

BUCKEYE GUARD

MAGAZINE OF THE OHIO ARMY AND AIR NATIONAL GUARD
SPRING/SUMMER 2002



APPROVED

Ohio National Guard
Weapons of Mass Destruction
Civil Support Team earns
federal certification

PAGES 14-17



121st Air Refueling Wing Visual Information

Welcome Home

Tech. Sgt. Michael E. Murray receives a warm welcome home from his wife Melinda. The 121st Civil Engineering Squadron returned home in late March after four months in Pakistan. See page 30.

BUCKEYE GUARD

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Guardmembers and their families are encouraged to submit any articles meant to inform, educate or entertain *Buckeye Guard* readers, including stories about interesting Guard personalities and unique unit training. E-mail us at buckeye@tagoh.org. Deadlines are:

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SPC Haraz N. Ghanbari / HQ STARC (-)

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Members of the 135th Military Police Company march down Engle Road in Brook Park after returning home from being mobilized in support of Operation Noble Eagle. See page 24.

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SPC Haraz N. Ghanbari / HQ STARC (-)

Staff Sgt. Monty Stiltner of the 200th Red Horse Squadron has a few words with his 8-year-old daughter, Chelsea, prior to the unit deploying in June to Southwest Asia. See page 31.

ABOUT THE COVERS



FRONT: SGT Stacey Moore (background) uses a device to check SSG Raymond Davis for chemical warfare agent contamination. *Photo by Todd Cramer, Adj. Gen. Dept. Photo Lab*

BACK: Army National Guard troops conduct a routine patrol through a Bosnian village in support of Stabilization Force (SFOR) 10. *Photo by SPC Haraz N. Ghanbari, HQ STARC (-)*

Guard's call to duty far from over



BY MAJ GEN PAUL J. SULLIVAN
ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GENERAL, AIR

There is no question that the events of Sept. 11, 2001 have profoundly changed the lives of all Americans, especially those that wear the uniform of our country, their families and their employers. Time and again our national leadership has indicated that this is a marathon, not a sprint. Probably a more accurate analogy is a marathon with imbedded sprints. In either case, we are probably closer to the beginning of events than

the end. For all of us in the Guard, this type of conflict stresses our families and employers as the nation needs our services in varying degrees at varying times.

We are making significant withdrawals now on our "Readiness Account." The outstanding recruiting successes of the past few years and your efforts to provide high quality training have produced a state of readiness in the Ohio National Guard that is unprecedented. Prior to 9-11, our operations tempo was relatively predictable. Now, however, our concentration is on responding to immediate operational requirements, and we have less time and resources to devote to training. The wear and tear on some of our equipment is extreme. We are placing pressure on families and employers with long deployments, often on short notice. Pressure is often felt even due to the *possibility* of a deployment.

As in more peaceful times, communication is critical. The focus of the leadership chain, family support groups and Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve has to be riveted on creating and sustaining open and reliable lines of communication. Now, and for the indefinite future, we must deal with the uncertainty of the times by honestly repeating the truth that we do know.

Trying to play the honest broker of information against the backdrop of security requirements and the endless speculation of the media is frustrating. It can be very frustrating for our

members, their families and their employers. It can be especially frustrating for our leadership. Yet it is critical that we persist in telling the truth as we know it.

We have a responsibility to tell the story of the Ohio National Guard's response in this crisis, as conditions permit. It is the story of readiness and commitment. It is also the story of the nation's dependence on the citizen-soldier. The Ohio Guard responded to every requirement on 9-11 prior to any formal mobilization action. The Ohio Guard has provided visible, and not so visible, security at airports, high value national facilities, major sporting events and other large gatherings. The Ohio Guard has deployed nationwide and worldwide to support Operation Noble Eagle and Operation Enduring Freedom.

The other vital issue, again not new, is taking care of our people by aggressively addressing their concerns. Pay and orders problems are still the plague of large deployments. We need to hear these complaints and resolve them as quickly as possible. Further, since we'll be at this a while, we must demand improvements to the systems that fail to meet our

needs. We must also be tireless in protecting our people's time, getting them home and back to their civilian occupations as soon as possible.

For leadership, it's a matter of committing to the persistence, patience and perspiration necessary to make the process better.

"Stop Loss" will end one day. This war will end one day. We want to pursue improvements in the benefits we offer our members to encourage their continued service. We

are exploring, with the help of our professional associations, several retention incentives such as expanding educational benefits and providing an option for health care similar to the dental care we now have.

In addition, we must be absolutely certain that all who have served, are serving or will serve during this conflict are recognized with the appropriate awards, decorations and the appreciation of our state and nation.

Finally, on behalf of Maj. Gen. John H. Smith, state adjutant general, and Brig. Gen. Ronald G. Young, assistant adjutant general for Army, I extend our profound gratitude for all you are doing. ■

We have a responsibility to tell the story of the Ohio National Guard's response in this crisis, as conditions permit. It is the story of readiness and commitment. It is also the story of the nation's dependence on the citizen-soldier.

Soldier should be recognized for her volunteer efforts

I would like to recommend Sgt. Stephanie Colbert of the 237th Personnel Services Battalion for a commendation for her efforts and contributions in a successful trip to Washington, D.C., in support of the Westland High School Air Force Junior ROTC.

She served as bus driver without compensation, and performed her duties well.

MSG (RET.) EDWARD L. MCDONALD
U. S. ARMY

Magazine causes former guardmember to reminisce

Please add me to the *Buckeye Guard* mailing list. I was in E Company, 737th Battalion, at the Akron-Canton Airport 30 years ago. Your magazine brings back many good memories.

LOUIS LAURICH
AKRON

A reminder to all: When guardmembers retire, they are not kept on the "Buckeye Guard" mailing list automatically. A written letter or e-mail to the Public Affairs Office requesting to be on the mailing list will initiate a subscription until further notice. This request needs to be made only once, and then again only for an address change or cancellation.

Anyone wanting a free subscription to the magazine is entitled. Contact information can be found on page one.

Last issue of *Buckeye Guard* 'a keeper' for some readers

Insightful commentary! Thought-provoking editorials! Compelling feature stories! Is it *Time* magazine? No, it's the

Buckeye Guard!

Congratulations on the Winter 2001/2002 issue of the magazine. It's difficult to continue to excel when a publication as honored as the *Buckeye Guard* reaps so many national awards, but this issue is the absolute best I've seen in my many years in the Guard.

Obviously, the current state of world affairs provided much to write about, but the presentation, visuals, and variety of content made it a 'can't put it down 'till your done' issue.

Associate editors Steve Toth and Sgt. 1st Class Diane Farrow have outdone themselves again. This issue is a keeper!

LT COL JAMES T. BOLING
121ST AIR REFUELING WING

Community service, donations put children's safety first

The staff and PTO of Glendening Elementary School would like to thank Kurtz Brothers Inc., the Ohio Army National Guard, Groveport Madison Schools and several community volunteers for making Glendening's playground a safer place for our students.

On April 9, 50 cubic yards of playground mulch was added to our play areas, covering muddy areas and building up the shock absorbency under and around our playground equipment.

Kurtz Bros. generously donated the mulch, while GMS provided for its delivery as well as the tools needed to spread it.

Members of the 191st Engineer Company spent the entire day shoveling and carting the four "mountains of mulch" to the neediest areas of the playground.

Several parent volunteers and Franklin County Juvenile Court Judge Kim Brown also assisted at various times throughout the day.

Playgrounds are a fundamental part of the childhood experience. Thanks again to all those who helped make our playground a safe haven for Glendening students to enjoy themselves.

GLENDENING ELM. STAFF/ PTO
GROVEPORT MADISON SCHOOLS



SFC Diane L. Farrow / HQ STARC (-)

Ohio Army National Guardmembers and Glendening Elementary School students work together to spread mulch around the school playground area this spring.

Website offers wealth of info for family members

I would like to introduce you to the website *MilitarySpouseTimes.com*, presented by Military Spouse Times, Inc., a non-profit organization dedicated to the military family.

MilitarySpouseTimes.com is a newsletter providing information written by and for military spouses about issues that are of concern to military families.

Featured articles about military programs, financial assistance, credit information, health, entrepreneurship and a wide variety of other relevant topics are presented in this monthly Internet-based publication. Spouses have the opportunity to interact with each other via e-mail, chat rooms and a panel of volunteer columnists who share their experiences and expertise.

We would like to notify the military community about our newsletter. Our first edition came out this summer. Please review the website at www.militaryspousetimes.com. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me by phone at (918) 753-2716 or (918) 753-2734; or by e-mail at fred@militaryspousetimes.com.

SGM (RET.) ALFRED L. GANDEE
EDITOR

Correction

In the Winter 2001/2002 edition of the *Buckeye Guard*, there was an error in the article, "Battle in the Desert."

The soldier in the photo on at the top of page 18 is firing an AT-4, not a Dragon.

BUCKEYE GUARD STAFF

OHIO NATIONAL GUARD

Historical Highlights



At the beginning of the Civil War, on June 1, 1861, the first artillery rounds fired by Union Army forces were shot from the cannons of Batteries D and E, 1st Ohio Volunteer Light Artillery, from Cleveland. The battle occurred at Phillippi, Va. **RETIRED JUDGE (COL.) ROBERT D. WALKER / 37TH INFANTRY DIVISION**



Todd Cramer / AGOH-Photo Lab

Although the implementation of Weapons of Mass Destruction-Civil Support Teams began well before the Sept. 11 attacks, the need for such units, like the Ohio Guard's (above), is becoming increasingly important.

DoD leaders to revamp WMD defense system

Defense against weapons of mass destruction topped the docket during meetings of defense leaders from NATO countries earlier this year in Brussels.

There is little or no warning of an attack in today's world, and a WMD attack would bring catastrophic consequences, Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld said. "If we do not prepare promptly to counter (the WMD threat), we could well experience attacks in our countries that could make the attacks of Sept. 11 seem modest by comparison."

Improvements in WMD protection (see article on the Ohio National Guard Weapons of Mass Destruction-Civil Support Team, p. 14-17) will specifically target a broader range of nuclear, biological and chemical protection than the alliance currently possesses. The alliance in the past has frankly focused more on the chemical problem and less on radiological, nuclear and biological capabilities, U.S. officials said. Protection from biological weapons is more the focus now.

Several countries of concern in regard to the WMD threat include Iran, Iraq, North Korea, Syria, Libya and Cuba, officials said. **AMERICAN FORCES PRESS SERVICE**

Deployed soldiers say family readiness groups work

While thousands of reserve and active-duty soldiers are deployed in the Central Command area of operations as part Operation Enduring Freedom, their families are being well cared for and kept informed.

That observation was made by more than a dozen soldiers in Uzbekistan and Afghanistan when Army Chief of Staff Gen. Eric K. Shinseki visited earlier this year.

Family support groups (see related article p. 22-23) first started appearing in the early 1990s when thousands of National Guard and Army Reserve soldiers were called to active duty to support the Gulf War. Many reserve-component units were initially overwhelmed by phone calls from family members seeking services the Army offered but spouses didn't know how to access them. Once established, unit FSGs acted as a focal point to pass on that information and information between the deployed soldiers and families.

Senior Army leadership has recently started to call these unit groups family readiness groups; because the term "readiness" stresses the need for units to be proactive in preparing soldiers and their families for the possibility of deployment.

For Sgt. 1st Class Samuel Denegall, a supply support activity noncommissioned officer-in-charge with the 5-30th Supply and Support Battalion at Bagram Airfield, a well-functioning unit FRG back at home means his unit gets videotaped messages from loved ones at least once a month. It also means his wife has a reliable network of others in similar circumstances to fall back on if she needs help at home, he said.

"They know I am doing fine because I get to talk with them on the phone several times a week," Denegall said. "My wife also knows I am doing fine because she attends family (readiness) group luncheons and meetings where they discuss how we are doing." **ARMY NEWS SERVICE**

USTRANSCOM has several reserve positions open

U.S. Transportation Command's Joint Transportation Reserve Unit has position openings in each of the military services, it was announced recently.

U.S. Transportation Command relies heavily on reserve members of all service branches to fulfill its mission to provide air, land and sea transportation for the Defense Department.

"We have a unique mission and impor-

tant positions available, positions which require a variety of skills," said Air National Guard Brig. Gen. Robert P. "Lance" Meyer, Jr., commander of the USTRANSCOM's Joint Transportation Reserve Unit (JTRU) at Scott Air Force Base, Ill. "Most of our openings are for mid-grade officers and senior noncommissioned officers. We have no slots for junior enlisted or junior officers."

While there are reserve vacancies throughout USTRANSCOM, the positions of greatest need fall into a few key areas.

"We are mostly looking for computer specialists, medical specialists and intelligence officers," said Col. Steve Heuer, Air Force Reserve, chief of staff of the JTRU. "Although we also have openings for Navy supply corps officers, and officers with operations or logistics experience."

Many JTRU members said they find it exciting working with active-duty personnel to move the military's people, supplies and equipment, anytime, anywhere.

"Being in a unit like this, working a real-world mission in times of both war and peace, is a challenge that has attracted reservists living as far away as Alabama and even China," said Meyer, himself an Ohio native and former commander of the 121st Air Refueling Wing, Columbus.

For more information, contact Heuer at commercial (618) 229-7072, DSN 229-7072 or by e-mail at steve.heuer@hq.transcom.mil **USTRANSCOM PUBLIC AFFAIRS**

Army grants award to soldiers supporting global terror war

The Army has given approval for soldiers who have been actively involved in Operations Enduring Freedom and Noble Eagle approval to wear certain insignia and medal devices.

Any reserve component soldier who involuntarily mobilized in support of Operations Noble Eagle or Enduring Freedom is eligible to receive the Armed Forces Reserve Medal with "M" device, according to the Total Army Personnel Command. Volunteers are also eligible for the award, officials said, but their orders should cite that duty is in support of the war-on-terror operations.

The "M" device may be awarded only to those soldiers serving under Title 10 U.S. Code status. Soldiers ordered to active duty under Title 32 US Code (Active Duty Special Work), or State Active Duty orders are not eligible for the award of the "M" device. **ARMY NEWS SERVICE**

Today's Guard shows attitudes of 1812 outdated, must change

By Sgt. Don Dees
356th Broadcast Public Affairs Det.
Special to Army News Service

“Weekend Warriors!”
“Nasty Guard!”
“Damn Reservists!”

It's all been said. Guard and Reserve troops have traditionally been viewed as inferior to regular Army soldiers.

When British Maj. Gen. Phineas Riall faced troops from the 6th Infantry Regiment during the War of 1812, he thought he would be facing militia members from Buffalo, N.Y. Instead he encountered soldiers who marched bravely through his artillery fires. Seeing their professionalism, Riall exclaimed, “Those are Regulars, by God!”

Riall expected to encounter what today we would call reservists, and instead, he had to fight against soldiers from America's standing army. Riall's prejudice nearly mirrors attitudes that still exist in some places regarding the Guard and Reserve. Some active-duty soldiers believe reservists just don't maintain the same standards.

Army Regulation 670-1 governs wear and appearance of the Army uniform. The regulation does not say active-duty forces must wear it one way and reservists another.

The U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command regulates training for all soldiers, regardless of component. Basic trainees undergo the same rigorous indoctrination into Army life, regardless of component. New recruits also must undertake training for their specific job in the Army. TRADOC regulates this advanced individual training for all components.

Reserve-component units must validate their capabilities upon mobilization, just as active units do through exercise evaluations and rotations through Army maneuver training centers.

Senior Army leadership promotes the notion of “one team, one fight.” Comparable training requirements ensure this can be a reality.

COMMENTARY

Winston Churchill had it right when he said, “The reservist is twice the citizen.” Guardsmen and reservists live and work in their communities and serve their nation when duty calls.

Some active-component soldiers assume that with only two training days a month available, reservists cannot achieve the same level of proficiency.

This assumption ignores the fact that many reservists hold the same or similar vocation in private life.

The Army relies on reservists to carry out its mission. The U.S. Army Reserve Command manages 500 units as part of the Army's Force Support Package, according to the command's mission statement. These units would be activated immediately to provide combat support and combat service support capabilities in time of full mobilization.

Today, half the U.S. Army's combat power exists in the National Guard. National Guard units have been a part of the peacekeeping efforts in the Balkans since shortly after the 1995 Dayton Peace Accord was signed. In a recent rotation, force protection at one cluster of base camps south of Tuzla, Bosnia, was the responsibility of a Georgia National Guard unit.

During Desert Storm, 13 reservists were killed and 43 were wounded Feb. 25, 1991, when a SCUD missile hit the building where the 14th Quartermaster Detachment was staying. That Reserve unit sustained the most casualties of any allied unit during the Gulf War.

Leaders at every level today must promote tolerance and acceptance of their reservist counterparts. When soldiers face an enemy today, they will not be able to make the distinction that Riall did in the War of 1812. Reserve and Guard soldiers serve and die alongside “regulars.” ■

Winston Churchill had it right when he said, “The reservist is twice the citizen.” Guardsmen and reservists live and work in their communities and serve their nation when duty calls.

WALBRIDGE

Command profile



COL Bob Clouse
416th Engineer Group

Age: 49

Traditional Guard Position:

Commander, 416th Engineer Group
Full-Time Occupation: Business Manager for the Ohio Army National Guard Facilities Management Office

Hometown: Worthington, Ohio

Family: wife, Diana Kuenzer; children, Mick, Chad, Tina, Rob and Chris

Most recent achievement: was really the 416th's achievement — completing a successful “Warfighter” exercise this past March in Germany

The last good movie I saw was:

Score (the in-flight movie coming back from Germany)

The book I'm reading is: *Stopping Wars* by James D.D. Smith

My most prized possession is: a 914-6 Porsche (a project car shared with my father)

Heroes: my parents, who worked through many challenges and kept our family on a successful path

I'm better than anyone else at: accepting reality

I'd give anything to meet: Colin Powell

Three words that best describe me: loyal, hard-working and reliable

If I could leave today's guardmembers with one piece of advice it would be: Work hard, learn your MOS or specialty, be a team player and contribute to your unit wherever you can

Guard woman proves her toughness in unique way



Courtesy photo

Heather Gremling (left) competes in a bout during the Mansfield-area FX Toughwoman Championship.

**Story by 1st Lt. Shannon Scherer
179th Public Affairs Officer**

The 31-year-old new mother spoke with a gleam in her eyes about her glory days.

The days she spoke of were not the days she enlisted in the Air Force and served her country in Desert Storm, nor were they the days when she decided to marry and begin a family, but rather the glory days when she was named the Mansfield-area FX Toughwoman Champion last year.

Tech. Sgt. Heather A. Gremling, the information security manager for the 179th Airlift Wing, Mansfield, is not what you would think of when you conjure up the image of a “toughwoman.” Her 5-foot-7-inch frame sports an athletic 136 pounds, and her shoulder-length brown hair, hazel eyes and beaming smile make her less intimidating than your average security police officer. But Gremling had a goal to fight her way to victory in a very male-dominated sport, and that dream ultimately came true.

“All I wanted was to win a trophy,” Gremling said. “I had never won a trophy in anything and that was my original goal.”

One may wonder why someone would participate in such a rough sport just to

earn a trophy, but for Gremling boxing is in her blood.

Gremling was the only girl in a house with five brothers and said roughhousing was not uncommon. Although Gremling herself had only been in one fight ever in her life as a high school student, her older brother Rod Wiseman had developed a taste and talent for the ring.

Rod competed four times for the local Toughman title and won runner-up twice, Gremling said.

He offered to coach her because he said if he couldn’t win, maybe someone

else in the family could.

The Toughman contest is conducted in 44 states and abroad and is strictly boxing—so no biting, wrestling or kicking is allowed. The events are segregated into categories for men and women.

Wiseman put Gremling on a rigorous exercise and diet schedule for a year prior to her night in the ring.

When her first fight came up, Toughman promoters almost didn’t let Gremling take the ring. Her opponent outweighed her by roughly 40 pounds, a hazard in the boxing world. But Gremling refused to let weight ruin all her dreams and before official weigh-ins she strapped on leg weights and put sandbags in her warm-up suit. It was only 10 extra pounds, but that was enough to allow her to fight.

Gremling took the ring at Richland County Fairgrounds before a sold-out audience of thousands to fight against Katrina

Moore. Moore’s streetfighting technique didn’t compare to Gremling’s professional training and the match was called in favor of Gremling in the third round with 32 seconds still left on the clock.

“She was bigger than me and had a boxing glove tattoo on her neck. I thought she was going to kill me,” Gremling said. “Walking out to the ring I actually heard people saying that my competition would defeat me because I was so small. I was definitely the underdog.”

After the first night’s competition, Gremling was excited for her match the next evening and the thought of bringing home a trophy. But her one dream was quickly shattered when she learned no trophies would be presented that year because of an incident the year before. Gremling was crushed.

But Toughman promoters promised to see what they could do for her if she won the following evening.

With one victory under her belt, her brother Rod in her corner and her family and friends cheering her on, Gremling took the ring the next night against Veena Johnson. Again, weight would be an issue.

“She hit me so hard in the first round it threw me across the ring like a rag doll,” Gremling said. “But I had heart and I wasn’t quitting.”

As in the first night’s fight, her training would come back to be her biggest advantage. Gremling didn’t let up in the second round, coming back strongly and causing her opponent to forfeit the third round. Gremling was declared the undisputed women’s champion of the event.

Gremling would get no trophies that night, but just one week later, both her father and her sponsor, Hale’s Harley-Davidson of Mansfield, surprised the champ with two large trophies to commemorate her victory.

Gremling said the desire to compete again someday will always be in her, but now she’s thinking of other priorities in her life, such as the baby girl she gave birth to in July.

“This was absolutely worthwhile,” she said. “I know it doesn’t make me somebody, but it sure made me feel like somebody. I finally got my 30 seconds of fame.”

And her trophy. ■



Courtesy photo

After winning the Toughwoman title, Gremling poses with her hard-earned hardware.

Eyes of the Beholder

By Spc. Haraz N. Ghanbari
HQ STARC (-)

One of the most humbling experiences is to see, firsthand, the aftermath of a 44-month long civil war that left more than 200,000 dead and millions homeless.

It seems not many know the story of Bosnia, or the struggle of the country that was first put on the map by the Winter Olympics held in Sarajevo during February 1984. Today, some are familiar with evening news updates concerning former Yugoslav leader Slobodan Milosevic—presently on trial at the United Nations war crimes tribunal at The Hague, charged with crimes against humanity in Croatia and Kosovo, and genocide in Bosnia.

In April, I returned from a six-month deployment to Bosnia with the 382nd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment, North Carolina Army National Guard. The unit was activated to provide public affairs coverage for the 29th Infantry Division which was serving as peacekeepers under Stabilization Force 10.

With the support of my family and friends, I volunteered to fill a vacancy within the mobilizing unit in order to expand my horizons as a photojournalist. My initial mission was to serve as the photo editor for the *Talon* magazine; later, I was selected as the official photographer for Maj. Gen. H. Steven Blum, com-

manding general of Multinational Division (North).

The *Talon* is a 12-page, color, weekly magazine with a 5,500 copy circulation throughout the Balkans, Europe and the United States. Working with other soldiers of the 382nd, I received, planned and executed photo and written assignments for print.

Working as a military photojournalist in an environment such as Bosnia was a unique experience. One day the team was taking pictures and writing stories, and the next we were working against a deadline. Every Friday we saw the fruits of our labor in a finished publication.

Some assignments during the rotation included features about individual soldiers, news stories about specific missions and coverage of MWR (Morale, Welfare and Recreation) events and USO shows. Performers such as Wayne Newton, the Dallas Cowboys Cheerleaders, Jessica Simpson, Shaggy and Clint Black entertained the troops during my deployment.

After about two months of working on the *Talon*, I was reassigned as the photographer for the commanding general. Primarily, I documented the day-to-day meetings with local military personnel, visits with soldiers in the field, awards and promotion ceremonies and various other unscheduled events.

One of my most memorable assignments with the general was a visit to a morgue where more than 5,000 unidentified bodies were stored. They had been recovered from mass graves throughout Bosnia and were awaiting DNA testing to assist with identification.

After seeing and smelling the disturbing realities of war, I truly realized how fortunate we are in the United States.

As a photographer, I look for images that tell a story, and, in these circumstances, the story is the recovery process after war. I found that in scenes of the countryside and in the eyes of the locals who live there.

I now realize that war isn't just about getting the enemy, it is also about bringing about a sense of normalcy after the battles are over. I feel some of my best photos captured the suffering that still remains for the people of Bosnia.

What I brought back from the deployment is hope that one day there will be peace in Bosnia and for the country to achieve a self-sustaining government in order to overcome its past. ■

EDITOR'S NOTE: Haraz Ghanbari is a photojournalism major at Kent State University. He also works part-time as a photojournalist for the Elyria Chronicle Telegram, a daily newspaper west of Cleveland. Haraz additionally receives assignments from the Associated Press.

Photo by Dan Garcia



Eyes of the Beholder

Photos by Spc. Haraz N. Ghanbari





OPPOSITE PAGE, CLOCKWISE, FROM TOP: (1) Fog sets in on the quiet Bosnian countryside; (2) While on a trip to a local school with a psychological operations unit, Ghanbari photographed this boy standing by a fence; (3) During a visit to a mountain village, Ghanbari snapped this man coming out of his rural home; (4) Ghanbari met this young girl on a trip to the mountains where a weapons cache was found. Other U.S. soldiers gave the girl some toys and candy. THIS PAGE, CLOCKWISE, FROM BELOW RIGHT: (1) This photo was taken through a set of night vision goggles at one of the Forward Observation Bases; (2) One evening while walking around Eagle Base in Tuzla, Bosnia, Ghanbari shot the sunset behind the silhouette of a UH-60 "Black Hawk" helicopter on the flight line; (3) Gen Richard B. Myers, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, is pictured through the viewfinder of a video camera during a press conference.





OHIO'S BEST

The best soldiers, airmen, noncommissioned and junior commissioned officers in the Ohio Army and Air National Guard were selected and announced earlier this year. The people chosen were deemed among the best and brightest in their career paths from among the 15,000 men and women in the Ohio Guard.

Ohio Army National Guard

Traditional Soldier of the Year - Spc. Vernon A. Christman III

Software Database Analyst, 337th Personnel Services Detachment, Columbus

Spc. Vernon A. Christman III is a Software Database Analyst assigned to the 337th Personnel Services Detachment in Columbus. Prior to joining the Ohio Army National Guard, he served on active duty from 1998 to 2000 at Fort Bragg, N.C., as a Multiple Launch Rocket System (MLRS) crewmember. In addition to his career with the Guard, Christman is also the web development coordinator for Bud's Marina, the 20-year old family business, located at Indian Lake. He has also recently launched an Internet company that builds marina-related websites and is a computer science student at the Lima branch of Ohio State University.



Traditional NCO of the Year - Staff Sgt. Lawrence Stahl

Senior Vehicle Driver, 1484th Transportation Company, Akron

Staff Sgt. Lawrence Stahl is a Senior Vehicle Driver assigned to the 1484th Transportation Company in Akron. Prior to joining the Ohio Army National Guard in May 2001, the Akron native served 11 years of active duty, including stops at Fort Stewart and Fort Gordon, Ga., as well as overseas at Frankfurt and Vilseck, Germany. In addition to his other military schooling, Stahl, also took a nearly yearlong year course of study in Korean language at the Defense Language School in Monterey, Calif. Stahl, a 1990 graduate of Maplewood High School, currently lives in Cortland.

AGR NCO of the Year - Staff Sgt. Joseph G. Fridley

Data Analyst, HQ STARC (-), Columbus

Staff Sgt. Joseph G. Fridley is currently serving an Active Guard/Reserve tour as a Data Analyst with Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, State Area Command, Columbus. A member of the Ohio Army National Guard since 1991, he also has been assigned to the 112th Medical Brigade, 337th Personnel Service Detachment and 145th Regiment, Regional Training Institute. Prior to joining the Guard, Fridley was in the active Army and assigned to the 10th Engineer Battalion and the 72nd Engineer Company. In addition, he also worked with the 197th Infantry Battalion and the South Carolina National Guard. Besides being involved on a full-time basis with the OHARNG, he is a resident of Obetz, and also is a member of the Whitehall Moose Lodge #1245.



Second Lieutenant of the Year - 2nd Lt. Joseph C. Baibak

Training Officer/Support Platoon Leader, 112th Engineer Battalion, Brook Park

Second Lt. Joseph C. Baibak has served as the full-time Battalion Training Officer and Support Platoon Leader for the 112th Engineer Battalion, headquartered in Brook Park. Overall readiness of the support platoon (with unit strength as high as 129 percent), contributed to a third place ranking for Headquarters Company among 83 units in the Ohio Army National Guard. While serving as the full-time Battalion Training Officer, Baibak managed the S3 Section in the absence of any regular Full-Time Unit Support personnel. He was instrumental in the development of a Battalion Sapper School Train-up Program to ensure National Guard soldiers attending the active-duty Sapper School were fully prepared; this was the first program of its kind in Ohio.

Compiled by Sgt. Maj. Edwin Berio, Headquarters, State Area Command (-)

Ohio Air National Guard

Airman of the Year - Senior Airman Tara L. Allman

Surveillance Technician, 123rd Air Control Squadron, Blue Ash

Senior Airman Tara L. Allman is a Surveillance Technician assigned to the 123rd Air Control Squadron (ACS), located in Blue Ash. In addition to joining the Ohio Air National Guard in 1999, she graduated from Princeton High School in Cincinnati with a 3.9 grade point average. During the summer of 2001, the 123rd ACS was tasked to augment AEF 5/6 and Allman was the first to volunteer. She was assigned to the 386th Expeditionary Air Control Squadron, Ali Al Salem Air Base in Kuwait. Currently she is attending Ohio University, majoring in Adventure Recreation. She volunteers her time working with the elderly and participates in the Adventure Ropes program, helping mentally challenged children safely engage in recreational activities.



NCO of the Year - Tech. Sgt. William J. Finch

Fire Protection Craftsman, 179th Air Wing, Mansfield

Tech. Sgt. William J. Finch is a Fire Protection Craftsman assigned to the 179th Air Wing located at the Mansfield-Lahm Airport in Mansfield. He also is a member of the 179th's Honor Guard. Prior to his enlistment in the Guard in 1992, he served in the Air Force from 1989 to 1992 as a crew chief in aircraft maintenance. After transferring to the Guard, Finch also trained and was certified in several advanced fire protection subjects. In addition, he is involved in the community as a certified volunteer peace officer in the village of Brady Lake. He and his wife, Mary Jo, have four children.



Senior NCO of the Year - Master Sgt. Daniel A. Brake

Aircraft Generation Squadron Aircraft Maintenance NCO, 179th Airlift Wing, Mansfield

Senior Master Sgt. Daniel A. Brake is assigned to the Isochronal Section (ISO) of the 179th Aircraft Generation Squadron as the Aircraft Maintenance NCO. Prior to joining the Guard in 1981, he served in the Air Force from 1964 to 1968 as a Jet Aircraft Mechanic and a B-58 crew chief. In addition to his military career, Brake was a member of the Margareta Township Fire Department for 10 years. He is currently involved with a number of community activities in the Sandusky area, including organizing the annual Thanksgiving dinner for the elderly and disadvantaged, helping in the Right-to-Read program and working with the Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts. Brake has been married to his wife, Cindy, for 35 years, and has five children and nine grandchildren.



First Sergeant of the Year - Master Sgt. Thomas K. Oswald

Logistics Squadron First Sergeant, 178th Fighter Wing, Springfield

Master Sgt. Thomas K. Oswald is the Logistics Squadron First Sergeant for the 178th Fighter Wing, located at Springfield-Beckley Municipal Airport in Springfield. He joined the Ohio Air National Guard in 1981 as a Fuels Specialist with the 178th Tactical Fighter Group. In addition, he has worked full-time as a federal technician since 1987 with the 178th as the Fuel Superintendent. He has also supported base and community programs and events throughout his career including the Dayton International Air Show, Air Force 50th Anniversary of Flight, City of Springfield Corporate Challenge, KIDSAFE Program, Family Base Day, Schultz Elementary School Day of Flight, Young Heroes of America, Project Woman and the 178th Adopt-A-Family Program.



Second Lieutenant of the Year - 2nd Lt. Timothy Neel

Base Education Officer, 121st Air Refueling Wing, Columbus

Second Lt. Timothy L. Neel is the Base Education Officer assigned to the 121st Air Refueling Wing, Columbus. Prior to joining the Ohio Air National Guard, he enlisted in the active Air Force in May 1987 as an Information Management Specialist. In addition to his military career and education, Neel graduated from Southern Illinois University, where he received his workforce education and development degree. He also attended Webster University and received his master's degree in human resource development in 2000. In his civilian occupation, Neel is a training specialist for Bank One, where he organized and administered the "Bring Your Child to Work Program." Neel and his wife, Debbie, have a son, Conley.



Compiled by Command Chief Master Sgt. Richard A. Smith, Headquarters, Ohio ANG

838th MPs first to field Up-Armored HMMWVs

Story by Spc. Michelle Morgan
HQ STARC (-)

History was made Jan. 22 when M1114 Up-Armored HMMWVs (High Mobility Multi-Wheeled Vehicles) rolled onto the grounds of the Christy Armory in Austintown, home to the Ohio Army National Guard's 838th Military Police Company.

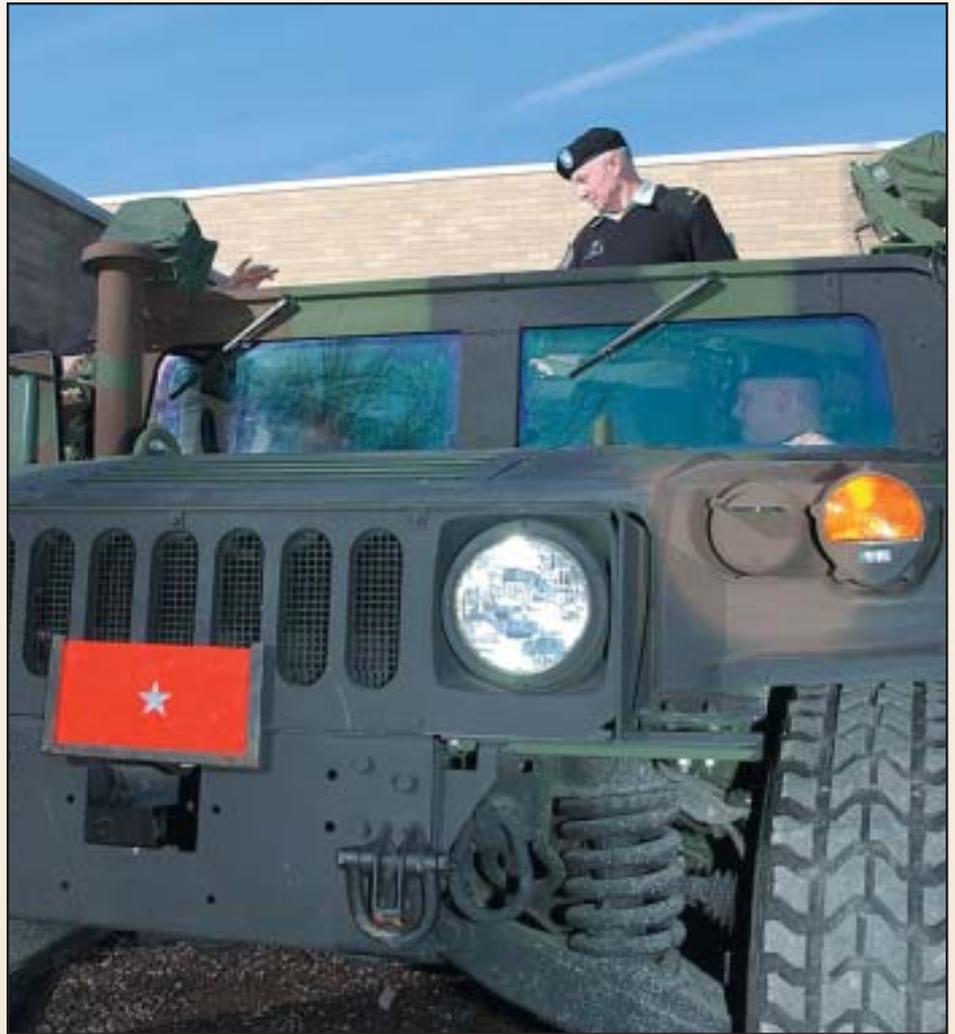
Because of the 838th's high priority for potential mobilization, it was selected to be the first Army National Guard unit in the country to be fielded 29 of the new "humvees." The 838th is part of the Army Forces Command (FORSCOM) Force Support Package Program, which requires selected active and reserve component units to maintain a high level of combat readiness—with regard to personnel and equipment—to provide the Defense Department a rapid response force in support of a national military strategy.

The event was marked with a formal ceremony, which included Ohio Guard and Army leadership, civilian contractors involved with manufacturing and equipping the humvees, and members of the local community.

"The 838th is the only MP unit in the Army National Guard included in Force Support Package I, which is a tribute to the fact that we are ready, we deploy and we bring them home safely," said Brig. Gen. Ronald G. Young, Ohio's assistant adjutant general for Army.

Bringing soldiers home safely was the main catalyst in the production of an armored humvee.

An integral part of MP peacekeeping missions, humvees are the primary lightweight, tactical vehicles employed for tasks from route reconnaissance—checking roads and bridges for convoy accessibility and reliability, searching for mines and identifying potential ambush sites—to patrolling established supply routes and performing "routine" security patrols, according to Sgt. 1st Class Randy Stowell, 838th readiness NCO. During these types of missions, sniper fire and land mine blasts are a very real threat.



Todd Cramer / AGOH-Photo Lab

BG Ronald Young takes the position of gunner after a ceremony marked the fielding of the new M1114 Up-Armored HMMWV to the 838th MP Company.

The M1114 Up-Armored HMMWV was designed when the need for a lightweight, mobile vehicle to protect soldiers from various potential threats was identified after experiences during U.N. peacekeeping efforts in Somalia in 1993.

It provides complete armored protection to the soldiers in the crew compartment, which can withstand sniper fire up to 7.62 millimeters in diameter, a blast from a 12-pound anti-personnel/anti-tank mine and fragments from 155mm artillery airbursts. The transparent armor windows, "white glass," provide high light transmission during the day, yet

still allow the use of night vision gear. The weapon station above the crew compartment will accommodate an M-2 or M-60 machine gun and a MK-19, 40mm grenade launcher. While firing, the gunner is protected by the armored bi-fold turret door.

The armor is not the only improvement over the earlier versions of humvees. The M1114 has more power due to a 6.5-liter, V-8 turbo diesel engine, a reinforced chassis that provides a smoother ride and allows for an increased payload capacity, bucket seats with enhanced shock absorbers, air conditioning, an improved heating system, electric de-icers and a headset intercom system that enables



Todd Cramer / AGOH-Photo Lab



Todd Cramer / AGOH-Photo Lab

ABOVE: COL Mark Juneau, deputy commander, ARNG, at the Army Maneuver Support Center, explains the significance of the protective armor on the new M1114 Up-Armored HMMWV. LEFT: COL Robin Timmons (from left), CPT Dan Barrett, LTC Paola O'Flaherty and BG Ronald Young pose in front of one of the Ohio Army Guard's new humvees at the ceremony.

crew members to communicate.

"The vehicle is incredible. It makes me feel good, knowing that they put in all of the time and energy to protect the individual soldier," said Pvt. 1st Class Jason Fraser. "Even if the equipment is damaged, the soldier can still walk away."

Fraser is one of 838th soldiers trained to provide instruction to other MPs in the operation of the M1114. With the high expectations the Army has for the vehicle, combined with the number of potential missions for which it may be used, complete understanding of the humvee's capabilities is essential.

"The Army's acquisition objective is around 7,500 vehicles, and we have fielded more than 2,200 vehicles to date, 50 per-

cent of which have been fielded to MP units worldwide. The Up-Armored HMMWV is deployed to the Balkans where 500 to 750 motorized patrols are conducted daily," said Debra Davis, project manager, light tactical vehicles for the Army Tank-automotive and Armament Command (TACOM), headquartered in Warren, Mich.

"The M1114 Up-Armored HMMWV has already proven successful," said Col. Mark Juneau, deputy commander, Army National Guard at the Army Maneuver Support Center, Fort Leonard Wood, Mo.

According to Juneau, the armor saved the life of infantry scouts in Macedonia who drove directly into the kill zone of an ambush. They lived through the initial kill

fire, were able to radio their location and destroy all sensitive documents before they were captured. "Without the protective armor, they would not have survived," he said.

The necessity of armor was proven again when three soldiers walked away unharmed after driving over a land mine. "The front of the vehicle was destroyed, but the soldiers were safe," said Jonathan Spiller, president and chief executive officer of Armor Holdings, Inc., and chairman, Ogara-Hess & Eisenhardt Armoring Co.—which provides the armor for the M1114. Taking into account last year's terrorist attacks on America, "we have, as a company, reflected on our responsibilities...not just what we do, but why and how it affects the lives we touch."

Bringing soldiers home safely after the completion of a successful mission is key, but the M1114 Up-Armored HMMWV is significant in another way.

"The fielding of the Up-Armored HMMWV contributes to the Army's vision to transform to an objective force. The chief of staff of the Army identified the HMMWV family of vehicles as one of the initial 21 legacy systems required for the Army's transformation to a more responsive, deployable, agile, versatile, lethal, survivable, sustainable force," Davis said.

As technology changes the face of war, rumbling tanks replace the caissons that once rolled along; "wagon soldiers" are transported in armored personnel carriers; and now, when soldiers like the MPs from the 838th perform their peacekeeping missions at home and abroad, armor will protect them from sniper fire, mine blasts and howitzer air bursts.

"Being the first Army National Guard unit to receive these vehicles brings a terrific amount of recognition and respect for all our past accomplishments and encourages us to continue to improve in the quality of training," said Lt. Col. Paola O'Flaherty, commander of 1st Battalion, 73rd Troop Command, higher command for the MPs of the 838th. ■



Ohio Team: ready to respond against Weapons of Mass Destruction

Story by Linda D. Kozaryn, American Forces Press Service
 Photos by Todd Cramer, Adjutant General's Department Photo Lab

Entering a contaminated “hot zone” is deadly business, as Army Maj. David Seitz and his team of 21 Ohio Army and Air National Guardsmen are well aware.

Two years ago, Seitz and his fellow guardmembers volunteered to join the 52nd Weapons of Mass Destruction Civil Support Team. Since then, they’ve studied, trained, drilled, practiced and studied some more as they prepared to work in environments potentially contaminated with chemicals or biological agents.

Today, they know their mission inside and out. Like a precision drill team, they set up and tear down their unified command suite, dismantled analytical platform and other high-tech equipment. Instead of M-16 rifles, these troops wield gamma spectrometers, chemical and biological detectors and monitors, self-contained breathers and decontamination systems.

“These are the highest caliber soldiers and airmen I’ve ever worked around,” said Seitz, deputy team commander. “They’re dedicated, and they take this job very seriously.”

“If people on this team know there’s a task that needs to be done, they go straight at it. They’re proud of the mission that might be imposed upon us, depending upon what happens in the world.”

The unit is one of 32 civil support teams set up by residential directive in the mid-

1990s to support civil authorities in the event of domestic chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear and high explosive incidents. Their tasks are to identify agents or substances, assess current and projected consequences, advise local authorities on response measures and help with requests for state support.

Seitz said the Ohio team has made a concerted effort to introduce itself to first responders throughout the state.

As a result, he said, state officials now welcome the 52nd with open arms.

“We have a discreet military signature,” he said. “We don’t drive camouflaged humvees or other military vehicles. We drive dark blue Suburbans, pickup trucks and vans. Arriving at the scene, we look more like ‘Men in Black’ than the Army.”

“A lot of times in the movies, the military is portrayed as coming in and taking over,” Seitz noted. “We’re not trying to step on anybody’s toes or take their mission away. Our job is to report to the incident commander—that’s the person in charge of that emergency scene, typically the fire chief. We explain what our assets are and what we can do to help, and from there, it’s up to the incident commander to employ us or not.”

The only support services the team needs from the local community, he said, are site and perimeter security, emergency medical services, and water and toilet facilities. “We try to have the least impact we can



(on community resources). The incident commander doesn’t need us as another burden. He needs to mitigate that incident.”

The director of Ohio’s Emergency Management Agency vouches for the team’s value and professionalism. “The civil support team gives us a core of highly trained and well-equipped folks that can respond quickly to any major incident,” Dale Shipley said. “They can get anywhere in the state probably within three and a



half hours, and to most of the heavily populated areas of the state in much less (time) than that.”

The team represents “a great first step in having that capability in our local communities,” Shipley noted. “It’s something that we will want to try to replicate in the major population centers, at least, so that there are these capabilities in local fire and police departments. (The civil support team) would be a great backup at that

point.... Right now, this is it and we’re certainly thankful to have it.”

Denny Tomcik, deputy operations officer for the Ohio Emergency Management Agency, echoed Shipley’s appreciation. During the anthrax threat after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, Tomcik said state officials called out the civil support team for a real mission. The 52nd deployed to the Lima area, where local authorities were irradiating mail that had come in from Washington, D.C.

“The trucks from Washington were supposed to be packed a certain way,” Tomcik recalled. “When they opened the first truck, the baggage was thrown around and there were torn containers. We shut it back up and called the team in. They came in,

OPPOSITE PAGE CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT: 1. Decontamination line procedures are explained to Columbus HAZMAT team members; 2. SGT Jeff Olgilvie (standing) and SSG Douglas Gumm prepare their equipment before a scenario; 3. Team members perform final checks before heading down range to assess a simulated threat; 4. Survey team members are observed by Gumm (background) to ensure they conduct decontamination properly.

Continued ►►



did their tests and got things back in order immediately. They did an incredibly professional job. We were very happy to have them.”

Some people relish a challenge. Others love to learn. Still others want to serve their country. The 52nd team members might say “all of the above” when asked why they volunteered.

Seitz, who served four years in the Coast Guard before joining the National Guard in 1982, was a full-time firefighter for five years before he joined the team. The deputy commander said he had “a lot of hazardous material background and knew the talk of the first-responder community. “I saw the emergency management realm developing, and I really liked the idea of learning about the big picture for emergency response.”

Army Capt. Frank Stratman, who serves as the team’s assistant operations officer,

was living in Gillette, Wyo., when he responded to a nationwide National Guard announcement for the team. “I was working as an operating room nurse when this came up,” he said. “I’d been reading about it and I felt that with my background, I could contribute.”

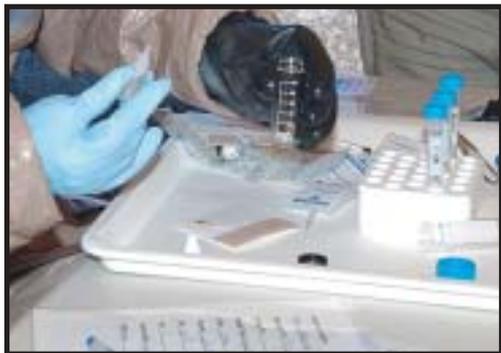
Stratman transferred from the Wyoming National Guard to the Ohio unit and has no regrets that he did. “Every aspect of this is challenging—what we train for and being on a self-supporting team of 22 people,” he said.

Army Sgt. Tim Stichler of Mansfield, a six-year Army National Guard veteran, applied for a full-time position with the team after he’d left his job as a chef. Despite being on duty 24 hours a day, seven days a week and constantly training, Stichler loves the work. “I love being in the military. I don’t think I’d do anything else,” he said. “It sounded interesting and challenging,”

ABOVE: SGT Stacey Moore scans a survey team member for radiation exposure. OPPOSITE PAGE, TOP: A biological sample is analyzed. BOTTOM: Photographs are taken of a 55-gallon oil drum that may contain hazardous material.

said Army Staff Sgt. Raymond Davis of Columbus, who spent four years on active duty and another seven in the National Guard before volunteering for the team. “Now I realize just how challenging it is. Seeing how the world is today with the terrorist attack on the World Trade Center, it makes me happy that I’m doing my part for my country.”

Air Force Capt. Mike Stogsdill of Spencer, Ind., is the team’s physicians assistant. After 14 years on active duty, he switched to the Air National Guard to join the team. “I spent five years as an EMT paramedic before I joined the military,” Stogsdill said. “As a volunteer fireman, hazmat was very interesting to me. This



puts me back in this same field.”

With 12 years active duty under his belt, Army Capt. Ken Napier of Louisville, Ky., transferred to the Ohio Army National Guard to join the team. “I’ve been a chemical officer my entire career,” he said. “In the Army, it’s still tactical. I wanted to do something with a different swing to it, and this gives me the opportunity to do that. This is cutting-edge stuff.”

Napier noted that the unit’s operations tempo is as great, if not greater, than a lot of the tactical units he’s been in. The captain said he’s concerned his highly trained team members would be lured away by civilian companies. He said defense officials are considering making team members eligible for hazardous duty pay, and that would go a long way toward helping retention.

Hazardous duty pay or not, Army Staff Sgt. Douglas Gumm plans to stay with the unit until he retires. Before he joined the team, he served in the Marine Corps for 12 years and in

the police force for five.

“I was kind of a fool to get out of the military when I got out the first time,” Gumm remarked. “I’m going to stick this out. It’s actually kind of fun. You learn a lot of different things. There’s a lot of technical work—a lot of book smarts. You have to keep up on it and it’s a constant study. There’s no slacking. You have to keep up with it or you’ll fall behind.”

From the start, Gumm said, the unit has had a sense of urgency about its mission. The Sept. 11 terrorist attacks “kicked it up into high gear,” he said. The attacks took the guesswork out of imagining the unimaginable, he added.

Second Lt. Laurie Smith, of Delta, team medical operations officer, has served a total of 14 years active duty with the Air Force and the Air National Guard. She said Sept. 11 “was a big wake-up call for all of us.

“A lot of people think, ‘This isn’t going to happen to us.’ But in our training, they always said, ‘It’s not *if* it’s ever going to happen, it’s *when*.’ On Sept. 11, we saw

that it actually does happen and we actually have to be prepared. It made our job crystal clear. We could see exactly what’s happening and how valuable a resource we really are. We are the military’s first responders.”

The attack had a big impact on the team, Seitz noted. “I was in Washington with two of my teammates on Sept. 11 attending computer training. We were about three miles south of the Pentagon when the attacks hit. We got ordered back to our unit immediately. We ran back to the hotel to pack and from the room you could see the Pentagon on fire.

“That was very sobering.”

Back in Ohio, Seitz said, the team stayed busy on high alert for quite a few days. The attack gave everyone on the team an even stronger sense of purpose, he said.

“You could tell the way it affected everybody. It really made them focused. This is one of those jobs where you don’t want to ever get called, but when you do, you’re well-trained and you want to be able to use that training to contribute something.” ■

5 2 N D W M D - C S T

OHIO TEAM GETS CERTIFIED

The Department of Defense certified the Ohio National Guard Weapons of Mass Destruction Civil Support Team (WMD-CST) as being fully ready to assist civil authorities response to a domestic weapon of mass destruction incident, and possesses the requisite skills, training and equipment to be proficient in all mission requirements.

“Homeland security is an issue that Ohioans take very seriously,” said Gov. Bob Taft at Rickenbacker International Airport during a ceremony recognizing the team’s accomplishment.

“The expertise this team provided to our crisis response teams enhances our ability to react to and counter any serious threat of this nature to Ohio.”

“Ohio consistently rises to the challenges faced in this new war on terrorism and continues to enhance its security response capabilities,” said Lt. Gov. Maureen O’Connor, director of the Ohio Department of Public Safety. “I commend the members of the 52nd WMD-CST for their commitment to providing Ohioans with the best response tools available.”

Congress has authorized 32 WMD-CSTs. Ohio’s team, certified Feb. 26, is part of the 17 teams authorized in the National Defense Appropriations Act for fiscal 2000. All 10 of the teams authorized in fiscal 1999 have already been certified; 15 of the 17 teams authorized in fiscal 2000 are now certified; five more teams authorized in fiscal 2001 are being organized.

AGOH-PUBLIC AFFAIRS



Team Commander LTC Scott White introduces WMD-CST to Lt. Gov. Maureen O’Connor and Gov. Bob Taft.



Visiting Troops in Turkey

Story by Maj. Barb Herrington-Clemens, Adj. Gen. Dept. Public Affairs
Photos by Staff Sgt. Andrew LaMoreaux, 121st Air Refueling Wing

It would be impressive enough to recognize the fact that the Columbus-based 121st Air Refueling Wing has accomplished nearly 25 percent of all refueling missions done nationwide in support of Operation Noble Eagle to date—encompassing about 30 million pounds of fuel and 3,000 aircraft.

But this unit also simultaneously supported refueling missions for Operation Northern Watch—enforcing the no-fly zone over northern Iraq—out of Incirlik Air Base, Turkey, as part of an Aerospace Expeditionary Force (AEF) tasking which ran through this September.

One wing, two major military operations, thousands of miles apart.

It was to show support and personally thank deployed members of the 121st that Lt. Gov. Maureen O'Connor—also director of the Ohio Department of Public Safety and chair of the State of Ohio Security Task Force—joined Maj. Gen. John H. Smith, state adjutant general, and other members of the Ohio National Guard leadership team on an overseas command visit this past spring.

The delegation departed April 17 from Rickenbacker Air National Guard Base in Columbus with airmen due to rotate into Incirlik. They traveled in one of the 121st's KC-135 "Stratotanker" aircraft. The group returned April 21 with airmen who had just finished the previous rotation. The unit's AEF commitment had members performing 45-day rotations in the region.

"This was a rare opportunity for the lieutenant governor to observe one of the Air National Guard's busiest units," Smith said. "In addition to its regular Aerospace Expeditionary Force rotation to Operation Northern Watch, the 121st has contributed

a larger percentage of air refueling support than any other air unit in support of Noble Eagle in the air defense of the United States."

The delegation visited with troops, attended briefings on mission specifics and observed 121st airmen as they performed their duties as members assigned to the 900th Air Expeditionary Wing. Among other topics, the Northern Watch mission was briefed to the delegation. Northern Watch is manned by a three-nation coalition consisting of the United States, United Kingdom and Turkey. The 121st was designated as the lead unit in providing air refueling for coalition aircraft for up to a 12-month period that was scheduled through the end of 2002.

Smith, who flew C-123 jets during the Vietnam War and F-4 jets out of Incirlik in the late 1960s during the Cold War, said he couldn't believe how the Turkish base has been transformed from a camp to a small city. Improvements have been made over the years by coalition forces, even though U.S. military presence at the base is reviewed and voted on for extension every six months by Turkish Parliament.

The delegation toured "Tent City," where Ohio airmen lived while deployed. In 350 temporary shelters housing 1,700 troops, movies were offered on cable television 24 hours a day and the tents were air-conditioned. There also was a morale center tent where airmen could use the Internet, and where they could communicate with families by computer or make phone calls home for free. Also available for use to pass the time, there were 10 Sony Playstation video game systems, which were donated by Brad Pitt who, along with fellow actors Julia Roberts and George



Clooney, traveled to Incirlik last holiday season in support of a USO tour.

Tech. Sgt. Wes Weaver of Newark said he appreciated the upgraded technology. When he served during the Persian Gulf War, he could send letters only every two or three weeks. He arrived for a 45-day tour of duty at Incirlik with the delegation the same day his daughter, Addy, turned 4.

The VIPs also toured the maintenance facility where members of the 121st were working to keep aircraft rolling.

"People are amazed the National Guard is as active as it is," O'Connor told airmen at the hangar nicknamed the "hush house." There she presented unit members of the 121st with an Ohio flag, to be hung with flags of other states which have also been called upon to support Operation Northern Watch.

"We have been in very good company while working here in support of this mission," said Maj. Carolyn Park as she accepted the flag on behalf of her staff. "The 121st and 163rd (Air Refueling Wing, California National Guard) have merged almost seamlessly, and it's hard to tell who's who."

Master Sgt. Rob Breeckner, acting first sergeant for the 900th Air Expeditionary Wing, and member of the 121st ARW, echoed Park's



comments. “The level of cooperation and dedication to the mission has been amazing, even with the heavy mission load, nobody has missed a beat.”

It was also obvious to members of the delegation that this group of people had bonded together in the face of adversity. “Morale was great. There’s really a spirit of camaraderie,” O’Connor said. “I’m privileged to visit Ohio soldiers who are assisting American efforts in enforcing the United Nations’ policies in Iraq.

I’m proud to witness Ohio’s role in this national priority.”

“Heavy mission load” and “up tempo” didn’t seem to adequately describe the environment observed by the delegation. Despite overcast skies, violent thunderstorms and regular downpours—which can mask hostile surface-to-air missiles—flights continued all night. “We get shot at about once an hour,” said Col. Marc D. Felman, commander of the 39th Wing



overseeing U.S. forces that are aligned with British and Turkish pilots. “Lately they’ve been real aggressive, turning on radar, and the weather has been so bad.” Felman said a terrorist alert continues at Incirlik. He regularly reminds his people: “It’s Sept. 11 at 8:30 a.m. in New York City, and it’s a beautiful day. Your whole world could change in 10 minutes.”

It may have seemed as though everyone felt the tension of the times, but not one airman spoke of anything but pride and dedication to the mission at hand. Everyone missed home and families, but when asked about it, one airman replied, “it’s because of my family and my country that I’m here.”

Felman may have said it best.

“This is a crossroads of culture, this is a crossroads of history and, I’m pretty sure, a crossroads of world events,” he said.

Through dedication to the mission, along with a little luck, it was the same road that brought the 121st airmen home safely. ■



OPPOSITE PAGE: A mosque in Turkey. **CENTER PHOTO:** Maj Gen John H. Smith, state adjutant general, and Lt. Gov. Maureen O’Connor observe 121st ARW troops at work. **ABOVE:** O’Connor presents an Ohio flag to 121st ARW Maj Carolyn Park, in front of a unit formation. **LEFT:** Col William Uhle (right), 39th Operations Group commander, discusses the maintenance mission with California Guard Col Randall Ball and Smith.

PVT Jason Lafromboise (from left) SGT Chet Divito, SPC Jason Betts and PFC Kendall Louanglath load roofing debris into a front-end loader beside Jackson Middle School.



Reprint courtesy of The Repository / Canton, Ohio

Lending a helping hand

Ohio Guard aids in Stark County tornado recovery



SPC Mike Snyder gathers debris.

Reprint courtesy of The Repository / Canton, Ohio

About 70 Ohio Army National Guard engineers were called to State Active Duty during the first week of May to support local agencies in recovering from an April 28 tornado that swept through northern Stark County, damaging 320 homes.

Elements of the 112th and 216th Engineer Battalions supported local civil authorities with debris removal, augmenting traffic control and providing security.

Ohio Guardmembers performed similar duties when a tornado struck the Cincinnati area in April 1999.

"Our soldiers and airmen were anxious to help their neighbors in recovering and restoring a sense of normalcy to their lives," said Maj. Gen. John H. Smith, state adjutant general. "We are citizen-soldiers... your neighbors and friends, and our mission is to help in any way we can."

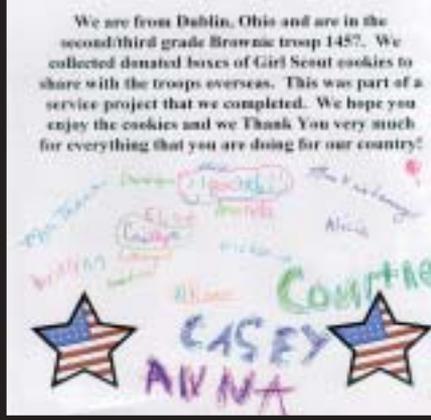
Jackson Township Highway Superintendent Ralph E. Boger said he appreciated the help of the Ohio National Guard.

"They've been very good," he said. "They've got good equipment, and they have their own leadership."

Lt. Gov. Maureen O'Connor, director of the Ohio Department of Public Safety, joined local officials in Jackson Township to survey the damage caused by the tornado, designated by the National Weather Service as an F2 class (113-157 mph winds, causing considerable damage).

"When I viewed the devastation... I was reminded how Ohioans consistently pull together during times of need," O'Connor said. "First responders, law enforcement, local officials and volunteers gave 100 percent to assist Jackson Township residents recover from damage caused by (the storms)."

The Ohio National Guard has a long history of responding to natural disasters in Ohio, including more recently the floods that struck throughout southwestern and southeastern Ohio in 1997 and 1998. **ADJUTANT GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT PUBLIC AFFAIRS**



Girl Scout troops' goodness, goodies benefit guardmembers

Story by Maj. Barb Herrington-Clemens
Adj. Gen. Dept. Public Affairs

Girl Scouts from all over the state showed their support for Ohio National Guard troops stationed abroad—in support of Operation Enduring Freedom—and at home—in support of Operation Noble Eagle—by sending to troops, what else, but their famous namesake cookies.

A nationally recognized Girl Scout project, “The Gift of Caring Program,” enabled not only the Girl Scouts to show their support, but the general public as well. Through the Girl Scouts of the USA, The Gift of Caring Program allowed customers to donate boxes of cookies to a charity or other project selected by the soliciting troop, during the annual Girl Scout cookie drive earlier this year. In turn, the girls earned a Gift of Caring Patch, to be worn on their uniforms.

This year many of the Girl Scout troops in Ohio, and across the nation as well, chose to show their support to the military troops in-

involved in the war against terrorism.

“This was a good project that teaches the girls not only about community service but patriotism as well,” said Jennifer Drew, Westerville Troop 1691 leader.

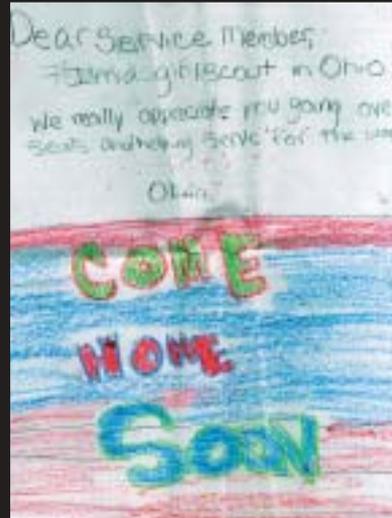
The response was overwhelming. What started out as being a few hundred boxes swelled to more than 1,000 as the donations were brought to Ohio National Guard Headquarters at Beightler Armory in Columbus from all over the state. Many of the Girl Scouts also wrote letters and postcards to troops, which accompanied some of the cookies as they were distributed. The USO became a partner in distribution when the Girl Scout cookies and letters were added to “care boxes” which had been put together for deployed troops. The boxes also included cameras, stationery,

phone cards and other items donated from the USO of Ohio.

One of the unsung heroes of this endeavor was Chief Warrant Officer 2 Carmen Davis, state family readiness program coordinator, who led organization and distribution efforts that ultimately resulted in the successful transport of this precious cargo to Ohio troops stationed around the globe.

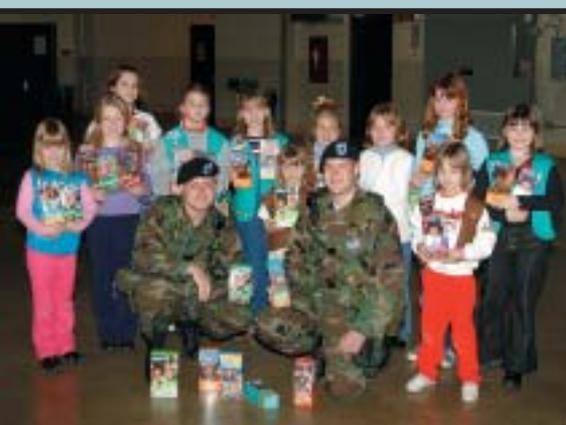
Gratitude from Ohio National Guardmembers has been shown by handwritten letters from military troops back to the girls, and, in the case of the 121st Air Guard Refueling Wing, even a tour of facilities for local Girl Scout troops.

Organized this past spring by the 121st’s Master Sgt. John Nease, about 80 Central Ohio Girl Scouts spent the day at Rickenbacker Air National Guard Base. Activities included hands-on displays for the girls to explore as well as one-on-one conversations with airmen on what membership in the Guard means to them. ■



To all of the Girl Scout troops that have showed support to Ohio Army and Air National Guard troops deployed in the war against terrorism, Maj. Gen. John H. Smith, state adjutant general, extends a heartfelt thanks to all of you...

- Brownie Troop 150
- Junior Troop 218
- Brownie Troop 255
- Junior Troop 360
- Junior Troop 477
- Brownie/Daisy Troop 529
- Junior Troop 529
- Cadet Troop 663
- Cadet Troop 700
- Junior Troop 776
- Junior Troop 868
- Junior Troop 1091
- Junior Troop 1193
- Junior Troop 1337
- Junior Troop 1425
- Brownie Troop 1457
- Junior Troop 1691
- Junior Troop 1754
- Cadet Troop 1955
- Junior Troop 1968
- Brownie Troop 2022
- Brownie Troop 2133
- Junior Troop 2218
- Junior Troop 635



We Are Family...only united can we stand strong

Story by Spc. Michelle Morgan
HQ STARC (-)

In today's military, the call may come and deployment may occur in a matter of days. Instead of spending precious moments saying goodbye to loved ones, guardmembers too often spend time updating wills and explaining finances.

Though the mobilization process is never easy, a week spent kissing the kids or hugging friends goodbye is much preferred to a week spent in a frenzy of paperwork.

"Nothing is more important than our soldiers and airmen who have been called forth and the families left behind," said Maj. Gen. John H. Smith, state adjutant general, at the annual Ohio National Guard Family Readiness Conference.

The importance of the family is the reason readiness is imperative, a theme that was repeated throughout the three-day conference held earlier this year.

"Our mission is to communicate, educate and train family support groups," said Chief Warrant Officer 2 Carmen Davis, state family readiness program coordinator. "When a unit deploys, we take care of the family."

Family readiness brochures and packets are provided at each armory and air base by unit family



SPC Haraz N. Ghanbari / HQ STARC (-)

readiness groups. Inside the packets are several checklists to be filled out, lists of resources and benefits, and lists of "things to do" so guardmembers and their families are well-prepared in case of deployment.

But who has time to update wills and insurance forms? Who bothers to write down the number of the plumber and address of a trusted mechanic?

"Everything you do, your spouse should know. When deploying, the plan is not to throw the spouse the checkbook as you get on the plane," said Master Sgt. Tim Bower, family readiness coordinator at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base near Dayton.

Taking the time to fill in the name and number of the family doctor, the number for the babysitter, the unit contact information—as well as the hundreds of little details that are usually taken for granted—can save time, money, stress and headaches. Using the tools provided by family readiness groups can ensure a smoother transition for families of

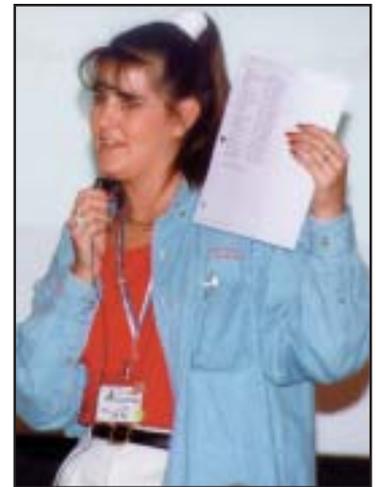
ABOVE: SSgt Kyle Lipper, 200th RED HORSE, sits with wife Tambra and children, Teryn and Justin, prior to deployment. RIGHT: Diane Whatmough, 1-107th Armor Battalion FSG member, explains how to prepare for mobilization.

guardmembers who find themselves deployed.

It is not until practical matters have been settled that psychological issues can be dealt with—and no one can completely prepare for the daunting emotional hits.

"There are normal reactions to an abnormal situation," Bower said.

Though no two families are alike, there are stages that most go through beyond the tears of sadness at departure and the elation upon return. A safe homecoming does not mean that life will automatically return to the way it was before deployment, nor does it deal with the emotional upheaval that occurred before, during and after the deployment.



SPC Michelle Morgan / HQ STARC (-)

Bower explained that emotions which tend to linger include denial, anger, resentment, detachment, a sense of abandonment and even excitement—the last usually felt by the person deploying, which often causes resentment in those left behind. Understanding that turbulent emotions are a natural response—that there is no one right or wrong way to feel—can save endless problems later.

"The psychological impact on the family is enormous. Anticipate those things and be the rock,

Ohio National Guard Family Readiness Awards

Family of the Year: Eddie and Karen Richards, Detachment 1, 1487th Transportation Company, Piqua

Volunteer of the Year: Rita Newton, 237th Forward Support Battalion, Springfield.

Family Support Group of the Year: Sara Wilson, Mary Jo Lewis, Becky Hickman and Robin White, 220th Engineering Installation Squadron, Zanesville.

Military Liaison of the Year: 1st Sgt. John Peters, 1-107th Armor Battalion, Stow

Commander of the Year: Capt. Jeff Watkins, 323rd Military Police Company, Toledo.

the touchstone for your family,” said Maj. Gen. Paul J. Sullivan, assistant adjutant general for Air, who also attended the conference.

Once the deployment is under way, a shift in roles is imminent, also bringing a shift in behavior.

“People change,” said Lt. Col. Theresa Snow, military liaison for family readiness and the community manager at the 178th Fighter Wing, Springfield. “Responsibilities shift and one person probably has a different way of dealing with situations.”

It is important not to be critical of the changes or expect life to return to normal the minute the deployment ends.

“Don’t have a change of command ceremony when you come back home,” Bower said. “It can lead to more resentment and causes undue hardships in an already stressful situation.”

Understanding and preparing for deployment emotionally, financially and legally will help families survive mobilization.

“Being prepared empowers you—you can learn how to help yourself,” said Kate Robinson, family support group leader for the 1-107th Armor Battalion.

Family support groups, whether they are already an integral part of the unit or newly formed due to deployment, are there to help.

“We are a resource for Guard family members. If we don’t have the answer, we will find it,” said Col. Margaret Skelton, state family readiness officer.

Unit family support groups have contact information and can find out what is happening with the unit as well as help in family emergency situations. They have been given the resources to provide information regarding benefits and entitlements due to families. It is up to the family to use the tools provided.

“This is not a sprint, it’s a marathon with sprints in it,” said Sullivan, speaking of Operation Enduring Freedom. “In the long days and nights ahead, there are organizations to turn to. You are not walking alone through this journey.” ■

FSG success up to unit, volunteers

Even after the horrific events of Sept. 11, Senior Master Sgt. Terri Vance never thought *she* would be activated.

“In 50 years, our unit has never been called up. It was a total shock, and I was not prepared,” said Vance, a member of the 220th Engineering Installation Squadron, Zanesville. “I never took all of the mobilization exercises seriously—bag drags were a ‘drag’—because I knew it was not going to happen to me. My unit is known for going in after the action because our main mission is to make temporary locations permanent,” Vance said. “I was just going through the motions.”

So it goes without saying that when Vance was activated last October, her family readiness checklists and family care plan were nowhere to be found. No arrangements or plans had been made, and it was not until she left her husband alone to raise their young daughter that she realized how much family support they really needed.

“We are the ones who signed our names on the line...we are the ones who said we would go when called—my family didn’t. But they were the ones left to deal with life without me,” Vance said.

After being deployed stateside for six months in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, Vance returned with several ideas about how to improve family readiness groups and what services they provide for families while a servicemember is mobilized.

Most of her ideas were small things: a sponsor program made up of volunteers that help those who live nearby; an organized group to help with child care; a group to cook “bulk” meals that can be frozen; a way to build awareness of local businesses which offer free or discounted services. Help with the little things can make life so much easier, she said.

“I didn’t find out until I returned home that a local restaurant offered free meals to the families of deployed servicemembers,” Vance said. “It would have made my husband’s life easier, had he known. We need a way to share this type of information throughout the state.”

Chief Warrant Officer 2 Carmen Davis, state family readiness program coordinator, agrees that programs should be instituted in each unit—if they haven’t been already—to help families, and that information needs to be dispersed in an organized manner.

“We have a newsletter, *Buckeye Families*, that is sent out quarterly to the families of deployed guardmembers if, upon mobilization, the soldier or airman signs a release authorizing us to contact their family,” Davis said. She added that many units throughout Ohio have websites where they publish any current information that may be beneficial to family members. Some units have child care programs established and ties with companies in their local area.

“At the state level,” Davis related, “the Ohio Na-



Courtesy photo

SMSgt Terri Vance found leaving 2-year-old daughter Katie behind was the most difficult part of her deployment.

tional Guard Family Readiness Program promotes its purposes through improved communication, education and the establishment of a mutual support network between military and family members.”

However, especially now, it is up to individual units to institute additional programs.

“Family readiness groups are made up of individual volunteers from within the unit,” Davis said. “If units want certain programs, it is up to the unit members and volunteers, with the approval of their commander, to implement the program.”

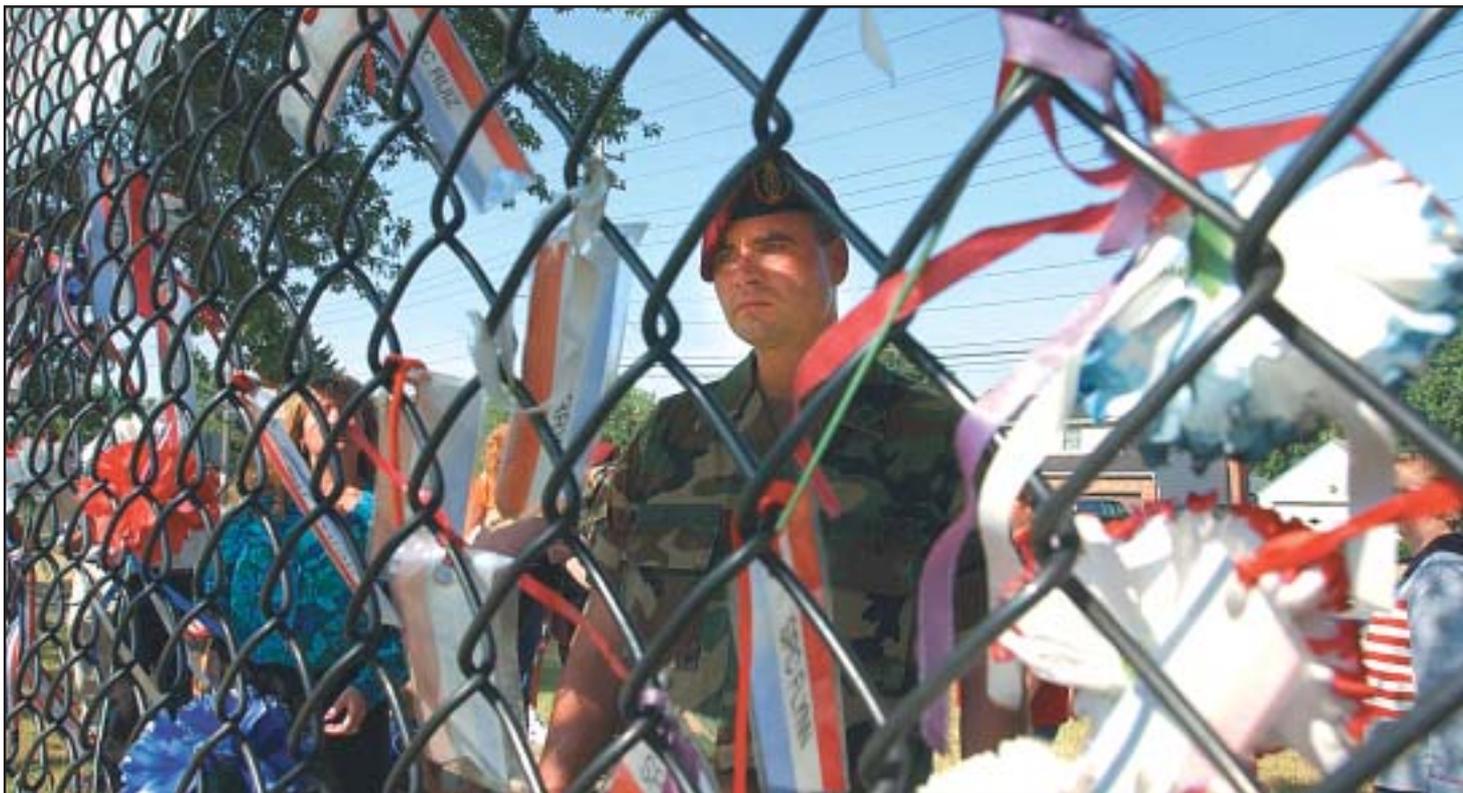
Davis said personnel in the state office will help units establish a family readiness group where none exists. They will answer questions and provide the material necessary to get started.

Sandi Tietje, family readiness group leader for Company B, 1-148th Infantry Battalion, Bowling Green—a unit that deployed in support of Operation Noble Eagle—was helping ensure that deploying guardmembers in units without a program had all of the information in the family care plan completed while her family was preparing their own soldier to deploy.

“Until times like this, no one really understands everything a family support group can do for a unit,” Tietje said.

But it takes volunteers. Much like filling in all of those checklists and ensuring one’s spouse knows how to do the everyday things that are normally taken for granted, it is up to the guardmembers and their families to step forward. **SPC MICHELLE MORGAN / HQ STARC (-)**

EDITOR’S NOTE: For more information on ONG family readiness programs, check the Family Readiness link at www.ohionationalguard.com or contact CW2 Carmen Davis by phone at (614) 336-7192 or via e-mail at carmen.davis@oh.ngb.army.mil.



SGT Christopher Schrantz reads notes left by community members while his unit was deployed in support of Noble Eagle.

Soldiers from the Ohio Army National Guard's 135th Military Police Company returned home July 25 after being deployed since last fall in support of Operation Noble Eagle.

Various dignitaries, including Lt. Gov. Maureen O'Connor, were on hand to welcome home 167 members in a ceremony—marked by all the familiar hugs, kisses, smiles and waving American flags—held at the unit's home station, the Brook Park Armory in the Cleveland suburbs.

O'Connor said it gave her emotions a tug when she looked at the crowd and saw the number of family members the deployment touched.

The men and women of the 135th were federally mobilized Oct. 9 to augment security at Fort Bragg, N.C., an Army installation where they performed duties such as identification checks, vehicle searches, presidential details and, in one unique case, delivering a baby.

Typically activated for state emergencies such as floods and other natural disasters, the 135th was mobilized this time in support of Operation Noble Eagle, the U.S. military's homeland defense mission. Deployments for Army National Guard units typically last six months, so coming home after being deployed for more than 300 days was extra special to many of the soldiers.

For Staff Sgt. Joseph Stefanich of Lorain,

135th MPs return home

By Spc. Haraz N. Ghanbari
HQ STARC (-)



SSG Joseph Stefanich holds his son, Hunter, at the 135th MP homecoming.

finally being home meant spending time with his wife and newborn son, Hunter, who is only 3 months old. Stefanich, a former active-duty soldier, has completed several long-term deployments, but with this mission came extra stress.

"This deployment was very trying on me and my family," Stefanich said. "I wasn't able to experience the entire pregnancy."

Not being able to make the doctor's check-ups with his wife meant long distance phone calls to hear the details. When it came time to have sonograms taken, his wife, Theresa would mail copies to him.

"I could sometimes make out a hand, or an eye or a foot," Stefanich said. "She would have to describe to me over the phone what I was looking at."

Brig. Gen. Ronald G. Young, Ohio's assistant adjutant general for Army, said the unit lived up the Ohio National Guard's motto because it "was ready, and it responded when called.

"We are very proud of what they did and especially happy they are home," he said. "Every soldier that deployed with this unit came back home safely."

According to Col. Gregory L. Wayt, Ohio Army National Guard chief of staff, as of late this summer, more than 10 percent of Ohio's 10,000 Army and Air National Guard forces were still mobilized for various missions supporting the war on terrorism state-side and overseas. ■

Ohio MPs fulfill homeland defense efforts, again

Story and photos by
Spc. Michelle Morgan, HQ STARC (-)

Tears streamed silently down a young woman's face as she cuddled her infant son swathed in blue; she knew he would be walking by the time they were reunited.

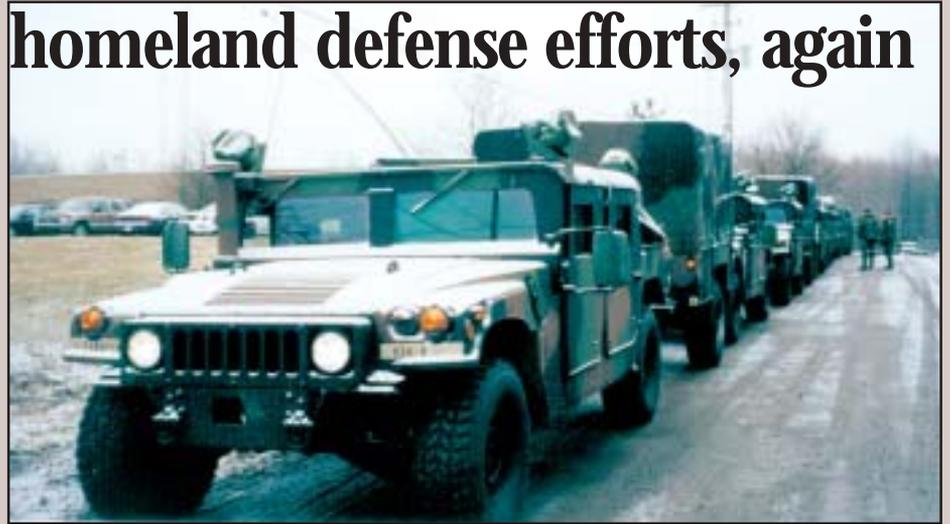
A small girl was hugged tightly against her father's chest; she'd been told he was leaving, but she did not fully understand why her mother was crying or why her daddy's eyes were puffy and red.

A woman stood in the brisk wind next to one of the many armored humvees lined in military precision beside the Christy Armory; her husband's arms supported her as they watched their son secure his gear.

A young couple sat alone in a crowded room, hands clasped as they awaited the call to formation; "I knew she might have to leave," he said quietly, "but...but she just graduated from boot camp in November."

Though sadness was the prevailing emotion during the deployment ceremony of March 23, steely determination, commitment and pride also could be felt as the 838th Military Police Company prepared to deploy more soldiers in support of Operation Noble Eagle, the military mission for homeland defense.

Because some soldiers from the Austintown unit were already deployed to Fort Bragg, N.C., the unit was augmented with troops from the 135th MP Company, Brook Park; 323rd MP Company, Toledo; and 324th MP Company, Middletown, as well as several volunteers from other Ohio



ABOVE: 838th MPs prepare their vehicles for convoy. RIGHT: PV2 Davida Gregory spends a moment with her brother, Devin, during the unit deployment ceremony in March.



Army Guard units for this new mission to support security at Army installations in the Washington D.C. area.

The value of Ohio's MPs to the nation is at an all-time high. About 50 unit soldiers deployed in October 2001 to Fort Bragg with MPs from other Ohio units, for up to one year. In addition, many soldiers serving at Fort Bragg and in Washington previously served in six of Ohio's commercial airports, supporting Federal Aviation Administration security personnel.

"Our motto is 'We will respond when called, with ready units,' said Brig. Gen. Ronald G. Young, Ohio assistant adjutant general for Army. "These soldiers have stepped up to the plate."

The 838th has a history of being ready, willing and able to deploy. Unit members have come to expect to be called to action anytime the nation faces conflict, having deployed for Operations Desert Storm and Joint Endeavor.

This deployment, however, was different than any other.

"This is the first time in the history of the 838th that soldiers had to inprocess back into the company just so you could re-mobilize with the rest of the company," said Lt. Col. Paola O'Flaherty, commander of 1-73rd Troop Command, at the send-off ceremony at Austintown Fitch Middle School. "For some of you, this is the second and even third deployment, because

LEFT: Gov. Bob Taft thanks PV2 Marvin Paul Jr. for his service in support of homeland defense efforts.

so many activated...months ago to secure our airports."

Gov. Bob Taft applauded the loyalty and commitment of the 838th at the ceremony as he shook hands with each soldier who had just returned from airport security duty.

"There is no prouder moment. The Ohio National Guard responds whenever our state or nation needs you," Taft said. "It was a job well done. Now, you are needed again."

The families present at the send-off ceremony and the following morning when the convoy left were just as supportive, though they were battling the upheaval of emotions when loved ones leave.

Deborah Weeda had mixed emotions about her husband's departure. A member of 2-174th Air Defense Artillery Battalion in McConnelsville, Sgt. Anthony Weeda is also a former active-duty MP who volunteered to augment the 838th.

"I'm frustrated. Angry. Being an MP is no longer his job in the military," Deborah said. "But I am also proud of him."

"This is just something I had to do," responded Weeda, who threw his wife a tentative look as he held one of their children.

Whether they volunteered or were told they were mobilizing, the citizen-soldiers that deployed with the 838th were committed to doing their job and doing it well. ■



MAJ Todd Weber / Task Force 1-73

ABOVE: Maj Gen John H. Smith (right), state adjutant general, meets with SGT Lance R. Nickles (left) and SGT Phillip T. Wert while the soldiers were on duty at the Toledo Express Airport. **RIGHT:** Soldiers are recognized at a DSCC ceremony for serving during the airport security mission.



Todd Cramer / AGOH-Photo Lab

‘Freedom Birds’ come home to land

Ceremony recognizes guardmembers who helped protect Ohio’s airports

Story by Steve Toth
Adj. Gen. Dept. Public Affairs

After eight months of helping protect air travelers who came through Ohio, the “Freedom Birds” of Task Force 1-73 came back to the respective nests they call home.

From last October to the end of May, more than 150 Ohio Guard soldiers augmented security at six metropolitan airports—Akron-Canton, Cleveland, Columbus, Dayton, Toledo and Youngstown—with the mission to help restore public trust and confidence in commercial air transportation after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

Soldiers were in airports within seven days of President Bush’s request to state governors to call up about 7,000 National Guardmembers to serve at more than 400 major airports nationwide, according to National Guard Bureau figures.

“It certainly demonstrates how quickly this nation can mobilize (its military) when there is a threat to its security,” said Maj. Gen. John H. Smith, state adjutant general. “When the call came out that we needed assistance, (the Ohio National Guard) responded.”

The call for guardmembers to leave their jobs and families came on a Friday, when they were ordered to report to their units on the following Sunday. They went through four days of inprocessing, qualification on the 9mm pistol and mandatory training by the Federal Aviation Administration, which included the proper rules of engagement; 133 Ohio Guard soldiers were fully trained, ready and in airports on Oct. 5, a mere week after being called to duty.

Family members and Ohio Guard leaders gathered June 1 at the Defense Supply Center-Columbus auditorium to recognize the soldiers of Task Force 1-73. The ceremony concluded a historical deployment, as it was the longest period of activation of Ohio National Guard soldiers at the direction of an Ohio governor for duty within the state.

“It’s good to see all of you soldiers back in BDUs. I know how traumatic it’s been for you,” Smith quipped, referring to the prescribed “Class B” dress uniform that soldiers wore on airport duty.

Smith said three groups deserve recognition for the success of the mission—the soldiers, the headquarters staff of Task Force 1-73 and, not least of all, the families. “We all understand how important their support is of this mission,” he said.

Soldiers were called up in groups at the ceremony by the respective airport in which they served. Many received awards and all of them received letters of appreciation from Smith, 1-73rd Task Force Commander Lt. Col. Paola O’Flaherty and Gov. Bob Taft for their contributions to national security and maintaining the peace.

“This mission has meant a lot—to the leadership of the Ohio National Guard, to the governor, the lieutenant governor and to the citizens of Ohio,” said Brig. Gen. Ronald G. Young, assistant adjutant general for Army. “You were ready when called, and you responded—and we thank you.”

While the Freedom Birds were comprised mainly of soldiers from the 324th and 838th Military Police Companies, based in Middletown and Youngstown, respectively, members of the 2-107th Cavalry Squadron, 1-147th Armor Battalion and 1-148th Infantry Battalion also performed duty at various times throughout the deployment.

“Soldiers were ripped from their homes, their jobs, schools and their lives,” O’Flaherty said. “When these soldiers were called, they indeed responded... (and they) quickly established the reputation of safe airports in Ohio.”

And despite the hardships and sacrifices that each soldier had to endure for the eight-month deployment, many said that they were proud to serve their state and nation in a time of need.

“After watching the events of Sept. 11 on television, it was only a matter of time, in my mind, that we would be called up,” said Spc. Jeremy Shearer, a member of the 324th who served in the Toledo Airport. “You train for 10 years, you want to utilize your skills.

“(Airport duty) was a historical event.”

National Guard troops patrolling airports were replaced by uniformed police officers in late May, until the new federal Transportation Security Administration completes the process of hiring and training its own law enforcement officers and baggage screeners. ■

148TH INFANTRY UPDATE

FAMED BATTALION SUPPORTS HOMELAND DEFENSE EFFORTS THROUGHOUT MIDWEST

BY CPT ANDY ANDERSON
1-148TH INFANTRY BATTALION

one of the first activated after Sept. 11, is illustrated through the vignettes that follow.

As of late September, most of the battalion's soldiers had returned to Ohio after serving their country for nearly a year. When the deployment is finished entirely and all the 1-148th Infantry soldiers have come home, another campaign streamer will be added to the unit's storied guidon. The lineage that began nearly 200 years ago will add Operation Noble Eagle to its history. The unit's soldiers will forever know that they made a difference when called upon. ■

The events of Sept. 11 will never seem far away. Just ask the members of the 1-148th Infantry Battalion.

The unit's soldiers have stood guard over some of the most critical U.S. assets since early October 2001. It was never meant to be an easy mission, in fact, this new mission of homeland defense has proven quite challenging.

Operation Noble Eagle kicked off shortly after President Bush's historic speech on Sept. 14, 2001. In response to the attacks he simply told everyone wearing a uniform, "Be ready."

Since that call, more than 600 soldiers of this famed infantry battalion have stood watch, carrying out force protection and site security missions at six sites in the Midwest. **Company A** deployed to Newport Chemical Depot, near Terre Haute, Ind. **Company B** was stationed at Fort Knox, Ky. **Company C** had a significant challenge in deploying to three sites including Rock Island, Ill., Lima Army Tank Plant and Ravenna Army Ammunition Plant. **Company D** was sent to provide security at the U.S. Army Garrison, Selfridge Air National Guard Base, Mich., as well as the headquarters for the U.S. Army Tank-automotive and Armament Command (TACOM) in Warren, Mich. **Company E** would augment forces primarily at Fort Knox. The **Battalion Headquarters**, operating out of Fort Knox, would provide troops and support for all of the sites.

What exactly the homeland defense mission entails and how the units' prior training made them a priority unit,

ROCK ISLAND ARSENAL

While Charlie Company had the daunting challenge of supplying soldiers to three different sites in two states, "Team Charlie Rock" was located at Rock Island Arsenal near Moline, Ill. on the banks of the Mississippi River. At "The Rock," Capt. Neal O'Brien engineered a security team that monitored vehicle and foot

traffic at all major passageways on the island. Team Rock also employed a Quick reaction Force (QRF) system. Working daily with Defense Department police, these soldiers augmented one of the tightest security areas in the military, inspecting up to 6,000 cars a day. Add to this the boat traffic that must be watched, the occasional pedestrian and even a swimmer or two, one can see the extreme task at hand. With a history dating back before the Civil War, Rock Island has many national landmarks and historical artifacts, which makes this military base a popular tourist attraction as well.

With more than 6,000 civilian employees and potential visitors, manning the entrance points to this post had its obvious challenges. By the end of the deployment, Team Rock had inspected 1.3 million cars, monitored more than 10,000 boats and countless trains. Team Rock detained foreign nationals who attempted to enter the island. Several major drug busts also can be attributed to the soldiers' efforts. They were even involved in a high-speed car chase that involved them using their humvees to pin in a would-be infiltrator.

O'Brien's unit also made an impact with the local community. Several days per month, selected soldiers participated in a mentoring program with the local schools. Soldiers read to these students and provided homework help.



Todd Cramer / AGOH-Photo Lab

LIMA ARMY TANK PLANT

The Lima Army Tank Plant, the Army's only tank manufacturing facility, was the temporary home for about 50 of Charlie Company's soldiers. These soldiers were given the enormous task of augmenting the existing security teams in protecting one of the most important national security sites. The transition from infantry soldier to homeland defense soldier is not difficult because of the shared skills needed to perform both duties. This task included patrolling dense tree lines, roads, local waterways and a myriad of other avenues of approach. These patrols were conducted with humvees or dismounted throughout the about 4,000 square acres at Lima.

Until later in the deployment, the soldiers from Charlie Company did not have permanent quarters available. The soldiers of "Team Tank" had to turn an old infirmary into their living quarters. They were supplied with computers, televisions, microwaves, refrigerators and other items needed for a lengthy stay. The local YMCA also chipped in free memberships to the soldiers. The Y offered a much-needed change of scenery for the soldiers, allowing them to work out or play racquetball. "Even though we weren't that far from home, we were still deployed and doing a real-world mission," Staff Sgt. Doug Kirshner said. "It's nice that the surrounding community accepted us and helped us with the mission by giving us perks such as the gym."

RAVENNA

The Ravenna Army Ammunition Plant has been closed for years as a manufacturing facility. It now serves as a National Guard training area and a wildlife refuge. However, it still holds materials that are essential for today's military. The site was protected by a third group of Charlie Company soldiers. "Besides making sure that the deer didn't escape, we ran a very proactive patrol and site security mission. Ravenna is a nice place to provide homeland defense. It's not too far from home and the scenery is pretty nice," said Capt. Paul Batory, 1-148th site OIC. The soldiers protecting Ravenna gained valuable experience that they can take back and share with soldiers from their unit or others that may be called on to perform similar missions.

FORT KNOX

Bravo Company was tasked with force protection at Fort Knox, Ky. Assigned to the post's provost marshal, these soldiers augmented the base military police and the 16th Cavalry Regiment.

"Team Bravo" was augmented internally at Fort Knox by soldiers from Echo Company. The daily routine took shape literally on day one of their assignment. After moving into their living quarters, the soldiers were given their intelligence and operations briefings, and then were sent to mission sites for which they would be responsible. The soldiers quickly began vehicle inspections and overwatching procedures at main gates leading into Fort Knox. They would also be responsible for manning a 24-hour Quick Reaction Force (QRF). Battle drills and post-wide exercises were conducted on a daily basis. This training enabled the soldiers to stay focused and ready at a moment's notice. The training included the realistic exercises conducted by the agencies at Fort Knox. One such exercise had the entire post under alert for a chemical agent. This very realistic exercise included communications drills, blocking of roads and mock casualties. Spearheading the response teams was Bravo Company. Similar exercises will be a mainstay for most posts located worldwide. The lessons learned from them will help in the development of techniques for real events.

"When leaders sit down to organize a plan such as this one," Bravo 1st Sgt. James Barker said, "making sure that the soldier's time is being used wisely is as critical as any other mission."

The morning activities were basically the same as any day while on active duty. Soldiers woke up, attended to personal hygiene and prepared for either physical training or their mission. Physical training ranged from normal calisthenics to intrasquad sports. Hand-to-hand combat and other combative skills were also taught during the PT hours. These self-defense skills, which directly impact a soldier's readiness, became a huge part of the normal PT regimen. The soldiers noticed a difference in their shape and readiness for close combat. "You never want to have to use this on people but its nice to know if I needed to, I could definitely defend myself," Spc. Lamont Wagner said.

The soldiers' gate mission incorporated the skills that were taught to unit members during the homeland defense training in October 2001. Vehicle inspections, identification checks, observation posts and security overwatch are a few examples of the skills all soldiers of Team Bravo routinely performed.

Several incidents justified the extensive training.

SELFRIDGE ANG BASE

Delta Company from North Canton deployed to U.S. Army Garrison, located at Selfridge Air National Guard Base, Mich. Located on the shores of Lake St. Claire, Selfridge Air National Guard Base is home to members of all five services. The lake is the only boundary between the coastal shores of the United States and Canada.

The soldiers from Delta Company trained with local law enforcement as well as Department of Defense police. They trained in combined communication exercises, building search procedures, residential security actions, manned gate operations and other tasks. The soldiers were postured to take action at a moment's notice. Besides manning stationary defensive positions, the soldiers also utilized mobile quick reaction teams. The planning and execution of the mission fell on Capt. Blake Frederick, 1-148th site OIC. As the company commander,



Todd Cramer / AGOH-Photo Lab



Courtesy photo

In early March, a very alert Bravo soldier noticed something unusual about people entering Fort Knox in a truck from a cleaning service. This turned out to be one of the area's most unique drug busts. Weapons and other contraband items were discovered as well.

As part of the QRF, Bravo soldiers had to be ready to respond to any post emergency at all times. On-duty soldiers stayed in a ready room at an undisclosed location and manned communication links with the post law enforcement agencies as well as other off-post agencies. When the siren went

off, these troops had a set time when they had to report to higher commands for further instructions.

Each soldier also had to learn to manage his time well. For a nearly yearlong deployment it was essential for soldiers to take care of their living quarters and military uniforms. The soldiers had their barracks inspected on a regular basis, so "G.I. parties" occurred frequently.

The Headquarters and Headquarters Company of the battalion also established operations from Fort Knox, Ky. The administrative needs and logistical support for the forward units was a daily mission in itself. Supporting six mission sites in five states could be a daunting task but not for this unit. Promotions, payroll, soldiers' records, awards and training requirements, all were tracked by the staff members and their sections.

The battalion staff also had to ensure training was being conducted for those soldiers that did not deploy initially last October. More than 200 soldiers were left behind from the initial mobilization. They would still need a training plan for their drill weekends.

The staff was also responsible for mobilizing more than 80 additional soldiers in early May. These soldiers had to go through the same scenario that was presented to the battalion roughly eight months prior. The added experience of going through the mobilization helped manifest these soldiers to their mission sites with minimal disruptions.

it was his job to ensure that all aspects of force protection and site security were addressed.

"When we got there in October (2001), the only thing on our minds was stopping terrorists. That was our mission and (remained so). We were the deterrent," Frederick said. "When people saw us patrolling or providing security, they knew we were trained and ready to take action if needed. You can tell they had a trust in our abilities. They knew we were there for their protection."

From inside his observation point, Spc. John McClay had seen ice, snow and rain as well as the giant swans that grace the lake. He remained vigilant with his watch. "To look out over the lake and know there is another country just over there was pretty cool. We saw the different boats from the different marinas. So we know that lake got pretty busy. It was important for us to stay focused and alert in case something unusual happened."

NEWPORT CHEMICAL DEPOT

Company A had probably one of the toughest missions in the Army. Soldiers were conducting missions not unlike those they would do in a foreign combat zone. The Newport Chemical Depot (NECD) lies in rough terrain in an area known for its changing weather. In the winter, temperatures dropped to 20 degrees below zero with even colder wind chills. The spring brought a gambit of snow and thunderstorms. That didn't provide for much comfort in the heart of tornado alley.

Guarding what used to be a priority mission for the 101st Airborne, Company A relieved the 101st when that unit went on to be the main force in Afghanistan for Operation Enduring Freedom. The NECD by treaty must remain secured at all times. The depot stores one of the world's most dangerous substances, VX nerve gas. The site is now one of eight that is in the process of destroying the deadly agent. The task of securing this site was a sobering reality in the war against terrorism.

The soldiers, however, adjusted as any combat unit would do. A day in the life of an "Alpha Assassin" varied. "With...the sensitivity of our site, it was extremely important for all fire teams to understand everyone's mission," said Capt. Brian Tackett, 1-148th site officer-in-charge. "They may be called on, and were called on, to do different missions. Without understanding the entire scope of our mission, we would handicap ourselves by not having options. It also enabled me as the commander to make sure that I am rotating my troops to keep them fresh."

A typical day at the Newport site consisted of mission duty, physical training and equipment maintenance. The mornings came dark and early for one shift. After performing personal hygiene and getting dressed, soldiers got ready for their daily pre-combat inspections (PCI).

Checking each other's gear was essential for mission success. As the platoon sergeant diligently inspected each item on a soldier, "battle buddies," or soldiers partnered up with each other, were doing the same. It was not a good idea to show up at the PCI and not have everything together. M-16 rifles, machine guns and other weapon systems were function checked, then the soldiers prepared for movement.

Most soldiers moved to their positions by humvees that also needed to be checked each time they were used.

As for missions, soldiers could conduct patrols or provide reconnaissance. The woodline at Newport is a good source for cover and concealment. That works for potential enemies as well, so active patrolling measures were always a possibility. No matter what mission was at hand, the soldiers' day was full. "Our squad was always on the move. If we weren't in our defensive position, we were training for our defensive position. Or we were doing PT (physical training)," said Sgt. David Shultz. "We had to patrol, so staying in shape was a must."

The infantry skills that are necessary for the soldiers of Alpha Company were the same ones that they used during annual training last year at the National Training Center located at Fort Irwin, Calif. Observation skills, detection methods and fire team control measures were rehearsed over and over for the exercise at NTC. This time it was for real.

121st Civil Engineers return from Pakistan

Story by Tech. Sgt. Greg Rudl
121st Air Refueling Wing

Family, friends, coworkers and dignitaries, including Gov. Bob Taft, greeted members of the 121st Air Refueling Wing's Civil Engineering Squadron as they returned home March 22 to Rickenbacker after a four-month deployment to Pakistan.

"As a group, our deployment to Pakistan was the most important mission we have ever had," said Maj. Mike Troxell, who, along with nearly 50 other CE members conducted various engineering projects at a military base in an undisclosed part of the country.

"It is no small sacrifice for the men and women of this unit to leave their families in support of Operation Enduring Freedom," said Maj. Gen. Paul J. Sullivan, assistant adjutant general for Air. "It serves as a reminder that the same people you call your neighbor today, may be sent tomorrow to locations across the globe to perform military missions on behalf of the United States."

"I did what I had to do, but I'm glad it's over with," said one CE member, describing his four months working in austere conditions.

Senior Master Sgt. Rick Rowe spent 120 days in Pakistan installing heating and air conditioning units in metal-framed tents. "We were building a tent city on old rice paddies," he said. A foundation of concrete pads had to be constructed before tents could be erected, he explained.

Rowe said his lasting impression of the area was the dirtiness and contamination. "They (the Pakistanis) were burning trash on the other side of the runway, and it was blowing our way," he said. "It always smelled bad."

Rowe's wife Debbie said that they kept in touch through e-mail. "I don't know what I would have done without that," she said, adding that one of the most difficult aspects of the deployment was not knowing when her husband would return. "Even till the day he came home, I wasn't sure."

According to Staff Sgt. Gerald Jensen, a utilities specialist, the squadron worked 10-hour days, 6 days a week and slept in an open bay tent. He also said they dined on a steady supply of individual and "group" MREs. One of the first things they did when they arrived back in the United States was order a pizza.

For entertainment, the USO put on



121st Air Refueling Wing Visual Information

shows that included Drew Carey, Wayne Newton and Joan Jett.

Staff Sgt. John Motley, a liquid fuels maintenance specialist, took care of the jet fuel storage facility.

"When we first got there, we had to build (the facility) up completely," he said, explaining that the initial construction took the first 45 days of his deployment.

After receiving notification of his call-up, Motley said his first concern was his family's welfare. Though he was a Desert Storm veteran, he was single at that time. "My family never had to go through anything like this before.

"I'm glad that they gave us some time before we left, so that I could explain everything to my wife so she could take care of things," he said while flanked by his three young daughters.

Motley said unit members developed a good rapport with the Pakistanis near their base camp. "They were very nice people," he said, "they were always willing to talk to us." The locals would offer tea on occasion and CE played volleyball against a team of Pakistanis who, according to Jensen, were of Olympic caliber.

"We formed a great relationship with the base commander, who was a Pakistani colonel," Troxell said. "With his help, we built a playground for the local children."

Staff Sgt. Keith Hess, a utilities systems journeyman, had a less-than-glamorous, yet vital job while in Pakistan. "We main-



Courtesy photo



121st Air Refueling Wing Visual Information

CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT: SSgt Gerald Jensen hugs his daughter, Jessica. Deployed utility systems journeymen maintain the installation's water supply. MSgt Gregory White presents a certificate and U.S. flag that flew over Kuwait to Gov. Bob Taft.

tained the latrines and ran water trucks back and forth to keep the installation water supply up," Hess said.

Hess credited members of the 101st Airborne Division with providing a sense of security for their home away from home. "It was a lot safer than I thought it was going to be," he said.

His wife Jenny, who was pregnant with their third child, said she received calls from 121st family support members a couple times a week checking up on how the family was doing. Two of her biggest concerns during her husband's deployment included Keith's health and explaining Daddy's absence to their two young children.

"Leo (the 2-year-old) thought that Daddy was on a bus the whole time he was gone because he left on a bus," she said. "But the 5-year-old understood."

While the homecoming was memorable for all 121st members, it proved to be particularly eventful for the Hess family. The first thing Keith did was go to the hospital due to a kidney stone, and, soon after, he went to another to witness his wife give birth to a baby girl. ■

200th RED HORSE deploys to Southwest Asia



By Spc. Haraz N. Ghanbari
HQ STARC (-)

Hugs, kisses and American flags punctuated the send-off ceremony June 18 for members of the Ohio Air National Guard's 200th RED HORSE Squadron, based in Port Clinton.

More men and women of the RED HORSE—an Air Force acronym for Rapid Engineer Deployable Heavy Operational Repair Squadron, Engineers—joined previously deployed personnel who mobilized May 2 in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

The unit worked to construct airfield facilities in Southwest Asia for U.S. and allied air forces in the war

against terrorism.

Staff Sgt. Kerry O'Hara, 24, of Lorain, joined her father, Tech. Sgt. Ralph O'Hara, who was mobilized with the first rotation.

"I am proud of them, very proud of them," said Beverly O'Hara, Kerry's mother and Ralph's wife. "We've been doing a lot of letters and e-mails so far with the husband already gone. (There will be) more letter-writing, more e-mails, more packages."

For Staff Sgt. Steven Lindo, of Grafton, this marked the sixth deployment during his enlistment—the third experienced by his 5-year-old son, Tyler.

Lindo said he was anxious to complete the work the unit was trained to do.

The work performed by the RED HORSE unit is important to the overall U.S. effort, said Maj. Gen. Paul J. Sullivan, assistant adjutant general for Air and commander of the 5,000-member Ohio Air National Guard.

"This unit has been phenomenally busy, supporting both the state and the nation every time they have been called on," Sullivan said. "They always step up when they are asked to."

The 200th RED HORSE Squadron directly supports combat air power worldwide and provides highly mobile,

rapidly deployable engineers, which are self-sufficient for limited periods of time. The unit has trained throughout the United States and Canada, Europe, Central and South America, Southeast Asia and the North Pacific Islands.

Several unit members recently returned from a Defense Department humanitarian mission in Kingston, Jamaica, where their expertise was used to construct a community medical clinic and a dormitory for the Jamaican Defense Forces, as well as road improvements needed in the region. Ohio's RED HORSE airmen headed the mission—named Joint Task Force Blue Mountain—which included overall supervision and manpower for a team of Air Force, Marine and Air National Guard engineers.

"The active-duty RED HORSE units had a project in Jamaica, and once they got their deployment to Southwest Asia, they handed off the Jamaica project to us," Lt. Col. Michael Skomrock said. "They have the same size squadron we have...and we kept the Jamaica project once we got our orders to Southwest Asia."

"Our airmen were highly complimented for their accomplishments and their professionalism. They represented Ohio in an exemplary fashion," said



SSgt Tim Fury bows his head in prayer prior to deployment.

Maj. Gen. John H. Smith, state adjutant general.

With five rotations of RED HORSE personnel helping to make the Jamaica mission a success, the unit was pulling double duty to prepare for its deployment to Southwest Asia.

"I am kind of excited, just ready to go and get over all the hype...go over there and do our jobs the way I know we can do it," said 19-year-old Senior Airman Rob Skomrock. Knowing his father would soon join him on the mission, the junior Skomrock boarded the bus saying, "God bless all the families that are left behind." ■



SSgt Randy Richmond kisses his wife Charlotte goodbye.



Steve Toth / AGOH-Public Affairs

CSM David Collins of 73rd Troop Command salutes during the playing of “The Star-Spangled Banner” at a ceremony in remembrance of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

Ceremony honors heroes, victims of Sept. 11 attacks

A public ceremony on the West Lawn of the Ohio Statehouse honored the one-year anniversary of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks on the United States, paying tribute to the victims as well as the many Americans who have answered the call to serve in the last year.

Gov. Bob Taft hosted the remembrance and recognition ceremony, dubbed “An Ohio Tribute to the American Spirit,” which included about 400 Ohio disaster responders from several local, state and national organizations.

Many of the Ohio responders honored during the ceremony aided victims, the families of victims and the local emergency response teams at the attack sites. Taft also recognized Ohio armed forces personnel called on to provide homeland defense or fight against terrorism since 9-11.

“We are equally proud of the men and women of the Ohio National Guard, and our military reservists and active-duty troops,” Taft said. “Many have left their families to defend our freedom. We salute their bravery; we express our appreciation and support to their families. And we pray for their safe return.”

Within two weeks following Sept. 11, 2001, the Ohio National Guard had mobilized more than 2,500 soldiers and airmen in support of the war on terrorism, deploying either for Operation Enduring Freedom—the actions taking place in and around Afghanistan—or Operation Noble Eagle—the American homeland defense mission.

“Many of you proudly answered the

call to duty from the president and governor of Ohio,” said Maj. Gen. John H. Smith, state adjutant general, in a message to all Ohio Guardmembers. “For your commitment and sacrifice, your community, your state and your nation are grateful.” **ADJ. GEN. DEPT. PUBLIC AFFAIRS**

Unit ‘Boss Lift’ helps educate employers

While, as aviators and soldiers, members of Company A, 1-137th Assault Helicopter Battalion are dedicated to being the best at their profession, this may

not be as well known by each traditional soldier’s civilian employer.

In light of this, the company wanted to go the extra mile and return something to those employers for their patience, understanding and support, as well as educate them about what their employees do in service to their state and nation.

Capt. Bob Cutajar, Company A commander, decided to take the initiative and provide a “Boss Lift” helicopter orientation ride for unit soldiers’ employers during a recent drill weekend.

The “Boss Lift,” which consisted of four UH-60A “Black Hawk” utility helicopters and their crews, deployed to four different Ohio airports—Akron-Canton, Cincinnati, Columbus and Dayton—to conduct the 35-45-minute orientation rides.

After the flight and some unit briefings, employers left the day with a better understanding of the unit’s mission and the critical role the Army National Guard plays in national defense.

A total of 39 employers participated in the “Boss Lift.” According to some unit members, this was the best thing to happen to improve their employers’ understanding of their Guard mission.

The reaction from the employers was even better—for many, this was their first experience with the military and they now view it with a newfound respect. **CPT MATT MURPHY / CO. A, 1-137TH AVIATION BATTALION**

Buckeye Guard again among best in National Guard, Army

Buckeye Guard magazine, the official publication of the 15,000-member Ohio National Guard, placed second among all active and reserve components in the 2001 Department of the Army Keith L. Ware military journalism competition held earlier this year.

Buckeye Guard, in finishing second in the category for military-funded magazines, has placed in the Keith L. Ware contest four straight years, including a first-place finish in 2000. *Buckeye Guard* also has won the National Guard Bureau Media Contest the past four consecutive years, and eight of the past 10 years.

The magazine was further honored with a second-place finish in the command information category of the 2001 Minuteman Mike Awards competition, sponsored by the Adjutants General Association of the United States (AGAUS). **ADJ. GEN. DEPT. PUBLIC AFFAIRS**

Ravenna AT lets engineers do mission closer to home

For Chillicothe’s Alpha Company, 216th Engineer Battalion (Combat Heavy), along with elements of Bravo Company, Headquarters Support Company, 416th Engineer Group and the 16th Engineer Brigade, last year’s annual training was a two-week period in which soldiers showcased their knowledge and abilities in an assortment of tasks and projects.

The annual training mission—conducted at the Ravenna Training and Logistics Site (RTL5)—consisted of four major projects which gave the soldiers ample opportunity to utilize their engineering skills.

Sgt. Kevin Wallace, noncommissioned-officer-in-charge of the wetlands reclama-

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tion sites, had his soldiers operating a multitude of heavy equipment including D8 bulldozers, earth scrapers, dump trucks and graders. More than 50,000 cubic yards of dirt were moved over the two-week period to create wetlands at the training site.

For another project, Sgt. Kenneth Horsley, NCOIC of the Tank Table IV range, had his soldiers operating heavy equipment as well constructing a target berm; while Sgt. 1st Class Julia Siffon and Staff Sgt. Sandy Lewis—along with personnel from B Company—had their soldiers utilizing their masonry and construction skills building a helicopter pad for the Ravenna Arsenal. Many of the troops also gained valuable experience by learning different tasks while cross-training outside their assigned Military Occupational Specialties (MOSs).

Col. Steve Stohla, a brigade designer engineer, accompanied A Company Commander Capt. Mark A. Raaker on trips to the project sites and expressed his appreciation and admiration for the soldiers' work. "I am impressed with the morale and esprit de corps of Alpha Company, and the technical expertise of their NCOs," he said.

Tim Morgan, RTLS environmental supervisor, expressed appreciation as well. "The wetland sites were constructed as a requirement of the Clean Water Act. We had to fill a small wetland to build the parking lot for the armory and barracks, and had to apply for a wetland fill permit,

which required us to mitigate the loss of the wetland with the construction and enhancement of other wetlands," he said. "Thanks to the 216th Engineers, we were able to comply with the permit and meet our environmental stewardship responsibilities."

The Ravenna training ground encompasses an area of more than 21,419 acres and hosts many threatened and endangered species. Due to the 216th Engineers and the training they conducted, the habitat has been enhanced and improved. **SGT CURT RADABAUGH / A CO., 216TH ENGINEER BATTALION**

Entrants sought for annual Newark Veterans Day 5K

This fall marks the third anniversary of the Newark Veterans Day 5K run—an event conducted by Ohio Army National Guard Combined Services Maintenance Shop employees, in conjunction with American Legion Post 85—in downtown Newark.

The first two years' races were very successful in projecting Guard presence in the community and involving citizens in the celebration of all U.S. military veterans, past and present.

All proceeds from the race benefit veterans in need. In the past, the money has gone to provide gifts and comfort items to nursing home veterans during the holidays.

This year the race continues to grow and will be held Nov. 9, and includes a new team competition as well. Start time is 8 a.m. at American Legion Post 85, and the entry fee is \$15 for those who pre-register, and \$18 on race day. The first 125 entrants will receive long-sleeved t-shirts. There are awards for the top three finishers in various age groups, for both men and women.

Anyone interested in volunteering to help with or enter the race, or for more information, contact Sgt. 1st Class Rodger McDonald at the CSMS at (614) 336-6032. **WAR-RANT OFFICER JOE COCANOUR / 73RD TROOP COMMAND**



Courtesy photo

After key personnel losses, the Ohio National Guard Biathlon Team looks to rebuild for the future, led by Jessica Hay (above), who earned a silver medal in the women's novice race at the 2001 NGB Championships.

Ohio Guard Biathlon Team building for future

When four exhausted Ohio biathletes crossed the finish line third in the 15-kilometer patrol race at the 2001 National Guard Bureau Biathlon Championships, they didn't realize that they had made Ohio National Guard history—never before had Ohio placed in a team event.

With a less experienced team at the 2002 event, Ohio could not improve upon its accomplishments of the previous year. "This year was a rebuilding year. We lost three seasoned competitors," said team coordinator-coach Maj. Tom Haidet. "You need experience to place well in the team events."

Ohio is currently looking for young and fit individuals determined to take the state's program to the next level. One doesn't need to know how to shoot or ski, just a willingness to learn and work hard. The team conducts much of its training at a small range near Centerburg. The winter season includes training trips to Montana and Michigan, and culminates with the NGB Championships early next year.

For more information on joining the team, contact Haidet at (614) 336-6037. **TSGT GREG RUDL / 121ST AIR REFUELING WING**

Bridge building takes practice, preparation



SGT Paul Burns / 1193rd Engineer Company

SFC Jerry Hazlett of the 1193rd Engineer Company (Panel Bridge), Cincinnati, uses a fork lift to move Bailey Bridge parts at the Felicity Armory in preparation for the unit's annual training that was conducted this past summer at Camp Grayling, Mich. One of the Ohio Army National Guard units in the Army Forces Command Force Support Package, the 1193rd is one of the highest-rated units of its kind, among both active and reserve components.



MSgt. Teresa Kinter-Buford / 178th Fighter Wing

Maj Gen John H. Smith (left) is presented the Lt. Henry A. Beckley Award from Art Hannel (center) and Skip Beckley Jr. during the annual Armed Forces Day Luncheon in Springfield.

Springfield military, civic organizations honor Smith

As part of the 20th annual Armed Forces Day Luncheon held May 6 in Springfield, Maj. Gen. John H. Smith, state adjutant general, received the Lt. Henry A. Beckley Award, which recognizes distinguished service to community, state and nation, with emphasis on achievement in support of military and aviation related activities.

The Beckley award was named in honor of World War I aviator and distinguished community leader Henry Addison Beckley, also namesake of the Springfield-Beckley Municipal Airport, home to the 178th Fighter Wing. The award is presented each year at the local Armed Forces Day Luncheon, one of several Miami Valley Military Affairs Association annual Springfield-Clark civic-military functions. The luncheon also is supported as a joint effort of the local Rotary and Kiwanis. SSGT KATHERINE ARVAI / 178TH FIGHTER WING

Howarth receives Legion of Merit for years of service

Among the recognition he garnered during his retirement dinner in March, Brig. Gen. Robert A. Howarth received the Legion of Merit Award from the Ohio Air National Guard.

Howarth was presented with the award jointly by Maj. Gen. John H. Smith, state adjutant general, and Maj. Gen. Paul J. Sullivan, assistant adjutant general for Air.

The Legion of Merit Award is given

to a person for extraordinary achievement in the performance of outstanding service to the United States, or exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding service to the United States.

Howarth served for more than 31 years in Ohio National Guard, beginning in 1972 on the judge advocate staff at Rickenbacker Air National Guard Base, Columbus.

In January 1984, Howarth joined the Ohio Air National Guard Headquarters, where he became a legal advisor for the state adjutant general, assistant adjutant general for Air and headquarters staff.

Howarth said his goal was making sure Air National Guard members received fair treatment in accordance with the law. He provided counseling and resolutions to Guard-related problems, and he established a communication network for all Ohio Air National Guard judge advocates, which resulted in uniform standards for legal issues.



Howarth

firm of Shoemaker, Winkler, Howarth and Taylor, located in Columbus. MSGT EALNOR GREY / 178TH FIGHTER WING

121st retention manager earns national recognition

Master Sgt. Vickie L. White-Callender, 121st Air Refueling Wing Retention Office manager, was named the Air National Guard Retention Officer Manager of the Year for 2001.

"I was one of five regional winners. I felt a lump in my throat when Chief Paske (Air National Guard Readiness Center Chief of Retention Operations) announced that I was also the national winner," White-Callender said. "It was a shock and a good feeling. I know that someone noticed what I do really makes a difference."

In addition to her normal duties at the 121st, White-Callender is a volunteer instructor for the Air National Guard, as a Retention Officer Manager Productivity

System instructor at McGee Tyson Air Force Base in Alcoa, Tenn. She also manages the 121st ARW's participation in the Air Mobility Command Around The World In Ninety Days Program (ATWIND), according to 2nd Lt. Troy Shoffstall, the 121st's director of personnel.

White-Callender said the ATWIND Program helps the wing promote esprit de corps for military members. Members complete various activities to obtain game pieces and, using the Internet or a toll-free phone number, enter a contest for a variety of prizes from t-shirts to automobiles.

White-Callender is actively participating on a national committee to rewrite ANG Retention Regulation ANGI 36-2606, and manages the bonus programs for the 121st ARW, as well as the Montgomery GI Bill and Kicker Program, and the Student Loan Repayment Program.

White-Callender began her military career in 1977 serving in the Air Force Reserve. She has been a member of the Ohio Air National Guard since 1990. MSGT EALNOR GREY / 178TH FIGHTER WING



White-Callender

Two RTI instructors bridge generation gap, literally

As the senior operations sergeant at the 145th Regiment, Regional Training Institute, Sgt. Maj. James Osborn is training the next generation of Ohio Army National Guard soldiers.

His situation is somewhat unique, however, because one of the young noncommissioned officers under his charge happens to be his son.

Sgt. Joseph Osborn, who served four years of active duty with the 82nd Airborne Division, joined the Ohio National Guard expressly because he wanted to serve with his father. Both men helped to run the operations section of the RTI and 1st Armor Training Battalion at Camp Grayling during annual training. Often working as a team, they are now affectionately referred to as "Big O" and "Little O" by those who work with them.

Initially, Sgt. Osborn had some concerns about being compared to his father, but after working with and for him at the RTI, he believes their relationship has served to benefit both them and the Ohio Guard.

Lt. Col. Dan Allen, 1st Armor Training Battalion commander, could not agree more. "They work as a cohesive team, backing each other up to ensure the RTI students get the best possible training."

Allen hopes to keep this team working together as long as possible. "We're always seeking to improve operational efficiency. These two have helped to set a high standard the past couple years, and I look forward to having both of them accomplish just as much in the future." MAJ TODD WEBER / 145TH REGIMENT, RTI

Husband, wife balance Guard, family time commitments

Oct. 1, 2001 was a special day for Sheri and John Johnson, Ohio Army Guard husband and wife team, as they both achieved promotion to the rank of sergeant first class. It marked a pinnacle in both their military and personal lives.

Those who are in the military know that service can be demanding, but it can be even more so when both spouses are citizen-soldiers. Family and work considerations intensify since both parents attend drill, complete military education, keep fit and stay focused in order to be successful.

The Johnsons' three children—Anna, Travis, and Spencer—are top priority for Mom and Dad. Both parents work hard to maintain balanced lifestyles for their children, ensuring time spent together is al-

ways quality time.

The Johnsons have more than 35 years of combined military service. "The military is a big part of life, but family means the most to us," Sheri said. "Without family, challenges and rewards hold little value. It's kind of a family affair."

A guardmember for the past 18 years, Sheri has been the administrative NCO in the Equal Opportunity section of Headquarters, State Area Command (HQ STARC), Columbus, since 1997. After completing a 12-year active-duty career, John joined the Ohio Army National Guard, recently serving as the unit training NCO for HQ STARC (-).

Ever expanding their horizons, the Johnsons again took on new military duties in November 2001. John accepted a job as the senior personnel sergeant for the 134th Field Artillery Battalion, headquartered in Columbus, and Sheri became the assistant Equal Opportunity advisor for the 145th Regiment, Regional Training Institute, also located in Columbus. CW2 RICK NIEHE / HQ STARC (-)

Purpose of charity hits close to home for Guard officer

Each year breast cancer becomes more prevalent in the world. It is a major cause of death among both adult women and men in the United States.

In order to fight the disease, many organizations are now sharing a common sense cause; raising money through pledges and individual contributions to help fund research to cure the disease.

Members of the 237th Personnel Services Battalion, Columbus, recently participated in the Race for the Cure.

This run-fitness walk is conducted in more than 100 cities nationwide and three foreign countries. Participants number more than 1.3 million annually, with 75 percent of all contributions remaining at the local level to help fund research and local breast cancer awareness initiatives.

Capt. Allison Whatley, battalion training officer for the 237th, has participated in the race for the past four years. "My family and I got involved originally just to support the research because I know that many women and men who have become victims of breast cancer need help," Whatley said.

The very reason Whatley got involved hit very close to home last year when her



Todd Cramer / AGOH-Photo Lab

CPT Allison Whatley (left), already a participant in the Race for the Cure the past four years, was even more inspired when her mother, Betty (right), was diagnosed with breast cancer last year.

mother, Betty, was diagnosed with breast cancer and began a lengthy road to recovery. "It really hits home when someone so close to you is diagnosed with cancer," she said. "It also brought to light the possibility that my sister, Robin, and I may some day be in the same situation as my mother. So we both have to make sure we do the monthly self-breast exams."

This year's race, which was held locally in Columbus, required volunteers of all kinds in order to ensure the success of the race. Capt. Evette Shahid, commander of the 337th Personnel Services Detachment, and Chief Warrant Officer 4 Steve Vagnier led 25 uniformed volunteer members of the 337th in traffic control along the race route, and in other tasks as needed.

Shahid also has two family members, an older sister and a twin sister who are survivors of the disease. "I was so overwhelmed with being a part of the race and being with all the survivors there," she said. "There is no doubt that there are many members of our unit who have someone close to them who are also survivors."

Added Whatley, "Next year we expect many more volunteers so that we can make a statement against this dreaded disease which is affecting so many who are close to us." MSG BOB MULLINS / 196TH MOBILE PUBLIC AFFAIRS DETACHMENT

Head of the class



CPT Andy Anderson / 1-148th Infantry Battalion

Fort Knox CSM William Gainey (third from left) was on hand to congratulate recent Ohio National Guard graduates of the Army Primary Leadership Development Course, including CPL Michael White (from left), SGT Joshua Ricketts, SGT Richard Charles and SGT Jason Hughes, all soldiers from the 1-148th Infantry Battalion. Fifteen of the school's 88 class graduates were from the 1-148th, and three distinguished honor graduates also were members of the "Voodoo" Battalion.

DoD requests \$30.8 billion for Guard, Reserve budget

The reserve components' fiscal 2003 budget request for \$30.8 billion for personnel, operations, equipment procurement and facilities is 12 percent more than last year's funding.

"Most of this increase is going toward the defense health program's anticipated expenses, across-the-board and targeted pay raises, bonuses, operations tempo increases and recruiting," said Jennifer Buck, deputy assistant secretary of defense for reserve affairs resources.

Some \$2.3 billion is earmarked for procurement and modernization, including UH-60 helicopters, tactical vehicles, trucks, aircraft modernization and support equipment and towed howitzers.

The \$30.8 billion fiscal 2003 request doesn't reflect any supplemental appropriation for unbudgeted expenses related to the Sept. 11 attacks. The 2002 defense supplemental appropriation addressed those concerns, Buck said.

"The fiscal 2003 request for \$30.8 billion is for the normal operating expenses of the National Guard and Reserve," she said. "The 2003 budget does, however, increase reserve component support in training and exercising with traditional first responders across America. About \$33 million goes toward weapons of mass destruction medical training.

The budget request also includes \$5.5 million for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve; additional funds will be used for Operations Noble Eagle and Enduring Freedom, and force protection. **AMERICAN FORCES PRESS SERVICE**

Veterans Affairs increases, extends home loan program

An act recently passed by Congress and signed by President Bush increases the guaranty on Veterans Affairs home loans from \$50,750 to \$60,000.

The increase means eligible veterans can use their loan benefit to purchase a home costing as much as \$240,000 without a down payment. Many lenders will make VA no-down-payment loans for four times the maximum guaranty amount, said Judy Caden, deputy director of VA's Loan Guaranty Service. Before the president signed the Veterans Education and Benefits Expansion Act of 2001 late last year, the

maximum guaranty was \$50,750, which allowed no-down-payment loans of up to \$203,000.

"We recommended increasing the loan guaranty a couple of years ago because of rising housing costs," she said.

The new law also extends housing loans for National Guard and Reserve personnel from September 2007 to Sept. 30, 2009. Reserve component personnel are authorized the same home loan guarantees as active-duty personnel. For more information, visit the VA website at www.va.gov. **AMERICAN FORCES PRESS SERVICE**



University of Toledo gives helping hand to veteran students

A special office on the University of Toledo main campus exists to implement the recruitment, processing and integration of veteran students at the university.

The UT Military Service Center is located in room 116 of the Army ROTC building, and is open from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

The center's main function is to process requests for veterans who wish to use their Department of Veterans Affairs Educational Benefits—such as the Montgomery G.I. Bill and other tuition assistance—to attend school. The center offers a student lounge and computer lab that is used in conjunction with university ROTC cadets. All functions of the admissions process, registration for classes, filing of financial aid applications and evaluations of transfer credit are done in the Military Service Center. Employment referrals also are provided for veterans upon request.

Any veteran interested in using their education benefits, attending a school in the UT system or evaluating their military training for college credit are encouraged to call Mark Schroeder at (419) 530-4373. **UNIVERSITY OF TOLEDO MILITARY SERVICE CENTER**

Long-term care open enrollment season runs through Dec. 31

Active-duty, selected Reserve, retirees and qualified family members have the opportunity through the end of the year to enroll in the Federal Long-Term Care Insurance Program.

The purpose of the program is to help defray expenses incurred because of long-term incapacitation due to an accident, injury, disease or the aging process.

Coverage is provided by Long-Term Care Partners LLC, a joint venture of the Metropolitan and John Hancock Insurance Companies through a contract with the U.S. Office of Personnel Management.

The OPM has decided to offer this insurance because the potential need for long-term care is the greatest financial risk many Americans face for which they have no insurance protection. Health insurance policies do not pay for long-term care. Statistics show that a large part of the population is presently receiving long-term care; the accompanying costs are amazing. Many families have been financially ruined and emotionally traumatized because they did not have this protection. Long-term care insurance is not just for older people. According to published statistics, more than 40 percent of people needing long-term care are between ages 18 and 64.

Purchasing long-term care insurance is different than purchasing other types of insurance products because each purchaser tailors the benefits contained in the policy to their individual needs and circumstances. The Office of Personnel Management has a website at www.ltcfeds.com, where one can find open season information kits, eligibility requirements and rates, and application instructions.

An informed decision on this type of insurance requires a careful comparison of one's particular circumstances, matched against the benefits and features offered by different insurance companies, in addition to the government's program. Talking with an insurance specialist may help one compare policies before making a final decision.

For more information on various long-term care programs available to federal employees, contact Jim Flynn at jzflynn@aol.com or toll free at (877) 965-8886. **ARMED FORCES BENEFIT ASSOCIATION**

ONGSP APPLICATION DEADLINES

Fall term, July 1
Spring semester/Winter quarter, Nov. 1
Spring quarter, Feb. 1
Summer term, April 1

It is the sole responsibility of a student/guardmember to turn in a completed application to the **Ohio National Guard Scholarship Program** office, located at the Adjutant General's Department, 2825 West Dublin Granville Road, Columbus, Ohio 43235-2789, by the deadlines listed above.

This must be done prior to each term a student attends school.

For more information, call (614) 336-7032 or toll-free (888) 400-6484.

Ohio Guardmembers keep Fort Bragg secure

Story and photos by Spc. Haraz N. Ghanbari
HQSTARC(-)

About two weeks after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, Matthew J. Gosnik returned to his apartment from a technical writing English class at Ohio University, and what awaited him changed his life.

"Gosnik, give me a call as soon as you get in, we've been called up. We have to be there the day after tomorrow," read the Post-It note attached to his apartment door left by fellow soldier Cpl. David Schaffer.

Matthew, known to his peers and superiors as Cpl. Gosnik, is a 23-year-old military policeman assigned to the 135th Military Police Company from the Brook Park Armory. The unit was activated Sept. 30, 2001 to provide security and force protection to the 82nd Airborne and special forces units assigned to Fort Bragg, N.C.

"At first I thought they were messing around with me," said Gosnik of two fellow unit members who also attend Ohio University. "Tuesday morning I went to admissions and filled out withdrawal paperwork. I didn't even have time to talk to my professors—I just didn't go to class the next day."

Gosnik was just one of many citizen-soldiers affected by the events of Sept. 11.

"It is a big change from being a college kid staying up to 2:30 or 3 a.m., going to classes, doing homework, and partying on the weekends," said Gosnik, a senior criminal justice major. "All my friends that are seniors are graduating while I am gone, but I am fulfilling my military obligation, something I always knew was a possibility."

Capt. James M. McCandless who took command of the 135th about a month prior to the terrorist attacks, said 100 percent of the unit reported for duty Oct. 3, 2001.

According to McCandless, the 135th was federalized on Oct. 8, 2001; the advance party left on Oct. 9, arriving at Fort Bragg Oct. 10; and the main body deployed Oct. 11, arriving Oct. 12.

"The soldiers did an excellent job, and the mission went very well," said McCandless, a Shaker Heights police officer. "We did not have any real safety issues, serious injuries or fatalities."

The duty day for soldiers from the 135th

"All my friends that are seniors are graduating while I am gone, but I am fulfilling my military obligation, something I always knew was a possibility."

CPL Matthew Gosnik
135th MP Company

"I was surprised that we got activated," said Lang, a store manager at CVS in Cuyahoga Falls. "I am just glad I could do my part to help America, and keep the base safe to the best of my ability."

In addition to providing force protection by working access control and traffic con-

and 323rd Military Police Companies (the 323rd from Toledo also augmented security at Fort Bragg), as well as soldiers attached

from 324th and 838th Military Police Companies, was composed of three 8-hour shifts, however with briefings and duty preparations, soldiers typically worked 10- to 11-hour shifts, five days a week.

Sitting in the turret of a humvee, Pfc. Jason M. Lang of the 838th guarded Access Control Point 1, while fellow soldiers checked identification cards and searched vehicles of persons entering the installation.

ontrol points, Ohio's MPs also conducted law enforcement operations. Operations included road patrols, traffic enforcement, responding to emergency and other calls, as well as alarms. Soldiers also provided security at Fort Bragg public events.

During non-duty hours, soldiers could have family and friends visit—a major perk of being stationed stateside according to McCandless.

Leaving loved ones, taking time off work and putting college on hold are just a few of the sacrifices made by thousands of citizen-soldiers.

"September 11th was tragic, and it is unfortunate that it can never be undone," said Spc. Will J. Revis, a junior who is double majoring in management and finance at Miami University. "I am a patriotic person both as a civilian and a soldier. I wouldn't trade serving my country for anything."

Though the 135th was initially activated for up to one year, the unit returned July 25 to Brook Park. ■



ABOVE: CPL Matthew Gosnik deployed with his unit to Fort Bragg on Oct. 11, 2001. RIGHT: LTC Paola O'Flaherty, 1-73rd Battalion commander, speaks with soldiers during a command visit.





Eyes of the Beholder

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SPC Haraz N. Ghanbari / HQ STARC (-)

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