



OHIO NATIONAL GUARD

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Historic appointment made by Governor Kasich

Governor-elect John Kasich named **Brig. Gen. Deborah A. Ashenhurst** Ohio's new adjutant general effective Jan. 10, 2011.

"Being given the privilege to command at the highest level is an honor bestowed upon very few. I understand the great responsibility I am undertaking, and I look forward to serving the more than 18,000 Airmen and Soldiers of our great organization," said Ashenhurst.

Ashenhurst recently served as commander, 73rd Troop Command,

a brigade-sized unit recently designated as one of the first two Homeland Response Force units in the nation.

Brig. Gen. Ashenhurst is the first female general officer for the Ohio National Guard and Ohio's first female adjutant general. She is the 81st Ohio adjutant general, and is one of only two women serving as adjutants general in the 54 states and territories.

"I stand as an example to women in the Guard and other male dominated fields to show that they

too can be leaders of both men and women; what I truly hope to show is that leadership is not gender-specific," said Ashenhurst.

Please refer to the next issue of the *Buckeye Guard* for Maj. Gen. Greg Wayt's farewell message.



On Dec. 14, 2010, then Governor-elect John Kasich announced the selection of Col. (P) Ashenhurst as adjutant general.

Ashenhurst appoints new Assistant Adjutants

Brig. Gen. Ashenhurst appointed **Brig. Gen. John C. Harris** as the new assistant adjutant general for Army. He recently served as the Ohio National Guard chief of staff and has been a member of the Ohio National Guard since 1981. Past positions include serving as the deputy

chief of staff for personnel, commander of Task Force Lancer at Camp Bondstell, Kosovo and commander of 2nd Squadron, 107th Cavalry.

Col. (P) Mark E. Bartman was appointed as the assistant adjutant general for Air by Brig.

Gen. Ashenhurst. His last position was Commander of the 180th FW in Toledo, having served in the Ohio Air National Guard since 1982. He is a command pilot with over 3,000 flying hours, including 29 combat missions in operation Provide Comfort, Northern and Southern Watch.

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*For Rickenbacker
Space Available
Flight Information,
call (614) 492-3143.*

VA urges veterans to sign up for direct deposits

The department of the Treasury announced a new rule that will extend the safety and convenience of electronic payments to millions of Americans and phase out paper checks for federal benefits by March 1, 2013. Officials at the Department of Veteran Affairs (VA) urge veterans to sign up for electronic payment of their benefits.

"Receiving VA benefits electronically will increase the security, convenience and reliability of these vital payments," said Secretary Shinseki of Veterans Affairs. "VA encourages Veterans who are now receiving their

benefits in paper checks to set up direct deposits before the deadline." On March 1, 2013, VA will stop issuing paper checks. People who do not have electronic payments for their federal benefits by that time will receive their funds via a prepaid debit card. Called the Direct Express card, it is issued by Comerica Bank as the financial agent of the U.S. Treasury.

Another deadline affects people receiving VA's compensation of pensions for the first time after May 1, 2011. Those people will automatically receive the benefits electronically. Anyone al-

ready receiving federal benefit payments electronically will be unaffected by the changes. To learn more about the federal government's switch to direct deposit - or to change VA benefits to direct deposit — visit www.GoDirect.org.

Information about the federal government's "Go Direct" campaign is also available at 1-800-333-1795. Along with payments for VA benefit, the change will also affect recipients of payments from Social Security, Supplemental Security Income, Railroad Retirement Board, or Office of Personnel Management.

Upcoming events

371st Sustainment Brigade Ball is Jan. 15, at Fort Rapids Indoor Water Park at 1800. POC is Capt. Douglas Kin at douglas.kin@us.army.mil.

The 174th Air Defense Artillery Brigade Ball is Jan. 22, at 1730 at the Hilton Columbus in Easton, 3900 Chagrin Drive Columbus, Ohio 43219. POC is Spc. Sykes at (614) 336-6000x1756 by 11 Jan.

Cincinnati VA Medical Center Women's Red Heart Day is Feb. 4. RSVP at (513) 426-5508.

The Alpha Battery, 1-134th Field Artillery Regiment change of command from CPT Brandon Skiver to Capt. Tim Bill is Feb. 5 at 1400 at the Paul Doersam Armory in Marion. POC is Maj. Beltz at (614)336-6700.

Retirement dinner honoring Brig. Gen. Hammond is Feb. 5 at 1800 at the Ohio Statehouse. RSVP to Sgt. Madison at (614)336-6412 by Jan. 21.

1st BN 145th Annual Regiment Ball is Feb. 5 at 1800, Clarion Inn in Hudson. RSVP

to Sgt. 1st Class Stanton at (330)653-9191 by Jan. 25.

The 174 ADA 2nd Squadron, 107th Cavalry Regiment change of command from Lt. Col. John Zulfer to Lt. Col. James Eriksen is Feb. 12, at 1100 at the Hamilton Armory in Hamilton Ohio. POC is Maj. Quantz at (614)336-6694.

Warrant Officer Muster is Mar. 26-27, at the Crown Plaza Hotel in Dublin. POC is Chief Warrant Officer D.K. Taylor at (614)336-7446.

Did you know?

Twenty-five members of the new Congress are current or former members of the National Guard.

Source: Jan 2011 *National Guard*

Deployment activity

Call to Duty Ceremonies:

The 178th Fighter Wing deployed 44 Airman to Iraq to take part in the Operation Iraqi Freedom. Call to duty was Dec. 23.

The 174 ADA hosted the Operational Mentor and Liaison Team 1.6 call to duty on Jan. 6 at 1000 at Reynoldsburg United Methodist Church.

Welcome Home Ceremonies:

The Ohio Military Liaison Team 1.4 was welcomed home on Dec. 23 by family and friends after their twelve-month deployment to Iraq.

Currently deployed Airmen by

Wing:

180th FW - 4
179th AW - 9
178th FW - 46
121st ARW -17

Currently deployed Army units:

196th MPAD
OMLT 1.5 and 1.6
112th EN BN
1-174th ADA Regt.
292nd EN Det.

SAVE THE DATE

2011

Alumni Reunion

September 10, 2011

Location TBD

Reminder: USAA membership eligibility is broad

All military retirees, service members honorably discharged after 1995 and their families can join USAA. In August 2008, an additional three million people gained access to USAA.

Citing steady growth in financial strength and operational capacity, USAA membership is now expanded to include: Military retirees, regardless of when they retired; Military personnel who were honorably discharged on or after Jan. 1, 1996; Widows or widowers of military personnel killed in action while eligible.

After they join, spouses and children of the above may also be eligible for membership.

"Today, USAA is stronger than at any time in our 86-year history, which enables us to offer the benefits of USAA membership to more military families than ever before," said Joe Robles, USAA's President and CEO. "Having served as an Army Private and many ranks along the way to Major General, it gives me great personal satisfaction to know that another three million former service members and their families now

have access to all that USAA offers."

USAA began as an officer-only association in 1922, opened to enlisted personnel in 1996, and today serves 6.4 million current and former military members and their families. Throughout its history, USAA has played an important role in helping military families with their financial needs, providing them with insurance, investments and banking products as well as financial planning and advice.

Go to usaa.com to get started!

Memorials

It is with our deep regret that we announce the passing of :

Paula P. Slupski, the mother of Maj. Nicolas Slupski on Jan. 10.

Sgt.1st Class (Ret) Conrad Prusak, former member of 112th EN BN on Jan. 4.

Chief Warrant Officer (Ret) Edwin Paul Uhlenbrock, former member of 512th EN BN on Jan. 3.

Cpl. Jacob Tate, 2nd BN 9th Marine USMC, the brother of Spc. Jonathan Tate on Jan. 2.

Kelly Anderton, the mother of Sgt. Nathan Anderton and mother-in-law of Sgt. Megan Anderton on Jan. 1.

Mr. Olie Mathews, the grandfather of Ms. Lindy Gundy on Dec. 29.

Mrs. Sue Ising, the wife of Sgt. Matt Ising on Dec. 26.

Mr. Nicholas Andromalos, the father of Staff Sgt. Nicholas Andromalos on Dec. 21.

Spc. Tameka Grimes, 135th MP Co, on Dec. 19.

Col. (Ret.) Robert D. Green, the father of Brig. Gen. Deborah Ashenhurst and Lt. Col. Douglas Green, grandfather of Sgt. David Hibler on Dec. 17.

Margaret Bondurant Hudy, the mother of Chief Warrant Officer Carol Hudy, and mother-in-law of Col. (Ret.) William Radford on Dec. 11.

Mrs. Jessie M. Binion, the sister-in-law of Staff Sgt. Anthony M. Doty on Dec. 10.

Senior Master Sgt. (Ret) Neil Thomas Kettering, former member Ohio Air National Guard on Dec. 5.

Helpful Links

<http://www.tricare.mil>
TRICARE.

To receive TRICARE benefit updates via e-mail, go to www.tricare.mil/subscriptions

<http://www.trdp.org> TRI-CARE Retiree Dental Program

<http://www.defense.gov>
Defense Link

<http://ohmr.ohio.gov>
Ohio Military Reserve

<http://navalmilitia.ohio.gov>
Ohio Naval Militia

<http://www.iava.org> Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America

<http://www.VA.gov>
United States Department of Veteran

<http://www.ngaus.org/>
The National Guard Association of the United States

<http://www.usaa.com>
USAA Military Bank

New mailing address for all retirement applications:

HUMAN RESOURCE CENTER OF EXCELLENCE

ATTN: AHRC-PDR-RCR

1600 SPEARHEAD

DIVISION AVENUE

DEPT 420

FT. KNOX. KY 40122-

5402

New Department of Veteran Services director chosen

Retired Air Force Col. Thomas Moe, who spent five years with in the infamous Hanoi Hilton in Vietnam with U.S. Sen. John McCain, is Governor John Kasich's pick to run the Ohio Department of Veterans Services.

Kasich made the announcement with Moe, 67, of Lancaster, during a press conference on Dec. 7 at VFW Post 1380 in Lancaster on the 69th anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor.

Moe, a Republican, is honorary chairman of Ohio Veterans United, which endorsed Kasich this fall over Democratic Governor Ted Strickland. Moe also was chairman of Ohio Vet-

erans for McCain when the Arizona senator ran for president in 2008.

"The citizens of Ohio can rest assured that partisan politics will not be involved in any of your decisions, only what is best for Ohio," Moe said of Kasich during the campaign.

The Ohio Department of Veterans Services was created as a cabinet agency in August 2008. Previously, the functions mostly were run out of the governor's office.

The department provides services for Ohio veterans and runs veterans' homes in Sandusky and Georgetown near Cincinnati. The agency has about 900 em-

ployees, most of whom work at the two homes.

The agency's fiscal 2011 budget is \$113.7 million, although all but \$31.9 million of that amount comes from federal funding. This year's total also includes \$48.3 million being paid as bonuses to Ohio veterans, the department said.



Col. (Ret.) Thomas Moe

OHIO NATIONAL GUARD

Community Outreach Office

Alumni Affairs
2825 W. Dublin Granville Rd.
Columbus, OH 43235

[HTTP://ONG.OHIO.GOV](http://ong.ohio.gov)

January 2011 RISFAC Meetings:

Region 1 - 27 January

Region 2 - 19 January

Region 3 - 25 January

Region 4 - 25 January

Region 5 - 27 January

Region 6 - 19 January

For questions regarding the time or place of RISFAC meetings please contact Spc. Kylie Perrine at ky-lie.perrine@us.army.mil or at (614)336-4135.



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Twitter <http://twitter.com/ohnationalguard>

YouTube <http://www.youtube.com/OhioNationalGuard>

When called, we respond with ready units to execute federal, state and community missions.

Hundreds receive electronic holiday wishes from Outreach

During the holidays, it is particularly meaningful and enjoyable to send season's greetings and express gratitude.

Last year, Outreach sent electronic holiday greetings on behalf of the adjutant general to more than 600 Alumni and 218 other civilian key community members. In 2010, adjutant general season's greetings were emailed to at least 700 Alumni

and more than 1160 other civilians. This comprised 247 civilians who attended 16 major outreach events in 2010 and many others who participated in smaller events. In addition, 50 association outreach supporters were sent customized greetings.

Outreach sent more Ohio National Guard holiday wishes this year than last for several reasons. As

the outreach office develops, maturing processes enable us to capture, organize and report contact demographics more reliably. In addition, we are gradually broadening our reach from mostly employers and alumni to women, minorities, physicians, educators and association leaders.

It is especially fitting during the holidays to convey gratitude to the peo-

ple that contribute to our success. It is because of your support, and the support of others like you, that the Ohio National Guard maintains a favorable reputation and consistently responds with ready units to execute federal, state and community missions.

We appreciate you and look forward to seeing you in 2011. Thank you for your support.