

The Ohio National Guard Alumni Newsletter



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The Ohio National Guard webpage is: <http://www.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 from time to time and explore the entire website, particularly the many recent news releases about your Guard.

Thanks to all who attended the ONG Alumni Reunion at DSCC in Columbus, on September 19th. The 130 alumni who attended had the opportunity to be updated on the latest Army and Air Guard activities, as well as to see hands-on some of the modern equipment in use today. Perhaps most important was the opportunity to renew friendships and engage in fellowship with other alumni. Our thanks to the Adj. Gen., Maj. Gen. Wayt, Asst. Adj. Gen. for Air, Maj. Gen. Feucht, and Asst. Adj. Gen. for Army, Maj. Gen. Kambic for taking the time to be with us and to engage in a wide ranging discussion forum with the alumni.

Judging by the information we received on the evaluations, we will be planning an even bigger and better event in the Columbus area for next year. If you would like to participate on the planning committee, please contact COL (ret) Jim Chisman. If you were not able to attend, you can review the reunion presentations on the web at:

http://www.ong.ohio.gov/2009_alumni_reunion_briefings_index.html

The 2-174th ADA BN Retired and Past Members Association Reunion. The 2-174th ADA Bn. Retired and Past Members Association, Ohio Army National Guard, held its Second Annual Reunion on Sunday, Sept. 20th 2009 at the McConnelville Armory. Approx. 170 retired and former members and their families of the 2-174th ADA BN and its attached units, the 210th ARCAT and the 997th Ord Co., attended the reunion. They came from across Ohio, surrounding states and as far away as Alabama and Virginia. Six former Bn. Commanders were in attendance, in addition to the current 174th ADA Bde. Commander, BG Rufus Smith, and the current 2-174th ADA Bn. Commander, LTC Jeffery Schultz. Next year's reunion is scheduled for Sept., 19th 2010 at 1300 hrs. For more information about the 2-174th ADA Retired and Past Members Association or the reunion, contact Bob Kirkwood, President, by email at: kirkrb77@att.net or by phone: 740-697-0303.

Ohio National Guard Strength FY09 Year End

Ohio Air National Guard	5,384 or 112.75%
Ohio Army National Guard	11,210 or 109.39%

President of Serbia Visits Ohio. Cleveland, Ohio, by Spc. Sam Beavers196th MPAD. The president of the Republic of Serbia arrived in downtown Cleveland Sept. 20 to further develop the nation's ongoing relationship with Ohio that began in 2006 with the National Guard Bureau State Partnership Program. "The partnership with the Ohio National Guard is an important part of our partnership with the United States," President Boris Tadic said. Tadic and Serbian Foreign Minister Vuk Jeremic are heading the Serbian delegation at the 64th session of the U.N. General Assembly in New York this week, but also scheduled this stop in Ohio to meet with Ohio Gov. Ted Strickland, leaders from Ohio's business community and the Ohio National Guard.

In three years of partnership there have been more than 80 exchanges between Serbia and Ohio and Maj. Gen. Gregory L. Wayt, Ohio Adj. Gen., said he had no plans of slowing down. "Cooperation has never been better," Wayt said. "It is very important that we continue missions with Serbian Soldiers." Ohio National Guard Soldiers and Airmen enjoy interacting with not only Serbian Soldiers, but also Serbian citizens, and welcome more opportunities to conduct training missions together said Maj. Gen. Matthew L. Kambic, Asst. Adj. Gen. for Army. "The state partnership program not only fosters familiarization and the sharing of best practices that benefit both military organizations," said Maj. Gen. Harry "A.J." Feucht, Ohio's Asst. Adj. Gen. for Air. "It also establishes a foundation upon which broader cooperation between the partners can be built."

"Meetings like those that occurred here today between the president and the governor and the business community, exploring new avenues of cooperation in education and business, are evidence of the broadening of Ohio's relationship with Serbia," Wayt said. "This partnership is the crown jewel, which means that it is setting the example for all state partnerships."

This Week in Guard History. Sept. 21, 1846: Monterrey, Mexico - America declared war against Mexico in April 1846. By mid-summer, Gen. Zachary Taylor had marched his army of nearly 20,000 men, more than half of whom were in volunteer units, across the border and deep into northern Mexico. He attacked the city meeting stiff resistance. But it was the assault and capture of the citadel, often referred to as the Bishop's Palace that involved the hardest combat. One of the units involved in this attack was the 1st Mississippi Volunteers, also known as the Mississippi Rifles, commanded by Col. Jefferson Davis. A West Point graduate and former Regular Army officer before the war, he made sure his men were well-trained and armed with the best shoulder arms available, better than the muskets carried by the Army. The Rifles stormed the Palace and secured it after hand-to-hand fighting. The Mexican soldiers were allowed to surrender with the honors of war, marching out under arms and carrying their colors.

At the Battle of Buena Vista on Feb. 23, 1847, the Rifles helped stem the main Mexican assault and threw the enemy back in confusion, causing them to retreat. Davis served at various times as a senator from Mississippi and as secretary of war under President Franklin Pierce from 1853 to 1857 before returning to the Senate. In 1861, Davis was elected as the president of the Confederate States of America.

This Week in Ohio Army Guard History. (provided by SSG Josh Mann, OHARNG Historian)

1 October 1978: 73d Troop Command was organized as Command and Control Headquarters, Ohio Army National Guard.

1 October 1984: The 1484th Transportation Company was constituted as the 637th Service Company.

1 October 1987: The OHARNG Training Site Detachment, 147th Regiment (RTI) and OHARNG Recruiting and Retention Detachment were constituted as Det 2 (Training Site Detachment), Det 3 (Ohio Military Academy) and Det 4 (Joint Task Force), HQ, State Area Command, OHARNG. Additionally, the 137th Aviation Regiment was organized as a parent unit under the Combat Arms Regimental System (CARS) with Headquarters in Worthington.

1 October 2005: Company E, 1st Battalion, 137th Aviation Regiment was constituted at Columbus.

Upcoming Events.

179th AW Hometown Hero Salute. October 3rd, Mansfield.

Free Military Family Fest, October 24, 2009, 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm, Zanesville Municipal Airport Hanger 7. All military past, present and future and their families are invited. There will also be a military veterans' car and bike cruise in. Lots of exhibits, prizes and information will be available. For more information call 740-452-2731.

Seventh Annual Veteran Owned Business Symposium, Tuesday November 10, 2009, Kent State University Student Center, Kent, Ohio. This event is being offered to provide area Veterans with an opportunity to: learn from a variety of business development resources, benefit from Government contracting workshop, network with Federal and State buying activities, and meet with Government, Prime Contractor and Private Industry Buyers Additional details will be forthcoming. Contact: Jane Stewart by email at: jstewart@LCPORT.org or by phone at: 440-357-2294

Golden Corral's 9th annual Military Appreciation Monday dinner, Monday, November 16, 2009, from 5 to 9 pm in all Golden Corral restaurants nationwide. The free dinner meal is a special "thank you tribute" to any person who has ever served in the United States Military. If you are a veteran, retired, or currently serving, you are invited. No identification is required for the servicemember; however family members will pay normal meal costs. To locate a Golden Corral near you, visit www.goldencorral.com/locator.

Mobile Commissary Schedule

Woods King Armory, 4303 Green Road, Cleveland, Ohio 44128, November 13th (1300-1800), 14th (0930-1830), and 15th (0930-1730). For additional information: www.commissaries.com

Upcoming ONG Retiree/Alumni Events

147th Infantry Retirees Association – Friday, Oct 2, 2009, at the Sharonville, Ohio, VFW post.

The First Cleveland Cavalry Steak Roast will be held Saturday, 10 October at 1700, at the Green Road Armory in Cleveland.

Call to Duty Ceremonies

OMLT 1.4, January 3, 2010. Details to follow.

Welcome Home Ceremonies

135th MP Company, October 18, 2009. Details to follow.

Ohio Army Guard Current Deployments

135th Military Police Company (Chagrin Falls), Iraq - Operation Iraqi Freedom
1-137th Aviation Regiment (Columbus), Iraq - Operation Iraqi Freedom
HU/US Operational Mentorship & Liaison Team (OMLT 1.2), Afghanistan - ISAF
2-107th Cavalry Regiment (RSTA) (Various Cities), Iraq - Operation Iraqi Freedom
204th Engineer Detachment (Columbus), Afghanistan - Operation Enduring Freedom
1192nd Engineer Company (Ravenna), Iraq - Operation Iraqi Freedom
HU/US Operational Mentorship & Liaison Team (OMLT 1.3), Afghanistan - ISAF
1483rd Transportation Company (Walbridge), Iraq - Operation Iraqi Freedom
585th Military Police Company (Marysville), Iraq - Operation Iraqi Freedom
HHC/16th Engineer Brigade (Columbus), Iraq - Operation Iraqi Freedom
HHB/174th Air Defense Artillery Brigade (Columbus), DC - National Capitol Region

Recent News Releases

Gates Doubts U.S.'s Afghan Strategy Wall Street Journal, October 1, Washington-- President Obama met with senior counselors for three hours Wednesday to launch his review of Afghan war strategy, amid indications that his defense secretary -- the key link between the White House and the military -- is among those undecided about the right approach. Gen. Stanley McChrystal, the senior U.S. commander in Kabul, is advocating a manpower-intensive counterinsurgency strategy that focuses on protecting the Afghan populace rather than hunting individual militants. He submitted a classified assessment over the weekend calling for up to 40,000 U.S. reinforcements.

Mr. Obama met with senior military officials, diplomats and Cabinet members Wednesday as part of the review, which White House spokesman Robert Gibbs said was designed to "poke and prod" potential new approaches to the conflict. The discussion focused on the political and security situation on the ground, according to an administration official, with military commanders detailing the gains made by the insurgency and top diplomats discussing the Afghan election results that were marred by fraud claims.

In an interview Wednesday, a senior defense official said that Defense Secretary Robert Gates now worries that counterinsurgency might no longer be a viable approach for countering the Taliban violence roiling once-stable parts of north and west Afghanistan. Mr. Gates, a Bush administration holdover, has emerged as one of Mr. Obama's most trusted advisers, so his views carry significant weight in the deliberations.

A shift in Mr. Gates's thinking would be particularly striking because he has long been a major advocate of counterinsurgency, which is credited with helping to sharply reduce Iraq's once-unrelenting violence. When Mr. Gates first announced that he was sending Gen. McChrystal to Kabul in May, he specifically cited the commander's "unique skill set in counterinsurgency" as a main reason for the selection. At the same time, Mr. Gates has long been skeptical of sending large amounts of additional U.S. troops to Afghanistan, warning that an expanded Western military footprint could galvanize new armed opposition to the U.S. and its allies and draw U.S. forces into a conflict akin to the guerrilla war against the Soviet Union in the 1980s.

http://online.wsj.com/article/SB125435650569454583.html?mod=googlenews_wsj

Memorial Officials Call for Photos of Vietnam Vets. 9/24/2009 - WASHINGTON (AFNS) -- The National Call for Photos, a campaign to gather images of the more than 58,000 men and women whose names are on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, was launched recently at an event here hosted by officials with the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund and FedEx Office. FedEx Office officials will use their locations across the country to help in gathering photos.

Exhibits will include a wall of photographs of people whose names are on The Wall, a selection of the more than 100,000 items that have been left at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, a timeline of key military events of the Vietnam War and a history of the memorial. The center also will celebrate the values embodied by America's service members: loyalty, duty, respect, service, honor, integrity and courage, officials said. An exhibit will show images of those who have served in America's conflicts, from the Revolutionary War to Iraq.

More than \$20 million has been raised for the education center, including a \$10 million gift from Time Warner. It is estimated that the center will cost \$85 million to build. Other Memorial Fund initiatives include educational programs for students and teachers, a traveling Wall replica that honors veterans and a humanitarian and mine-action program in Vietnam. (Courtesy of American Forces Press Service) <http://www.af.mil/news/story.asp?id=123169427>

VA Warns Veterans to be Wary of Phone Scam. Staff report Sep 18, 2009 The Veterans Affairs Department has issued a warning about a phone scam in which con artists claim to be updating veterans' prescription drug information in VA's files. VA officials caution veterans not to give credit card numbers over the phone if they receive such a call. "Veterans have become targets in an inexcusable scam that dishonors their service and misrepresents the department built for them," said Dr. Gerald Cross, VA Undersecretary for Health. "VA simply does not call veterans and ask them to disclose personal financial information over the phone." Callers reportedly misrepresent VA to gain personal information over the phone by claiming that the department recently changed procedures for dispensing prescriptions and that their personal credit card number is needed to update their VA files. "VA has not changed its processes for dispensing prescription medicines," Cross said. "Nor has VA changed its long-standing commitment to protect the personal information of this nation's veterans." Veterans service organizations brought the issue to VA's attention, Cross said. Veterans with questions about VA services may contact the nearest VA medical center or call toll-free 877-222-8387.

TRICARE to Lower Prices. The Defense Department is projected to reduce spending by \$1.67 billion on prescription medications sold in retail pharmacies in fiscal 2010, by providing discounts in the TRICARE retail pharmacy network. TRICARE beneficiaries, who need a prescription filled rapidly and are unable to access a military pharmacy, can visit one of the more than 54,000 civilian pharmacies that are part of the TRICARE retail pharmacy network. To locate retail pharmacies in the network based on ZIP code, call the TRICARE retail pharmacy program at 866-363-8779, or on the web at: <http://www.tricare.mil/mybenefit>

New Address? Make Sure to Update DEERS. Falls Church, Va. For TRICARE beneficiaries, keeping Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS) records up-to-date is critical to uninterrupted health care. DEERS is the worldwide computer database of uniformed services members (sponsors), their family members and others eligible for military benefits, including TRICARE.

Mistakes or outdated information in DEERS can cause problems with a TRICARE beneficiary's claims. For example, retail network pharmacies check TRICARE eligibility through DEERS, and prescriptions are filled only for beneficiaries listed in DEERS as eligible. Outdated addresses can also mean important direct mail is misdirected. Sponsors are automatically registered in DEERS, but it is critical they register their eligible family members as well. To register family members in DEERS and receive an ID card, the family member and sponsor must bring documentation, such as a marriage or birth certificate, to a military ID card issuing facility. Locate ID card offices by ZIP code, city or state using the ID card office locator at <http://www.dmdc.osd.mil/rs/> Sponsors should call the ID card office first to confirm what documentation is needed and the hours of operation.

Contact information on DEERS can be updated in several different ways including in person at a military ID card issuing facility, online, and by phone, fax or mail. There are two online options via either the new myDODbenefits Web site at <https://www.dmdc.osd.mil/mydodbenefits>, or the Beneficiary Web Enrollment Web site at <https://www.dmdc.osd.mil/appj/bwe> Sponsors can also call the Defense Manpower Data Center (DMDC) Support Office at 1-800-538-9552 (1-866-363-2883

TTY/TDD) to update addresses, e-mail addresses and phone numbers. Changes can also be faxed to 1-831-655-8317, or mailed to: DMDC Support Office, 400 Gigling Road, Seaside, CA 93955. For more information regarding DEERS and how and when to update DEERS records, go to <http://www.tricare.mil/DEERS>

Websites of Interest:

<http://www1.va.gov/geriatricsshg/docs/HHHreimburse.DOC> VA Home Health and Hospice Care Reimbursement Handbook.

<http://www.amc.af.mil/amctravel/index.asp> New AMC Space A Travel page

<http://www.ohiomemory.org/index.php> Ohio Army National Guard Historical Collections

Where Are They Now Request

I have received a number of requests to add a section to the newsletter entitled “Where Are They Now”? This section would include a short update on alumni since leaving the ONG, including current contact information. If you would like to participate or have other ideas for future newsletter content, please feel free to contact me at 614-336-7336, or by email at james.chisman@us.army.mil. The Ohio National Guard that proudly serves around the world today is a direct reflection of your service.

COL (ret) Jim Chisman
Alumni Affairs Coordinator
Government Contractor