

The Ohio National Guard Alumni Newsletter

VOL I, Edition 2 - February 25, 2009

All of you who have sent me your personal information for inclusion in our alumni data base should be receiving this directly. If you think you have registered, but received this from some other source, please let me know. The positive responses to the first edition have been overwhelming. However, please continue to forward to Ohio National Guard Alumni as you deem appropriate.

We are getting closer to having the alumni website operational at <http://www.ong.ohio.gov>. We are planning to go live on March 2, after which alumni can self-register for the newsletter as well as access other content. We will also have a page there for quick reaction information that cannot wait until the next newsletter. In those cases, we may send out an email alert advising alumni to go to the web site for details.

In response to many questions I have fielded about how to receive the award winning Buckeye Guard magazine, you can find it published on the above website. If you would like to be on the mailing list to receive hard copy or any back issues, please contact Mr. Steve Toth, Editor, at 614-336-7003, or by email at buckeye@tagoh.gov.

News of the past week:

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

SSG Jason Burkholder, former member of Co B 1-148th IN, Feb 8. SSG Burkholder was deployed with the Illinois Army National Guard in Afghanistan.

BG (Ret) Calvin H. Lanning, former Assistant Adjutant General for Army, Feb 10, in Florida.

Mrs. Marynell Graber, of Plain City, Feb 14, wife of COL (ret) Gene Graber, formerly of the 112th Medical Brigade.

Mrs. Lillian Cox, mother of CW5 (Ret) Archie Cox, formerly of HHD STARC.

Mrs. Nancy L. Bonner, mother-in-law of CSM Timothy Grys, Camp Perry Training Site.

Chief Master Sgt. Christopher Muncy to become next Air Guard Command Chief

Lt. Gen. Harry M. Wyatt, director of the Air National Guard announced the selection of Chief Master Sergeant Chris Muncy as the Air Guard's next command chief. As ANG command chief, Muncy will serve as the senior advisor to the director of the Air Guard on matters concerning the readiness, morale, welfare, proper use and progress of more than 90,000 enlisted Airmen.

Muncy succeeds Chief Master Sgt. Richard Smith, who served some four years as the Air Guard's command chief and will retire this spring after more than 37 years of service.

"Chief Muncy brings a wealth of knowledge and experience," said Smith in an emailed announcement. "We look forward to his strong and inspired leadership." Chris will be the Air Guard's 10th command chief. Prior to July 1998, the title was "senior enlisted advisor."

Muncy currently serves as state command chief of the Ohio Air National Guard. He previously spent nearly 26 years in various Air Force communications and information, and leadership positions. He also serves as chairman of the Air Guard's Enlisted Field Advisory Council and teaches the Air Guard Chief's Executive Course. Chris is a native of Ohio, where he enlisted in the U.S. Air Force in 1977 and joined the Ohio Air National Guard in 1979. He and his wife, Monique, have four children, of which three currently serve in the Ohio National Guard.

New State Command Sergeant Major

On Feb 17, the Adjutant General, MG Greg Wayt, announced the selection of CSM Al Whatmough as the new Ohio State Command Sergeant Major, effective 1 March 2009. CSM Whatmough brings 23 years of outstanding service to this position. He has held key assignments at every level of his service, as well as completed two combat deployments. His current assignment is CSM for the 37th Brigade Combat Team. He will bring a wealth of knowledge to the Command Group and will serve as a great representative for the Noncommissioned Officer Corps and enlisted Soldiers.

MG Wayt also commended current State Command Sergeant Major, CSM William Gilliam for his 34 years of selfless service to Ohio and the Nation. CSM Gilliam will retire effective 30 April 2009. Bill has been an exceptional State Command Sergeant Major and we wish the best to him and his wife, Carolyn.

Media Releases:

New Veterans Affairs Secretary Eric K. Shinseki, former Army Chief of Staff, is launching a top-down review of the VA, saying major change is needed soon to ensure the "highest levels of integrity, transparency and performance." <http://www.va.gov>

U.S. Starts To Leave Key Iraq Bases. Troops Hand Over Control in Cities, Towns (Washington Times, February 23, 2009). American troops in Iraq are beginning to pull back from bases and outposts that were linchpins in the U.S. surge that helped reduce violence, prevent a civil war and allow peaceful elections. www.washingtontimes.com/

President Obama is expected to announce as early as Friday that he will remove all U.S. combat troops from Iraq by August 2010, three months later than promised during his campaign, U.S. officials said. (Washington Post, Feb. 25, 2009). www.washingtonpost.com

Upcoming events:

Army OCS Class 56 Dining Out – 7 March at the Makoy Center in Hilliard, Ohio. For information and reservations contact OC Brian Stillman, 635 Smith Ave SW, Canton, OH 44706 by Feb 25 at brian.stillman@us.army.mil

1-148th Infantry Regiment Viale Memorial Mess. 7 March at the Holiday Inn French Quarter, Perrysburg, Ohio. For information, contact CPT Charles Buchanan at 614-336-6672 or charles.buchanan2@us.army.mil by 25 Feb.

Community Town Hall Meetings:

Major General Wayt invites you to attend a Town Hall event in your area to learn how, through partnership and volunteerism; we can support our Ohio Military Families and Communities. Following is a schedule of upcoming meetings:

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.

6 May 2009 The Gish Film Theater and Gallery 7:00-9:00pm, Hanna Hall - Park in Lot A Corner of South College Drive and East Wooster Street, Bowling Green State University Bowling Green, Ohio 43403.

7 May 2009 Central Crossing High School 7:00-9:00pm Auditorium, 4500 Big Run South Road, Grove City, Ohio, 43123.

28 May 2009 Woodlawn Community Center 7:00-9:00pm, 10050 Woodlawn Blvd. Cincinnati, Ohio 45215

All alumni are welcome ... Be a Difference Maker by becoming part of Operation: Ohio Helps Its Own – Support for Our Military Families and Communities Point of Contact for any questions is Mike Magnusson 614-336-7319 or by email at Michael.J.Magnusson@militaryonesource.com

Websites of interest:

Its official, DD-214's are NOW Online. The National Personnel Records Center (NPRC) has provided the following website for veterans to gain access to their DD-214's online: <http://www.vetrecs.archives.gov>.

Army Knowledge Online: <https://www.us.army.mil>

Air Force Portal: <https://www.my.af.mil>

For the latest in Ohio Air and Army Guard news releases go to: <http://ong.ohio.gov/>

If you have ideas for future newsletter content or other alumni programs and would like to communicate with me directly, please feel free to contact me at 614-336-7336, or by email at james.chisman@us.army.mil. I am also soliciting suggestions for a permanent title.

COL (ret) Jim Chisman
Alumni Affairs Advisor