

The Ohio National Guard Alumni Newsletter
VOL 1, Edition 5 – April 10, 2009

The Ohio National Guard Alumni webpage has been operational for a number of weeks now at: <http://ong.ohio.gov/>. Click on Community Outreach and then Alumni Relations to register for the data base and direct receipt of the newsletter. Please take a few minutes and explore the entire website, particularly the many recent news releases about your Guard.

Welcome Home Ceremony for the 371st Sustainment Brigade. We remain on track for Saturday, April 18th to welcome home the Soldiers of the 371st Sustainment Brigade. The ceremony will start at 13:00 at the Nutter Center on the Campus of Wright State University, 3640 Colonel Glenn Highway, Dayton, Ohio. Arrangements have been made for special alumni/retiree seating in the front area.

Mobile Commissary Program Update.

Woods King Armory, 4303 Green Road, Cleveland, Ohio 44128. Saturday, May 09 -1000-1930 and Sunday, May 10 - 1000-1730.

Toledo ANG Dining Facility, 2660 S. Eber Rd., Swanton, OH. Saturday, June 27-0900-1800 and Sunday, June 28-1000-1700.

Open to all military personnel (Active, National Guard, and Reservists), retirees, and dependants with a valid military ID card. Come and take advantage of the great prices offered by your Military Commissary and save from 30 to 50 percent off prices you pay off base. There will be over 150 items to select from including but not limited to paper products, diapers, health and beauty care, canned vegetables, condiments, juices, cereals, snack items, water, coffee, laundry items, garbage bags, and charcoal. There will also be a limited selection of fresh meat and produce available. Continue to check this area for other upcoming Mobile Commissary dates and locations.

Upcoming Events:

Major General Wayt's Town Hall Meetings for April.

14 April 2009 Athens Community Center 7:00-9:00pm, 701 East State Street, Athens, Ohio 45701.

16 April 2009 American Legion Post 23 7:00-9:00pm, 705 Court Street, Portsmouth, Ohio 45662.

29 April 2009 Revere High School Auditorium 7:00-9:00pm, 3420 Everett Road, Richfield, Ohio 44286.

State CSM Retirement Dinner. CSM Bill Gilliam's Retirement Dinner is scheduled for May 2, 2009, at the Cherry Valley Lodge, Newark, OH. For detailed information and to make reservations, contact MSG Candy Peterson at 614-336-7445. Deadline is April 15.

Ohio National Guard Officers Conference. Friday and Saturday, April 24-25, at The Fawcett Center on the Ohio State University Campus. For details and registration: www.ohionga.org. or call 614-486-4186.

Call to Duty Ceremonies.

B/2-107th CAV, Lebanon – May 2, 1000, at the Urbancrest Baptist Church.
C/2-107th CAV, Xenia – May 2, 1330, at the Dayton Masonic Temple.
204 EN Det, Columbus – May 11, 1000, Ohio Historical Society.
1192 EN Co, Newton Falls-June 12, 1300, Kent State University.
OMLT 09-3, (Operational Mentor and Liaison Team), Columbus, June 15, 1600, Groveport Madison High School.

American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (Stimulus Package) Information Sessions

Columbus: April 13th 2:00pm to 4:00pm and 4:00pm to 6:00pm at Columbus State Community College Center for Workforce Development, 315 Cleveland Avenue.

Cincinnati: April 16th 10:00am to 12:00pm and 12:00pm to 2:00pm at Techsolve, 6705 Steger Drive.

Nelsonville: April 23rd from 1:30pm to 3:00pm and 3:30pm to 5:00pm at Tri-County Adult Career Center, 15676 State Route 691.

Akron: April 27th from 10:00am to 12:00pm and 12:00pm to 2:00pm, University of Akron Student Union, 303 Carroll Street

Dayton: April 17th 10:00am to 12:00pm and 12:00pm to 2:00pm at Sinclair Community College, The Ponitz Center, 444 W. 3rd Street.

Cleveland: April 20th from 10:00am to 12:00pm and 12:00pm to 2:00pm at Cleveland State University Maxine Goodman Levin College of Urban Affairs Atrium, 1717 Euclid Avenue.

Youngstown: April 24th from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm and 12:00 pm to 2:00 pm at Operating Engineers Local 66 Union Hall, 291 McClurg Road, Youngstown, OH 44512

Toledo: May 1st from 10:00am to 12:00pm and 12:00pm to 2:00pm at Owens Community College 30335 Oregon Rd., Perrysburg, OH.

To register visit

<http://development.ohio.gov/recovery/RegionalStimulusWorkshops/>
<http://development.ohio.gov/recovery/RegionalStimulusWorkshops/>

For more information about the State of Ohio's role in the American Recovery & Reinvestment Act please visit www.recovery.ohio.gov
<<http://www.recovery.ohio.gov/>

Legislation of Interest

HR. 270, introduced by Congressman Bob Latta of Ohio's fifth Congressional district, and S. 731, introduced by Senator Ben Nelson (NE) are the companion bills addressing the gray area TRICARE issue.

Gray area retirees are members of the National Guard and Reserves who have retired from service after a minimum of 20 years who are not yet 60 years old. Under current law, those retired members and their families are not eligible to purchase TRICARE Reserve Select until they reach the age of 60. There are House and Senate companion bills that would permit these gray area retirees to purchase TRICARE Reserve Select. This is budget neutral as the retirees would pay a premium equal to the full cost of coverage.

News Releases

President Obama Offers Plan to Improve Care for Veterans [The New York Times, April 10, 2009, Pg. 16] Barack Obama announced plans to computerize the medical records of veterans into a unified system, a move that is expected to ease the now-cumbersome process that results in confusion, lost records and bureaucratic delays.

Military Budget Reflects a Shift In U.S. Strategy [The New York Times, April 7, 2009, Pg. 1] Secretary Gates announced a major reshaping of DoD's budget on Monday, with deep cuts in many traditional weapons systems but new billions of dollars for others, along with more troops and new technology to fight the insurgencies in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Congressman wants Troops to Teachers expanded. U.S. Rep. Tom Petri of Wisconsin is pushing legislation to make more schools eligible for a program that recruits veterans as teachers. The Troops to Teachers program has placed more than 11,500 veterans in American schools since it started in 1994. The program gives veterans a \$5,000 stipend to help them obtain teaching certification in return for three years of teaching in a "high-need" school.

Fight Over F-22's Future to Test Defense Overhaul. [The Wall Street Journal, April 8, 2009, Pg. 5] The highest-profile test of Secretary Gates' plan to overhaul how the Pentagon buys weapons will be whether he succeeds in winding down

production of the F-22 Raptor — the most advanced fighter the Air Force has ever flown.

Taliban Threat Growing. [CNN, April 7, 2009]Adm. Mike Mullen said the Afghan insurgency has grown dramatically over the last year, and with warmer weather coming, we can expect the fighting to pick up considerably.

Biden Warns Israel Against Striking Iran. [Los Angeles Times, April 8, 2009, Pg. 20}. The vice president tells CNN that Netanyahu would be 'ill advised' to try to attack nuclear sites. Joe Biden issued a high-level admonishment to Israel's new government Tuesday that it would be "ill advised" to launch a military strike against Iran.

N. Korea Envoy Warns U.N. Against Retaliating. [Los Angeles Times, April 8, 2009, Pg. 19] A senior North Korean diplomat warned Tuesday that his government will retaliate if the U.N. Security Council takes action over its rocket launch, insisting that Pyongyang sent up a peaceful satellite and not a missile.

Cyber Attacks Are Costly For Pentagon [Los Angeles Times, April 8, 2009, Pg. 14}. In six months it has spent \$100 million to fix military networks. The Pentagon spent more than \$100 million in the last six months responding to and repairing damage from cyber attacks and other computer network problems.

Omnibus Veterans' Benefits Bill.

http://www.veterans.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?pageid=30&release_id=11944.

U.S. Senator Daniel K. Akaka (D-HI), Chairman of the Veterans' Affairs Committee, recently introduced the Veterans' Insurance and Benefits Enhancement Act of 2009, which addresses a broad range of veterans' benefits. Insurance enhancements in the bill include:

- A new insurance program for service-connected disabled veterans;
- An expanded eligibility for retroactive benefits from traumatic injury protection coverage; and
- A \$10,000 increase to the amount of supplemental insurance totally disabled veterans may purchase. * I found this to be extremely interesting. This bill would increase the maximum amount of Veterans' Mortgage Life Insurance that a service-connected disabled veteran may purchase from the current maximum of \$90,000 up to \$200,000. In the event of the veteran's death, the veteran's family is protected because VA will pay the balance of the mortgage owed up to the maximum amount of insurance purchased. The need for this increase is obvious in today's housing market.

Websites of Interest

www.takeahop.com – Space A Travel Information

www.newseum.org/todaysfrontpages/flash/ - Daily front pages from newspapers around the world

<http://www.ngb.army.mil/news/theonguard/default.aspx> - On Guard Magazine

<http://www.ohioheroes.org/> - Ohio Military Hall of Fame

<http://www.wwiimemorial.com/> - World War II monument and veteran's registry

It is with deep regret and sorrow that we announce the following deaths:

SFC (Ret) Patricia Caldwell, April 7, former technician and member of 416th Engineer Group.

Ann Waters, March 31, mother of Eve Newell, JFHQ DIMR-FI Office and TSgt Evelyn Diehl, ANG HQ.

Bea Caruso, wife of Nick Caruso, MAJ (Ret) past Commander of Trp D 1/107th ACR and Vice President of the First Cleveland Cavalry Association.

My email continues to grow with questions and information requests from alumni. My intent is to respond to them all; however I will be developing a Frequently Asked Questions area for the website. We are continuing the planning for the Adjutant General's Alumni Reunion to be held at DSCC in Columbus on September 19. Please give me feedback on what activities you would like to see at the one day event. If you have ideas for future newsletter content or other alumni programs and would like to communicate with me directly, please feel free to call me at 614-336-7336, or by email at james.chisman@us.army.mil. Thanks for your service.

COL (ret) Jim Chisman
Alumni Affairs Coordinator
Government Contractor