

ALUMNI NEWSLETTER



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371st Sustainment Brigade transfers authority at Camp Arifjan

Story and photos by Staff Sgt. Kimberly Hill
371st Sustainment Brigade Public Affairs

CAMP ARIFJAN, Kuwait (02/28/14) — The 371st Sustainment Brigade transferred authority of support operations in Southwest Asia to the 108th Sustainment Brigade during a Feb. 18, 2014, ceremony here.

“I have to say how proud I am of a group of Soldiers and leaders who helped foster an atmosphere and a culture of success,” said Col. Gregory W. Robinette, a Bowling Green, Ohio, native, and the commander of the 371st Sus. Bde.

The transfer of authority process began when the 108th Sus. Bde., an Illinois National Guard unit based out of Chicago, arrived here in the beginning of February to replace the 371st Sus. Bde. Based out of Springfield, Ohio, the 371st Sus. Bde. had been in charge of support operations since June 2013.

“I’m here today a better commander, a better officer and a better Soldier because of the members of the 371st Special Troops Battalion, 371st Sus. Bde.,” said Lt. Col. Mark A. Raaker, a Pataskala, Ohio, native, and the commander of the 371st STB.

The Ohio Army National Guard brigade was responsible for support operations in Southwest Asia, a region that includes eight countries with subordinate units operating throughout the area, said Col. Thomas E. Haidet, a Westerville, Ohio, native, and the deputy commander of the 371st Sus. Bde.

The Soldiers of the 108th Sus. Bde. shadowed their 371st Sus. Bde. counterparts for two weeks to learn their daily tasks and responsibilities, to include logistical, administrative and operational support during the deployment.

“The shadowing was helpful, I’ve never worked in a joint visitor’s bureau before this deployment and it was an eye-opening experience,” said Capt. Michael Davidson, a Park Forest, Ill., native, and the joint visitor’s bureau officer-in-charge with the 108th Sus. Bde.

The 371st Sus. Bde. has deployed in support of World War I and World War II, as well as Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom. The brigade’s most recent deployment to Kuwait marks its third overseas deployment in the past 10 years.

“At our peak, the 371st Sus. Bde. had Soldiers executing operations in eight countries, at sea and at every port in the theater, and while executing those missions, we stood ready to support a number of contingency missions,” Robinette said. “So be proud of what you’ve accomplished and when you go home, proudly tell your stories to your Families, friends and your communities.”



Col. Gregory W. Robinette (right), 371st Sustainment Brigade commander and a Bowling Green, Ohio, native, and Command Sgt. Maj. Scott M. Barga, 371st Sustainment Brigade command sergeant major and a Versailles, Ohio, native, case the brigade colors during a transfer of authority ceremony on Feb. 18, 2014, at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait. The 371st Sus. Bde., based out of Springfield, Ohio, was deployed for nine months to Camp Arifjan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. (Staff Sgt. Kimberly Hill, ONG)

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Ohio National Guard units currently deployed

Air units:

JFHQ 121st Air Refueling Wing 123rd Air Control Squadron 178th Fighter Wing 179th Airlift Wing 180th Fighter Wing
 251st Cyberspace Engineering and Installation Group

There are no Ohio Army National Guard units deployed at this time
 As of Feb. 28, 2014, about 88 Ohio National Guard Airmen were deployed supporting the Global War on Terrorism.



Specially adapted housing grants available for wounded warriors and severely disabled Veterans

Curtis L. Coy

Deputy Under Secretary for Economic Opportunity, Veterans Benefits Administration
 U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Are you a Veteran with a severe service-connected disability that affects your mobility? Do you know someone who is? If you answered "Yes" to either question, then you or someone you know may be eligible for the Specially Adapted Housing (SAH) grant program that is administered by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). The SAH program helps certain severely-disabled Veterans and Service members purchase or construct an adapted home, or modify an existing home, to create a barrier-free living environment. VA offers two grant programs: the Specially Adapted Housing (SAH) grant and the Special Housing Adaptation (SHA) grant.

The SAH grant can be used to purchase or modify a home so that it provides a barrier-free living environment that affords Veterans a higher level of independent living. Veterans and Service members with certain service-connected disabilities may be entitled to a grant up to the current maximum of \$67,555.

The SHA grant can be used to increase the mobility of eligible Veterans and Service members throughout their home. Veterans and Servicemembers with specific service-connected disabilities may be entitled to this type of grant, up to the current maximum of \$13,511.

In addition to these two grant types, a temporary residential grant may be available to SAH/SHA eligible Veterans and Service members who are or will be temporarily residing in a home owned by a family member. The maximum amount available to adapt a family member's home for the SAH grant is \$29,657 and for the SHA grant it is \$5,295. All grant amounts are indexed annually based on cost of construction, and the grant amounts will never decrease.

VA has staff located nationwide to assist individuals in applying for and receiving these grants. You can find more detailed information about qualifying disabilities here: <http://benefits.va.gov/homeloans/adaptedhousing.asp> <<http://benefits.va.gov/homeloans/adaptedhousing.asp>> , and you can find contact information for an SAH Agent in your area here: http://www.benefits.va.gov/HOMELOANS/contact_agents.asp <http://www.benefits.va.gov/HOMELOANS/contact_agents.asp> .

Each Veteran's housing/living needs are as unique as his or her physical disabilities. The SAH program provides hands-on, personalized, customized service to severely-disabled Veterans seeking home adaptations.

If you have any questions, please email sahinfo.vbaco@va.gov <<mailto:vbaco@va.gov>> .

DID YOU KNOW?

Brig. Gen. Wilma Vaught, USAF retired, was the driving force behind the establishment of the Women in Military Service for America Memorial Building in Arlington Cemetery, which opened in 1997. The memorial, standing at the main gateway to Arlington National Cemetery, is the first major memorial to honor the nearly two million women who have served in our nation's armed forces. It stands as a place where the American people and visitors from around the world can learn of the contributions that thousands of American women have made to the military and to their country.

MAR 15**Change of Command**

Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 148th Infantry Regiment, Walbridge, Ohio, 1000 hrs.
 Outgoing Commander:
 Capt. Millard Rife, Jr.
 Incoming Commander:
 Capt. Jay Demis

Change of Command

1st Battalion, 148th Infantry Regiment, Walbridge, Ohio, 1400 hrs.
 Outgoing Commander:
 Lt. Col. Kevin Lochtefeld
 Incoming Commander:
 Maj. (P) Matthew Woodruff

APR 24-27

ONGA/ONGEA Spring Events Weekend, Hyatt Regency, 350 North High St., Downtown Columbus.

APR 26

ONG Alumni Muster (Reunion), Hyatt Regency, 350 North High St., Columbus, 0930-1130.

Veteran ID cards availability, by county

Sharon Gingerich
Geauga County Recorder's Office

In Ohio, the county recorder's office is responsible for maintaining Veterans' military service discharge records. These records are used by Veterans to prove their eligibility for certain benefits their military service has earned. Instead of carrying around the paperwork, the Veteran will now be able to present a personal photo ID card.

In order for a Veteran to receive the photo ID card, they will have to record their **ORIGINAL** military discharge paperwork with the county recorder's office and show an accepted form of photo identification (see below). We will take the picture and print the ID card while you wait.

For more information, refer to the January issue of the Ohio National Guard Alumni newsletter. Below is the updated list of counties that offer Veteran ID cards.

Coshocton County

M-F; 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Cuyahoga County

Contact for more information

<http://www.cuyahogacounty.us/> <<http://www.cuyahogacounty.us/>>

Phone: 216-443-6914

Franklin County

M-F; 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The office has a second machine that they take to events around the county and can work with groups to arrange a session. Note: There has to be a Wi-Fi connection available.

Geauga & Lake Counties

M-F; 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Logan County

Wednesdays only

Mercer County

Mondays; 8:30 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Tuesday – Friday; 8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Medina County

M-F; 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Scioto County

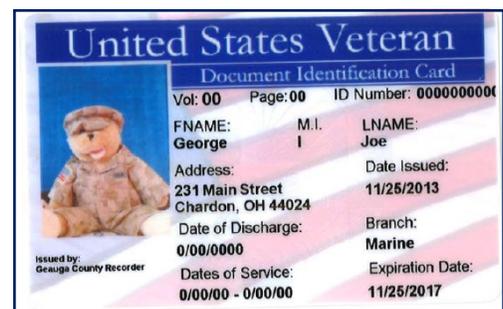
M-F; 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Stark County

M-F; 8:30 to 4:30 p.m.

Summit County

M-F; 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.



Example of the new Veteran ID card

- Huron, Trumbull, Warren counties will be offering the cards in 2014.
- Mahoning County is unsure when it will be offering the cards.
- Wood and Ashtabula County Veterans Service Commissions offer ID cards; discharge paperwork is not a requirement for receiving a card.

2014 Regional Inter-Service Family Assistance Committee Meetings:

Region 1 - 17 Apr

Region 2 - 16 Apr

Region 3 - 29 Apr

Region 4 - 29 Apr

Region 5 - 8 Apr

Region 6 - 9 Apr

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

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.

Celebrating African-American/Black History Month



U.S. Rep. Joyce Beatty (left) receives an Ohio National Guard commemorative print from Maj. Gen. Deborah A. Ashenhurst, Ohio adjutant general, following the congresswoman's address as part of an **African-American/Black History Month program on Feb. 21, 2014**, at the Maj. Gen. Robert S. Beightler Armory in Columbus, Ohio. Beatty spoke of her modest upbringing, later becoming a successful business owner and public servant, and stressed that organizational diversity is best exemplified in institutions like the military, where people of differing backgrounds work together toward achieving common goals. (Staff Sgt. Nicholas Pavlik, ONG)



HYATT
REGENCY
COLUMBUS



ONG Spring Events Weekend
April 24 - 26, 2014 • Columbus Ohio
Registration Deadline: March 31, 2014



SPRING WEEKEND AGENDA

THURSDAY, APRIL 24

ONGA Golf Tournament 8:30am (Registration)
Kinsale Golf & Fitness Center 10:00am (Shotgun Start)
3737 Village Club Dr, Powell, OH 43065

FRIDAY, APRIL 25

Columbus Clippers Mixer 5:30pm (Huntington Park)

SATURDAY, APRIL 26

ONG Alumni Muster 9:30am (Hyatt Regency)
ONGEA Committee Meetings 9:30am (Hyatt Regency)
Member Guest Activities 10:00am (Short North)
Lunch 12:00pm (Hyatt Regency)
ONGEA/ONGA General Session 1:00pm (Convention Center)
Member Guest Activities 2:30pm (Hyatt Hospitality)
ONGEA Breakout 2:30pm (Grant Room)
ONGA Breakout 2:30pm (Convention Center)
Conference Concludes 4:30pm
Social Hour 6:00pm (Convention Center)
ONG Dinner Dance 7:00pm (Convention Center)

ACCOMMODATIONS: Hotel Rooms are blocked at the Hyatt Regency, 350 N. High Street, collocated with the Columbus Convention Center. The current government per diem rate will be honored April 24 - 26. Your reservations must be made with the hotel no later than **March 31, 2014**, to secure the current per diem rate of \$94 per night. Register on-line at <https://resweb.passkey.com/go/ONGAColumbus2014> or you may contact the hotel at (614) 463-1234.



ONGA Spring Events Weekend & Exhibition

April 24 - 26, 2014 - Columbus Ohio

Columbus Convention Center

Battelle South

400 North High Street Columbus, Ohio 43215

Conference Registration Form (Deadline: 31 MAR 2014)

MEMBER REGISTRATION:

Full Name: _____ Name on Badge: _____
(Include Rank/Title/Prefix/Suffix if applicable)

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

E-mail: _____ Phone: () - _____

*By providing an e-mail address, ONGA will be able to send you conference updates, special event invitations, etc.

SPOUSE OR GUEST REGISTRATION:

Check one if applicable: _____ Spouse _____ Guest

Full Name: _____ Name on Badge: _____
(Include Rank/Title/Prefix/Suffix if applicable)

ONGA Conference Events & Fees: Please indicate in the appropriate blocks which events that you, your spouse, or guest will be participating.

CONFERENCE EVENTS:

Events	Date	Fees	Participation		
ONGA Golf Tournament (See insert for more details)	April 24	\$90/person	Member	Spouse	Guest
Friday Night Mixer (Clippers Game) *Fees include Game Ticket(s) & 2 drink tickets per person	April 25	\$20/person	Member	Spouse	Guest
CGO Luncheon	April 26	(No Cost)	Member		
ONGA Alumni Muster (Retiree Breakfast)	April 26	(No Cost)	Member		
Joint ONGA/ONGEA Conference	April 26	\$5/person	Member	Spouse	Guest
Spouse/Guest EVENT (1 or both) • Short North Tour (AM) • Wine Tasting/Mary Kay Party (PM)	April 26	(No Cost)		Spouse	Guest
Spring Dinner Dance (See insert for more details)	April 26	\$50/person \$55/person* <small>*O-4, CW4 & above</small>	Member	Spouse	Guest

Accommodations: Hotel Rooms are blocked at the Hyatt Regency, 350 N. High Street, collocated with the Columbus Convention Center. The current government per diem rate has been approved for all Ohio Army & Air National Guard soldiers and airmen (active & retired) during the night of April 24 - 26, 2014. Your reservations must be made with the hotel no later than March 31, 2014 to secure the current per diem rate of \$94.00 per night. For on-line registration, go to <https://resweb.passkey.com/go/ONGAColumbus2014> or you may contact the hotel at (614) 463-1234.

Check-in Date: _____ Check-out Date: _____

Method of Payment for Conference Events: Check or PayPal (via on-line registration)

Checks are made payable to: **ONGA**

Please mail Registration Form & Check to: **ONGA - 1299 Virginia Avenue - Columbus, OH 43212**

Total Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

Or Register & Pay on-line @ www.ohionga.org (click on Conferences)

Enlisted Registration - ONG Spring Events Weekend

Last Name _____ First Name _____ M _____ Rank/Grade _____

Working Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____ Phone _____

Enlist Address _____ ARNG/ANG/Retired _____ UIC or AFSC/IC _____

 ONGEA BOIT JOUING * APRIL 24 * KINGSALE 183L * FITNESS CLUB, POWELL		COST
ONGEA Member <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO Handicap _____		\$60/Person
Guest <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO Name _____ Handicap _____		<input type="text"/>
<small>Entrance fee includes 18 holes of golf & cart, dinner, Kingsale bag tag, valet bag service, on-course contests, and two tickets good for non-alcoholic beverages, domestic beer or hot dog. Questions? Call Doug Cronin at 740-815-0065 or Mike McHenry at 614-485-4186 x3.</small>		

 COLUMBUS CLIPPERS GAME * APRIL 25 * HUNTINGTON PAR		COST
ONGEA Member <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	Guest(s) <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> YES (# _____)	\$20/Person
<small>Entrance fee includes 1 game ticket and 2 drink tickets. Game at 7:15, vs. Baltimore Braves.</small>		<input type="text"/>

 ONG GUEST ACTIVITY * APRIL 26		COST
Guest Name _____		\$0.00
Short North Tour (AM, No Cost) <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO		
Wine Tasting/Mary Kay (PM, No Cost) <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO		

 ONG Alumni Muster (No Cost) <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO		Guest(s) <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> YES (# _____)	\$0.00
ONGEA Conference (\$6/Person) <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO		Guest(s) <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> YES (# _____)	<input type="text"/>
ONG Spring Dinner Dance (select Entree below) COST: E7 and above (\$45/Person) E6 and below (\$40/Person)			<input type="text"/>
Entree Choices: Braised London Soil w/Burgandy Dem Glaze Baked Salmon Asparagus Twin Stuffed Eggplant w/Basil Marinara	Member _____ _____ _____	Guest(s) _____ _____ _____	TOTAL COST <input type="text"/>
Guest Name _____		Attire: Mess or Service Dress/Formal	

CHECK: Make payable to: ONG; A mail registration form & check to: ONRA, 1299 Virginia Ave, Columbus, OH 43219
 PAYPAL: Pay online at www.ONGEA.org under "State Conference" tab
 CREDIT CARD: Mail, email (conference@ongea.org) or fax (614-520-6489) completed registration form with info below

Card# _____ Expires _____ 3-Digit Card Security Code _____ Billing Zip Code _____

Registration Deadline: March 31, 2014

2014 ONGA Golf Outing

THURSDAY, 24 APRIL 2014

KINSALE GOLF AND FITNESS CLUB

3737 Village Club Drive, Powell, OH 43065

4 Player Scramble: 10:00 am Shotgun Start
Registration and Practice Range (Opens @ 8:30 am)

Entrance Fee: \$90.00 per person

Includes:

18 Holes of Golf and a Cart

Dinner

Kinsale Bag Tag

Valet Bag Service

Luxurious Locker Room Facilities

On Course Contests

Two Tickets; Good for Non-alcoholic Beverages, Domestic Beer or Hot Dog

NAME _____

Unit/Company _____

Home Address _____

Email Address _____

Telephone Number _____

Handicap (or average score for 18 holes) _____

The format will be a 4-person scramble. The golf committee will assign the teams. You will probably have a corporate sponsor or VIP in your 4-some. The remaining team members will be assigned based on handicap/average score to form competitive teams.

We are looking for donations for raffle prizes, door prizes and goodie bags. If you own a company or know someone who does, this is a good way to get recognition and publicity. Items do not have to be golf specific. Please contact Doug Green @ 740-815-0065 if you would like to make a donation.

Deadline for Registration: 31 March 2014

Limited to 144 players, so please register early

*Please return this form along with the Conference Registration Form & Payment

Questions? Call Doug Green @ 740-815-0065 or Mike McHenry @ 614-486-4186 ext.3



2014 ONGA Spring Dinner Dance

SATURDAY, 26 APRIL 2014

Columbus Convention Center

Battelle Grand B

400 North High Street Columbus, Ohio 43215

6:00 pm Hors D'oeuvres
 7:00 pm Dinner & Entertainment
 8:00 pm Dancing

Name _____
 Rank _____
 Unit _____
 Guest _____
 Email Address _____
 Telephone Number _____

**Please indicate the number attending for the corresponding meal selections below.*

Meal Selections	Member	Guest
Braised London Broil w/Burgundy Demi Glaze	_____	_____
Baked Salmon	_____	_____
Lasagna	_____	_____
Twin Stuffed Eggplant w/Basil Marinara	_____	_____

Special Dietary Needs? Call CW5 Markley @ (740) 670-2559 or Susan @ (740) 670-3549/(614) 701-4429

Senior Officer/Guest O-4, CW4 & above	\$55.00/person
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Junior Officer/Guest O-3, CW3 & below	\$50.00/person
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Dress Code: Mess Dress/Formal

Deadline for Registration: 31 March 2014

**Please return this form along with the Conference Registration Form & Payment*

Questions? Please call: CW5 James (Mike) Markley @ (740) 670-2559
 Susan Markley @ (614) 701-4429 or (614) 670-3549