

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.

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 and many other military personnel records online: <http://www.archives.gov/veterans/evetrecs/index.html>

Army Guard's New Recruiting Campaign Debuts. A theater in downtown Washington, D.C., was the site last week for the debut of the Army National Guard's new recruiting campaign, which is set to launch today. Dubbed "At This Moment", the campaign uses significant moments in a person's life, such as high school graduation, as well as those of national or historical significance to showcase the role of the Army Guard and what it offers to potential recruits.

The centerpiece of the campaign is a mini-movie that showcases Guard soldiers performing a variety of roles and missions. Shot over a two-month period in more than 35 states and featuring real Guard soldiers, the video piece features high-end production and cinematography that gives it the look and feel of a movie, said Walls. It is scheduled to be shown in more than 950 theaters across the country and will also be featured on YouTube, Facebook, and other social media Web sites. The print advertisements will get a makeover, as well. "The look and feel of the Army National Guard [print ads] has moved away from the old, drab presentation that we've had," said Lt. Col. Ron Walls, chief of the recruiting and retention division for the ARNG, adding that the changes will give them a sense of energy and vibrancy.

ONG Moving Billboards. While driving down the highways and byways in Ohio these days, you may start seeing some moving billboards for the Ohio National Guard. Five USP&FO trailers earmarked for "Buckeye Express" deliveries across the state are receiving a fresh look with images of National Guard Soldiers on their sides and back. With our vision statement, "When Called, We Respond with Ready Units," stretched across the sides of trailers, each side features professionally shot images of National Guard Citizen-Soldiers at work. Whether it's urban warfare training, humanitarian relief efforts, or basic combat training, drivers by will get a powerful visual of the community, state and national missions answered by the Ohio National Guard. To date, three 30-foot trailers have been wrapped, and two additional trailers (48-foot and 28-foot) will be wrapped in January 2010. These trailers make a nice complement to the more than 50 wrapped Recruiting and Retention vehicles which are already on the road.

NGAUS Update on the TRICARE for Life Rate Hike Concern. A large number of alumni have raised questions about the status of TRICARE for Life potential rate increases. The following update was provided by the National Guard Association of the United States on November 6:

Many of our members have received an e-mail that has been in circulation for almost a year that raises concerns about a Congressional Budget Office (CBO) potential cost-saving recommendation prepared last year. The recommendation suggested that TRICARE for Life (TFL) beneficiaries pay prohibitive co-pays of the first \$525 in medical costs, increasing to \$2,999 per person. To learn more, visit www.ngaus.org to review our February 27, 2009 Legislative Alert 09-04, which addressed this concern.

There is nothing being actively considered in Congress regarding the subject CBO recommendation. Moreover, the President's budget, for the first time in four years, did not include any proposals for a TRICARE fee hike. Congress has not approved any TRICARE fee hike in the past when fee increases were recommended by the President's budget. That being said, what may emerge as the final health care bill is yet to be determined. NGAUS, along with other service member related organizations in Washington, will closely monitor any attempt by Congress to increase TFL co-pay rates or other fees. We all must be vigilant and ready to act if that time may come.

Ohio Veteran Bonus Update. The Ohio Department of Veterans Services (DVS) is diligently creating an application process so that veterans can request the bonus that was approved for them by voters on election day, November 3. The Department wants to ensure that the application is user friendly for Ohio veterans and that veterans get the service they deserve when they begin applying for this bonus. DVS will use the general news media and their website www.dvs.ohio.gov to advise eligible veterans when they are ready to receive bonus applications. Nobody knows when the first checks will be mailed, but people who have experience with veteran bonuses in other states estimate that checks may not be issued for about one year. Ohio veterans who served on active duty during the Persian Gulf War or during current wars in Afghanistan and Iraq are eligible if they are current Ohio residents and were state residents for at least one year preceding their service.

Several government procedures have to be carried out before the bonus application process can begin. First, the Issue One resolution will not take effect until the Ohio Secretary of State certifies the election results. After the election is certified, DVS will adopt rules regarding the bonus and the Ohio Joint Committee on Agency Rule Review must certify these rules. Then, the Ohio Public Facilities Commission must create and sell the bonds. DVS also must hire and train a staff to efficiently process the bonus applications. All applications will be screened in detail to determine that each veteran qualifies for the bonus. DVS is working hard to ensure the bonus application and approval process is simple and efficient.

How much money will each person receive? Fifty dollars for each month of active domestic or foreign service and one hundred dollars for each month of service in the combat zones of the Persian Gulf, Afghanistan or Iraq during the specific periods of time. The maximum amount payable to any person in active domestic or foreign service is \$500. The maximum amount payable to any person in Persian Gulf, Afghanistan or Iraq service is \$1,000. A person who is medically

discharged or medically retired from service due to combat-related disabilities sustained during Persian Gulf, Afghanistan or Iraq service is entitled to \$1,000.

This Week in Guard History. Nov. 12, 1940: Milwaukee, Wis. --- As war raged in Europe and the very real possibility that the U.S. might be attacked was present in most people's minds, the Army authorizes the organization of seven new observation squadrons in the National Guard, even as Guard units are being mobilized for their one year of "emergency" training in case of war.

On this date, the 126th Observation Squadron receives federal recognition at Milwaukee. It is organized and commanded by Maj. Paul Meyers, the first American aviator in World War I to receive the French Croix de Guerre (Cross of War) Medal for valor in combat. The unit flew obsolete North American O-47B observation aircraft. Unlike prewar observation squadrons, the 126th was not assigned to a Guard division. It was assigned directly in support of the II Army Corps and performed various duties, including photographing portions of the Carolina Maneuvers in the autumn of 1941. During the war, it served in a photographic reconnaissance role in the European Theater as part of the 9th Air Force and XII Tactical Air Command. After the war, the 126th was first reorganized as a fighter squadron, but, in 1962, it had a change of mission, converting to an aerial refueling unit flying the KC-97 Stratofreighter. In 1977, they were re-equipped with the KC-135 Stratotanker.

Changes of Command

Company B, 2nd Battalion, 19th Special Forces Group (Airborne). 14 November, 2009, 1400, Memorial Middle School, 5600 Scioto Darby Road, Hilliard, Ohio 43026, Outgoing Commander, MAJ Larry L. Henry, Incoming Commander CPT(P) Joseph K. Dickerson.

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 Ashenurst, details to follow.

Upcoming Events

112th Medical Brigade Association Fall Dinner. The 112th Med Bde association fall dinner will be held on Saturday, November 14th, at La Scala Restaurant, 4199 W. Dublin-Granville Road, Dublin, Ohio. For additional information or to make reservations, contact Larry Cook at 614-851-9645.

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.

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, 05 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.

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, details to follow.

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

2010 ONG Ski Trip. Open to all ONG personnel, families, and friends. Holiday Valley Resort, Ellicottville, New York, about a 5 hour drive from central Ohio. Sunday, 24 January 2010, skiing starts at 1500 and ends 1630, Tuesday, 26 January (3 days 2 nights). Take advantage of low weekday rates at one of America's top rated family ski resorts, a short drive away. Up to 2 kids (under 17) ski and stay free with at least 1 paying adult in the same room. Reservations are first come first served. If you prefer to reserve a condo, you must call Holiday Valley Resort direct for pricing and availability. When booking a condo be sure to mention booking ID #1104 to receive a discount. For reservations: 1-800-323-0020 or (716) 699-2345, and ask for: Ms. Donna Erlandson. Book by credit card NLT 31 December 2009. To learn more about Holiday Valley visit: <http://www.holidayvalley.com>. Questions: Contact Maj Laura Powers: (937) 525-2557, or email: laura.powers@ang.af.mil.

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.

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

Regional Inter-Service Family Assistance Committee Meetings– January 2010.

These are great opportunities for alumni to re-engage and to volunteer in support of ONG units, soldiers, and airmen. If you are able, please attend the meeting in your area and learn more about how you can continue to serve the ONG as an alumni ambassador.

Region 1 – RISFAC Meeting, January 21, 2010, 6:30pm – 8:00pm, Veterans Service Commission of Summit County, 1060 E. Waterloo Rd. Akron, OH 44306, Phone: 330-643-7636

Region 1 - Family Assistance Center Specialists: Joyce Stingel and Melissa Wise

Office: 866-278-5756, Cell: 330-730-9243

Email: joyce.stingel1@us.army.mil, or melissa.wise@us.army.mil

Region 2 – RISFAC Meeting, January 14, 2010, 6:00pm – 7:30pm, Ross County Service Center Conference Room A, 475 Western Avenue, Chillicothe OH 45601. Phone: 740-702-3120

Region 2 - Family Assistance Center Specialist: Jennifer Moore, Office: 866-270-8283

Cell: 740-637-0340, Email: jennifer.l.moore2@us.army.mil

Region 3 – RISFAC Meeting, January 26, 2010, 6:30pm – 8:00pm, Woodlawn Community Center, 10050 Woodlawn Blvd, Cincinnati, Ohio 45215, Phone: 614-336-6714

Region 3 - Family Assistance Center Specialist: Brian Via, Office: 866-278-5757, Cell: 513-869-9248. Email: brian.via@us.army.mil

Region 4 – RISFAC Meeting, January 26, 2010, 6:30pm – 8:00pm, Dayton Area American Red Cross. 370 W. First Street Dayton, Ohio 45402, Phone: 937-222-6711

Region 4 - Family Assistance Center Specialists: Jerry Wiggins and Robin Robbins, Office: 866-278-5759, Cell: 937-751-8472, Email: jerry.wiggins1@us.army.mil or robin.robbins1@us.army.mil

Region 5 – RISFAC Meeting, January 7, 2010, 6:30pm – 8:00pm, Hancock County Red Cross Chapter, 125 Fair Street, Findlay, OH 45840, Phone: (419) 422-9322

Region 5 - Family Assistance Center Specialist: Margret Szymanski, Office: 866-278-5755, Cell: 419-494-2959, Email: margret.szymanski@us.army.mil

Region 6 – RISFAC Meeting, January 13, 2010, 6:30pm – 8:00pm, Ohio 4-H Youth Development Building, 2201 Fred Taylor Dr. Columbus OH 43210, Phone: 614-247-8148

Region 6 - Family Assistance Center Specialist: Angela Dyer and Michelle McMillan, Office: 800-589-9914, Cell: 614-406-2148, Email: angela.dyer1@us.army.mil or michelle.c.mcmillan@us.army.mil

Call to Duty Ceremonies

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

Welcome Home Ceremonies

None currently scheduled

Recent News Releases

Three Ft. Hood Victims Had Prior Guard Experience. Three former National Guard members were among those honored this week at a memorial service at Fort Hood, Texas, where a lone gunman shot and killed 13 people and wounded 30 on Nov. 5. Maj. Nidal Malik Hasan has been charged with 13 counts of murder. The Army psychiatrist was shot several times to end the violence at the base. He was awake this week and had met with his lawyer.

The former Guard members killed were: Lt. Col. Juanita L. Warman, who worked with the Maryland Army National Guard's reintegration program; Michael Cahill, a civilian employee at Fort Hood who had served with the Montana Army National Guard; and Capt. John Gaffaney, a psychiatric nurse who once served with the California Army National Guard.

In the wake of the tragedy last week, Gen. Craig McKinley, chief of the National Guard Bureau, released a statement saying, "The thoughts and prayers of the National Guard are with Fort Hood soldiers, their families and the local community today." About 2,000 current Guardsmen were stationed at the sprawling Texas base at the time of the shooting, according to the National Guard Bureau. Their states were using social media to provide updates on the status of their troops as the information became available.

On Tuesday, President Obama attended the memorial service and praised the diversity of the military. "They are man and woman. White, black and brown. Of all faiths and all stations," he said. "All Americans, serving together to protect our people, while giving others half a world away the chance to lead a better life."

President Declares November Military Family Month. President Barack Obama has declared November as Military Family Month. The proclamation reads: "No one pays a higher price for our freedom than members of our nation's military and their families. As sons and daughters, husbands and wives, and mothers and fathers are deployed, military families endure with exceptional resilience and courage. They provide our troops with invaluable encouragement and love, and serve our nation in their own right. During Military Family Month, we honor the families of our armed forces and thank them for their dedication to our country."

"Though only a small percentage of our nation's population, our troops bear the great responsibility of protecting our people. They, along with their families, serve us every day with courage and dignity. Ensuring that military families receive the respect they deserve and the support they have earned is a top priority for my administration.

"The strength of our nation is measured not just by our success on the battlefield, but also by our ability to support those families who have made so many sacrifices for us. Time and again, military families have shown their heart in the face of adversity. We have a solemn obligation to ensure that while our men and women in uniform discharge their duties, we do all we can to promote and preserve the well-being of their families. We must also support the families of our wounded warriors and our fallen heroes who have paid the ultimate price for the freedoms we enjoy. ...

"Now, therefore, I, Barack Obama, president of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim November 2009 as Military Family Month. I call on all Americans to honor military families through private actions and public service for the tremendous contributions they make in the support of our service members and our nation."

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

SFC (Ret) Russell Buchanan, October 29, former member of the OHARNG where he worked at the CSMS in Newark for 28 years. Memorial contributions may be made to Meadow View Church of Christ, P.O. Box 87, Frazeysburg, Ohio 43822 or to Genesis Hospice & Palliative Care, 713 Forest Avenue, Zanesville, Ohio 43701.

CSM (Ret) William E. Long, November 6, former CSM of 2-174th ADA. Memorial contributions in Bill's name may be directed to Hospice of Tuscarawas County, 201 W Third Street, Dover, Ohio 44622.

SFC (Ret) Colleen M. Lahey, November 7, former Construction Engineer Supervisor, Memorial donations may be made to Hospice of Northwest Ohio or Sacred Heart Parish.

Richard "Dick" Mann, November 9, father of SFC Joshua Mann, J3-ARF, Historian NCO, and President of the 148th Infantry Regiment Association. Memorials may be made to the Tim Fox Memorial Scholarship Fund at Tiffin Calvert School, The Kaubisch Memorial Public Library, Fostoria, or St. Wendelin, Fostoria.

SFC (Ret) Scott R. Cooley, November 10, former member of Trp I, 3/107th CAV and later Co D, 1-107th AR BN.. Funeral services will begin at Carlson Funeral Home on Saturday, November 14, 2009 at 11:00am and conclude with a procession and burial services at Hope Memorial Gardens in Hinkley, OH.

LTC (Ret) Vincent P. Jiga, November 11, former member of 73d Troop Command, Memorial Celebration to be held on Nov 21st 1pm-5pm at The Galley 203 Second Street Marietta, OH 45750.

Donations can be made in honor of Vince to: OSU Foundation For the James Fund #312251 The James Development Office 660 Ackerman Road P.O. Box 183112 Columbus, OH 43218-3112 Or online- www.giveto.osu.edu

CMSgt. (ret) Russell D. Leadbetter, November 11, former member of the Ohio Air National Guard Russ held positions in the Ohio National Guard Enlisted Association and was elected president 1984 thru 1986. He served over 44 years in the ANG, with the 145th Air Transport Squadron, the 179th AW, and the Kentucky ANG.

Websites of Interest:

<http://www.armyg1.army.mil/rso/docs/ARNG%20Information%20Guide.doc> Guard Retirement Guide, available for download. (courtesy of SFC (ret) Terry Blackstone)

<http://mnc-i.com/> Multi-National Corps Iraq home page.

Where Are They Now?

COL (ret) Ron Albers, 121st ARW, Ohio ANG, retired in January, 2003. Since his retirement Ron has literally traveled the world, by boat, RV, and the other usual conveyances. He has driven an RV to Washington State, followed the coast highway to Tijuana and then to Alaska, a trek of over two months. Ron says it is about the journey - not the destination. Last year he RV'ed to Florida, then out to New Mexico, and up to Colorado. He just got back from a trip in it to Yellowstone, the Tetons, Zion and Bryce Canyons, Grand Canyon, the California coast, and the Colorado Rockies. In between he has taken shorter trips to Niagara Falls, Gettysburg, Hershey, PA, and Washington DC.

Ron spends three weeks in France nearly every year participating in ceremonies honoring Airmen lost in WWII. He is very active in Motts Military Museum. Ron advises he never gets bored and that retirement is wonderful! If you would like to get in touch with Ron, please send me an email and I will pass it along to him.

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