

GUARD

BUCKEYE

MAGAZINE OF THE OHIO ARMY AND AIR NATIONAL GUARD
SPRING/SUMMER 2008

Gone, but not FORGOTTEN

OHIO HONORS THOSE WHO MADE
THE ULTIMATE SACRIFICE,
PAST AND PRESENT

Pages 14-15



LINEAGE LINK UP

945TH ENGINEER COMPANY

STATION: Norwalk

MISSION: To provide command and control of engineer platoons that accomplish missions including Rapid Runway Repair (RRR), initial base camp construction, nonexplosive obstacle breaching, nonexplosive area clearing, constructing tactical Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) airfields, Helicopter Landing Zones (HLZs) and Assault Landing Zones (ALZs).

DATE & PLACE OF BIRTH: 5 August 1877, Norwalk, Ohio

PARENT UNIT: Company G, 16th Infantry Regiment "Western Reserve Guards"

CAMPAIGN CREDIT: World War I - Ypres-Lys, Meuse-Argonne, Lorraine 1918; World War II - Northern Solomons, Luzon (with arrowhead)

AWARDS: Valorous Unit Award, Streamer embroidered, IRAQ 2004-2005

Philippine Presidential Unit Citation, Streamer embroidered 17 OCTOBER 1944 TO 4 JULY 1945

At daybreak on March 11, 1944, the Japanese attacked the 145th Infantry on Bougainville, a part of the Solomon Islands. The attack came on Hill 700 at a projection called "Pat's Nose," so named for 2nd Lt. Clinton "Pat" McLaughlin (right) a platoon leader in Company G. During this time McLaughlin



began moving from pillbox to pillbox under the direct observation and fire of the enemy, posting reinforcements and shifting fields of fire. McLaughlin not only steadied his men to face the attack, but threw hand grenades and even manned a Browning Automatic Rifle (BAR) from his pillbox and directed mortar fire. Two days later the Japanese launched another attack and again McLaughlin exposed himself to enemy fire and operated a BAR until the enemy was repelled. During this action he was wounded twice but refused evacuation. For his actions, McLaughlin was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross, his citation reading, "By this same aggressive leadership and a determined fighting spirit which he inspired in his men by personal example of bravery, the Japanese again were repulsed in their assault on his sector."

Company G, 5th O.V.I., 1898



Company G, 145th Infantry, 1941



Company C, 612th Engineer Battalion, 2005

GUARD

BUCKEYE

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roll call

Spring/Summer 2008

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Brig. Gen. Matthew L. Kambic

Command Sergeant Major, Army
Command Sgt. Maj. William L. Gilliam

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SMSGT JOSEPH STAHL / 178TH FIGHTER WING MULTIMEDIA

Members of the Springfield-based 178th Fighter Wing fire department practice rappelling techniques during their three-week long rescue technician course. Ohio Airmen at the 178th and the 121st Air Refueling Wing, Columbus, train at home air bases as well as other stateside locations to maintain proficiency and certifications. *For more, see pages 18-19.*

FEATURES

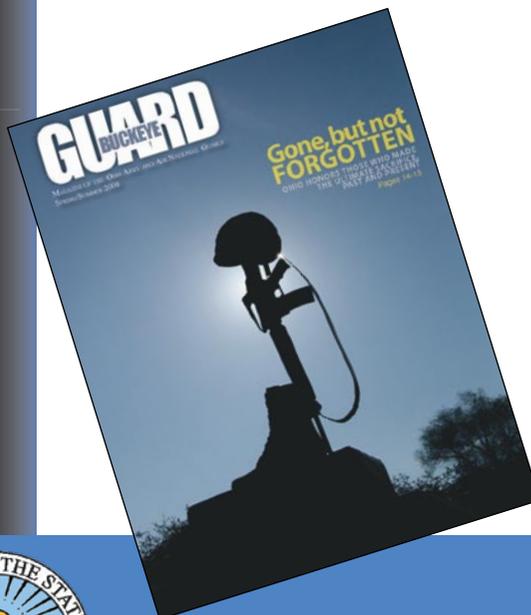
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ON THE COVER

HONORING OHIO NATIONAL GUARD HEROES FROM ALL ERAS: A fallen Soldier battlefield cross is silhouetted by the morning sun at Beightler Armory in Columbus. A monument plaza, including a 10-foot bronze minuteman sculpture, was dedicated May 23 to honor all Ohio National Guard troops who have been killed in action throughout the organization's 220-year history, spanning 12 wars and 77 campaigns in which Ohio National Guardmembers have participated. Now a ceremonial way to honor comrades, the battlefield cross—made up of a Soldier's rifle with bayonet attached, stuck into the ground, helmet on top and combat boots—started during the American Civil War as a means of identifying the deceased on the battleground before they were removed. *Photo by Sgt. Parker Steele / Adjutant General's Department Public Affairs. See pages 14-15.*



on the web @ <http://www.ohionationalguard.com>

Jointness always evolving

by Maj. Gen. Gregory L. Wayt
The Adjutant General

The Ohio National Guard has changed dramatically since 9/11. Along with transformation of the Army Guard and Total Force Integration of the Air Guard, one of the major changes has been the increasing requirements and abilities to work in a joint environment at home and abroad. The purpose of this piece is to provide a better understanding of how the Ohio National Guard is functioning in this environment today.

Wikipedia defines jointness as “an expression coined by the U.S. Services to describe cross-service cooperation in all stages of military processes to include operations.” Wikipedia further defines jointness as “the integration of strengths of at least two services of the military in a coordinated effort to achieve a goal and enables flexibility for the commander and increases effective functioning.” These definitions provide an excellent outline of my views on jointness.

The concept of jointness actually emerged in the Ohio National Guard in the late 1980s as the federal government began to implement drug interdiction efforts which were managed by the military support section of the former Joint Force Headquarters and involved both Ohio Air and Army National Guard personnel.

Our jointness began to take shape with the organization of the 52nd Civil Support Team (CST) in 2000. This team is comprised of 22 full-time members of the Ohio Air and Army National Guard. A joint team with sophisticated communications equipment and a mobile laboratory providing unique capabilities, the CST works in support of emergency preparedness programs to prepare for or respond to any emergency involving the use of weapons of mass destruction or other chemical, biological, radiological or high-explosive threats.

In May 2003, in Columbus, Ohio, during a meeting of the Adjutants General Association of the United States (AGAUS), then newly-appointed Chief of the National Guard Bureau, Lt. Gen. H Steven Blum, announced the creation of the Joint Force Headquarters-State. The implementation of this new headquarters set the stage for jointness—“cooperation in all stages of military processes to include operations.” The Joint Force Headquarters-Ohio provides command and control of all National Guard forces in the state for the governor and acts as a joint service headquarters for national-level response efforts during contingency operations. Lt. Gen. Blum’s vision and concept could not have been more timely!

September 2005 saw some of the most powerful hurricanes in our nation’s history hit Louisiana and Mississippi. Through the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC), an instrument that permits state governors to request assistance from any or all of the other states’ governors, the Army and Air National Guard nationwide deployed 50,000 troops to the affected area—the largest disaster relief operation in the National Guard’s 371-year history. This was the first large-scale joint operation for the Ohio National Guard; we responded with more than 2,700 Ohio National Guardmembers for more than 60 days. It was the Joint Force Headquarters-Ohio that facilitated the effective coordination of all Ohio National Guard assets to achieve mission success.

We have rapidly evolved other joint programs and operations. Each state maintains 10 essential capabilities for homeland defense (command and control, CBRNE (chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, and high yield explosives), maintenance, aviation, engineer, medical, communications, transportation, security and logistics) and when



...the Ohio National Guard possesses a joint capability—unmatched by any other state—that enables us to respond and protect the citizens of Ohio.

blended together, the Ohio National Guard possesses a joint capability—unmatched by any other state—that enables us to respond and protect the citizens of Ohio. Communication planning for the Joint Force Headquarters is supported by the Ohio Air National Guard’s 251st Combat Communications Group.

Today, Joint Task Force (JTF) 73 provides command and control of our rapid reaction forces. These joint forces take advantage of the unique capabilities that exist in the Ohio Air and Army National Guard. Forces that comprise this command include the 52nd Civil Support Team, the CERFP (CBRNE-Enhanced Response Force Package) comprised of the 155th Chemical Battalion, 1194th Engineer Company, 637th Chemical Company, 121st Air Wing Medical Group and the National Guard Reaction Force, which is derived from the 437th Military Police Battalion. Communication support of JTF 73 is provided by the Ohio Air National Guard’s 269th Combat Communications Squadron. The CERFP is one of 17 in the nation and provides immediate response capability to the governor or president, searching an incident site including damaged buildings, rescuing any casualties, providing decontamination and performing medical triage. The National Guard Reaction Force provides security for the all of these forces. This joint package must be able to respond fully and be mission capable within 12 hours of notification.

Our family readiness and employer programs today operate as joint programs. The Ohio National Guard Family Readiness Program has been nationally recognized as the best of the best, largely because of the joint state family readiness council’s vision to capitalize on the strengths and effectiveness of both the Ohio Air and Army National Guard.

Ohio National Guard operations today include working with federal, state and local governments. Such operations are a central element in inter-governmental efforts to protect lives and property here inside the American homeland. The National Guard has a close, ongoing relationship with first responders at state and local levels that is essential to providing the response that the citizens of Ohio expect and deserve.

Our jointness, cross-service cooperation, integration of strengths, coordinated effort and increased effectiveness have made the Ohio National Guard an essential force in responding to emergencies in Ohio, elsewhere in the United States and abroad. Our capabilities are unmatched and are remarkable because of our great Soldiers, Airmen and leaders. I thank you for your dedication, selfless service, professionalism and unwavering commitment. **BG**

McConnelsville air defense artillery units planning September reunion

The Association of Retired Members of the 2-174th Air Defense Artillery will hold a reunion at 2 p.m. Sept. 21 at the McConnelsville National Guard Armory, 4497 Hawk Drive, McConnelsville, Ohio 43756

Activities include military displays and a pot luck meal.

Come join us for a time of renewing old friendships, fun and good food. RSVP to one of the following coordinators, preferably by Aug. 1: Bob Kirkwood, 740-697-0303 or kirkrb77@att.net; Bob Foster, 740-982-6796 or rlrark6720@yahoo.com; or Al Minnich, 740-455-2069.

CSM (RET.) ROGER BURNETT

National Guard challenge: Host your own Freedom Walk

The 4th Annual Freedom Walk is scheduled for Sept. 7 in Washington, D.C., and National Guard Joint Force Headquarters, units and private organizations are being challenged to host at least one Freedom Walk in each state and territory.

The brainchild of Ms. Allison Barber, deputy assistant secretary of defense for public liaison, the Freedom Walk event serves as a commemoration of the memory of the men, women and children who perished on 9/11. It is also designed to honor the enduring spirit of those who survived the terrible attacks that resulted in enormous personal losses that day.

Last year's event drew a crowd of more than 10,000 people from all walks of life who gathered together for one purpose—to honor those

who worked tirelessly and made incredible sacrifices for our freedoms. Freedom Walk participants included family members of 9/11 victims, members of Congress, DOD and other federal workers, as well as civic leaders from both corporate America and small town America.

As a result of the initial Freedom Walk, the American spirit found fertile ground and created a grassroots movement unlike no other. In addition to the DOD America Supports You Freedom Walk in Washington, D.C., more than 225 similar Freedom Walks took place in 2007 in 50 states and 10 countries.

The Department of Defense and National Guard Bureau would like to see the number of Freedom Walks grow even further with one hosted by a JFHQ, unit or private organization in each state and territory.

Information on hosting your own Freedom Walk is available at the following Web site: www.americasupportsyou.mil/freedomwalk/about-local-walk.html. The site contains a planning guide and templates for posters, news releases and logos. Freedom Walks should be free of charge and open to the public.

NATIONAL GUARD BUREAU

Kudos to 121st first sergeant for earning top honors at USAF course

Congrats go out to Master Sgt. Chuck Rudy of 121st Air Refueling Wing Security Forces Squadron who recently ran away with the Air Force First Sergeant's Academy Commandant's Award. This award is given to the top student in the Academy's

graduating class. The competition is open to all Active Duty, Reserve and National Guard students.



Rudy

Near the end of the course, one nominee from each flight is selected by their peers and training instructor to compete academy-wide. Each candidate's leadership qualities and academic accomplishments are scrutinized in a formal interview with the commandant

of the academy.

He becomes the first 121st ARW member to win this award. Way to go, Chuck!

CMSGT. RICHARD D. HATCHER
WING COMMAND CHIEF,
121ST ARW

Clarification

The photo in the top, right corner of the "37th IBCT Hero Board" spread of the *Winter 2008 Buckeye Guard* (and right), depicting 37th Infantry Brigade Combat Team Soldiers boarding a military airplane for Fort Bliss, Texas, was taken by Airman 1st Class Jodi L. Joice of the 180th Fighter Wing.

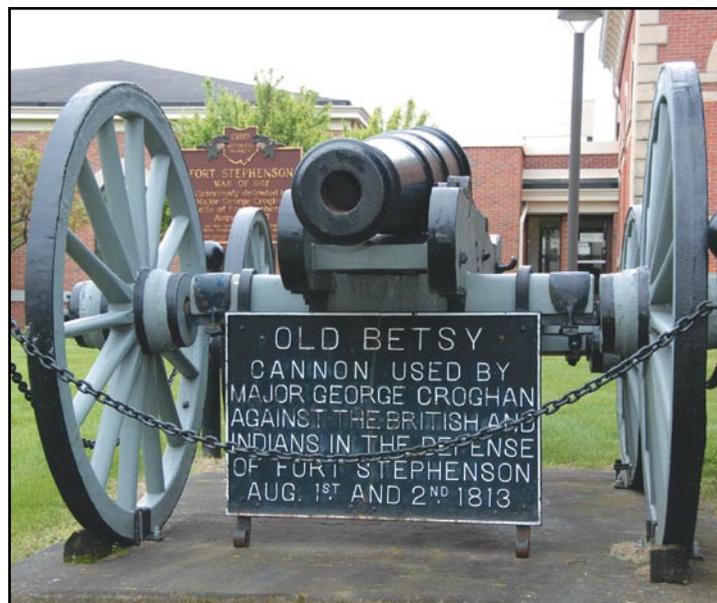


BUCKEYE GUARD STAFF

HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHT

'Old Betsy' saves Fort Stephenson

On Aug. 1-2 1813, the British Army laid siege to Fort Stephenson, a small fort along the Sandusky River near present-day Fremont. Among the Soldiers garrisoning the fort were members of the Ohio Militia. Maj. George Croghan, commanding the fort, used a battery of a single gun, which the Soldiers affectionately referred to as "Old Betsy," making the British believe the fort was more heavily defended than it was. Each time Old Betsy was fired the Soldiers would move it very quickly to another spot on the ramparts and fire it again. When the British infantry attacked, Ohio troops fired Old Betsy upon them at the ravine through which they were approaching with devastating impact. They repelled the attack and turned the tide of the war in the Northwest, marking the last time the British would go on the offensive in Ohio. Today, Old Betsy stands near the Sandusky River in Fremont as a memorial to the Soldiers who defended Fort Stephenson. Submitted by Staff Sgt. Joshua Mann, OHARNG Historian



SSG JOSHUA MANN / JOINT FORCE HEADQUARTERS-OHIO

Army provides fitness anywhere kits for deployed Soldiers

FORT BRAGG, N.C.—Less space than needed to park a Jeep, a sturdy mount, and a willing body are all it takes to perform hundreds of exercises that help build strength, balance and core stability with a TRX Suspension Trainer Force Training Kit.

The Army Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation Command purchased 3,205 of the kits for deployed Soldiers to get complete-body workouts wherever they can find a beam, doorway or tree limb to anchor the resistance-training device. Soldiers already have mounted several of the systems to Humvees, tanks and cargo crates.

MWR employees at Fort Belvoir, Va., will send 205 of the combat-boot-sized systems to Iraq and Afghanistan as part of the recreation kits for deployed troops. Three-thousand more were issued to Army units for a pilot program at Fort Bragg, where about 100 Soldiers volunteered for train-the-trainer clinics with instructors from Fitness Anywhere, Inc.

Those Soldiers, in turn, will train other Soldiers in their respective units, which will be issued more of the systems before deploying to the Middle East.

“I’m never going to walk away from free weights, but for somebody that wants to maintain, especially during deployment, it’s great,” Sgt. Wes Bard said after completing a 3-hour, train-the-trainer session at Fort Bragg. “I was doing the chest press, and compared to a bench press, it’s working all those little stability muscles. It’s a lot harder.”

Bard, a 6-foot tall, 260-pound former football player, wrestler, and track and field competitor from York, Pa., who tossed high school girls high into the air as a competition cheerleader, said he would use this system—even if free weights were available.

Army commanders already have requested more of the kits, which include a quick-start guide, basic training DVD, 12-week strength and cardio training manual, and a mesh carry bag. **TIM HIPPS / ARMY MORALE, WELFARE AND RECREATION COMMAND PUBLIC AFFAIRS**

2008 USAF Marathon on pace for record number of entrants

WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE—If current figures are an accurate predictor, the 2008 U.S. Air Force Marathon appears well on its way to shattering last year’s registration record of more than 6,700 runners



TIM HIPPS / FMWRC PUBLIC AFFAIRS

SGT Wes Bard works with a TRX Suspension Trainer Force Training Kit in the workout area adjacent to Cleland Ice Rink on Fort Bragg, N.C. The Army Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation Command purchased 3,205 of the exercise systems for a pilot program at Fort Bragg and to include in recreation kits headed to troops in Iraq and Afghanistan.

and could approach the 10,000 mark.

As of June 13, the total number of runners registered for the 12th annual event stood at 2,326. That compares with 1,013 total registered runners at the same time a year ago, or about a 130 percent increase.

According to Molly Loudon, marathon director, enhanced marketing and publicity efforts combined with strong word-of-mouth from previous marathon participants is helping fuel the surge in registration.

“For the past three years, we have stepped up marketing,” Loudon said. “We’ve consistently attended regional marathon expos and advertised in national magazines.”

Registration numbers are confirming high interest in both the full and half marathon. The June 13 figures show 1,098 runners registered for the full marathon, compared to 512 for the same time last year; the half marathon has received 885 registrants, compared to 333 for the same date a year ago.

Loudon said that runners planning to participate in this year’s marathon are encouraged to register early, especially considering the significant increase in registrants to date.

A prominent change to this year’s

marathon is the phase-out of the four-person relay teams and the introduction of a 10k. Runners registering for the 10k can do so as individuals or can run as part of a four-person team.

For the second straight year, the marathon’s 5k will take place the day before the marathon on Sept. 19 at Wright State University. According to Loudon, the marathon, half marathon and 10k taking place Saturday at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base will be limited to 10,000 runners, and the 5k at Wright State University will be limited to 2,000 runners.

For more information or to register for the marathon, visit www.usafmarathon.com.

88TH AIR BASE WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Service chiefs testify to historic impact, needs of Guard, Reserves

WASHINGTON—The nation’s top National Guard and reserve officers testified recently before the U.S. Senate to the monumental and historic response by their forces in the nation’s defense since the terrorism attacks against the United States on Sept. 11, 2001.

The seven were called before the defense subcommittee of the Senate Appropriations Committee to answer questions about the National Guard and reserves’ 2009 budget.

The senators thanked the chiefs for their service and that of their troops and asked what more Congress could do to help better prepare the services for future needs.

Each chief laid before the committee pages-long opening statements detailing their services’ efforts in the war on terror. Chief of the National Guard Bureau Army Lt. Gen. H Steven Blum called 2007 a year of “historic proportions” for the National Guard.

At one point in the War on Terrorism, National Guardmembers made up almost half of the ground forces in Iraq. He called the numbers of Guardmembers supporting the war overseas “staggering.” Since 9/11, more than 400,000 Guardsmen have been mobilized in support of operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom.

This is in addition to the Guard’s response to state emergencies. “Each day, an average of 17 governors call on their National Guard for everything from weather-related assistance to suspected anthrax contamination,” Blum said.

Blum said that readiness for his force boils down to three things: people, equipment and training. He said there needs to be an increase in the number of full-time personnel to help ready part-time units for deployment. **FRED W. BAKER III / AMERICAN FORCES PRESS SERVICE**

Governor signs legislation granting cabinet status to veterans services

On May 23, at an official ceremony at Beightler Armory in Columbus, Gov. Ted Strickland signed into law legislation that will establish the Ohio Department of Veterans Services and ensure employment rights to those serving in the uniformed services.

Senate Bill 289 created the new department which will assume the duties of the Governor's Office of Veterans Affairs, the Ohio Veterans' Home Agency and the Ohio War Orphans Scholarship Board. Previously, these agencies had all been governed by separate authorities.

The duties of the current director of the Governor's Office of Veterans Affairs will transfer to the new director of the department, who will serve as a member of the governor's cabinet.

The legislation will also provide employment protections for members of the uniformed services who must take a leave of absence from their job to serve their country. SB 289 offers Ohio Soldiers the reinstatement and reemployment rights outlined in the "Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act of 1994." Those who are denied reinstatement or reemployment after military service can be reinstated through the court of common pleas.

Several weeks earlier, the Ohio General Assembly also passed Senate Bill 25, which creates a "Gold Star Family" license plate. The plate is available to any member of the immediate family of a person who died in a combat zone while serving in any branch of the armed forces of the United States.

To learn more about eligibility for the new license plates, visit the Ohio Department of Motor Vehicles website at: http://bmv.ohio.gov/vehicle_registration/special_plate_types.htm.

Congress takes steps to empower National Guard with legislation

Empowerment legislation adopted in the 2008 National Defense Authorization Act was a positive step forward for the National Guard and its members. Empowerment of the National Guard will help ensure that

Guard leaders are able to actively participate in Defense Department decisions that will enhance the functions of the National Guard Bureau (NGB) and improve federal-state military coordination during domestic response operations. The bill's major provisions include:

- Requiring that the National Guard Bureau (NGB) be the lead agency to develop civil support requirements;
- Renaming the directors of Army and Air Guard to vice chiefs of NGB;
- Providing adjutants general (TAG) joint duty credit for their experience in position;
- Requiring the Department of Defense (DOD) to report on joint duty credit for National Guard officers and enlisted members serving in Joint Force Headquarters (JFHQ);
- Requiring a summary of joint duty courses available for reserve officers;
- Establishing U.S. Northern Command (NORTHCOM) and U.S. Pacific Command (PACOM) as responsible commands for military support to civilian authorities;

• Directing DOD to establish procedures for the nation's governors to have "tactical control" (defined as command authority over assigned or attached forces or commands...limited to the detailed direction and control of movements or maneuvers) over the military forces, including Title 10 active-duty forces, operating in their state during an emergency (exercised through the Joint Force Headquarters).

The National Guard Empowerment and State-National Defense Integration Act of 2008 is the next step to ensure the National Guard fully develops its capabilities as first responders during disasters such as the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks or Hurricane Katrina. **AG**

Johann Klein is legislative liaison for the Adjutant General's Department

legislative look

with johann klein



COLUMBUS

Command profile



CSM William L. Gilliam

Joint Force Headquarters-Ohio

Age: Born in 1954

Full-Time position: state command sergeant major, Ohio Army National Guard

Hometown: Sugar Grove

Family: wife, Carolyn; son, David and daughter-in-law, Michelle; daughter, Mary and son-in-law, Dave; and four beautiful grandchildren.

When I was younger, I wanted to: be an Ohio State Highway Patrolman

Most recent achievement: serving more than five years as the state command sergeant major

The last good movie I saw was: *The Big Red One*, starring Lee Marvin

The book I'm reading is: *Long Hard Road, NCO Experiences in Afghanistan and Iraq* (would recommend to any NCO)

My favorite recreational activity: horseback riding and spending time with my grandchildren

Heroes: all our brave Soldiers and Airmen with the many missions they perform superbly

Nobody knows I'm: an avid gardener

I'd give anything to meet: Sgt. Alvin York and Gen. David Petraeus

The three words/phrases that best describe me: loyal, quiet, behind-the-scenes

If I could leave today's Guardmembers with one piece of advice it would be: NCOs make it happen; be flexible and embrace transformation. The American noncommissioned officer is empowered today more than any point in history. Always, always enforce and keep the standards.



Buckeye Brigade marches into history

Story and photos by Sgt 1st Class Kimberly D. Snow,
Adjutant General's Department Public Affairs

FORT HOOD, Texas—A warming midday sun ducked in and out of the clouds as a steady, cooling breeze whipped the colors, making their bearers grip the staffs tighter in an attempt to steady them. The colonel snapped to attention, shouted out a command and the massive, 2,500-Soldier formation began to move, marching across the field and into history.

The troops, assigned to the Ohio Army National Guard's 37th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, snaked around the parade field and passed in review before their leaders, Families and friends March 27 in what was for many, the largest—and arguably the most significant—formation of their careers. After three months of training, they were finally on their way. Destination: Kuwait and Iraq. Estimated return: January 2009.

“The Soldiers have worked hard and we’re ready to go,” said Brigade Commander Col. Richard T. Curry, who has previous

deployments to Iraq, Kuwait and Korea under his belt. “I know the lay of the land. I plan to come home very proud that I contributed to the effort and made our nation strong.”

The formal pass in review highlighted a sendoff ceremony from the brigade's mobilization station to its forward operating base in Kuwait, where most will spend the remainder of the yearlong deployment. The “Buckeye Brigade,” comprised of about 1,600 Soldiers from Ohio and 900 from Michigan, will conduct base operations and security duties and some units—Ohio's 1st Battalion, 148th Infantry Regiment and Michigan's 1st Squadron, 126th Cavalry Regiment—are also tasked with conducting convoy escort duties into Iraq.

The 37th arrived at the east-central Texas post in January and spent three months training on North Fort Hood. It is by far the largest reserve component force to mobilize through the post to date, said Sgt. Amy E. McLaughlin, public affairs officer for the Fort Hood Mobilization Brigade.

Command Sgt. Maj. Albert Whatmough, the senior-ranking enlisted man for the 37th, said the relative isolation of the training area on North Fort Hood was ideal for their purposes, allowing the Ohio and Michigan troops to fully integrate and concentrate on training. He praised his troops' focus and said most of them were anxious to get on with the mission.

"I'm always excited to deploy," Whatmough said. "I've seen a lot more examples of volunteers than those who don't want to go. Some of these guys have volunteered for two or three deployments. Their tenacity, their dedication to country amazes me every day."

A career Soldier and father of two, Whatmough deployed to Iraq in 2004 and understands the strain a deployment can put on Families. However, he credits those same Families with helping to prepare the troops for their mission.

"It's hard deploying," the Akron native said. "My daughter is graduating high school this year, but we all must do our duty. It's really the Families, it's their strength, the (family readiness groups) back at home who make the difference. They helped these Soldiers stay focused on their mission during their time here. Their strength and confidence allowed them to do that."

Both Whatmough and Curry described the quality of training they and their troops received as exceptional. The mobilization brigade tailored training to the specific needs of the 37th as commanders weighed in with

specific concerns. They also reorganized training to accommodate an amendment to the mission that required one of the Michigan units to be based in Iraq.

Whatmough called the battalion sergeants major the "driving force" for the brigade, pushing the Soldiers to ensure they were fully prepared for each day's training.

"I can't say enough about these guys,"

“The NCO leadership worked till it was done—not to the end of the prescribed duty day. These guys were up well after training ended.”

— **Command Sgt. Maj. Albert Whatmough,**
37th Infantry Brigade Combat Team

Whatmough said. "The NCO leadership worked till it was done—not to the end of the prescribed duty day. These guys were up well after training ended, reading their manuals, aligning their optics to prepare for the range the next day, making sure they and their equipment were ready for training. I've heard so many great stories and seen so many great things."

The troops spent the afternoon following the ceremony with a Texas-style barbecue complete with games and activities. The event capped off a four-day weekend most spent with family and friends, many who had driven, flown and bused in to spend what

might be their final weekend together with their loved ones for the next nine months. The event was organized by volunteers and all food was donated by a local vendor.

Pfc. Jason Pontious, an infantryman with Company A, 1st Battalion, 148th Infantry Regiment, spent the weekend surrounded by his extended family. After returning home from basic training in June 2007, he now leaves behind his wife, Tabitha and two sons, Caleb, who turned 2 in May and Wyatt, only a few months old. He said although it was tough being separated from his family, the training he received at Fort Hood was invaluable.

"It's been great having them out here; we went to Sea World," Pontious said. "It's gonna be very hard to leave, especially with the new one. But I'm ready to go. I feel very prepared for this mission.

The training overall was great and our company is great."

During the ceremony, Curry addressed the family members and thanked them for their sacrifices.

"Leaving a family is definitely harder than fighting the war," he said. "I want to say thanks to the Families; without you, we couldn't do it."

He also spoke of the sacrifices of his troops and of the mission ahead.

"These Soldiers have demonstrated great courage and damn dogged determination," Curry said. "This brigade is prepared to march forward to its destiny and complete the mission. Hooah!" **SG**

OPPOSITE PAGE/LEFT: Soldiers of the 37th Infantry Brigade Combat Team march past Families and friends during a formal pass and review ceremony March 27 at Fort Hood, Texas.

BELOW: Family and friends of Sgt. Deanna Zamudio, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 237th Support Battalion, show their support during the unit's Jan. 5 deployment ceremony at Mount Zion Fellowship church in Highland Hills, near Cleveland.



Ohio's

RED HORSE stirs up dust on U.S. - MEXICO border

Story by Staff Sgt. Benjamin Cossel,
196th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment
(Operation Jump Start Public Affairs)

NOGALES, Ariz.—
As winter gave
release to spring's
awakening in Ohio,
Airmen of the Camp
Perry and Mans-
field, Ohio-based
200th Rapid Engineers Deployable Heavy Operations Repair Squadron, Engineers (RED HORSE) were already getting their first taste of summer on this hot, May afternoon at a stretch of the U.S.-Mexico border in Arizona.

Along with National Guard units from around the country, the Ohio element was participating in Operation Jump Start (OJS), a two-year, presidentially-mandated mission placing National Guard Soldiers and Airmen alongside agents of the Texas, California, New Mexico and Arizona U.S. Customs and Border Protection, U.S. Border Patrol.

"A RED HORSE unit is uniquely qualified for this type of mission," said Air Force Col. Michael Skomrock of Beavercreek, Ohio, and commander of the 200th. "Our primary focus is construction with some consideration toward maintenance."

In line with their capabilities, the squadron was assigned to Task Force Diamondback, the engineering component of OJS-Arizona, responsible for building roads, permanent and temporary vehicle barriers and stretches of primary and secondary fence in Arizona.

"We (were) covering six rotations of two

weeks each with approximately 40 Airmen on each rotation," Skomrock said.

Operation Jump Start began in mid-2006 when President George W. Bush announced the operation from a podium in Yuma, Ariz. Since that time, the 200th had been a staunch supporter of the mission, sending Airmen to Arizona for their annual training on three separate occasions. As Skomrock explained, OJS provided his Airmen with mission-essential training.

"The work we (were) doing out (there) is the same sort of stuff we did in the desert (Iraq) in '02 and '05," Skomrock said. "But we've got a lot of younger Airmen now that haven't had the opportunity to do this sort of work yet. So this has been a great training opportunity that will help prepare us for future deployments."

While in Arizona, the squadron focused their efforts on road construction along the border. In many areas, roads tracing the border are nothing more than rough-cut dirt patches exposed to the ravages of monsoon rains and floods as well as the unrelenting desert sun.

"When we were out (there) last year, there were patches of roads that were particularly bad; (U.S. Border Patrol) agents couldn't go more than 10-15 miles per hour down them. With the work that's been done by units like ours, agents can hit 60 miles per hour, increasing their response time," Skomrock said.

For Sandusky, Ohio-resident, Chief Mas-



SSG BENJAMIN COSSEL / 196TH MOBILE PUBLIC AFFAIRS DET.

ABOVE AND OPPOSITE PAGE: Airmen with the Ohio Air National Guard's 200th Rapid Engineers Deployable Heavy Operations Repair Squadron, Engineers (RED HORSE) pour concrete and conduct road repairs along a stretch of the U.S.-Mexico border.

ter Sgt. Richard Bressler, the unit's senior enlisted Airman and operations manager, this deployment to the Southwest border was his second. In the time between his stints in Arizona, he's seen a world of change.

"Supporting the Border Patrol out here as we have for the last two years, we've enhanced the security of our nation's border," Bressler said. "It's just incredible the amount of work we've invested in our border and the impact that work has had."

Bressler said what's impressed him the most during his time working on OJS—a sentiment his Airmen have repeated time and again—is the relationship between the National Guard and the U.S. Border Patrol.

"One of the most significant things I'll take away from this mission is the appreciation of the Guard from the Border Patrol," he said. "And trust me, it's a feeling that's mutual; working with them has been great. Between us all, we've increased the security of our nation and it's something I'm definitely proud to be a part of." **GG**



THIS AND ABOVE PHOTO COURTESY OF OHIO AIR NATIONAL GUARD



Soldiers from the Tarlton-based 811th Engineer Company fire their M-9 pistols at pop-up targets April 6 during the 2008 Adjutant General's Combat Pistol Championship at Camp Sherman, near Chillicothe. More than 125 Ohio National Guard Soldiers and Airmen competed in the annual contest.



TOUGH competition

Story and Photos by Spc. Diego J. Robles
196th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

CAMP SHERMAN—More than 125 Ohio National Guard Soldiers and Airmen gathered April 5-6 at this National Guard training site near Chillicothe to compete in the 2008 Adjutant General's Combat Pistol Championship.

One of the troops, experienced sharpshooter Staff Sgt. Timothy V. Glover of the Tarlton-based 811th Engineer Company, was a critical asset to the competition and fundamental to his troops' success in the weekend competition. Glover arrived at Camp Sherman two days early in order to help organize and coordinate the event. However, his efforts to get as many of his Soldiers from the 811th to participate in the match, started months before.

As captain of the 811th and state rifle teams, Glover stressed that marksmanship is a perishable skill. Without practice, it becomes increasingly difficult to become proficient shooting once or twice a year, he said.

"I always try to explain the fundamentals—a good site picture, trigger squeeze and breath control," Glover said.

The match's stated goal is to offer troops an opportunity to learn additional marksmanship skills as well as compete. The event, sponsored by the Ohio Army National Guard and OHARNG Small Arms Readiness Training Team, was comprised of several individual and team matches. Competitors were required to fire with standard military-issue M-9 pistol while shooting from standing, kneeling, crouching and prone positions.

Although Glover routinely qualifies as an expert with his M-16 rifle, averaging 38 of 40 on pop-up and 40 of 40 on known-distance target ranges, he considers himself a "mediocre" pistol shooter and much prefers firing the .50-caliber machine gun, he said.

Chief Warrant Officer 2 Michael R. Konves, officer in charge of Ohio's Combat Pistol Championship and Master Weapon sTraining Team, knows Glover from the competitive rifle team and said he is always willing to jump in and help others.

"As any good noncommissioned officer, Glover cares about his troops. He is willing to do anything for their well-being and training," Konves said.

One of his troops, Spc. Jason M. Sindel, said Glover helped prepare him for basic combat training and got him interested in competitive shooting.

"He actually gave out targets before we even left (Tarlton) and I practiced at home with my dad," Sindel said.

Glover spent two months acquiring weapons for his team and bolstering its roster with more shooters, two of whom were originally slated to fill roles as range safety personnel, Sindel said.

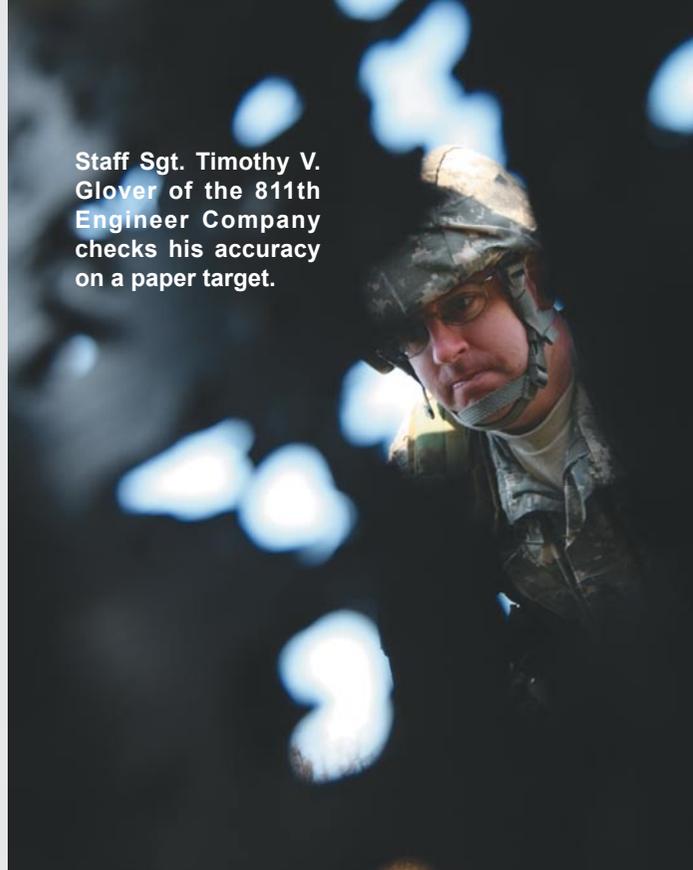
Although both his team and range control personnel credited him with bringing and training a large and fresh group of new competitors, Glover is reluctant to accept accolades.

"If it wasn't for my company commander, it would not have been possible to be here and get this many troops involved," Glover said.

Despite his self-description as a "mediocre" pistol shooter, Glover consistently placed in the teens out of 127 shooters. The competition's most distinguished shooter was Master Sgt. Alex Coy of Company B, 2nd Battalion, 19th Special Forces Group, with three individual first-place and two second-place finishes; in addition, his team earned an overall second-place team ranking. **SG**

RIGHT: Ohio Army National Guardmembers fire their M-9 pistols at pop-up targets during the 2008 Adjutant General's Combat Pistol Championship at Camp Sherman.

Staff Sgt. Timothy V. Glover of the 811th Engineer Company checks his accuracy on a paper target.



Strong families
mean

Strong readiness

Statewide Family readiness groups convene
for a weekend of learning and growing

Story and photos by Spc. Sam Beavers
196th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

DUBLIN—More than 850 Soldiers, Airmen, Family members and volunteers invaded the Columbus Marriott Northwest hotel April 4-6 for the annual Ohio National Guard Family Readiness Conference.

“This is our annual battle-rhythm check,” said Lt. Col. Robert Bramlish, state Family program director.

Attendees participated in several classes on topics including identity fraud and Internet safety, resilient military children and how to run a more inclusive Family readiness program.

The conference offers an opportunity to ensure all Family programs are going in the same direction and to make Family readiness groups aware of growing resources and how to take advantage of them, Bramlish said.

The weekend conference began Friday evening with a 1970s theme night, designed to be a fun way for Family members and volunteers to connect with Ohio National Guard leaders. Both volunteers and military members let out their “inner ‘70s,” donning tie-dye shirts, bell-bottom pants and lots of hair. Col. John Harris, director of personnel for the Ohio Army National Guard, sported an afro wig, while Bramlish donned a grey wig, appearing first as famous Ohio State football head coach Woody Hayes and then later as hero Luke Skywalker from the movie “Star Wars.”

“If we do it right Friday night, they come ready to work on Saturday,” Bramlish said.

Brig. Gen. Matthew L. Kambic and Maj. Gen. Harry “A.J.” Feucht Jr.—assistant adjutants general for Army and Air, respectively—made quite a pair. Feucht dressed as a disco king while Kambic closely resembled John Travolta’s character from the movie “Saturday Night Fever.” Maj. Gen. Gregory L. Wayt, Ohio adjutant general, also joined in the fun, sporting a wig, plaid pants and a 1970s letterman jacket.

Of the 850 conference attendees, 175 were military youth, and while their elders enjoyed 70s night, the kids were entertained by “Improv 4 Kids,” a professional theater troupe out of New York.

Improv 4 Kids is designed exclusively for kids and one of its founders and main actors, Walt Frasier, has appeared in numerous television programs including multiple appearances on the television show, “Late Show with David Letterman.” Frasier also hosted a “Family Feud” style game for the adults later on Friday evening.

On Friday and throughout the three-day event, FRG volunteers received recognition for their work.

“The volunteers are the heart of the program,” Bramlish said. “The program wouldn’t be as meaningful or be where it is today without the volunteers.”



Ohio National Guard Family Readiness Program volunteers from around the state participate in a ‘70s theme night to open the annual Family Readiness Conference. The volunteers danced and hit beach balls around during the welcome celebration.



Several children enjoy a special show put on for them by “Improv 4 Kids,” a professional theater program out of New York City.

One volunteer, Jen Roose, FRG leader for Joint Force Headquarters-Ohio, knows the importance of FRGs and fellowship. When her husband, Staff Sgt. Tim Roose of Joint Force Headquarters, deployed, she said she didn't know any of her husband's unit members or their spouses.

She went to a FRG meeting where she met a good friend whom her children now refer to as "aunt."

"It is very important to meet other people in the same situation," Roose said. "Nobody knows what you are going through except other military wives or military families."

Bramlish attributes the success of FRGs and the conference to the people involved.

"When you have a program that's all about people, you need to have the right team," Bramlish said. "I feel like we have the right team."

Despite the success of Ohio's Family readiness program, the team continues to introduce initiatives to improve Family readiness. Those initiatives include Hero Camps, designed to offer a fun environment

in which to build resilient military kids; the Family mobilization program, designed to include Guard families in the mobilization process from the earliest possible moment; and a reunion and reintegration program for returning National Guardmembers.

Bramlish said commanders and volunteers left with excitement and energy about the programs, and attendees left assured of the Ohio National Guard's commitment to Military Families.

"Having a first-class conference demonstrates our commitment," Bramlish said. **SG**



For more information on family readiness programs or to learn how to get involved, contact your local or regional family assistance center or log onto www.ong.ohio.gov/family.

Thank-Ujvagi!

State Rep. Ujvagi recognized for helping pass laws that directly change lives of Ohio's servicemembers

Story and photo by Spc. Sam Beavers
196th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

COLUMBUS—Receiving one Ohio Distinguished Service Medal is an accomplishment, receiving two is an achievement to be proud of for a lifetime.

State Rep. Peter S. Ujvagi, (D-Toledo), received his second Ohio Distinguished Service Medal from Maj. Gen. Gregory L. Wayt, Ohio adjutant general, and Ohio First Lady Frances Strickland April 4 at the Columbus Marriott Northwest as a part of the annual Ohio National Guard Family Readiness Conference.

Ujvagi received the medal for his part in helping pass bills in the Ohio Legislature that directly benefit servicemembers and their families.

"As a great supporter of the Ohio National Guard he has led efforts within the General Assembly to write and pass bills that provide support and benefits to our servicemembers. He not only supports the Ohio National Guard, but any servicemember that is a resident of Ohio," Wayt said.

Ujvagi said he was honored and pleasantly surprised to receive the medal. He said in reality, today we have Soldier-Citizens instead of Citizen-Soldiers, and is honored to help servicemembers and their families in anyway he can.

"I ultimately hope to make the lives of those sacrificing the most, a little bit better," Ujvagi said.

Ujvagi, who was born in Hungary and escaped during the 1956 Hungarian Revolution, said coming from a country that, at the time, had a government that did not foster much freedom and democracy, allows him to appreciate the freedoms that America offers and that servicemembers protect.

"I saw blown up tanks on the street," Ujvagi said. "Those are memories and values for freedom that you don't forget."

Ujvagi got started working on laws to help servicemembers and their families when he heard of a Family situation involving a deploying servicemember and trouble associated with terminating an automobile lease. Since then he has pushed through several bills benefiting servicemembers including issues dealing with child cus-



Maj. Gen. Gregory L. Wayt (right), Ohio adjutant general—dressed for a 1970s theme night at the Ohio National Guard's Family Readiness Conference in April—and Ohio First Lady Frances Strickland (left) present award state Rep. Peter S. Ujvagi (D-Toledo).

tody, automobile leases and income tax breaks. Ujvagi is currently working on recruiting more sponsors for another bill, the Military Family Leave Act. This bill would allow spouses and parents to receive unpaid time off before their servicemember's deployment.

Ujvagi has also helped to pass bills that exempt retired military pay from state income tax, allowing National Guardmembers to renew their professional licenses within six months of active service, and make a standard Purple Heart Ohio automobile license plate free of charge. He also wrote and helped pass Patriot Bill I and II, which provide many benefits to servicemembers, Wayt said.

"He has recognized the sacrifices of our Citizen-Soldiers and -Airmen and the sacrifices of their families," Wayt said. "The Ohio National Guard has changed from a strategic reserve to an operational reserve and his efforts have ensured the laws and statutes maintain currency with these changes.

Ohio now has one of the largest number of deployed servicemembers since World War II, and he knows it is the families that make these deployments successful. He said things like Family readiness groups and the annual Family Readiness Conference are important.

"The command and the Guard really understand that it is a Family going to war," Ujvagi said.

Ujvagi received his first Ohio Distinguished Service Medal in 1996 from then-Gov. George Voinovich for his work in the NATO Partnership for Peace program.

The Ohio Distinguished Service Medal is one of most prestigious Ohio National Guard state awards, second only to the Ohio Cross. **SG**

Honoring Ohio's fallen

New memorial plaza commemorates Ohio National Guardmembers



Story and photos (2, 6 & 9) by Sgt. 1st Class Kimberly D. Snow
Additional photos by Sgt. Parker Steele
Adjutant General's Department Public Affairs

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COLUMBUS—A crowd of about 300 gathered at the Maj. Gen. Robert S. Beightler Armory in northwest Columbus May 23 to attend the dedication ceremony for a monument honoring all Ohio National Guard troops who have been killed in action throughout the organization's 220-year history.

"Each left behind a son, a husband, a father, a grandson, a brother who loved them; friends who mourned them and a nation with a debt it can never repay," Maj. Gen. Gregory L. Wayt Wayt, Ohio adjutant general, said of the fallen troops.

The memorial plaza includes a 10-foot bronze minuteman sculpture—the symbol of the National Guard—which depicts a colonial militiaman holding his farmer's plow in one hand and a musket in the other, representing his promise to be ready to defend his country at any minute. Set back behind the sculpture is a battlefield cross—the traditional fallen hero memorial with rifle, boots and helmet—atop a granite platform etched with the names of 12 wars and 77 campaigns in which the Ohio National Guard has participated.

Ohio Gov. Ted Strickland, the Ohio National Guard commander in chief, was among the honored guests and thanked the Gold Star Families and service members gathered for their sacrifices.

"There is something profoundly moving

and profoundly American about service in the National Guard," he said. "These are our neighbors, men and women who stand ever ready, who put down the tools of their trade and forego the comforts of home to say goodbye to their loved ones to serve in times of threats and disasters."

Strickland, Wayt and Henry Guzman, director of the Ohio Department of Public Safety, presented the family members of six of the Ohio National Guard's fallen heroes with Gold Star Family license plates. The Bureau of Motor Vehicles on April 25 made the specialized plates available to immediate family members of Ohio troops killed in action.

The plates feature a large gold star surrounded by five additional stars below the name of one of ten designated combat zones from World War II through the War on Terrorism. Seventy-nine Gold Star plates have been issued since the plate became available, Guzman said.

Guzman, a Vietnam veteran, said he was especially proud to present the plates to the families who have sacrificed so much and asked attendees to "pause and consider the weight of the words 'honor' and 'hero.'"

"These are not words to be used lightly," Guzman said. "We reserve them for those who make conscious decisions to give their all. There is no greater service you should do for your families or loved ones or for the citizens of our great state than to give all for your country." **86**



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Dedication Ceremony

(1) Moments after cutting the ceremonial ribbon, a wreath is placed on the fallen Soldier's battlefield cross; (2) The official ribbon-cutting opens the memorial plaza; (3) Each of the ceremonial color guards represent wars in which the Ohio National Guard has participated and lost members; (4) During the ceremonial missing man formation, one jet breaks off (flying straight up); (5) Family members of Ohio National Guardmembers killed in the War on Terrorism were given plaques and Gold Star Family license plates; (6) A wreath is placed on the fallen Soldier battlefield cross; (7) Gold Star Families are given a standing ovation for their Guardmembers' sacrifices; (8) Members of the ONG Honor Guard move into place during the wreath-laying; (9) A Gold Star Family license plate is presented to family members of SFC Daniel Crabtree.



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Accomplishing a Life's Dream

2nd Lt. David J. Mitchell

Story by Lt. Col. Thomas R. Gee, 180th Fighter Wing Public Affairs Officer

TOLEDO—As military members, we strive to accomplish our goals and fulfill our lifelong dreams. In a short period of time and at just 26 years old, 2nd Lt. David J. Mitchell had already accomplished his ultimate goal of serving his country and becoming an F-16 fighter pilot.

“Dave joined the military because he wanted to serve his country and his dream was always to be an F-16 pilot,” said his wife, Kristi. “Some people only dream about what goals they’d like to accomplish. Dave was living his life dream.”

Tragically, Mitchell died March 14 when his F-16 Fighting Falcon jet crashed in a remote area three miles south of Alamo Lake, Ariz. Mitchell, a member of the 180th Fighter Wing in Swanton, near Toledo, was temporarily assigned to the 62nd Fighter Squadron at Luke Air Force Base, Ariz., during the Basic Qualification Course within the Initial Pilot Training program. Mitchell was on a two-ship student air-to-air training mission in the Gladden Baghdad military operating area about 80 miles northwest of Phoenix when the crash occurred. He had a total of 237 flight hours, with 26 in the F-16.

Mitchell enlisted in the Ohio Air National Guard in October 2001 and joined the 180th Maintenance Squadron as a jet engine shop mechanic. He attended Bowling Green State University and graduated in 2004 with a degree in aircraft maintenance. He was selected and earned his commission as a second lieutenant in June 2006 and completed his undergraduate pilot training at Laughlin Air Force Base, Texas, in August 2007. He arrived at the 56th Fighter Wing in November 2007 to attend the F-16 Basic Course.

On March 18, Mitchell was honored during a memorial service at Luke Air Force Base during which family, friends and fellow wingmen described him as an aspiring fighter pilot, natural leader and devoted family man. Thirty-two members from the 180th attended the memorial service. “I couldn’t be more proud of David,” said his father, David M. Mitchell, from San-

dusky, Ohio. “He was the son I was blessed with and for the man he became.”

His stepbrother, Justin Hayman, said Mitchell lived his dream of flying a multi-role fighter aircraft.

“David lived and died doing what he loved,” Hayman said. “While most people will never even find the courage to go out and attempt to make their dreams a reality, David made his.”

Senior Master Sgt. Mike Berry of the 180th Propulsion Element, Mitchell’s former



COURTESY PHOTO

supervisor, was proud that the young pilot was selected for the commissioning program and pilot training.

“I’ve been doing this for 32 years and the one thing I was really looking forward to doing—and I didn’t let him know this—was standing and saluting him,” Berry said. “I now salute 2nd Lt. Dave Mitchell.”

Mitchell, who grew up in Amherst, Ohio, and graduated from Amherst Steele High School in 1999, is survived by his father, Dave; mother, Jo Ann; and two sisters, Samantha and Tricia.

“Dave was extremely close with his father, Dave, who was the first person who introduced him to an airplane at a job fair,” Kristi said. “It was there that Dave took his first airplane ride and he decided then that he wanted to be a pilot.

“Dave’s mom, Jo Ann, was an influential

person in his life as well, teaching him to be independent and self-sufficient. His parents should be so proud of the boy they raised and the man he became.”

Starting his own family was also a dream of Mitchell’s. “He was such a devoted husband and was so thrilled to become a father,” Kristi said. “I remember his words to me when we found out we were having a boy. He told me it was the greatest day of his life. I will always remember the look on his face when the ultrasound technician said, ‘It’s a boy.’”

In addition to his own family, Mitchell was also close with the 180th Engine Shop members. “Dave kept in close contact with many of the guys in the engine shop, even after we left for UPT (undergraduate pilot training) training,” Kristi said. “He made some very good friends there and they were all willing to help each other out at any time. They became like family.”

On April 8, hundreds of people, civilian and military, filled the North Olmsted Evangelical Friends Church in North Olmsted, Ohio, to say their final farewells to Mitchell. Many student pilot trainees and instructors from Luke AFB also attended.

First Lt. Josh Quinn, a close friend of Dave and Kristi’s, who was their neighbor at Laughlin AFB during Mitchell’s UPT training, spoke at the services.

“David was everyone’s friend and there wasn’t anything that he wouldn’t do for anyone,” Quinn said. “To his parents, Dave and Jo Ann, you need to know that you did a wonderful job of raising your son and that he will be missed by all of the other students.”

Capt. Daniel Horgan, clergy officiating chaplain from Luke, summarized a collection of stories from Mitchell’s friends and co-workers. “I heard many stories, each one of them a favorite of the person telling it, and the story I heard most often was how hard he worked at what he did, that he was a man with a generous heart and willing to help his friends out how-

ever and whenever he could,” Horgan said. “We need to be thankful for memories such as these as they enrich our lives and can make us better people.”

Berry was once again in attendance for these services. “We knew early on that David was one of those unique individuals that doesn’t come along too often,” he said. “He was hard working, dedicated, well-liked by everyone and will always be a member of the engine shop.”

Mitchell received full military honors at the Sunset Memorial Park and Chapel in North Olmstead, and his family was presented with a posthumously-awarded Meritorious Service Medal by Col. Mark Bartman, 180th Fighter Wing commander. Mitchell’s family was also presented with the Minuteman Trophy from Chief Master Sgt. Richard Smith, command chief for the Air National Guard. The services concluded with a joint military flyover from Luke AFB and the 180th.

“I would like to thank everyone at the 180th and Luke Air Force Base for their love and support during

this difficult time,” Kristi said. “Everyone who has unselfishly given their time and helped out is appreciated more than I could ever explain. I could not have gotten through this without the support from the 180th and Luke AFB.” **SG**

EDITOR’S NOTE: *Capt. Miki K. Gilloon, 56th Fighter Wing Public Affairs, Luke Air Force Base, contributed to this article.*



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE O'BANNON FAMILY

“Tomorrow is promised to no one”

Spc. Joshua J. O’Bannon

Story by Spc. Sam Beavers, 196th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

COLUMBUS—Twenty-three years may seem like too short a time to make an impact in this world, but those who knew Spc. Joshua J. O’Bannon know differently.

O’Bannon enlisted in the Ohio Army National Guard as a finance specialist and was scheduled to ship to basic combat training July 8. Until that time, O’Bannon drilled with Company A, Recruit Sustainment Program.

O’Bannon died unexpectedly April 28 just hours after leading his team of Company A Soldiers to victory in the RSP’s first Warrior Challenge.

“Tomorrow is promised to no one, so I give my all in anything that I do. That is my motivation, my drive,” O’Bannon wrote in a March 2005 essay entitled “Who Am I?”

That motivation and drive came to be what he was known for as well as why he excelled

in everything he did including athletics, academics and Soldiering.

Before enlisting in the Ohio National Guard, O’Bannon was offered the opportunity to play professional football with the Arena Football League. He turned it down because he wanted to serve his country, said Staff Sgt. Jason Hillebrand, O’Bannon’s squad leader with Company A.

“He wanted to do something bigger and better,” Hillebrand said. “He wanted to help his country, to keep his friends and his family safe.”

O’Bannon attended Robert Morris University near Pittsburgh, Pa., before enlisting in the Ohio National Guard. There he earned his Bachelor of Arts degree in communications. He also played defensive back for the Colonials all four years and earned four varsity letters.

In his short time in the Ohio National

Guard he appeared to be headed for success as a Soldier too.

“He was motivated and driven to lead. He had a desire to excel in training above and beyond his peers,” Hillebrand said. “He was a Soldier who could do great things.”

At O’Bannon’s memorial service held at Tabernacle Baptist Church, Hillebrand told the story of what O’Bannon was doing on the night before the Warrior Challenge:

He had an opportunity to go hang out and party with his friends, but he chose to stay home and have his mom time him on donning his M-40 field protective mask, Hillebrand said. He was trying to put the mask on properly in seven seconds instead of the standard nine seconds, he added.

“There are not many 23-year-olds that would stay home and train instead of partying with their friends,” Hillebrand said.

For his motivation and desire to excel, O’Bannon was posthumously awarded an Army Commendation Medal as well as an Ohio Commendation Medal.

Hillebrand said O’Bannon made him proud to be a leader, and he envisioned O’Bannon becoming an officer in the Ohio National Guard.

“He would put others in front of himself and sacrifice his time to help others be as prepared, if not more prepared, than he was,” Hillebrand said. “Those are qualities of a leader that you don’t learn, you are born with.”

Fellow Company A RSP Soldiers who were on O’Bannon’s winning team during the Warrior Challenge described him as hardworking, and someone who lived up to the Warrior Ethos because he never quit.

A college friend, Jarvis Powers, shared a lighter side of what O’Bannon meant to him.

“He was the only person who wore my new clothes before I did,” Powers said at the memorial service.

O’Bannon’s impact was even felt by those who never knew him. One of O’Bannon’s friends said he talked to a teacher who was most upset over O’Bannon’s passing because she never got the chance to meet him.

With the amount of lives he touched and the impact O’Bannon had on so many people in such a short time, some might call him a legend.

In another essay O’Bannon wrote titled “Sooner Than You Think,” he closed with these two sentences:

“I will die a happy man knowing that I tried my hardest to do what I did. Be a Legend.” **SG**



Ohio Air National Guard firefighters test their mettle

Training deployment helps troops prepare for any contingency

Story by Tech. Sgt. D. Clare, 121st Air Refueling Wing Public Affairs

Photo by Staff Sgt. Douglas Nicodemus, 121st Refueling Wing Multimedia Center

FORT SMITH, Ark.—Inside, the fire blazed at temperatures topping 1,200 degrees Fahrenheit. The room itself was more than 500 degrees, pitch black beyond the blaze and dense with toxic smoke.

The fire had to be fought, but more importantly, a man needed to be saved.

It's impossible, under these circumstances, for a firefighter to go it alone. That's why the firefighters of the Ohio Air National Guard's 121st Civil Engineering Squadron, chose the exercise here.

With pallets blazing on the bottom floor of

the training structure, one firefighter blasted water to decrease the room temperature and suppress the raging inferno. In the dark, working only by sense of feel, two other team members pressed to a second floor to drag down the "victim," a man-sized dummy.

"They learn that they have to work as a team when they get out here," said Tech. Sgt. Mark Ballenger, station captain for Rickenbacker Air National Guard Base in Columbus, Ohio. "In our line of work, we recognize that lives are at risk. For us to be successful, we need to get out to places like

this and learn to work together. That's why this training is so invaluable."

During the firefighters deployment here with their fellow civil engineers, they underwent an intense six-day training evolution. Beyond structural search and rescue training, they fought simulated blazes on aircraft, underwent a comprehensive hazardous materials technician course, practiced medical extractions on vehicles, fought controlled night fires, and completed a wide range of field and combat training expected of all civil engineering unit members.

Because of the wide range of demands

Firefighters assigned to the 121st Air Refueling Wing simulate suppressing flames on an aircraft fire with the P-19 Aircraft Rescue Firefighting vehicle while training at Fort Smith, Ark.



inherent in their career field, the extensive, hands-on training here helped the troops prepare for the challenges they expect at home and abroad. Air Force firefighters are expected to contribute to airfield defense and operate in hostile environments just like their fellow Airmen. One of their main tasks in a deployed environment is saving lives and property in the event of an aircraft emergency.

They are also responsible for protecting property, fighting structural fires and responding to emergencies like vehicle accidents or downed power lines. Compared to their civilian counterparts, they tackle two specialties—structural and crash rescue and firefighting—along with the military skills and requirements they learn and fulfill with their fellow Airmen. In addition, many are trained Emergency Medical Technicians and all receive advanced lifesaving training.

Since the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, additional requirements and standards for emergency responders have increased demands on the Airmen. Today's Air Force firefighter is also one of the first to respond to incidents to support the Department of Homeland Security.

In contingency environments, they respond to air and ground emergencies in hostile territory. While stationed in Kirkuk, Iraq, in 2006, Tech. Sgt. Tommy McMurray learned firsthand the broad range of duties that firefighters encounter in war. There, he was assigned to a helicopter response team that responded to accidents and enemy attacks. Like many of his fellow Guard emergency responders, the exercise here was an opportunity for McMurray to share his experiences and exchange knowledge with his troops and fellow firefighters.

"There are a lot of things we don't have the time or resources to do at home. It's always challenging to fulfill all of our requirements and to make the most of training on drill weekends," McMurray said. "Here, if someone has a question about something, we can answer it together by using the equipment and testing things out ourselves. We can practice our techniques and get up to date on nearly every aspect of our jobs."

The training is physically and mentally taxing for the Airmen, who can shed pounds of water weight in a single training evolution. They constantly hydrate and work in a controlled environment where exercises can be monitored carefully to ensure safety. Though their heavy protective equipment reflects heat, it also traps heat as they exert energy.

"During the hazardous materials training, the guys would strip out of their gear and there would literally be puddles of sweat at their feet," McMurray said. "But usually when things get hot, the adrenalin is rushing and you don't even notice it."

At the end of a 12-hour training day, the Airmen were exhausted. But, McMurray said, morale rose with every new challenge. From using the Jaws of Life and other equipment to rip and cut a vehicle away from a simulated crash victim to putting down an aircraft blaze in the crash pit, the men immersed themselves in the training.

"For us, fighting fires and saving people is the reason we joined the Air Force in the first place," said Senior Airman Josh Bleakley. "It's not easy. But it's worth it."

"I guess the way we look at it is that if we weren't completely worn out at the end of the day, we really weren't doing our jobs," agreed Senior Airman Jason Nolte. "We absolutely love this stuff. So I guess coming out here is like going to Disney World if you're a firefighter." **86**

178th Fighter Wing fire department trains to save lives

Story by Senior Master Sgt.
Andrew Hennigan,
178th Fighter Wing fire chief

SPRINGFIELD—If you were at the Springfield-Beckley Municipal Airport last summer during a unit training assembly for the 178th Fighter Wing, you may have seen a group of firefighters decked out with rescue harnesses, helmets and other safety gear. They may have been rescuing mannequins, rappelling down the side of the 269th Combat Communications Squadron building or the air traffic control tower.

They may have been checking air quality while descending into a communications pit, using the Jaws of Life to extricate a simulated victim from car or building supports to protect against collapse before climbing into a trench. All of this was part of a three-week long Rescue Technician course provided by the Great Oaks Institute of Adult Education.

Great Oaks' program begins with the fundamentals of rope rescue—using rescue rope, tying specialized rope rescue knots, assembling rope rescue equipment systems and using those skills to provide a high degree of safety and life-saving abilities. Students learn how to climb and rappel from ropes, rescue trapped victims and haul them to safety.

They also train on high-line operations, which includes rigging highly technical raise-and-lowering systems to span a gap, in order to simulate crossing a ravine or gully. As rescuers were pulled across the gap, they were lowered to the victims and eventually raised both themselves and victims to safety.

A course of instruction on vehicle extraction involved using the hydraulic Hurst Tool—Jaws of Life—to cut open a wrecked car and rescue simulated victims. The primary focus of this training was to ensure that firefighters can safely extricate a victim from a vehicle without injuring themselves or doing further damage to people trapped inside the wreckage. **86**

ONG retiree reunion slated for September

The annual Ohio National Guard Alumni Reunion will be held at Camp Perry Sept. 12-14, 2008. The purpose of this special day is to provide all Ohio National Guard retirees the opportunity to reestablish and maintain lifelong friendships and camaraderie experienced while serving Ohio and the nation.

Attendees will have the opportunity to hear experiences from both Soldiers and Airmen who have recently returned from serving in Iraq and learn details of the Ohio Guard's operational tempo, as well as initiatives and other information which may be useful.

Friday, Sept. 12, offers optional golfing

during the day and the weekend kickoff picnic reception dinner at 7 p.m. at the convention center.

Saturday, Sept. 13, starts with a continental breakfast and registration, welcome from the adjutant general and update briefings from both Air and Army, followed by a TRICARE health insurance briefing and a buffet lunch.

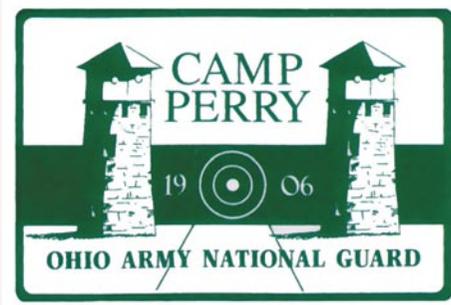
The afternoon activities include briefings from a recently deployed Air and Army unit, opportunities to view static displays and

vendor booths and a retreat ceremony at the flag pole on the parade field.

The evening begins with a pre-dinner social time, followed by the dinner program, buffet dinner and culminates with socializing and dancing.

Sunday is set aside for Air and Army as-

association meetings.
**OHIO NATIONAL
 GUARD PERSONNEL
 DIRECTORATE**



AGENDA

FRIDAY, SEPT. 12, 2008

TBA Golf outing for interested individuals

7 p.m. Adjutant General's Picnic Dinner Reception at the Convention Center

SATURDAY, SEPT. 13, 2008

7-9 a.m. Registration / continental breakfast, Convention Center

9-9:45 a.m. Welcome / adjutant general's briefing, Maj. Gen. Wayt

9:45-10 a.m. BREAK

10-10:30 a.m. Air update briefing, Maj. Gen. Feucht

10:30-11 a.m. Army update briefing, Brig. Gen. Kambic

11-11:30 a.m. TRICARE briefing, Col. Faris

11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Lunch, convention center

1-2 p.m. Air unit briefing (redeployed)

2-2:15 p.m. BREAK

2:15-3:15 p.m. Army unit briefing (redeployed)

3:15-4 p.m. Static / vendor displays

4-4:30 p.m. Move to parade field

4:30 p.m. Retreat ceremony, flag pole on parade field

5:30 p.m. Pre-dinner social, convention center (cash bar)

6 p.m. Dinner Program
 Pledge of Allegiance
 Invocation
 Introductions
 Memorial ceremony for fallen comrades
 Col. Harris presentation to oldest attending member

6:30 p.m. Dinner

8:30 p.m. Entertainment /dancing

SUNDAY, SEPT. 14, 2008

TBA Association meetings

Retiree Registration Form

Sept. 12 – 14, 2008

LODGING WILL BE HANDLED DIRECTLY BY THE CAMP PERRY RESERVATION DESK. PLEASE CALL 614-336-6214 TO RESERVE YOUR ROOM. LODGING WILL BE PAID TO THE CLUBHOUSE DIRECTLY AT CHECK-IN OR CHECK-OUT.

OTHER REUNION COSTS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

FRIDAY NIGHT PICNIC/CHICKEN RECEPTION \$12.00/PER PERSON (W/CASH BAR).....\$ _____
SATURDAY BREAKFAST \$6.00 PER PERSON.....\$ _____
SATURDAY LUNCH SANDWICH BUFFET \$10.00 PER PERSON.....\$ _____
SATURDAY DINNER BUFFET \$20.00 PER PERSON (W/ CASH BAR).....\$ _____
SUNDAY BREAKFAST \$6.00 PER PERSON.....\$ _____
CHECK ENCLOSED IN THE AMOUNT OF (includes tax and tip for meals).....\$ _____

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO “ONG RETIREES FUND”

ARRIVAL DATE _____

NAME/RANK _____

GUEST'S NAME _____

COMPLETE MAILING ADDRESS _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____ NUMBER IN PARTY _____

FILL OUT AND RETURN NO LATER THAN SEPT. 1, 2008:

MAIL TO: **CAMP PERRY TRAINING SITE**
ATTN: MS. TERRI JONES
1000 LAWRENCE AVE
PORT CLINTON, OHIO 43452-9578

Are you a Member of a
Veterans Assn _____
Which One? _____

OHIO'S BEST TRAIN THE REST

Story and photos by Spc. LeRoy F. Rowser
196th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

RAVENNA—Freezing temperatures and nearly two feet of snow did not stop National Guardmembers from across the country from reporting to the Ravenna Training and Logistics Site in March to learn engineering skills taught by Ohio Army National Guard instructors.

The heavy equipment operator course is a two-week program of instruction offered by the 147th Regiment (Regional Training Institute)—with headquarters at Rickenbacker Air National Guard Base in Columbus—that teaches students to operate and maintain various types of machinery including crawler and wheeled tractors with dozer attachments, scoop loaders, motorized graders and towed or self-propelled scrapers. The class structure provides a setting where students learn at a rigorous pace, but in a more intimate setting.

“Time goes quickly and students are constantly busy, but we have a very low instructor-to-student ratio,” said Austintown resident 1st Sgt. James Koval, 147th engineering branch chief instructor. “Students are provided detailed training in a controlled environment with only about two hours of traditional classroom time.”

Course instructors are constantly striving to improve.

“Our motto is, ‘Don’t let your good enough, be good enough.’ Our instructors never settle,” Koval said.

All instructors have numerous years of engineering experience.

“We have quality instructors that gave up great civilian jobs to come here and train Soldiers because they believe in what’s going on here,” said Youngstown resident Sgt. 1st Class Wayne K. Craig, heavy equipment operator course manager with the 147th. “Half of our instructors have deployed to Iraq to assist in the Global War on Terrorism and there is an average of 18 years of engineering experience among them.”

Some instructors go far beyond the call of

duty to do something they are passionate about.

“I drive 88 miles door-to-door,” said Polk resident Staff Sgt. Brian Hildebrant, senior course instructor. “I gave up a union shipping dock job for this. I love it.”

The instructors work long hours and love to see students improve, Koval said. The course curriculum is based on applicable skills shaped and practiced by some of the instructors during recent deployments.

“While in Iraq, we were some of the busiest guys over there,” Craig said. “We built berms to protect forward operating bases from small-arms fires and HESCO baskets (earth-filled protective barriers) to protect checkpoints from possible vehicle-borne improvised explosive devices,” Craig said.

The instructors train Guardmembers from across the country, offering instructors the opportunity to showcase the Ohio National Guard and its benefits, Craig said.

“The ONG has the best instructors, the best facilities and most equipment,” Craig said.

Instructors are continually impressed by the students’ motivation levels.

“The Soldiers we get want to be here. Motivation is always high,” Hildebrant said. “Students are eager to learn and want to be engineers. They are constantly absorbing as much information as possible.”

Students were equally impressed with their instructors and the structure of the class. Spc. Paul Becker, an engineer with the 229th Engineer Company, out of Prairie DuChien, Wis., said he appreciated the instructors’ patience as well as the hands-on and detailed nature of instruction. Other students seemed to feed off of the instructors’ motivation throughout.

“The course is great and I’m loving it,” said Spc. Stephanie Ferguson, another 229th engineer. “Anytime you get to learn from such motivated instructors it makes you perform better.”

Although the rural landscape was covered with several inches of snow, the conditions did not stop the training and actually provided ideal conditions.

“The snow is easier to work in,” Craig said. “The colder the better; it’s when the snow turns to mud we start having problems.”

The snowy conditions provided an opportunity for more extensive hands-on training than normal



ABOVE: Staff Sgt. Brian Persing, an instructor with the 147th Regiment (Regional Training Institute), directs a student driving a dozer during a training exercise March 12 at the Ravenna Training and Logistics Site. ABOVE LEFT: Sgt. Steven Sigmund, an engineer with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 112th Engineer Battalion, moves a mound of earth with his bulldozer during a lanes training exercise.

and students immediately applied their training.

“With a snow fall of this nature, before they do anything, students have to clear snow from the training sight in order to continue learning,” Craig said.

Courses at the institute’s Ravenna branch started in October 2006. Since that time, the infrastructure has quickly built up.

“We started from scratch,” Koval said. “During our first class we were out in tents getting blown over by the wind. The (Ohio National Guard) has been outstanding in supporting us. The amount of support we have far outshines the other states.” **AG**

The Pride National Team, made up of youth from all over the country, performs one of several numbers during the 2008 Pride Gala Ceremony at the 31st annual Pride World Drug Prevention Conference in Cincinnati.

Whole lot a PRIDE

Story and photos by Spc. Eunice Alicea Valentin, 196th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

CINCINNATI—Nearly 2,000 youth, family members and supporters attended the 31st Annual Pride World Drug Prevention Conference April 2-5 at the Duke Energy Center.

The weeklong event offered more than 90 workshops, general sessions and special events on topics including drug education, living healthy lifestyles and suicide prevention. Attendees also participated in workshops for performing arts, community outreach and leadership.

The Ohio Army and Air National Guard were also present to support the event with static displays and Freedom Call and Stay on Track workshops, which motivate youth to lead healthy lifestyles and resist drug use.

"Pride gives us tools to protect our body, and the National Guard protects our country," said Robert J. Caudy, an eighth-grader at Miamisburg Junior High School. "It means our government is interested in our well-being."

The two-year Viking Pride team member was attending the Pride Conference for the first time. Robert, like other Pride members, has chosen to live a drug-free, healthy lifestyle and is involved in his community to ensure his friends make similar choices.

"Our goal is to bring Soldiers to Pride who can relate to the youth in our communities," said Command Sgt. Maj. William L. Gilliam, Ohio Army National Guard state command sergeant major.

"In order for a community to be effective in reducing drug usage and abuse, many

need to do their part—churches, schools, parents and neighbors," said Jay DeWisleare, president and CEO of Pride Youth Programs.

DeWisleare is a retired law enforcement officer and recipient of the Legion of Merit Award, for his extraordinary accomplishments in drug use prevention. He founded Pride Youth Programs in 1977 and since then, the organization has provided a safe haven for youths of all ages in the United States and internationally, expanding to Brazil, Bermuda, Germany and Japan.

"The National Guard is an integral part of our organization," DeWisleare said.

Since the mid 1990s, the Ohio National Guard has supported programs like Pride, Stay on Track and the Red Ribbon Campaign, said 1st Lt. Matthew Toomey, drug demand reduction administrator with the Ohio National Guard Counter Drug Task Force. During National Red Ribbon Week each October, schools in the U.S. hand out red ribbons to students and encourage them to wear the ribbons as a symbol that they will say no to drugs.

"The Ohio National Guard Counter Drug Task Force works hand-in-hand with programs like Pride to reduce the impact of drugs in our communities," said Maj. Mitchell Gargac, ONGCDTF counter drug operations officer.

Soldiers who attended and volunteered at the conference were appreciative for the opportunity.

"We support the Pride and what they're

doing to deter kids from doing negative things in their societies," said Staff Sgt. Thomas G. Winkler, a recruiter assistant with Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 2nd Squadron, 107th Cavalry Regiment, Hamilton.

Winkler, a Cincinnati native, works for Ohio's Recruiting Command and assists in visits to schools and Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps units to promote healthy lifestyles.

"Pride is a great opportunity for young people to be surrounded by peers from around the world to reinforce it's OK to say no to drugs and violence," said Tamara Hamilton, program supervisor for Teen Education and Employment Network (T.E.E.N). This is the fourth conference the Columbus T.E.E.N. team has attended since they joined Pride Youth Programs.

Pride supporters are made up of members from different walks of life and organizations. Conference attendees are not necessarily members of a Pride team, but may have been invited by friends, family and even mentors.

"In the future, our goal at ONGDTF is to increase the number of Guardmembers attending events like this," Gargac said. "As a Guardmember, our responsibility starts at home.

"All Guardmembers are a part of a community. (You should) instill the same healthy choices that you make as a Guardmember in your community," Toomey said. **SG**



SPC SAM BEAVERS / 196TH MPAD

SGT Bryan Nye of the 371st Sustainment Brigade Signal Detachment gets the satellite on the Joint Incident Site Communication Capability (JISCC) running June 11 during annual training at Camp Grayling, Mich.

New equipment expands Ohio National Guard's communications capabilities

NEWARK—The Ohio National Guard has upgraded and added some new communication tools to its inventory. The Joint Incident Site Communication Capability (JISCC) is a computer, radio and satellite system designed to provide two-way radio communications and satellite connectivity to other wired and wireless voice and data networks, including voice-over-IP, at emergency incidents.

The 371st Signal Detachment, out of Newark, along with the Columbus-based 73rd Troop Command, have been appointed as the Ohio representatives to operate the JISCC. Because the 371st has qualified system operators, they were assigned the equipment.

The platform, which consists of four modules, was developed in response to a proposal request from the National Guard, which was seeking a system that would provide a rapid-deployment communications infrastructure to support onsite command-and-control communications, and more important, aid local first responders in the event their communications systems are rendered inoperable. The JISCC can be mobilized by truck or aircraft.

“We will be able to arrive at an incident site and provide global communications within one hour,” said Capt. Don Flowers, detachment commander. “We are expected to be available 24-7 for short-notice deployments anywhere in continental United States, as required.”

The root of the system is a 33-foot antenna which connects to a satellite 22,300 miles away. The JISCC uses a microwave link to communicate over high frequency, VHF, UHF and 800-megahertz channels. When communications

systems are disconnected and destroyed in the aftermath of a natural disaster, this capability is vital. Another module consists of video teleconferencing, in which one person can talk to another across the world through a microphone, 19-inch duo plasma monitor, and a high-resolution video camera.

“Soldiers will at least use and train on this equipment about eight out of 12 months,” said Sgt. 1st Class Michael Brigante, acting first sergeant and detachment readiness NCO. “The JISCC will keep Soldiers in the company, because it will keep them using their (military occupational specialty) and keep them trained and proficient.” **SSG DAN HENDERSON / DETACHMENT 1, HEADQUARTERS AND SPECIAL TROOPS BATTALION, 371ST SUSTAINMENT BRIGADE**

Soldier readiness processing becoming more streamlined

NORTH CANTON—Administrative and medical personnel from across Ohio pushed nearly a thousand Soldiers through an assembly-line style Soldier readiness processing (SRP) April 10-18 at the Akron-Canton Armory here.

SRPs in Ohio are now segmented into larger, more centralized regions and are becoming larger in scope. This SRP, known as section B, pulled mobilized and non-mobilized Soldiers mostly from units in northern and northeastern Ohio.

SRPs generally function to ensure Soldiers are fit to deploy and have their paperwork in order prior to arriving at their designated mobilization stations. This is accomplished through theater-specific immunizations, medical and dental screenings, financial organization assistance, personnel records reviews, legal (power of attorney and living wills) and family care plans.

The SRPs are not only becoming larger and more centralized, but also transitioning from paper files to near-completely electronic.

Despite the long hours, volume of Soldiers to process and challenges of the new system, support personnel said they found the SRP work rewarding.

“We’re preparing Soldiers, health wise, to be the best fighters around,” said Army

Staff Sgt. Edwin Sanchez of Cleveland, a medical specialist for the Ohio Army National Guard Medical Detachment and the noncommissioned officer in charge of the Akron-Canton SRP. “This is a long and rewarding project, but it gives us a sense of gratitude when we know we’re putting the best out there to represent the National Guard.” **SPC CHAD MENEGAY / 196TH MOBILE PUBLIC AFFAIRS DETACHMENT**

Ceremony honors deploying 371st Sustainment Brigade Soldiers

BEAVERCREEK—A crowd of more than 1,200 packed The Vineyard Church April 27 to say farewell to the Soldiers of the 371st Sustainment Brigade. A mix of friends, family, coworkers, veterans, distinguished guests and Soldiers offered support and encouragement to the troops deploying to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The 371st Sustainment Brigade marches into combat in the National Guard’s 371st year, wearing a new shoulder sleeve insignia for the first time. The former corps support group was expanded and reorganized into a brigade headquarters during the Army transformation process. The unit will provide command and control over logistical support units in Iraq.

The Soldiers began leaving for Fort

Combined ribbon-cutting



TODD CRAMER / ADJ. GEN. DEPT. PHOTO LAB

Helping cut the ribbon March 31 to mark the official opening of the Ohio Army National Guard’s Combined Support Maintenance Shop (CSMS) on the Defense Supply Center Columbus installation are Maj. Gen. Gregory L Wayt (from left), Ohio adjutant general; U.S. Rep. Pat Tiberi (R-Westerville); Whitehall Mayor John Wolfe and Bob Clark, representing U.S. Rep Dave Hobson (R-Springfield). The first of a two-phase \$34.9 million construction project has nearly 50,000 square feet, four drive-through maintenance bays and work areas for weapons and electronics repair.

McCoy, Wis., the following day, where they trained and prepared for a couple months before arriving in theater in July to complete the remainder of their yearlong deployment. **SGT KATHRYN CARUCCI / 371ST SUSTAINMENT BRIGADE**

Guardmembers aid with Ohio county's largest-ever drug bust

GREENSBORO, N.C.—The package appeared innocuous enough. It was wrapped in a red tarp and secured to the pallet with yellow canvas tie-down straps with two green blowers resting on top, all in the shades you might find in a crayon box of primary colors. The image taped to the side displayed an inflatable “jumper,” the kind normally seen at carnivals or festivals, with kids bouncing and playing inside.

Back in Columbus, Maj. Mitchell Gargac answered the phone in his Ohio National Guard Counterdrug Task Force office at Rickenbacker Army Enclave around 10 a.m. April 14. On the other end of the line was an agent from the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Identification and Investigation (BCI). Could the Ohio National Guard lend assistance in a major sting operation?

The BCI agent had been contacted by a counterpart in North Carolina after local law enforcement officers intercepted and confiscated a shipment containing nearly 1,000 pounds of marijuana that originated in Texas and was bound for Jackson, Ohio. After discovering the narcotics, they called in the state bureau of investigation, which began coordinating a joint task force with Ohio. The resulting joint sting operation would ultimately result in the largest-ever drug bust in Jackson County, Ohio, history.

The plan was to attempt a controlled delivery to the Jackson address to nab the suspects, but the package had to arrive on time in order to avoid suspicion. The only way to get the product to Ohio on time was by air, so they called Gargac, who quickly determined the requirements for National Guard involvement—the operation was ongoing, time-sensitive and included a counterdrug connection—had been met. An aircrew and C-130 cargo airplane from the Charleston-based 130th Airlift Wing, West Virginia Air National Guard, was identified as available and had offered to fly the mission.

“Guardsmen are all over the country

working the counterdrug mission, so we can reach out and touch them,” Gargac said. “We’re all trying to take the drugs off the street. It goes with our community mission. And it’s great when you’re training and supporting these kinds of operations at the same time.”

The flight down and back took less than three hours and by 2 p.m. the brightly-colored package containing the drugs and disguised as an inflatable carnival ride, was on the back of a truck and back on track for delivery to its original destination. But this time, the package was being delivered by sheriff’s deputies.

All suspects arrested in connection with the bust are awaiting trial on charges of conspiracy and aggravated drug trafficking. The operation ultimately netted an estimated \$4.4 million in marijuana. **SFC KIMBERLY SNOW / ADJ. GEN. DEPT. PUBLIC AFFAIRS**

180th Fighter Wing member guides veteran heroes on first Honor Flight

TOLEDO—As the inaugural Honor Flight of Northwest Ohio taxied down the runway April 30 at Toledo Express Airport, 29 veterans looked out the plane’s windows to see a line of 180th Fighter Wing members, along with the base honor guard, come to attention and render a respectful salute from the Tarmac.

“That just brought smiles and tears to those veterans,” said 1st Sgt. Norman Drzewiecki, 180th information protection manager.

The mission of Honor Flight of Northwest Ohio—one of six Ohio hubs in the national Honor Flight Network—according to the organization’s website, is “to fly American veterans to Washington, D.C., for the day completely free of charge, and operating solely from contributions of time, money and effort of its associates, guardians and donors.”

Drzewiecki was one of 23 volunteers to escort these World War II vets on their pilgrimage to visit the war memorials. He enlisted the help of his American Legion Post 553-Adams Township, to donate the \$350 he needed for the flight.

“Your job as guardian is to be at the beck and call of those you are assigned to,” Drzewiecki said. “I walked along and listened to them. You just were there for them as a companion for the day. It was an honor.”

The veterans visited the World War II



TSGT ELIZABETH HOLLIKER / 180TH FIGHTER WING

1st Sgt Norman Drzewiecki (right), 180th Fighter Wing information protection manager, enjoys breakfast with Merle Altaffer, a former Army infantry Soldier who fought during World War II, before accompanying him on a flight to Washington, D.C.

memorial in the morning, then had lunch with U.S. Rep. Marcy Kaptur (D-Toledo), and former U.S. Sen. Bob Dole (R-Kansas). They also viewed the Korean and Vietnam memorials before traveling back to Toledo.

“They seemed to want to talk about their experiences,” Drzewiecki said.

One veteran, Merle Altaffer, a former Army infantry Soldier, particularly touched Drzewiecki with his recollections of time spent in the Battle of the Bulge.

“He said that he spent the entire winter of 1944 outside. He never once went indoors,” Drzewiecki said. “He said, ‘Some days, you woke up and death was all around you.’”

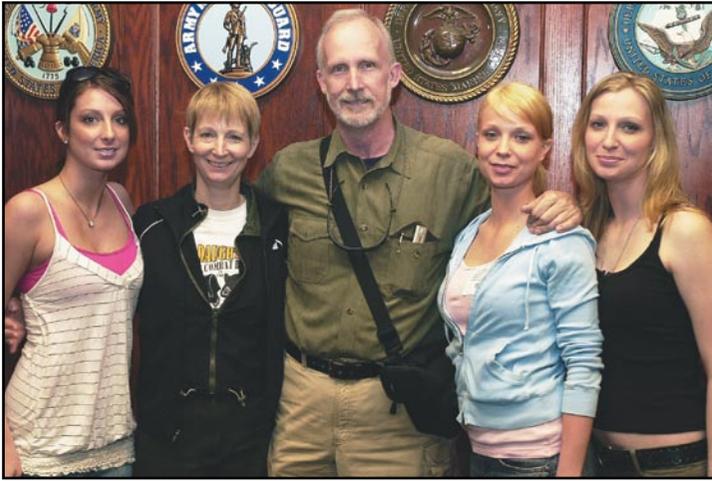
Still, Drzewiecki said, the main sentiment expressed by the former Soldiers was a sense that they were just doing their jobs, fulfilling their duty to their country back then.

“They never looked at the despair and shock of war as a stopping point. They just kept pressing forward,” Drzewiecki said.

The Honor Flight of Northwest Ohio is planning to continue the flights monthly through November. Veterans are taken in the order the applications are received. Because an estimated 1,200 of these heroes are dying daily, terminally ill veterans are given top priority on the first available flight.

“Some of these vets never got a welcome home after the war,” Drzewiecki said. “I think the whole experience was deeply satisfying for them.”

To learn more, visit the organizational website at www.honorflightnwo.org. **TSGT ANNETTE KORNASIEWICZ / 180TH FIGHTER WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS**



SPC SAM BEAVERS / 196TH MOBILE PUBLIC AFFAIRS DETACHMENT

Maewellyn (from left), mother Becky, father David, Tavissa and Domanie Granger gather after Tavissa enlisted into the Ohio Army National Guard April 24 at the Columbus Military Entrance Processing Station (MEPS). The three sisters are now all Ohio Army National Guard Soldiers.

'Danger Granger' team complete as third sister enlists in Ohio National Guard

COLUMBUS—The "Danger Granger" team now has three members, as Tavissa Granger enlisted into the Ohio Army National Guard April 24 at the Columbus Military Entrance Processing Station.

Tavissa, who will train to be a health care specialist, became the most recent member of the Granger family to enlist in the Ohio Army National Guard. Both of Tavissa's sisters are already in the Ohio Army National Guard.

Tavissa said part of the reason she joined was the influence of her sisters.

"So far they have had good experiences," Tavissa said. "They both came out of training stronger."

Domanie, the oldest sister, enlisted in 2007 as a motor transport operator. Maewellyn, the youngest sister, also enlisted in 2007, but as a unit supply specialist. David, their father, served for six years on active duty in the Navy.

"Danger Granger" is a nickname Domanie received from her drill sergeant while attending Basic Combat Training.

With all three daughters now in the Guard, Becky Granger, the trio's mother, said she was thrilled.

"I'd be out there too if I could," she said.

In fact, the only immediate family member of Tavissa's without military experience is her mother.

"We need to get an age waiver for her," Maewellyn quipped, referring to her mother.

Tavissa said she chose to be a health care specialist because she wanted to develop skills for life outside the military and because of the nature of the health care field. Before she can train as a health care specialist, however,

Tavissa has to complete Basic Combat Training, which she left for in May to Fort Jackson, S.C. Her two sisters, who have already been through the training, prepared Tavissa by telling her what to expect, but Domanie said she tried not to make it sound too tough.

"I made the mistake of scaring (Maewellyn). We were trying to be a little more gentle with Tavissa," Domanie said.

After initial entry training, Tavissa plans to join her sisters at

the University of Cincinnati. Domanie is a Reserve Officers' Training Corps cadet there under the Simultaneous Membership Program (SMP), in which enlisted Army National Guardmembers are able to contract in ROTC while still enlisted.

Maewellyn also attends UC and plans to contract with ROTC under the SMP soon. Tavissa said she will consider ROTC once she is done with training and enrolled in school. **SPC SAM BEAVERS / 196TH MOBILE PUBLIC AFFAIRS DETACHMENT**

Ohio first lady honors Guardmember for community service work

COLUMBUS—Ohio First Lady Frances Strickland recently honored a lieutenant colonel from the 121st Air Refueling Wing for her community involvement.

Lt. Col. Kathy Lowrey, executive staff services officer for the 121st, was honored by Strickland for her involvement with the Make a Difference Day, Ohio (MDDO) Statewide Steering Committee. Lowrey has participated in the promotion subcommittee for three years. During that time, the 121st completed two MDDO projects—the Airman Leadership Class helped build a home for Habitat for Humanity and journals were made with the Ohio Department of Corrections and presented to fifth grade girls at The Columbus Africentric School.

Make a Difference Day, Ohio is the largest single day of volunteering in the state, held annually on the fourth Saturday in October.

"Volunteerism is a win-win proposition," Strickland said. "It benefits the community and the volunteer. Make a Difference Day is an opportunity to work, learn and grow

together. Volunteers from across the state work to give back to their communities and we're all better for it." **121ST AIR REFUELING WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS**

OHARNG Soldier faces challenges to earn elite Sapper distinction

CINCINNATI—Lt. Col. David Powell recently became one of the newest and highest-ranking members of the Ohio National Guard to become a Sapper, at the age of 44.

Sappers are combat engineers who advance on the battlefield with and clear the way for the infantry. During the course, students train on leadership skills during water and mountain operations, as well as demolition, small unit tactics, rappelling and many other tasks.

Although designed for junior officers and noncommissioned officers (NCOs), Powell obtained approval from his superiors to attend the course.

"I wanted to learn about what my Soldiers are going through," he said. "Part of the (216th Engineer) Battalion that I command includes a company of Sappers. I wanted to learn what they were learning to be a more effective leader."

When he arrived at the school at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., some of the instructors were skeptical about his motivations for attending. Capt. Lonni Johnson, commander of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 577th Engineer Battalion and chief of training for the Sapper School, said initially he was a little wary of Powell's presence there.

"My perceptions of him quickly changed," Johnson said. "My first encounter with Lieutenant Colonel Powell was via e-mail. He was asking questions that a standard Soldier wouldn't normally ask. I could tell almost immediately that he was trying hard to prepare himself for this school. He was also the first one to arrive at the school. He wanted to make sure that he was more prepared than everyone else and to prove that he was better than the young guys."

The students' first test came early in the course, when they were required to complete a 12-mile road march with full rucksack within three hours. Powell finished in 2 hours, 18 minutes.

"This road march is one of a handful of pass or fail events that we present to our students," Johnson said. "Lieutenant Colonel Powell was the second Soldier to complete the road march out of 50 people. At that point, I knew for sure the Lieutenant Colonel Powell was there for all of the right reasons."

Powell said the 28-day course was both physically and mentally demanding; he lost 20 pounds and said it was one of the hardest things he has done in his life. A normal day began at 3 a.m. and concluded at 10 p.m., and the final 10 days consisted of 24-hour continuous operations.

For Powell, the course highlight came with graduation. Of the 57 Soldiers who began the class, only 18 graduated with enough points to earn the “Sapper” tab. The rest were sent home due to injury or failure to pass critical events. Powell was almost sent home when he injured a rib during mountaineering training.

He offered some simple advice for any other engineers interested in earning the Sapper distinction.

“Be ready and believe in yourself,” Powell said. “This course is very physically demanding, but if you believe in yourself, you can do it.

“I just earned the right to wear the Sapper tab on my uniform,” he added. “The real Sappers are in the 811th Engineer Company in Tarlton.” **SPC BRIAN JOHNSON / 1194TH ENGINEER COMPANY**

Former OSU, NFL star Spielman visits 37th IBCT Soldiers in Kuwait

CAMP ARIFJAN, Kuwait—Soldiers of the 37th Infantry Brigade Combat Team landed here recently, unaware of the special treat in store for them.

Former Ohio State Buckeyes and Detroit Lions linebacker Chris Spielman arrived here as part of the inaugural “Operation Gridiron.” The visit, sponsored by the United Service Organizations April 4-6, brought former professional football players to visit American servicemembers throughout Kuwait.



PFC KIMBERLY JOHNSON / 37TH INFANTRY BRIGADE COMBAT TEAM

Chris Spielman (center), former Ohio State and National Football League linebacker, coaches a flag football team made up of Soldiers from the Ohio Army National Guard's 37th Brigade Combat Team, currently deployed to Kuwait.

Hoping to build morale in deployed Buckeye fans, Spielman visited as many Ohio troops as he could during the limited time available.

The Soldiers of the 37th IBCT might not have known he was coming, but Spielman knew they were here.

“I read about the 37th IBCT in the *Columbus Dispatch*,” Spielman said, “and I told my wife I had to do this ‘Operation Gridiron.’”

Spielman spoke of the sacrifices servicemembers make for their country and decided Operation Gridiron was his opportunity to make a difference.

“This trip is a very small way to serve my country compared to our servicemembers,” Spielman said. “But it’s the best way at this time in my life.”

Operation Gridiron concluded with two days of competitive flag football tournaments. Coach Spielman and his adopted team, formed a special bond over the few days of practice leading up to their big game, an unfortunate defeat.

“My favorite part of events like this is the fact the guys appreciate us being here,” Spielman said. “I appreciate that they are here. It’s very humbling.” **PFC KIMBERLY JOHNSON / 37TH IBCT PUBLIC AFFAIRS**

Governor pins 178th Fighter Wing Airman with Ohio Cross for heroism

SPRINGFIELD—Ohio Gov. Ted Strickland and Maj. Gen. Gregory L. Wayt, Ohio adjutant general, awarded the Ohio Cross to Staff Sgt. Robert T. Bragg in a ceremony April 6 at the 178th Fighter Wing.

Several months earlier, then Senior Airman Bragg, a Security Forces journeyman, apprehended an armed gunman and contributed to the apprehension of another (see page 7, Fall 2007 *Buckeye Guard*). The two men earlier had robbed the Covault Market and Coin Laundry in Dayton. Two people were killed during the robbery. The suspects were fleeing from the scene when Bragg spotted them from his Dayton home.

“I had seen the two men about a half hour earlier,” Bragg said. “They had asked for directions.” He noticed that they were wearing long jeans and baggy clothes, despite the extremely hot weather, he said.



MSGT CLIFFORD FULTON / 178TH FIGHTER WING MULTIMEDIA

Ohio Gov. Ted Strickland (left) and Maj. Gen. Gregory L. Wayt (right), Ohio adjutant general, present SSgt Robert T. Bragg with the Ohio Cross April 6.

The same two men were running down the street wearing ski masks and gloves and were visibly carrying semi-automatic weapons, Bragg said.

“He grabbed his personal weapon and told me to call 911,” said Bragg’s mother Barbi Byrd.

Bragg has a concealed carry license for his 9mm pistol.

“When he ran off the porch, I was behind him,” Byrd said. “I couldn’t believe he was running after those guys. I was amazed. That was the first time that I saw him use his training. He was so composed.”

“I challenged them with my personal weapon,” Bragg said. One of the men complied, and the other fled. However, Bragg was able to find out his name, place of residence and that both men had robbed the Covault Market and Coin Laundry.

“There is no doubt my military training helped me take action,” Bragg said. “When I came off the front porch, I was crouched low to the ground and remained tactical even though I was running at full speed. I knew when to draw my weapon and when I was legally allowed to shoot if needed.”

Bragg’s family, friends and co-workers gathered to recognize his heroism at the ceremony. From parents to grandparents to friends, each echoed and evidenced a monumental feeling of pride through their words and demeanors.

Strickland, Wayt and Col. Mike Roberts, commander of the 178th Fighter Wing, spoke about Bragg’s actions.

“He didn’t receive an order. He wasn’t detailed by a supervisor. He saw his duty and took action,” Roberts said. “Sergeant Bragg recognized the inherent principle that makes this country great—one person can make a difference.” **A1C AMY N. ADDUCCHIO / 178TH FIGHTER WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS**

Commissary sales at ONG facilities may occur again in future

DALLAS—The Defense Commissary Agency is taking the commissary benefit to National Guard and Reserve members and their families living in remote areas.

“The 2004 National Defense Authorization Act authorized full commissary benefits for members of the Ready Reserve,” said Richard Page, acting director at DeCA. “Through our new “Bringing the Benefit to You” campaign, we are reaching out to our Guard and Reserve members who have earned the commissary benefit, but who cannot easily travel to a local commissary to shop on a regular basis.”

“Bringing the Benefit to You” involves conducting on-site sales out of warehouses, aircraft hangars, armories, tents in parking lots, and even the back ends of semi-trailers at remote locations where Soldiers and Families do not have access to a commissary.

The Ohio Army and Air National Guard and the Defense Commissary Agency (DeCA) at Wright Patterson Air force Base, near Dayton, are working together to provide our military community commissary shopping at convenient locations.

As reported on www.ohionationalguard.com, on-site commissary sales were conducted on separate weekends in July at the Clarence E. Miller National Guard Armory in McConnellsville and at Rickenbacker Air National Guard Base, in the BX (base exchange) parking lot. All active-duty and reserve component military personnel, dependents and retirees with a valid ID card are welcome to participate.

Check out www.commissaries.com to learn more about future on-site shopping opportunities in your local area.

This is part of the Army’s reinforced commitment of support to military members and their Families through the Army Family Covenant. A core military Family support element and a valued part of military pay and benefits, commissaries contribute to Family readiness and enhance the quality of life for America’s military and their Families.

“While the focus is on Guard and Reserve, the on-site sales are a boon to all authorized shoppers living near them,” Page said. “The Guard and Reserve members have earned this benefit and we want to make sure that we are delivering the benefit to them.”

More than 55 percent of the National Guard and Reserves members do not live in what is considered the immediate area of a commissary.

“This is just part of a larger picture,” Page continued. “Back in the fall when I became



MARGARET MCKENZIE / U.S. ARMY

Guard and Reserve members and their families shop at the on-site case-lot sale April 3-6 at the North Carolina Air National Guard base of the 145th Airlift Wing, in Charlotte, N.C.

the acting director of DeCA, I had several priorities, one of which was to make sure that we were doing our very best for the Guard and Reserve members not located near a commissary.”

Page said DeCA is exploring ways to increase the frequency of the on-site sales and locations by looking at the demographic areas that are largely populated with the Guard and Reserve members. The effort now is modest, involving sales of 150 to 400 popular items at just over 100 Guard facilities and reserve centers this year. These “case-lot” or bulk sales events are getting larger, more frequent and more festive, says Page. By 2010, the number could reach 400 sites.

A current schedule of “on-site sales” can be found online at: www.commissaries.com/guard_reserve_sales.cfm.

By the end of the year, Page says, DeCA plans to establish an online site where military shoppers, willing to pay shipping costs, can order commissary club-pack products anytime on line for delivery to their homes. **OHIO NATIONAL GUARD LOGISTICS DIRECTORATE AND MARGARET MCKENZIE / FMWRC PUBLIC AFFAIRS**

USAA offering \$500 college scholarship program for each state

ALEXANDRIA, Va.—USAA has set aside \$500 for each state, territory and the District of Columbia to assist with their 2008 enlisted state scholarship program.

On the EANGUS web site, www.eangus.org, you will find the 2008 Enlisted Scholarship Request Form. Deadline is Aug. 30. This program is between state associations and USAA, and request forms should not be routed through the EANGUS National Office.

For questions, contact retired Command Sgt. Maj. Bud Smith at (210) 498-4730 or e-mail bud.smith@usaa.com. **EANGUS PUBLIC AFFAIRS**

Anheuser-Busch opens theme parks free to military members

WASHINGTON—For the rest of this year, sitting in Shamu the killer whale’s “splash zone” or talking turkey with a big yellow bird are just two activities servicemembers and their families can enjoy for free at Anheuser-Busch Adventure Parks.

Through its “Here’s to the Heroes” program, which began in 2005, the brewing company is offering free tickets to its theme parks for servicemembers and up to three family members to thank them for all they do in service to the country.

Active-duty servicemembers, activated or drilling reservists and National Guardmembers are eligible for the program.

All servicemembers need do is register online at www.herosalute.com, print and sign the form and bring it with them. If the form can’t be printed, it can be filled out upon arrival at the park. Every person older than 10 participating in this program must present valid active-duty military or service identification.

Each pass is valid for a one-day admission per person per year to five of Anheuser-Busch’s seven theme park brands. Visitors may choose Sea World Orlando, San Diego or San Antonio; Busch Gardens Tampa Bay or Williamsburg; Pennsylvania’s Sesame Place; Florida’s Adventure Island; or Virginia’s Water Country USA. Discovery Cove and Aquatica parks are not included in this offer. **SAMANTHA L. QUIGLEY / AMERICAN FORCES PRESS SERVICE**

ONGSP APPLICATION DEADLINES

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

It is the responsibility of each individual student/Guardmember to hand deliver or mail 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. You may also renew your application online at www.ongsp.org.

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

Guard Snapshots

COURTESY PHOTO



ABOVE LEFT: Members of the 376th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron (which includes Airmen from the 179th Airlift Wing, Mansfield), deployed earlier this year to Manas Air Base, Kyrgyzstan, in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Pictured are: A1C Andrew Niedenthal (bottom row, from left), TSgt Dwayne Nicholas, SSgt Michael Rosen, MSgt Eric Stephens, SSgt Vantrako Crockett and SSgt Lyndsay Roberts; A1C Michael Hoptry (middle row, left) and A1C John Kajtar; and SrA Nicholas Yarmen (top row, from left), SSgt Brandon Melley and A1C Chelsea Dean. ABOVE, RIGHT: TSgt Melanie C. Keller (right) of the 179th Medical Group, Mansfield, collects an autograph from golf legend Jack Nicklaus May 27 during military appreciation day at the Memorial Tournament at Muirfield Village Golf Club in Dublin. RIGHT: During the 2008 Lincoln/National Guard Marathon May 4, SPC Aaron Edwards, a member of the Ohio Army National Guard's 122nd Army Band, paces his way to finish in 3 hours, 44 minutes, 32 seconds, good for 33rd place among male National Guard participants and earning him a spot on the National Guard's "All Guard" Marathon Team. Ohio's team, which also included SPC Ellis Dotson, CPT Louis Longhenry and CW4 Scott Vega, was 14th. BELOW, RIGHT: Hollie Hinton, director of women's initiatives and outreach for the Ohio governor's office, handles an M-107 long range sniper rifle May 15 during a tour of the Rickenbacker Army Enclave. Hinton and a group of more than a dozen other women civic leaders later received an orientation flight aboard a 121st Air Refueling Wing KC-135 Stratotanker. BELOW: Soldiers from the 583rd Law and Order Detachment, Youngstown, participate in a transfer of authority ceremony April 30 in Iraq. The unit is responsible for patrolling an area of about 35 square miles, which has a population comparable to that of a large American military base.

COURTESY PHOTO

SFC KIMBERLY SNOW /
ADJ. GEN. DEPT. PUBLIC AFFAIRS



TSGT ALEX SALMON / 155TH AIR REFUELING WING, NEB. ANG



SFC KIMBERLY SNOW /
ADJ. GEN. DEPT. PUBLIC AFFAIRS





Ohio Air National Guard engineers provide critical support to U.S. Border Patrol

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PHOTO COURTESY OF OHIO AIR NATIONAL GUARD

Members of the 200th RED HORSE Squadron finish a low-water crossing last April in Nogales, Ariz., which will enable an enhanced response from the U.S. Border Patrol in enforcing border security with neighboring Mexico.

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