

York Golf Club, 7459 N. High Street, Columbus, Ohio 43235

Reservations:

E-6 and below \$30 per person, E-7 and above \$37.70 per person

Attire: Military: Dress Mess, Dress Blues, Class A w/Bow Tie , Civilian: Equivalent Formal Attire

Contact SSG Madison or MAJ George with your number of reservations.

SSG Madison– naynay.madison@us.army.mil, 614-336-6412

MAJ George– christopher.george@us.army.mil, 614-336-6150

PLEASE RSVP NO LATER THAN October 28th, 2011



Lieutenant Colonel Gregory Robinette &
Command Sergeant Major Jon Stingel cordially invite you to the

112th Transportation Battalion
Fifth Annual
Veterans Day Ball

12 November 2011 at 1730 hrs

Holiday Inn – French Quarter
10630 Freemont Pike
Perrysburg, OH 43551

Military/Civilian Attire: Formal Dress Mess, Dress Blues, ASU or Class A with bowtie

Please R.S.V.P. no later than 31 October 2011

Make checks payable to: **112th Transportation Battalion**

sent to 1LT Sean Minor, 5990 West Airport Dr, N. Canton, OH 44720-1483

Questions? 1LT Sean Minor, 614-336-6129, sean.minor@us.army.mil

Deployment activity

Current deployed Army units are: The Operational Mentoring & Liaison Team 1.6 The Operational Mentoring & Liaison Team 1.7 The 1-174th Air Defense Artillery Regiment (RADAR) The 295th Engineer Detachment (Fire fighters) The 1937th Support Detachment	The 1484th Transportation Company 37th NATO Training Mission Afghanistan 684th Medical Company 2-174 Air Defense Artillery Regiment Avenger (NCR) There are 1,293 Ohio Army National Guard Soldiers deployed. Current deployed Air units, per Wing, are:	The 121st Air Refueling Wing has approximately 140 Airmen deployed. The 179th Airlift Wing has approximately 50 Airmen deployed. The 180th Fighter Wing has approximately 10 Airmen deployed. The 178th Fighter Wing has approximately 60 Airmen deployed.
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Upcoming events

Retirement Celebration

The Adjutant General of Indiana
 Major General R. Martin Umbarger
 requests the honor of your presence at the
 Retirement Celebration for

Major General Tod J. Carmony

on the 22nd day of October, Two Thousand and Eleven
 At 5:00 o'clock in the evening
 Combined Surface Maintenance Shop, Indianapolis, IN
 4150 West Minnesota Street

R.S.V.P. by 1 October 2011
 Attire: Business Casual
 Cost: \$20 per person

1-800-237-2850 ext. 4579
 or e-mail amy.j.hampton@ng.army.mil

Make checks payable to: 38th DIV Adjutant Fund

Cash bar begins at 5:00 o'clock
 Dinner begins at 6:00 o'clock

Change of Command

The Adjutant General of Indiana
 Major General R. Martin Umbarger
 requests the honor of your presence at the
 38th Infantry Division
 Change of Command
 at which

Major General Tod J. Carmony will relinquish Command to Brigadier General Joseph L. Culver

on the 23rd day of October, Two Thousand and Eleven
 At 1:00 o'clock
 Indianapolis War Memorial, Indianapolis, IN
 431 North Meridian Street

R.S.V.P. by 1 October 2011
 Military: Duty Uniform Civilian: Business Attire

1-800-237-2850 ext. 4579
 or e-mail amy.j.hampton@ng.army.mil

Reception to immediately follow in Shoup Hall and West Foyer

One of the 10 major battles that shaped America

Calendar of Events for the Month of October

1950-1953:

61st Anniversary of
the Korean War

Sept 15 - Oct 15:
National Hispanic
Heritage Month

Energy Awareness
Month

Depression Education
& Awareness Month

Domestic Violence
Awareness Month

National Disability
Employment
Awareness Month

Manila Bay

On Feb. 15, 1898, the battleship USS Maine exploded and sank in the harbor of Havana, Cuba. The United States blamed the Spanish government, which was trying to suppress a revolt on the island, and the two nations were soon at war. They would exchange their first shots 9,400 miles away off Manila, capital of the Philippines.

President William McKinley had ordered Commodore George Dewey, commander of the American Asiatic Squadron, to "capture or destroy" the

line of battle 5,000 yards from the enemy. The Spanish squadron and shore batteries had opened fire, but their shells had fallen short. "You may fire when you are ready, Gridley," Dewey told the captain of his flagship, the cruiser Olympia. The American squadron steamed back and forth, firing first from port and then from starboard guns, closing the range to 2,000 yards. Two Spanish ships exploded and sank. The rest retreated into shallow water where they, too, were destroyed. After a brief artillery duel, the shore batteries also surrendered. Dewey ceased firing at 7:30 a.m. More than



Spanish fleet at Manila Bay. On April 30, Dewey's warships—four protected cruisers and two gunboats—entered Manila Bay via a channel the Spanish had neglected to mine and achieved almost complete surprise. Only two of Rear Admiral Patricio Montojo y Pasarón's seven ships were armored, and none of the crews had fired a gun in more than a year. Montojo's only option was to anchor his squadron close to the heavy guns in the forts and shore batteries.

At 5:41 a.m. Dewey's ships formed a

380 Spaniards were dead or wounded, at a cost to the Americans of one man dead (from a heart attack) and nine wounded. Dewey cabled his success to Washington, and the news that the U.S. Navy had defeated a major European navy caused a sensation. The convincing victory signaled America's arrival as a major power in the Pacific—a status underscored when, after a three-year guerrilla war, the Philippines became an American possession. Posted by David Lauterborn, Nov. 3, 2010 in HistoryNet, www.historynet.com/10-battles-that-shaped-america.htm

Panetta: Any retirement changes won't affect serving military

By Jim Garamone
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, Aug. 19, 2011 - In his clearest statement on the subject to date, Defense Secretary Leon E. Panetta said today that if the military retirement system changes, it will not affect serving service members.

"I will not break faith," the secretary said during a roundtable meeting with military media representatives in the Pentagon.

Panetta's predecessor, Robert M. Gates, asked the Defense Business Board to look at the military retirement system and make recommendations. The final report is due later this month, but Panetta said he is familiar with the outlines of the proposal.

"I certainly haven't made any decisions" on retirement, he said.

"People who have come into the service, who have put their lives on the line, who have been deployed to the war zones, who fought for this country, who have been promised certain benefits for that - I'm not going to break faith with what's been promised to them," Panetta said.

People in the service today will come under the current retirement system, which gives retirees 50 percent of their base pay after 20 years of service.

"Does that stop you from making changes?" Panetta asked. "No, because obviously you can 'grandfather' people in terms of their benefits and then look at what changes you want to put in place for people who become members of the all-volunteer force in the future."

One aspect of the retirement issue is one of fairness, the secretary said. Most service members do not spend 20 years in the military and therefore do not get any retirement benefits when they leave the service.

"They are not vested in any way," Panetta said. "The question that is at least legitimate to ask is, 'Is there a way for those future volunteers to shape this that might give them better protection to be able to have some retirement and take it with them?'"

Health care is another area that has to be dealt with, the secretary said. In fiscal 2001, the DOD health care bill was \$19 billion. It is more than \$50 billion now, he said, and it

soars to the neighborhood of \$60 billion in future years. Among proposals Congress is contemplating is an increase in some TRICARE military health plan premium payments.

"I think those recommendations make sense," Panetta said. "Especially with tight budgets, it does make sense that people contribute a bit more with regards to getting that coverage."

The Defense Department - which is responsible for a large part of the nation's discretionary budget - will do its part to reduce the budget deficit, the secretary said. But while Defense has a role to play, he added, Congress has to deal with the more than two-thirds of the federal budget that represents the mandatory spending.

"If you are serious about getting the deficit down," Panetta said, "you have to deal with the mandatory side of the budget and taxes."

DOD has a responsibility to look at all aspects of the budget, the secretary said, and officials at the Pentagon are doing that.

"This is not because it is necessarily going to hurt areas," he added, "because frankly, a lot of this can be done through efficiencies, a lot of it can be done looking at the administrative side of the programs: what can we do to make these programs more efficient?"

The secretary said he believes the budget crunch can represent an opportunity to make DOD a more efficient, effective and agile force that still can deal with the threats of the future.

The department also needs to ask how to provide benefits for troops and their families that will be effective at ensuring the nation always has a strong volunteer force, Panetta said.

"That's a debate and discussion that it's important for the Defense Department to have, the White House to have, the Congress to have and the country to have," he said. "[We] need to have that debate about 'How are we going to do this in a way that maintains the best military in the world?'"

The Defense Department will face some tough choices, Panetta acknowledged.

"I think the bottom line is this can be an opportunity to shape something very effective for the future that can still represent the best defense system in the world," he said.

Helpful web links

September Changes of Command

1191st Engineer Company (Horizontal)

Outgoing Commander
Cpt. Gene Hancock
Incoming Commander
1st Lt. Evan Washburn

812th Engineer Company (SAPPER)

Outgoing Commander
Cpt. Andrew Morgner
Incoming Commander
Cpt. Brett Green

371st Special Troops Battalion

Outgoing Commander
Lt. Col. Mark Cappone
Incoming Commander
Maj. Kent Bonds

196th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Outgoing Commander
Maj. Marshall Jackson
Incoming Commander
Cpt. Robert Miller

For more information about

Military pay, go to:

Defense Finance and Accounting Service
<http://www.dfas.mil/>

Ohio National Guard Association, go to:
<http://www.ohionga.org/>

Retirement Services Office

go to: <http://www.armyg1.army.mil/rso/>

TRICARE Retiree Dental Program, go to:
<http://www.trdp.org/>

Military Personnel Records, go to:

<http://www.archives.gov/st-louis/military-personnel/>

Ohio Department of Veterans Services, go to: <http://dvs.ohio.gov/>

Military Insider: Retiree Benefits & resources, go to: <http://www.military.com/NewContent/1,13190,Retired,00.html>

DoD: Walgreens letters could cause confusion

By Patricia Kime - Staff writer

Letters sent to Tricare patients from Walgreens regarding the pharmacy's contract dispute with Tricare's prescription drug management company are causing confusion among military families and retirees, Defense Department officials and support organizations said recently.

Tricare patients who fill prescriptions at Walgreens received letters earlier this month spelling out details of the company's dispute with pharmacy management company Express Scripts, Inc.

Walgreens, the nation's largest retail pharmacy chain, walked away from negotiations with Express Scripts in June, citing differences over reimbursement rates and contract terms.

The letters leave the impression that Tricare itself is dropping Walgreens as a provider, says Joyce Raezer, executive director of the National Military Family Association. Tricare beneficiaries perceive this "as a Tricare issue, and they feel like they are caught in the middle," Raezer said during a Pentagon teleconference.

Tricare is not involved in the negotiations, said Rear Adm. Christine Hunter, deputy director of the Tricare Management Agency. She said her agency has received calls from concerned health care providers and wants patients to understand they have time to switch prescriptions, if it becomes necessary, and explore other options if they currently use

Walgreens.

"There are 56,000 other pharmacies [in our network] where they can obtain prescriptions. They also have mail order and home delivery," Hunter said.

The letter campaign is part of Walgreen's plans to disassociate from Express Scripts, the contractor that manages Tricare's pharmacy program, by the end of the year. The company in July said it won't sign the proposed contract because it believes Express Scripts' reimbursement rates fall below market rates, and the proposal gives Express Scripts an unfair advantage in future decisions.

Express Scripts says Walgreens' payment rates are higher than industry standards and it believes the retail drug company should be more competitive. Walgreens has offered to separate its Tricare proposal from the rest of its commercial business with Express Scripts to continue serving military beneficiaries, a Walgreens spokesman said. But negotiations remain at a standstill.

If no agreement is reached, Walgreens will leave the Tricare pharmacy network as of Jan. 1.

The two companies were involved in a similar dispute in 2008; they reached an agreement before the year-end deadline. Hunter said one in 10 Tricare customers has filled a prescription at Walgreens.

Source: *Army Times*

Ohio National Guard
Community Outreach Office
 Alumni Affairs
 2825 W. Dublin Granville Rd.

[HTTP://ONG.OHIO.GOV](http://ONG.OHIO.GOV)

**2011 Regional Inter-Service Family
 Assistance Committee Meetings:**

Region 1 - October 20

Region 2 - October 19

Region 3 - October 25

Region 4 - October 25

Region 5 - October 11

Region 6 - October 19

For questions regarding the time or place of RISFAC meetings, contact Mr. James Moore at (614) 336-7336.



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Twitter <http://twitter.com/ohnationalguard>

“When called, we respond with ready units to execute federal, state and community missions.”

Thanks to the Ohio National Guard alumni

The Ohio National Guard community outreach office would like to thank all alumni who attended the reunion on September 10, 2011 at the Defense Supply Center Columbus (DSCC), Columbus, OH. Total attendance for the event was 76. This included 68% Army and 32 % Air. The alumni expressed many good comments throughout the day. The next alumni reunion will take place at Camp Perry, Port Clinton, OH on September 8, 2012.

A new alumni initiative, “Give Back,” was introduced at the reunion. Give Back emerged as a possible way to help military families of deployed Soldiers and Airmen; everyone needs handyman services around the house. If a simple problem could be fixed by an alumni at minimal to no cost then this might help reduce stressors on spouses of deployed service members.

How will this be initiated? First, we need to generate a list of people willing to provide handyman services. Please send me an email indicating whether you would be able to provide handyman services to families, indicating the type of services you are able to

provide. Email me at james.moore2@us.army.mil.

When a need for handyman services is identified, FAC specialists will notify state FRG who will notify me. I will then send out an email requesting support to those on the area’s handyman support list.

Won’t you consider helping families of deployed service members? More than 800 Soldiers deployed with the 37 IBCT in September and more are deploying in October. Friendly and timely handyman services you provide a family can make a big difference. The service member will also appreciate you!

Community Outreach also encourages alumni to attend the upcoming RISFAC meetings in your region. It is a great way to get to know the FAC Specialists and get connected supporting service members and their families.

Give Back is one concrete way alumni can show their support. Please consider getting involved in your area and helping families cope well during their loved ones deployment.