

ALUMNI NEWSLETTER



OHIO NATIONAL GUARD

VOLUME 4, EDITION 6 – JUNE 5, 2012

Ohio National Guard receives four Lakota helicopters

By Bill Pierce
Ohio Adjutant General's Department Public Affairs

COLUMBUS, Ohio – The Ohio Army National Guard recently added four UH-72A Lakota light utility helicopters to its aerial support inventory this past December.

Ohio has one of 33 units in the National Guard that is a recipient of the new helicopters, which are attached to Detachment 1, Company D, 1-376th Aviation Regiment based at the OHANG's Army aviation Support Facility No. 2, located at the Akron-Canton Airport.



Two UH-72A Lakota helicopters fly in close formation. The Lakota is the US Army's newest helicopter and is flown in medical evacuation, reconnaissance and VIP configurations.

"Ohio hasn't had medical evacuation capability since the late 90s. We now have it available for the citizens of Ohio," said Col. Stuart Driesbach, state aviation officer for the Ohio Army National Guard. "The primary focus of the Lakotas will be disaster response, to include medical evacuation and personnel recovery."

The UH-72A Lakota offers a modern glass night vision goggle-compatible cockpit with space for two litters and a medical hoist. It can carry up to six passengers and a crew of two. When performing a mission, the Lakota's cabin will include one crew chief and one medical attendant. The crew chief will be qualified to operate the rescue hoist and other aircraft equipment specifically designed for these disaster response missions. During personnel recovery missions, the stretchers are removed, making room for eight total troops.

Ohio Army National Guard pilots will attend one of two different training schools to learn how to operate the UH-72A Lakota. The two-week course is for seasoned aviators, while the six-week course is for beginning aviators. Both courses are conducted at Fort Indiantown Gap, Pa.

A few OHANG pilots have already attended the training and are qualified, said Driesbach.

"However, because of training and deployments, we will not be fully mission-capable for another year or so," said Driesbach. "Pilots who are presently deployed overseas supporting OEF will attend the training upon their return." The unit is scheduled to be fully mission-capable by March, 2013.

The four new Lakotas will be replacing the two OH-58 Kiowa security and support helicopters which have belonged to the Ohio National Guard for about six years. The OH-58s will be going to Fort Rucker, Ala. to become training aircraft for future Army aviators.

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Ohio National Guard units currently deployed

Air units:

121st Air Refueling Wing
178th Fighter Wing
179th Airlift Wing
180th Fighter Wing

Army units:

Operational Mentoring & Liaison Team 1.8
290th Engineer Detachment
296th Engineer Detachments (Fire fighting)
37th NATO Training Mission Afghanistan
684th Medical Company
2-174 Air Defense Artillery Regiment (Avenger)
37th Infantry Brigade Combat Team
Company B/3-238th Aviation Regiment

There are about 2,800 Ohio National Guard Soldiers and Airmen deployed Total number of deployed Soldiers and Airmen is current as of 6/1/12

Space Available Travel: A Weighty Failure

It looks like National Guardsmen, retired Guardsmen, their families and their Reserve counterparts will not be seeing the world via space-available travel.

An amendment to the National Defense Authorization Act for 2013 that would have given that benefit to those groups, as well as retirees, just as it is to active-component members and their families, was blocked from reaching a floor vote last week by the House Rules Committee.

Apparently, the Defense Department has determined that adding these new passengers would have constituted an expense, because the weight of the additional flyers would have resulted in an expense to the Air Force. By statute, the space-available program cannot generate cost to the service.

The Defense Department's argument, backed by the support of some veterans service organizations, ruled the day in the committee vote.

This amendment was backed strongly by NGAUS and losing in this fashion raised the hackles of Pete Duffy, the NGAUS acting legislative director.

"This is novel science," he said, noting that, apparently, the active-component passengers have no weight. It seems, he said, that the active component simply does not want to share one of its perks with its brothers-in-arms in the reserve components.

Source: NGAUS Washington Report, 22 May 2012

Going paperless with the TRICARE Retiree Dental Program

Enrollees in the TRICARE Retiree Dental Program (TRDP) can now sign up for paperless Explanation of Benefits (EOB) statements. Instead of mailing you a paper EOB, Delta Dental will send an email alert whenever a new statement becomes available—and you can access and view your EOBs online through the self-service Consumer Toolkit®, at your convenience.

To begin, simply log onto the [Consumer Toolkit®](http://ddfgptoolkits.com/ipWeb/appmanager/ct/desktop) at ddfgptoolkits.com/ipWeb/appmanager/ct/desktop, then select the “Go Paperless” option. Enrollees who have not yet registered to use the Consumer Toolkit® can visit the “[Current Enrollee](http://trdp.org/enr/index.html)” section of the website at trdp.org/enr/index.html, select “Manage Your Benefits Online” at the top right-hand side of the page, and follow the instructions to register as a new user; then, all you have to do is log onto the toolkit using your new username and password, and select the “Go Paperless” option. Once you receive an email notification that a claim has been processed, you just click on the link in the email and log onto the Consumer Toolkit® to view your latest EOB.

Source: Delta Dental of California Federal Government Programs

Veteran disability benefits

Did you know?

The **Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame** inducted 20 new members into their organization recently.

They are:

William K. Basler, Robert W. Burr, John H. Caipen, Margaret Delillo-Storey, Gifford B. Doxsee, Sean S. Ennis, Linda L. Hart, Richard G. Hart, William J. Hartnett, William B. Knepp, Benjamin Franklin Marsh, Edward J. Mechenbier, Ralph H. Phillips, James D. Ross, Richard D. Stobbs, Theodore M. Stults II, Arthur J. Taber Jr., Miller F. Toombs, Edward L. Turlo, and Ned R. Young.

Dates to Remember

June 6 - Habitat for Humanity Veteran Specific homeowner application meeting. When: 11 a.m. Where: Karl Road Library, 5590 Karl Rd., Columbus. Call Sharronkay Lytle at 614-484-1610 for more information.

June 18 - Ohio War of 1812 Bicentennial Ceremony commemorating the 200th anniversary of the War of 1812 and Ohio's answer to President Madison's declaration of war. When: 11:30 a.m. Where: Veterans Plaza Statehouse, Columbus. The ceremony will be broadcast live on www.ohiochannel.org.

June 27 - Change of Command Ceremony for 285th Area Support Medical Company
CPT Timmons outgoing
CPT McHone incoming
When: 11 a.m. Where: DSCC, 85 North Yearling Road, Bldg. 24, Columbus.

If you are a wartime veteran older than 65, are no longer able to work, and are living on limited income, you may qualify for the Veterans Disability Pension.

Here is how it works

If your annual income is less than one of these limits set by the VA, you may qualify for the difference :

If you have no dependents - **\$10,929**

If you have a spouse or child - **\$14,313** (for each additional child add \$1,866 to the limit)

If you are housebound and have no dependents - **\$13,356**

If you are housebound and have one dependent - **\$16,740**

If you need daily aid and attendance and have no dependents - **\$18,243**

If you need daily aid and attendance and have one dependent - **\$21,615**

Two veterans married to each other - **\$14,313**

If qualified, the VA may pay the difference between the above limit and your annual income.

You may be eligible for the Veterans Disability Pension if you meet these four requirements:

1. You weren't dishonorably discharged.
2. You served for at least 90 days on active duty, and at least one of those days was during wartime.
3. You are permanently and totally disabled OR are age 65 or older.
4. Your income is below an annual limit set by VA.

How to apply

To apply, fill out VA Form 21-526 and submit to your VA regional office. If you have copies of your medical and dependency records, attach them to the VA form.

You can also apply online through the VONAPP website.

For more information called 1-800-827-1000.

Source: <http://www.allmilitary.com/benefits/disability/pension.html>

Requesting copies of military records

If you are a veteran or next-of-kin of a deceased veteran, you can request copies of records from the National Personnel Records Center (NPRC) online via <http://www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records/> or by calling (toll free) 1-866-272-6272.

All requesters should visit the NPRC website at <http://www.archives.gov/st-louis/military-personnel/index.html> for information about accessing military service records and other related information.

Veterans Retraining Assistance Program

The Ohio Department of Veterans Services wants everyone in our Ohio Veterans Community to be aware of a major program announced recently by the VA.

A major component of the VOW to Hire Heroes Act of 2011 is the Veterans Retraining Assistance Program (VRAP) for unemployed veterans who are 35 to 60 years old. It offers up to 12 months of job training assistance under the Montgomery G.I. Bill - Active Duty program at the rate of \$1,473 per month. The program begins July 1, but began accepting applications for job training May 15.

Source: <http://benefits.va.gov/vow/education.htm>



OHIO NATIONAL GUARD

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 Columbus, OH 43235
 (614) 336-4135

ONG.OHIO.GOV

2012 Regional Inter-Service Family Assistance Committee Meetings:

Region 1 - July 26

Region 2 - July 18

Region 3 - July 24

Region 4 - July 24

Region 5 - July 17

Region 6 - July 11

For questions regarding the time or place of RISFAC meetings, contact Sgt. Michael Carden at (614) 336-4135.



SOCIAL MEDIA

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ong.ohio.gov

**SUPPORT TO ORGANIZATIONS
AND SPECIAL EVENTS**

The Ohio National Guard is a proud member of communities throughout Ohio in which our Soldiers and Airmen serve. Through an active community relations program, the Ohio National Guard demonstrates it is a good neighbor and community partner by providing support in four basic areas: Non-Aviation, Military Aerial, Air Force Flyovers, and Speaker Requests.

The Ohio National Guard will make every effort to provide support for all qualifying events, but event organizers should be aware that support may not be available due to training requirements, manning, and current/future deployments. *Fewer than 90 day's notice also greatly reduces the chance that support will be available.*

*Direct support questions to Buckeye.Guard@ng.army.mil
or call (614) 336-4499*

Chalmers P. Wylie VA Ambulatory Care Center Welcome Home Event

Columbus VA is hosting their annual Welcome Home event for our Iraq & Afghanistan Veterans, Veterans from all eras, Active Duty, Reserve, National Guard service members and their families.

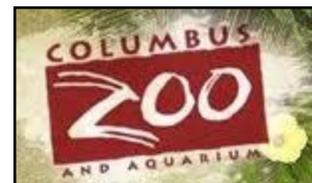
Welcome Home is an opportunity to enjoy a free day at the zoo and receive some great information on the benefits that Veterans have earned through their service to our country. Make your plans to bring your family to this fun-filled day.

The Welcome Home event features:

- Free admission to the Columbus Zoo and Aquarium for all Veterans, Active Duty members and their families
- Special welcome home activity & lunch area at Water's Edge event park

Activities include:

Employment and education fair
 Live entertainment
 Complimentary food and drinks



For additional information call (614) 388-7787

Date: Saturday, July 7, 2012

Time: 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Admission: **FREE**

(Please provide Military ID, DD 214, or VA Patient ID)

Location: Columbus Zoo and Aquarium

4850 West Powell Rd, Powell, OH 43065