

ALUMNI NEWSLETTER



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McCain backs hard-line pentagon F-35 stance



Lockheed Martin may not be happy with the Pentagon's negotiating stance on the next lot of F-35 Joint Strike Fighter aircraft, but a key lawmaker is.

The Defense Department is refusing to sign a contract for the fifth lot of F-35s until Lockheed agrees to pay for a "reasonable share" of concurrency costs, which result from the overlap between development and production. And Sen. John McCain (Ariz.), the top Republican on the Senate Armed Services Committee, couldn't be more pleased. "Let me be clear: I strongly support the Department's position," McCain said Nov. 17, as the Senate began consideration of the fiscal 2012 defense authorization bill. "As we agree to buy more early-production jets while most of the developmental testing has yet to be done, Lockheed Martin must be held increasingly accountable for cost overruns that come as a result of wringing out necessary changes in the design and manufacturing process for this incredibly expensive aircraft."

During committee action on the defense policy bill, McCain sought an amendment that would have put the Pentagon's largest weapons program on probation if the cost for the fourth lot of aircraft grew by more than 10% by the end of this year and might have killed it altogether a year later. The amendment failed on a tie vote. "My goal was to send a strong, simple, and powerful message to the Pentagon and to Lockheed Martin -- a message that we will no longer continue down the road of excessive cost growth and schedule slips on this program just because other alternatives are hard to come by," he said.

Instead of McCain's provision, the bill includes one

that requires the government to buy the fifth lot of Joint Strike Fighters on a fixed-price contract and that has Lockheed pick up any cost overruns beyond the target price of the contract. It was sponsored by Sen. Carl Levin (D-Mich.), the committee's chairman.

"Because I feel that it is essential to use fixed-price contracts for large Pentagon weapons programs, I supported the Chairman's amendment during the markup and I support it now," McCain said.

In addition to McCain's statement on the Senate floor, the White House Office of Management and Budget weighed in, threatening to kill the defense policy bill over certain detainee policy provisions in a Statement of Administration Policy.

The Obama administration also is objecting to the bill's decision to end funding for the Medium Extended Air Defense System (Meads). If that bill becomes law, it could "trigger unilateral withdrawal by the United States from the Meads Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Germany and Italy, which could further lead to a DOD obligation to pay all contract costs -- a scenario that would likely exceed the cost of satisfying DOD's commitment under the MOU," the statement says, adding that it could call into question the administration's willingness to honor its international agreements.

The committee removed funding for Meads because it was a high-risk program and fielding it was unaffordable, Levin said.

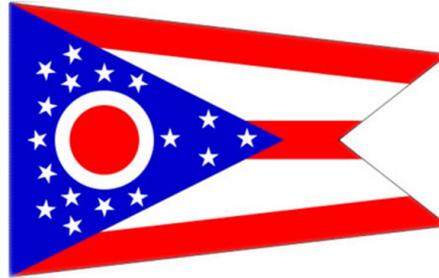
"We recognize that under the Memorandum of Understanding, our decision not to fund this program could require the United States to pay for a program in which it is no longer participating," Levin said. "However, the committee concluded that the course proposed by the Department is untenable and that the Department should explore all options with our allies before continuing to fund a program which we no longer need."

DiMascio J., (n.d.), *McCain backs Hard-Line Pentagon F-35 Stance*. Retrieved from <http://www.military.com/features/0,15240,238665,00.html>

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State of Ohio Trivia



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.

Submissions received after the 10th of the month will be considered for future issues

The Ohio state flag has a unique swallowtail pennant design (Ohio legislation describes the flag as "burgee-shaped" - all other state flags are rectangular). The flag was designed by John Eisemann and officially adopted in 1902.

The blue triangular field represents Ohio's hills and valleys. It contains seventeen white stars - thirteen stars surrounding the circle are symbols of the original thirteen colonies. Four stars at the apex of the triangle raise the total number of stars to seventeen (Ohio was the 17th state to enter the Union in 1803).

The red and white stripes represent the roads and waterways of the state. The white circle with a red center forms an "O" for "Ohio" and is also related to Ohio's nickname (The Buckeye State).

State Symbols USA, a nonprofit organization promoting appreciation for our natural treasures and cultural heritage. (n.d.). Ohio symbols, emblems, and icons.

Retrieved from <http://www.statesymbolsusa.org/Ohio/State-Symbols-Ohio.html>



Ohio

What does *Ohio* mean? The name Ohio originates from the Iroquois Indian word for *good river*. This Indian name was later translated by the French as *La Belle Riviere* (the Beautiful River). Ohio was the 17th state admitted to the Union on March 1, 1803.

Deployment activity

Current deployed Army units are:

- The Operational Mentoring & Liaison Team 1.6
- The Operational Mentoring & Liaison Team 1.7
- The 290th Engineer Detachment
- 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)
- 37th Infantry Brigade Combat Team
- There are 2,518 Ohio Army National Guard Soldiers deployed.

Current deployed Air units, per Wing, are:

- The 121st Air Refueling Wing has approximately 280 Airmen deployed.
- The 179th Airlift Wing has approximately 70 Airmen deployed.
- The 180th Fighter Wing has approximately 30 Airmen deployed.
- The 178th Fighter Wing has approximately 60 Airmen deployed.

Upcoming events



174th Air Defense Artillery Brigade Ball

BG Rufus J. Smith
Brigade Commander
and
CSM Michael E. Grove
Brigade CSM

Invite you to attend on

**Saturday, the Twenty-First of January 2012
at Seventeen Hundred Thirty Hours**

**Hilton Columbus at Easton
3900 Chagrin Drive
Columbus, Ohio 43219**

RSVP NLT
11 January 2012
SSG Barnett
Ph: 614-356-7938



Information



<p>Meal: Garden Green Salad, And choice of: Teriyaki Chicken w/Chef's selection of Garden Fresh Vegetable and Starch or New York Strip Loin w/Chef's selection of Garden Fresh Vegetable and Starch</p>	<p>Dessert: Cheesecake with Cherry Topping</p> <p>Drinks: Freshly Brewed Starbucks Regular and Decaffeinated Coffee, Iced Tea, Selection of Tazo Teas</p>
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UNIFORM:
Military Dress is Class A w/bow tie, ASUs or Mess Dress; Civilian Dress is Suit and Tie for Males or Formal Attire for Females

<p>TIME: 1730 - 1900 – Social 1900 – Dinner</p>	<p>COST: MAJ, CW3, MSG & Above : \$50 CPT, CW2, SFC & Below: \$45</p>
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*Guest pricing is the same amount as their accompanying Soldier

ROOM RESERVATIONS:
Cost: \$119.00/Night (Choice of King or Two Beds)
Call: 1(614)414-5000 – Reference "174 ADA Brigade Ball"
Make Reservations Online at:
<http://www.hiltoncolumbus.com/> (Select "Book Now", select "Click Here To Book Online")
Enter "BAL" in "Group/Convention Code:"
Reservations must be placed NLT 03 January 2012

RSVP to SSG Barnett at william.e.barnett@us.army.mil
Payment must be received NLT 11 January 2012. Send Order Form and Payment to:
"174th ADA BDE
ATTN: SSG BARNETT
3990 East Broad Street, Bldg #2
Columbus, Ohio 43218"
(Cut Here)

BRIGADE BALL
ORDER FORM

Name: _____
Last Name First Name MI

Meal Selection

MAJ, CW3, MSG & Above/\$50: (Chicken or Beef) *Guest:/\$50 (Chicken or Beef)
(Circle One) (Circle One)

CPT, CW2, SFC & Below/\$45: (Chicken or Beef) *Guest:/\$45 (Chicken or Beef)
(Circle One) (Circle One)

*Guest pricing is the same amount as their accompanying Soldier

One of the 10 major battles that shaped America

Calendar of Events for the Month of December

Dec. 25:

Christmas

Dec. 31:

New Years Eve

Midway

In early June 1942 a Japanese fleet steamed toward the Midway Islands, 1,300 miles west of Hawaii. In the lead were four aircraft carriers with 248 aircraft, supported by two battleships and 15 heavy and light cruisers and destroyers. Several hundred miles behind this force came two light carriers, five battleships and 41 more support ships. Japan was hoping to crush the United States as a Pacific power and knock it out of the war.

Japan's surprise attack on Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941, had humiliated the U.S. Navy. Japanese forces had all but erased the U.S. Asiatic Fleet, captured the Philippines, driven a British army from Malaysia and captured it at Singapore. Japan had captured the oil-rich Dutch East Indies with equal ease. Tokyo stood on the brink of conquering Asia.

Oposing the Japanese at Midway were three American aircraft carriers with 233 planes, and 25 escorting cruisers and destroyers, plus 127 land-based aircraft on Midway Island. But the Americans also had a secret advantage—they had broken Tokyo's naval code and knew both the location and objectives of the Japanese fleet.

The Japanese carrier-based aircraft struck first on June 4, all but obliterating the American naval base on Midway and destroying most of its aircraft. The U.S. carriers launched their attack while the Japanese were trying to retrieve and refuel the Midway strike force. The Japanese shot down the lead U.S. torpedo planes without taking any hits to their ships. But following waves of Douglas SBD dive

bombers sank a Japanese heavy cruiser and all four carriers. Although Japanese aircraft and a submarine managed to sink the carrier Yorktown and a destroyer, the U.S. Navy clearly won the battle and, with it, the initiative in the Pacific War.

The Japanese lost 3,057 men and all of their carrier aircraft. The Americans lost 307 men and 150 planes. The Japanese navy never recovered from these crippling losses. A few months later the United States seized the offensive by invading the Solomon Islands, putting American forces irrevocably on the road to Tokyo—and the end of the war.

Posted by David Lauterborn, Nov. 3, 2010 in *HistoryNet*, www.historynet.com/10-battles-that-shaped-america.htm



Photo # 80-G-312018 On board USS Yorktown after she was hit by dive bombers



Photo # 80-G-17678 VT-8 survivor Ens. George Gay in hospital

Print and Post

New VA Jobs Portal

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has launched its new " (<http://vaforvets.va.gov/Pages/default.aspx>) VA for Vets" website, with an online job search board, self-assessment tools, resume builder and military skills translator to help veterans identify jobs that match their skills. The new website currently has over 3,000 jobs listed.

For more civilian job resources and military-friendly job postings, visit the (<http://www.military.com/veteran-jobs>) Military.com Veteran Jobs Center.

VA Plans More Housing for Homeless Vets

The Department of Veterans Affairs has entered into agreements to provide more than 3,000 units of permanent and transitional housing for veterans at 25 VA medical center campuses nationwide. Also, agreements are pending on 1,000 more units. Proposed opportunities include housing for homeless veterans, senior veterans, disabled veterans, other at-risk veteran populations, and their families. The agreements are part of VA's Building Utilization Review and Repurposing (BURR) initiative, which attempts to identify and repurpose unused VA land and buildings in support of VA's goal to end veteran homelessness. For more information on the BURR initiative, visit VA's (<http://www.va.gov/ASSETMANAGEMENT/index.asp>) Enhanced-Use Lease webpage.

For complete guides to all veterans benefits, visit the (<http://www.military.com/benefits/veteran-benefits>) Military.com Benefits Center.

Older Vets to Get GI Bill

The President is set to sign the (<http://veterans.house.gov/vow>) VOW to Hire Heroes Act into law on Monday, Nov. 21. The new law has several provisions that will have a positive impact on the veteran unemployment rate, including tax breaks for employers that hire veterans and improved transition assistance.

One of the provisions that will help older veterans is a new program that will give veterans over the age of 35 a new shot at 12 months of the (<http://www.military.com/education/content/gi-bill/montgomery-gi-bill.html>) Montgomery GI Bill. This benefit can be used for finishing up a college degree, advanced professional certification, vocational training, (<http://www.military.com/education/content/gi-bill/veteran-gi-bill-apprenticeship-and-ojt-program.html>) On-the-Job Training and more. Read the (<http://militaryadvantage.military.com/>) Military Advantage Blog to learn more.

COLA Bill Goes to the President

The U.S. House of Representatives has passed the 2012 Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) for veterans receiving compensation for service-connected disabilities. The COLA also affects the rates for military retirees, Social Security recipients, and the dependency and indemnity compensation for survivors of veterans who died as a result of service. Although Congress has passed a COLA every year for veterans since 1976, there has not been an increase in the rate since 2009. The 3.6% COLA increase will go into effect on December 1, 2011, once the legislation is signed into law by the President.

Check out the (<http://militaryadvantage.military.com/>) Military Advantage blog to keep up on the latest pay and benefits issues.



Avoid That Holiday Weight Gain

According to a study published in the New England Journal of Medicine, individuals gain between 1-2 pounds per year and half of that occurs during the winter holiday season.

Here are some tips to avoid putting on that extra weight: (1) change your mind set by saying "I will not gain any weight between now and New Year's Day;" (2) weigh yourself often; (3) wear a pedometer and aim for more than 10,000 steps a day; (4) do strength training; (5) make it a habit to fill up on water and fiber-dense fruits and vegetables, five to nine selections daily--so you will not eat junk foods; (6) track your success in meeting the goals above. For delicious, healthy recipes, visit the Commissaries website at www.commissaries.com/. For fitness and health tips from the experts, visit the [PT Blog on Military.com](http://PTBlogonMilitary.com).

Helpful web links

For more information about **Military pay**, go to:
<http://www.dfas.mil/>

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

Army Retirement Services Office
<http://www.armyg1.army.mil/rso/>

Military Personnel Records,
<http://www.archives.gov/st-louis/military-personnel/>

The Ohio National Guard Enlisted Association, <http://www.ongea.org>

Air Force Retirement Services Office,
<http://www.retirees.af.mil/>

Pet safety during the holidays

The holidays are a time for happiness and cheer, but don't overlook safety when it comes to decorating being festive. Pets often have ways of sneaking into things that we don't want them to touch. Lori Pasternak of [Helping Hands Affordable Veterinary Surgery and Dental Care](#) suggests these problem areas to watch out for:

Decorations – While holiday decorations can make a home feel more festive, they can be tantalizing traps for pets. Pet owners should keep decorations and ornaments higher up on trees so they are not consumed by pets. If a pet decides the colorful garland or tree trim might make a tasty snack, they can and will get stuck in your pet's intestines, necessitating immediate surgical removal. Moreover, exposed cords from electric lights can cause electrocution or oral burns if chewed.

Gift Wrap – When it's time to pull all the gifts out of hiding to be wrapped, take care that your pet isn't in the room as you spread out all the wrapping paper, bows and ribbons. If a cat should start gnawing on the ribbon, it will literally "stitch" the cat's intestines together as it is being passed through the gut. Surgery is one holiday gift you don't want to give your

family pet.

Holiday Feast – While turkey and ham make up the majority of traditional holiday meals, turkey and ham bones can become lodged in the intestines if swallowed in large pieces. Be careful that your guests don't give in to the holiday spirit too much and choose this time to offer table scraps to your pets. Your pet could become seriously ill or even choke to death.

Flowers – The poinsettias many choose to use as holiday centerpieces are also toxic to most household pets if they are chewed and swallowed in large enough quantities. The level of toxicity is completely proportionate to the size and weight of your pet, but instead of doing the math on that equation, it's better to choose other types of floral arrangements that don't endanger your pets.

Central Penn Parent, Nov. 18, 2011 in *Here's the Scoop*,
<http://www.centralpennparent.com/Heres-The-Scoop/November-2011/Pet-safety-during-the-holidays/>

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

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

2012 Regional Inter-Service Family Assistance Committee Meetings:

Region 1 - January 26

Region 2 - January 18

Region 3 - January 24

Region 4 - January 24

Region 5 - January 17

Region 6 - January 11

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



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

Holiday greetings from the Ohio National Guard Community Outreach office

As the holiday season is upon us, the Community Outreach office finds itself reflecting on the past year and on those who have helped shape the Ohio National Guard alumni program in a most significant way. We value our relationship with you and look forward to working with all alumni in the coming year.

The Community Outreach office wishes you a very happy Holiday

Season and a New Year filled with peace and prosperity!

