

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.

Thanksgiving Greeting from Maj. Gen. Wayt, the Adjutant General

1. Thanksgiving is a uniquely American holiday that dates back to colonial times. Each November, Americans gather together Family and friends to give thanks for the many blessings we enjoy as citizens of this great country. Nearly half a century ago, President Eisenhower proclaimed Thanksgiving as a time when Americans should celebrate *"the plentiful yield of our soil... the beauty of our land ... the preservation of the liberty and justice that form the basis of our national life, and the hope of international peace."* President Eisenhower's words point us in the direction that we all strive toward today.
2. Some Ohio National Guard Soldiers and Airmen are spending Thanksgiving with their Family and loved ones; others of you are far from home, standing watch for freedom. Wherever you are, I want you to know that our state and nation are grateful for your service and your sacrifice. The citizens of Ohio are fortunate to have such a professional and component force.
3. Families have long provided strength and values for Soldiers and Airmen. For just as our Soldiers and Airmen sacrifice and dedicate themselves to honorable service, our Families also sacrifice and make invaluable contributions to the state and nation. We know that we do not serve alone. I am grateful for each Family's support and contributions.
4. During this Thanksgiving, I offer my thanks to the Soldiers, Airmen, and civilian employees for your devotion to duty, selfless service, and professionalism. To Family and friends of our Soldiers and Airmen, thank you for your unwavering support and strength. And lastly, please remember our fallen heroes and their Families for their sacrifice on behalf of a grateful nation.
5. My wife Debbie and I offer our blessings and appreciation to each of you on this special day and all of the days ahead.

Alumni Relations Program Evaluation. Within the next 10 days you will receive by email a link to a short questionnaire that you can complete on line. This questionnaire will provide you with an opportunity to express your opinions and to evaluate our Alumni Relations Program and this newsletter. Please look for the email and take few minutes to provide us with your input and suggestions on how we may continue to improve this program for ONG alumni.

GEN. McKinley Selects new Senior Enlisted Advisor for NGB. Gen. Craig R. McKinley, the Chief of the National Guard Bureau, announced last Thursday the selection of a new senior enlisted leader for NGB. Chief Master Sgt. Denise Jelinski-Hall, of the Hawaii Air National Guard, will be the third senior enlisted leader assigned to the Office of the Chief, National Guard Bureau. She will be responsible for advising McKinley on enlisted affairs of the 457,000 soldiers and airmen of the Army and Air National Guard.

"This was a very tough decision, because of all the very well-qualified candidates who applied for this position," McKinley said. "Chief Jelinski-Hall will be a welcome addition to my staff." Jelinski-Hall began her Air Force career in 1984 as an air traffic control operator at Offutt Air Force Base, Neb. Four years later, she transferred to the communications field and the California Air National Guard. She joined the Hawaii Guard in 1990 and became the command chief master sergeant for the 154th Wing at Hickam Air Force Base in 2004. Before coming to NGB, she was the senior enlisted leader, which is a joint position, for the Hawaii Guard. McKinley made the announcement to hundreds of general officers and other senior Guard leaders at the Joint Senior Leadership Conference being held at the Gaylord Hotel on National Harbor outside of Washington, D.C., this week.

Promotion Announcement – COL (P) Robert C. Clouse Jr. Maj. Gen. Wayt has announced the promotion of COL (P) Robert Clouse to the rank of Brigadier General, effective 1 December, 2009. COL (P) Clouse will assume the duties of Deputy Assistant Adjutant General, which is a recent authorization by the National Guard Bureau. COL (P) Clouse's new responsibilities in his position will include oversight of the 147th Regional Training Institute, Fort Ohio Training Site, and the Medical Command. A promotion ceremony in honor of Colonel (P) Clouse, will be held on Tuesday, 8 December 2009, at 1530 at the Beightler Armory (Drill Floor), 2825 West Dublin Granville Road, Columbus, Ohio 43235. A reception will follow the ceremony.

New Air Guard Unit Formed at Springfield. The 178th Intelligence Squadron activation and assumption of command ceremony was held Oct. 17 in Springfield. Lt. Col. Daniel Sutch is the new Commander and Master Sgt. Scott Ross is the 178 IS First Sergeant. Col. Mike Roberts, 178th Fighter Wing Commander, unveiled the 178 IS flag, which symbolizes the official stand-up of the squadron.

The mission of the 178 IS is to provide intelligence support to two areas of the National Air and Space Intelligence Center. The squadron leads the Distributed Common Ground System Analysis and Reporting Team mission and supports the Foreign Material Exploitation mission.

"The intelligence problems that need to be solved are increasingly complicated," said Colonel Sutch. "What we do is provide a deeper analysis and look for trends not usually seen." "

The road ahead as we press on with the intelligence squadron is hard, but the future is bright," said Colonel Mike Roberts. The 178 IS will be comprised of approximately 100 members, which include Guardsmen, active-duty service members, contractors and civilians.

OSU-UM Football Rivalry Extends to Iraq. Spc. Brian Johnson, 16th Eng. Bde. Unit Public Affairs Representative. For more than 100 years, a hotly contested rivalry between the Ohio State

Buckeyes and the University of Michigan Wolverines boils over to an all out war occurs on a Saturday afternoon each November. This year, the rivalry went all the way to Baghdad for Soldiers of the 16th Engineer Brigade, encompassing both the Ohio Army National Guard's 1192nd Engineer Company and the Michigan Army National Guard's 1434th Engineer Company. For these troops, the game has a special meaning and there was a lot of good natured teasing leading up to kickoff last Saturday.

The companies work closely together, serving under the same battalion – the 101st Engineer Battalion, co-located in the same building and work many projects together. However, on Nov. 21, all the teamwork and camaraderie the two units have built was set aside. As the old rivals prepared to square off on the football field, the good natured trash talk began between the two units.

Although the Michigan Guard Soldiers had high expectations of an upset, Ohio State held on to win 21 to 10, continuing its domination over Michigan since the arrival of Coach Jim Tressel nine years ago. However as soon as the game ended, it was back to work for both units with the same spirit of cooperation and mission accomplishment that that has hallmarked all their work. For the full text of this story and others about the activities of the 16th Engineer Brigade during this deployment, visit <http://www.dvidshub.net/units/MND-B>

Ohio Veteran Bonus Update. In the last newsletter we reported that the residency requirement for eligibility for the Ohio Veteran Bonus was “current Ohio resident and an Ohio resident for at least one year preceding their (qualifying) service”. That information was obtained from the Ohio Attorney General's Office website and was correct at our publication date. Since that time, we have been advised by the Ohio Department of Veterans Services (DVS) that the residency requirement for eligibility may not require residency prior to qualifying service, just current residency. DVS will use the general news media and their website www.dvs.ohio.gov to advise veterans, and we will continue to provide updates as we receive additional information.

This Week in Guard History. Nov. 16, 1776: Fort Washington, N.Y. --- Approximately 8,000 British and Hessian soldiers, supported by guns from Royal Navy ships, assault Fort Washington on the northern end of Manhattan Island. The fort, meant to hold only about 500 men, had been flooded by retreating American troops seeking shelter from the furious attacks in which many of their comrades were killed by Hessian bayonets. Few Americans had these to use in their defense.

Before the royal forces can launch a coordinated attack on the fort itself, Pennsylvania Col. Robert Magaw surrenders his garrison of more than 3,000 soldiers. Most of these men were members of the 4th and 6th Pennsylvania regiments, along with several companies from Maryland and other states. This is the second worst American defeat of the entire war. Only the American surrender of 5,500 troops at Charleston, S.C. in 1780 would be more costly.

COL. Millett: Medal of Honor Recipient, Former Guardsman Dead at 88. The man who led what is considered the last bayonet charge in American military history has died. Medal of Honor recipient and former Guardsman Col. Lewis L. Millett, 88, died Saturday in Loma Linda, Calif. Millett spent 12 years in the National Guard in both Massachusetts and Maine before joining the active duty military. He retired in 1973 after 35 years of military service, including duty in World War II, the Korean War and the war in Vietnam. In 1949, he answered the call for volunteer National Guard and Reserve officers to move to active duty and was posted to the 25th Infantry Division's 8th Field

Artillery Regiment. In November 1950, during the Korean War, Millett assumed command of Company E, 27th Infantry Regiment, after its previous commander, Capt. Reginald Desiderio, had been killed leading the defense of his company's positions, an action which earned Desiderio a posthumous Medal of Honor.

On Feb. 7, 1951, Millett led Company E on an assault against dug-in Chinese positions near Soam-Ni. Millett trained his men in the use of the bayonet. He once said, "I had every rifleman in the company fix his bayonet to his rifle and leave it fixed 24 hours a day. I fixed my bayonet to my M1 and left it there." Led by Millett, the soldiers stormed the Chinese positions, throwing grenades and using their bayonets with extreme effectiveness. Although wounded by grenade fragments, Millett continued to lead the charge and consolidated the company's positions once the enemy was routed. For his actions, he was awarded the Medal of Honor.

The bayonet Millett used during his famous charge is on display at the National Guard Memorial Museum's Medal of Honor Gallery. Millett remained on active duty after the Korean War and was the driving force behind the creation of the Military Assistance Command-Vietnam Recondo School in Vietnam. He served in Southeast Asia in 1960-62 and 1968-72.

Changes of Command

147th Regional Training Institute, 1-147th Engineer Battalion, 5 December, 2009, 1030, Camp Ravenna Joint Military Training Center, Bldg 813, Outgoing Commander LTC Robert "Buck" Bramlish, Incoming Commander LTC Kirk J. Zecchini.

371st Sustainment Brigade, 9 January, 2010, Outgoing Commander, COL Dan Tack, Incoming commander, LTC Maria Kelly, details to follow.

237th Brigade Support Battalion, 9 January, 2010, Outgoing Commander, LTC Gerard Garvey, Incoming Commander, LTC Glen Worth, details to follow.

Medical Command, 6 February, 2010, Outgoing Commander, COL Terry Johnson, Incoming Commander, COL Brent Call, details to follow.

73rd Troop Command, 11 April 2010, Outgoing Commander, BG Jack Lee, Incoming Commander, COL Deborah Ashenhurst, details to follow.

Upcoming Events

Law, Benefits, Financial and Government Services Information Fair and Celebration of U S Veterans, Saturday, November 28, 2009 10 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. (Doors open at 9 a.m.), Franklin County Veterans Auditorium 300 W. Broad St. Columbus OH 43215. Free Admission: guests of honor all U S Veterans and their families, for additional information: Phone: 614/224-1113, Fax: 614/224-4949, or email at sanctuaryohio@yahoo.com

First Cleveland Cavalry Annual Holiday Party, Friday, December 4, 2009, 5:00 pm to 9:00 pm, Woods King Armory, 4303 Green Road, Highland Hills (Cleveland), OH.

Ohio Army National Guard Military Police Ball sponsored by the 437th Military Police Battalion, Saturday, 5 December 2009, 1800 hours, at the McKinley Grand Hotel, Canton, Ohio. For additional information and to make reservations, please contact CPT Les Stroud, leslie.stroudjr@us.army.mil, or by phone at (216) 509-6177.

Wildlights at the Columbus Zoo DECEMBER 12th – Please join us for Wildlights at the Columbus, a great event for Ohio's military families. Operation: Military Kids and The USO of Central Ohio will be hosting a warming station with snacks and drinks from 6 – 9 pm at the Education Auditorium (just inside the front entrance to the zoo and to the right) Operation: Military Kids will also be taking FREE family photos . Tickets can be purchased on December 12th during regular business hours at the Zoo ticket booths. Ticket prices: Adults \$6.00, Children 2-9 years and Seniors 60 years & up \$3.50, and Children 2 and under are free. Military ID must be shown to purchase tickets. Parking for this event is \$5 per car. For additional information, please contact Sue Ann Carroll, Ohio National Guard Youth Coordinator at 877-460-2177 or Erin Berry, Operation: Military Kids Youth Specialist at 614-336-7314.

SGM Chuck Doup Retirement Event, A dinner honoring the long distinguished service of Army Guard SGM Chuck Doup, 73rd Troop Command, will be held January 9th, 2010, 1700 – 2000, Cherry Valley Lodge, 2299 Cherry Valley Road, Newark, Ohio 43055. For further information, please contact MAJ Jeff Watkins at 614-336-6488, or by email at jeff.watkins@us.army.mil

16th Engineer Brigade Ball, January 9, 2010, 1800, Medallion Club, 5000 Club Drive, Westerville, Ohio. For additional information and reservations, contact SGT Madison: naynay.madison@us.army.mil, 614-336-6412, or SSG Carter: dale.e.carter@us.army.mil, 614-336-6000 ext. 17. Please RSVP NLT January 4. 2010.

174th Air Defense Brigade Ball, January 23, 2010, details to follow.

371st Sustainment Brigade Ball, January 23, 2010, 1800hrs, Holiday Inn Worthington 7007 North High Street, Worthington, Ohio 43085. RSVP by January 15, 2010 to CPT Eric Kaiser 614-336-6461

Ohio National Guard Association Winter Dinner Dance, Feb 27, 2010, details to follow.

Army Guard Officer Candidate School Dining Out, March 10, 2010, details to follow.

Call to Duty Ceremonies

OMLT 1.4, January 2, 2010, 1600 hours, Reynoldsburg United Methodist Church, Reynoldsburg, OH.

Welcome Home Ceremonies

1st Battalion, 137th Aviation Regiment, late December. Details to follow.

Recent News Releases

Reserve Retirees Face Longer Wait for TRICARE. “Gray area” military retirees who were promised health care coverage under Tricare may have to wait a year or longer for benefits to begin, Tricare officials are warning. Reserve retirees, who have had to wait until age 60 before military health coverage begins, had been promised they could sign up for Tricare Reserve Select under a provision of the 2010 National Defense Authorization Act, which was signed by President Barack Obama on Oct 28.

Tricare coverage for the reserve retirees — called “gray area” retirees because they are eligible for, but not yet receiving, retirement benefits — was authorized effective Oct. 1, but everyone expected it would take six to eight months to implement, based on the amount of time it has taken for other Tricare changes. But military and veterans associations were surprised Tuesday when a Tricare official said it could take 11 to 18 months before enrollment is allowed. One group thinks the delay might be driven by the budget.

“I suspect the Pentagon is slowing implementation to coincide with the next generation of a Tricare contract to avoid change order costs,” said Marshall Hanson, a retired Navy captain who is legislative director for the Reserve Officers Association.

Hanson’s group has launched an effort with other military associations to try to push the Defense Department to move faster by getting congressional leaders involved. Congressional aides working on military health care issues said they already have heard complaints about the slow implementation and were trying to determine the reason.

The Tricare statement warning of the delay says the new program requires Tricare to come up with “complex operational procedures, negotiate significant modifications to existing contracts and introduce changes in the Code of Federal Regulations.” The statement from Thomas E. Broyles, a Tricare Management Activity spokesman, was sent to several military and veterans groups that were inquiring about when the new benefit would begin.

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

MSG (Ret) John Gill. November 22, 2009, former member of the 372nd Engineer Battalion. Calling hours are Friday, November 27, 2009 at the Webb Noonan Funeral Home, 240 Ross Avenue, Hamilton, Ohio 45013 from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. with the funeral service starting at 2:00 p.m. Interment at Rose Hill Burial Park.

Lester Slagle, November 17, 2009, Toledo, former Ohio Air Guard Chaplain from 1964-1986.

Websites of Interest:

<http://www.gulfwarvets.com/ubb/Forum1/HTML/000016.html> Clarification on the changes in VA healthcare for Gulf War Veterans

http://www.warms.vba.va.gov/admin21/m21_1/part6/ch07.doc Compensation for Disabilities Associated with the Gulf War Service

Where Are They Now?

LTC Scott K. Harrison, previously served with the 112th Med Bde (684th Clearing Co) and Det 3 (OMA) [1982-1988] as a Sgt. as well as Med Trp, RSS, 107th ACR [1989] and C Company (Med), 237th FSB as a Lt. [1992-1994]. He is currently in his 32nd year of service.

During the 90s, he served on active duty in the 11th ACR as a border officer in Germany and Med Platoon Leader in Kuwait during Desert Storm. He returned to the USAR, serving in multiple S-3 (Operations and Training) billets and commanded a Surgical Hospital (405th CSH, Hospital Unit Surgical) before being mobilized to support the global war on terrorism. Since 2003, he has served on the Army Staff and Joint Staff in the Pentagon before joining the CENTCOM staff in 2006, and is currently completing his final year on active duty before returning to his job as a Project Manager with IBM

Scott passes along his best wishes to all his former comrades and to all Ohio Airmen and Soldiers. He says the weather in Qatar is great but not as great as it was in Tampa. If you would like to get in touch with Scott, please contact me and I will provide a link.

If you would like to be highlighted in the “where are they now” segment, 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