

ALUMNI NEWSLETTER



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OHIO NATIONAL GUARD

Jumping into their work: Ohio Special Forces unit conducts parachute jump

Story and photo by Sgt. Brian Johnson
196th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

COLUMBUS, Ohio - On a cloudy Sunday morning in June, a lone C-130 takes off from Rickenbacker Air National Guard Base on what seems like a routine mission.

Minutes after takeoff, the plane flies over the airfield for what will be the first of four passes.

Out of the back of the plane, an object appears, then another, then another. As each object appears, an opening parachute suddenly appears with it, and another and another — until 12 parachutes are open in all.

Almost two minutes later, all of the parachutists are on the ground. With that, Soldiers of Company B, 2nd Battalion, 19th Special Forces Group (Airborne) have completed another successful static-line parachute jump during part of their weekend drill training.

For a jump like this to be successful, it requires the work of a parachute rigger like Sgt. Jason Young. As a parachute rigger, Young and the other riggers have to pack 35 parachutes successfully in preparation for the day's jump.

Young, a rigger for 19 years, said they always do everything by the book.

"We put the same amount of time and effort into each chute," Young said. "A lot can happen at 130 knots (150 mph). When you're jumping, you pack like your own life depends on it."

Young said that, in the unit, everyone is on a first-name basis and knows each other on a more personal level than in larger units.

"If something happens to me, it's no big deal. It's just me. But if it happens to one of my friends, you take it a lot more personal," Young said.

One of the Soldiers jumping this day was Sgt. 1st Class Corey Masters. Masters has been jumping for more than 10 years and has completed more than 50 jumps during that time. While experienced, Masters said he still gets excited each time when participating in a parachute jump.

"It is still a rush jumping out of the plane," Masters said.

Masters had a personal connection to the day's jump. His great-uncle jumped into Normandy as part of the Allied invasion of France on D-Day, June 6, 1944. This drill weekend and jump fell near the 70th anniversary of D-Day.

On D-Day, Soldiers jumped into an active combat area on unknown terrain. On this day, Masters and his fellow Soldiers jumped into an area with familiar terrain at Rickenbacker.

"It is cool to jump this close to D-Day," said Masters. "I think about my great-uncle. He had it a lot worse."

Masters was able to land within 50 yards of the bus that would take him and his teammates back to the Special Forces readiness center on Rickenbacker where they would be able to continue their weekend's training.

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Maj. Jarrod Hoose, commander of Company B, 2nd Battalion, 19th Special Forces Group (Airborne), gathers his parachute after a parachute training jump June 8, 2014, at Rickenbacker Air National Guard Base in Columbus, Ohio. More than 30 members of the Special Forces unit were conducting a jump into the drop zone at Rickenbacker as part of their weekend drill training.

What are the risks in giving up your private health care insurance if accepted into the Veterans Affairs Health Care program?

What should you do with your private health insurance if you are accepted into VA health care program? You could save a lot of money if you dropped the insurance, but there are three things you should consider.

What about your non-Veteran family members?

VA does not normally provide care for Family members of Veterans enrolled in VA's health care program. If you drop your private health insurance, they may have no health care coverage.

What would happen if you are disenrolled from VA's health care program?

There is no guarantee that in subsequent years Congress will appropriate sufficient funds for VA to provide care for all enrollment Priority Groups. This could happen if you are enrolled in one of the lower Priority Groups. This would leave you with no health care coverage.

What would happen if you drop your Medicare Part B coverage?

If you cancel your Medicare Part B Coverage, you need to know that you cannot be reinstated until January of the following year. Not only that, but you could also be penalized for reinstatement.

For these reasons, VA encourages you to keep your private health insurance.

Source: <http://www.va.gov/HEALTHBENEFITS/cost/insurance.asp>

Mobile app upgrade provides additional services to Ohio's Veterans

COLUMBUS — The Ohio Department of Veterans Services is expanding its use of the newest technology to communicate with Veterans by launching an upgraded mobile app to bring more job and education information to people who have served.

“We’re making use of all the tools in the toolbox to reach out to Ohio Veterans,” Ohio Department of Veterans Services Director Tim Gorrell said. “The app has been a great success so far, and the upgrades we’ve added make it even more useful as a means to find out about benefits and how to get them.”



The app upgrade, officially Version 1.3.0, expands availability of the app to Windows devices. It includes additional resources for Veterans looking for work, assistance to student-Veterans and news of interest to the Veteran community. The resources are added under existing and new navigational buttons.

Some new features of the app include:

- ◆ Under the current Jobs button, an Ohio One Stop centers (for Ohio Means Jobs) search page that enables the office locations to be found by current location, ZIP code or county, as well as providing contact, map and directional information.
- ◆ Also under the Jobs button, a list of Small Business Development centers by city for Veterans who want to start their own business; the list also includes contact, map and directional information.
- ◆ Under the current Education button, a list of Student Veterans Centers in Ohio public colleges and universities that includes contact and directional information.
- ◆ A button for the Ohio Department of Veterans Services Advisory Committee that contains contact information for the Veterans organizations and affiliated organizations that make up the committee.
- ◆ A button that contains current news releases issued by the Ohio Department of Veterans Services.

(Cont. on pg. 3)

DID YOU KNOW?

On Aug. 1, 1914, four days after Austria-Hungary declared war on Serbia, two more great European powers—Russia and Germany—declare war on each other; the same day, France orders a general mobilization. The so-called "Great War" that ensued would be one of unprecedented destruction and loss of life, resulting in the deaths of some 20 million Soldiers and civilians and the physical devastation of much of the European continent.

AUGUST 16

1st Battalion, 137th Aviation Regiment, Ohio Aviation Ball, The Villa Milano, 1630 Schrock Road, Columbus. Social Hour begins at 1800hrs., Dinner begins at 1900hrs.

SEPTEMBER 5

Change of Command for the 811th Engineer Company (Sapper), Tarlton Armory, 11495 Chillicothe-Lancaster Road, Amanda, 1100 hrs. Outgoing Commander: Capt. Thomas Race
Incoming Commander: Capt. Tyler Hoffman

SEPTEMBER 6

16th Engineer Brigade Annual Iron Castle Ball, Aladdin Shrine Temple, 3850 Stelzer Road, Columbus, 1800 hrs. RSVP by Aug. 20 to sephan.a.frazier.mil@mail.mil.

SEPTEMBER 7

Change of Command for the 112th Engineer Battalion, Brook Park Armory, 6225 Engle Road, Brook Park, 1400 hrs. Outgoing Commander: Lt. Col. David Rhoads
Incoming Commander: Lt. Col. Teri Williams

Ohio State Parks Offers Special Military Discounts

COLUMBUS – Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) Director James Zehringer announced that Ohio State Parks will now be offering additional military discounts. A 10 percent discount is available for active or military Veterans for camping, getaway rentals, cottages and lodge rooms at any of the nine Ohio State Park lodges.



ODNR Director
James Zehringer

“Ohio’s active and military Veterans have made countless sacrifices for our nation, and we wanted to find a way to thank them for their service,” said Zehringer. “I hope that the brave men and women that have proudly served our country can take the opportunity to enjoy, with their Families, what their efforts have helped preserve.”

“We appreciate partnering with ODNR to better serve our Ohio active military and Veterans,” said Ohio Department of Veterans Services Director Tim Gorrell. “Veterans have given much on our behalf, and this is a way to give back and encourage them and their Families to enjoy the outdoor recreational opportunities Ohio offers.”

In honor of Veterans Day this fall, ODNR will provide active or military Veterans with a 20 percent discount for camping, getaway rentals, cottages and lodge rooms from Friday, Oct. 31, through Sunday, Nov. 16, 2014.

Both of these military discounts may only be used for a single campsite, getaway rental unit, cottage or lodge room per visit and must belong to the cardholder using the facility. Military identification must be presented at the time of arrival or check-in to receive the discount.

For more information on discounts at Ohio State Parks, go to parks.ohiodnr.gov/discounts.



ODNR ensures a balance between wise use and protection of our natural resources for the benefit of all. Visit the ODNR website at ohiodnr.gov.

Source: <http://ohiodnr.gov/news/post/ohio-state-parks-offers-special-military-discounts>

Cont. from pg. 2

◆ Under the existing About button, icons and links to the department’s social media pages.

The department’s mobile app was launched last November. It provides an overview of the principal federal and state benefits available to Veterans and how to apply for them.

One of the app’s most important capabilities is the location on every page of an “In Crisis” button that provides vital information to Veterans and Family members in difficult circumstances. The button provides direct access to a toll-free, 24/7 hotline or a website with a live chat feature operated by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, through which Veterans can communicate directly with a counselor.

The app is available for free from the Windows, Google Play and iTunes stores by searching the keywords “Ohio Veteran.” The department’s website, www.ohiovet.gov, contains a link to the stores. The app is compatible with Windows, Android and iOS devices.

In addition, the app is also available as a mobile website at: <https://apps.dvs.ohio.gov/mobile/www/index.html>.

Source: <http://dvs.ohio.gov/Portals/0/library/odvs/news/archive/2014/MobileAppUpgradeRelease0714.pdf>

The Rise and Fall of the Berlin Wall



1961



1989

Aug. 13, 1961 - The **Berlin Wall** came into existence after the East German government closed the border between east and west sectors of Berlin with barbed wire to discourage emigration to the West. The barbed wire was replaced by a 12 foot-high concrete wall eventually extending 103 miles around the perimeter of West Berlin. The wall included electrified fences, fortifications, and guard posts. It became a notorious symbol of the Cold War. Presidents Kennedy and Reagan made notable appearances at the wall accompanied by speeches denouncing Communism. The wall was finally opened by an East German governmental decree in November 1989 and torn down by the end of 1990.

Retirement Packets

Retirement packets are mailed to your last known mailing address. If you change addresses before your 59th birthday, make sure you contact the office below so they will know where to send your packet.

You will need to send the packet back to receive your retirement pay. Make sure to include the following: NGB Form 22, DD Form 214(s), NGB Form 23, 20-year letter and SBP election. If you are missing any documents, contact Ms. Jeanette Coughenour at 614-336-7038 (ONG HQs).

**U.S. Army Human Resources
Center of Excellence - Fort Knox
ATTN: AHRC-PDR-RCR
1600 Spearhead Division Ave.
Dept. 420
Fort Knox, KY 40122-56402
1-800-318-5298 or 502-613-8950**

If you are an Army Guard/Reserve or an Air Force Guard/Reserve retiree, and need help completing your retirement pay packet, contact Sgt. 1st Class Richard Wright at 614-336-7277.

DON'T MISS OUT ON YOUR OHIO VETERANS BONUS!

Veterans who served within Iraq's borders from March 19, 2003, through Dec. 31, 2011, only have until year's end to file their application in order to receive their bonus. Applications are available online at www.veteransbonus.ohio.gov or at any of Ohio's 88 county Veterans Services Commission offices.

Veterans may call 877-644-6838 (877-OHIOVET) for paper applications and to determine documentation needed to support applications.

121ST SECURITY FORCES MEMBERS GET AN EYEFUL



U.S. Air Force Senior Airman Kyle Smith, (left), 121st Air Refueling Wing Security Forces Squadron, is sprayed with Oleoresin Capsicum (OC) spray while U.S. Air Force Airman 1st Class Joseph Nenadich, (right), flushes his face with water after being sprayed with the OC during the July unit training assembly at Rickenbacker Air National Guard Base, Ohio, July 12, 2014. In order for a Security Forces member to be authorized to carry the non-lethal OC spray, members must be sprayed with an active agent to get a firsthand understanding of the effects in case they are sprayed by an attacker. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Tech. Sgt. Zachary Wintgens)