

The Ohio National Guard Retirees Newsletter – February 9, 2009

To Alumni of the Ohio National Guard

As a part of the Adjutant General's comprehensive outreach program, a new initiative known as the Ohio National Guard Alumni Relations Program has been established formally within the Public Affairs Office of the Adjutant General's Department. This program is designed to reach out to retirees, as well as to former Soldiers and Airmen who have served with the OHNG and who would like to continue their association beyond retirement or completion of term of service.

This is the first edition of an email-based newsletter designed to provide periodic updates to Alumni on relevant activities, current events and news of the OHNG, as well as other information of mutual interest. The distribution list is made up of those email addresses we currently have on file, both individual and association. We are asking anyone who receives this to forward it to any other retirees/alumni with whom you may be in contact.

An additional key program initiative is the development of a comprehensive Retiree/Alumni database. This database will include addresses, phone numbers, current association membership, and email information, and will be used to promote communication and the sharing of OHNG information with Alumni. The personal information included in the database will not be shared with other organizations unless specifically approved by the OHNG and the provider of the information. If you would like to be included in our database for direct receipt of newsletters and other information, please contact me. Soon we will have a dedicated Alumni Relations page operational under the Ohio National Guard website at <http://ong.ohio.gov> for self-registration.

News of the past week:

OHNG provided 50 HMMWVs to the KYNG to support ice storm and massive power outage relief and mitigation efforts in Kentucky.

Ohio Army National Guard Strength: 11,390, or over 110% of authorized strength.

Ohio Air National Guard Strength: 5,328 or over 113 % of authorized strength.

BG (Ret) Paul Kopsch, former commander of the 112th Medical Brigade, died on January 28. There will be no visitation, as his last contribution was to donate his remains to Western Reserve Medical School to further medical studies. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Challenge for Tomorrow Scholarship through The Community Foundation of Greater Lorain County, 1865 N. Ridge Road, Lorain, Ohio 44052.

70 members of the 123rd Air Control Squadron, Blue Ash Air National Guard Station, Ohio, have deployed to Iraq following their call to duty ceremony Dec. 29 at Raymond Walters College in Cincinnati, Ohio.

Upcoming events: Planning for the Adjutant General's alumni reunion is underway. The tentative date is September 19, 2009. This year we plan to conduct the reunion in Columbus, probably at DSCC, where many of our units are now headquartered. More to follow on this subject.

Websites of interest:

GRAP – for the first three months of TY09, the Ohio Army National Guard enlisted 320 Soldiers through the Guard Recruiting Assistance Program. The Ohio Air National Guard enlisted an additional 24 Airmen. Alumni can earn up to \$2,000 per recruit by participating in this program. For details, visit the GRAP webpage at: <http://www.guardrecruitingassistant.com>

ONG Outreach: http://ong.ohio.gov/community_index.html; For a comprehensive listing of services and outreach efforts of the Ohio National Guard.

Ohio National Guard Association links: <http://www.ongea.org>; <http://www.ohionga.org>, for information about activities of the Ohio Officers and Ohio Enlisted Associations

Ohio Department of Veterans Services: <http://dvs.ohio.gov>, for a list of services provided by this new state agency available to Alumni.

Adjutant General's Department Links: <http://ong.ohio.gov/>

US Department of Veteran's Affairs: <http://www.va.gov>

Tri-Care: <http://www.mytricare.com>

Other Sources for Information on the Ohio National Guard. The Ohio National Guard recently overhauled its website. Our website, <http://ong.ohio.gov>, is updated frequently, and contains news, feature stories, photos and videos of the Ohio National Guard. We encourage you to visit our site often to see what your National Guard is doing.

As a member of the OHNG for over 35 years, and a recent retiree, it is my privilege to serve you as the OHNG Alumni Advisor for this program. In this role, I will seek to provide liaison with existing alumni groups and to recommend programs that support the needs and desires of Alumni. If you have ideas for 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. OHNG Alumni have served our state, our country, and our community with distinction. It is our goal to build an Alumni Relations Program which properly reflects and supports that quality of service.