

ALUMNI NEWSLETTER



OHIO NATIONAL GUARD

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Ohio National Guard conducts health, welfare checks during Operation Guardian Comfort

Ohio National Guard Public Affairs

COLUMBUS, Ohio — In response to severe storms and high winds that knocked out power June 29 across more than half of Ohio, Gov. John Kasich ordered a contingent of the Ohio National Guard to state active duty.

Dubbed Operation Guardian Comfort, about 200 Ohio National Guard Soldiers and Airmen were deployed to Franklin and Montgomery counties July 1-3. They went door-to-door to check on the health and welfare of residents in affected areas and provide them basic information and telephone numbers if they need assistance.

“Caring for our neighbors, lending a hand in our community where it’s needed, is part of the Ohio National Guard’s mission,” said Maj. Gen. Deborah A. Ashenhurst, Ohio adjutant general. “Our members (were) especially looking to ensure senior citizens, young children and those with sensitive medical conditions (were) alright.”

Soldiers and Airmen from the Ohio National Guard’s Joint Task Force 16 provided personnel for the mission. Guard members canvassed areas identified by the Ohio Emergency Management Agency — in conjunction with other state agencies and county EMAs — to be most in need, based on factors including: population, concentration of homes without power, as well as the number of self-reported residents who are elderly or may have medical conditions.

Initially, a joint force of about 150 Soldiers and Airmen worked in Franklin County and a group of about 50 Guard members were dispatched to Montgomery County, but by the end of the operation all 200 Guard members were working in designated areas within Franklin County.

“Operation Guardian Comfort is a mission which enables the Air and Army National Guard to fully embrace the Citizen-Soldier side of the National Guard,” said Lt. Col. Dave Brucker of the 178th Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance Wing in Springfield, Ohio.

Airmen from the 178th combined their efforts with Ohio National Guard Soldiers to check on an estimated 900 homes in Montgomery County, according to Maj. Justin Chapman, 178th ISRW mission operations officer.

“I was glad to be there for the people of Montgomery County,” said Senior Airman Jeremiah Taylor, 178th Security Forces Squadron. “They were happy we were there.”

EDITOR’S NOTE: 2nd Lt. Michael Gibson, 178th Fighter Wing Public Affairs, contributed to this article.

Senior Airman Jeremiah Taylor (left), 178th Security Forces Squadron, and Staff Sgt. Kenneth Glassmeyer, Troop C, 2nd Squadron, 107th Cavalry Regiment, check on the health and welfare of a Montgomery County, Ohio, resident July 2, 2012, in response to recent storm damage. The storm left thousands without power and Gov. John Kasich declared a state of emergency, calling upon Ohio National Guard Soldiers and Airmen to check on residents in parts of Franklin and Montgomery counties. (Ohio National Guard photo by 2nd Lt. Michael Gibson)



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

UNITS DEPLOYED -----	
DON'T MISS OUT ON VRAP -----	2
VA TO OPEN BROWN COUNTY CLINIC -----	
DID YOU KNOW? -----	
DATES TO REMEMBER -----	3
FUNDING & FINANCING A BUSINESS -----	
REGISTER NOW FOR ALUMNI REUNION -----	4

Ohio National Guard units currently deployed

Air units:

121st Air Refueling Wing
123rd Air Control Squadron
178th Fighter Wing
180th Fighter Wing

Army units:

Operational Mentoring & Liaison Team 1.8, 1.9
290th Engineer Detachment
296th Engineer Detachments (Fire fighting)
37th NATO Training Mission Afghanistan
684th Medical Company
2-174 Air Defense Artillery Regiment (Avenger)
37th Infantry Brigade Combat Team
Company B/3-238th Aviation Regiment

There are about 2,600 Ohio National Guard Soldiers and Airmen deployed (total number of deployed Soldiers and Airmen is current as of 8/1/12)

Don't miss out on VRAP

There are thousands of veterans nationwide signing up for the Veterans Retraining Assistance Program (VRAP) nationwide. Don't be left behind on this VA program intended to get unemployed veterans aged 35-60 re-trained and re-employed. The deadline to apply is September 30.

VRAP is part of the VOW to Hire Heroes Act of 2011, passed by Congress last year. The program offers up to 12 months of job training assistance under the Montgomery G.I. Bill at the rate of \$1,473 per month. The training is aimed at filling skills currently in high demand for employment. As noted above, applications will be accepted for the program until September 30.

Please note that applications must be made online through the VA's eBenefits program.



Source: www.va.gov

Brown County receives community based outpatient clinic

We want to pass along some great news for veterans in Brown County....the VA will be opening a Community Based Outpatient Clinic (CBOC) in your area!

The VA announced July 19 that Brown County will be getting its own Community Based Outpatient Clinic in the Georgetown area within the next year, one of 13 new clinics in nine states that the VA is opening. Brown County veterans will now be able to receive medical care closer to home, rather than going to Cincinnati or neighboring Clermont County.

On the plus side, Ohio is one of only nine states where a new clinic will open, which shows how seriously the VA takes the needs of Ohio's veteran population.

Veterans who have questions or concerns about benefits, or want to see what they're eligible for (federal, state, the Ohio Veterans Bonus for Persian Gulf, Iraq and Afghanistan-era vets, or local area financial assistance) can apply for these benefits, through their county veterans service office at 1-877-OHIO-VET (1-877-644-6838).



Source: Ohio department of veteran services via <http://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=2358>

Veteran entrepreneur portal - funding & financing

Did you know?

OnGuardOnLine.gov provides practical tips from the federal government and the technology industry to help you be on guard against internet fraud, secure your computer and protect your personal information.

Dates to Remember

August 2-5 - The Bridgestone Invitational at the Firestone Country Club in Akron, Ohio is offering FREE admission for active, guard, reserve, and retired military members and their dependents with valid military IDs. Go to birdiesforthebrave.com, click on "Ticketing", then click on Ohio and follow the directions to order yours today.

August 4 - The dedication of new engraved bricks in the Memorial Garden at Motts Military Museum honoring veterans and active military personnel will take place at 10 a.m. Afterwards, attendees are invited to view numerous new items on display in the museum.

August 12 - The Ohio Fallen Heroes Memorial Golf Invitational is looking for teams to participate in either the 8 a.m. or 2 p.m. scrambles on Sunday, Aug. 12, 2012, at Chapel Hill in Mt. Vernon. Contact Doug French at 614-209-7429 for more information.

August 31 - The 16th Annual Red & White Ball for the 2nd SQ, 107th CAV is scheduled for Sept. 29, 2012. Payment is due today. Contact SFC Michael Friend at 614-336-6692 for more information.

Education Benefits

Veterans interested in starting their own small business can use the Montgomery GI Bill education benefits to pay for required training. VA will only pay for programs offered by the Small Business Development Centers (SBDC) or Veterans Corporation.

Education benefits can also be used to pay for training at Non-Degree-College Institutions that will lead to a certification in the following programs:

- Barber/Beautician Schools
- EMT Certification
- HVAC Certification
- Truck Driving

In cases where a license or certification is required for the small business, veterans can receive reimbursement for licensing and certification tests taken on or after March 1, 2001. In order to find out if the test is approved for the GI Bill, you can call 1-888-GIBILL-1 (1-888-442-4551).

Access to Capitol

VA does not make loans or grants for the startup or expansion of a small business. The Small Business Administration (SBA) is an agency that deals with small business financing.

Loans

All small business loans are determined on a basis of credit-worthiness. Financial institutions take into account several factors including: a business profile, description of how loan funds will be used, collateral offered, business financial statements and personal financial statements. Generally, small business loans are repaid in five to seven years. There are several SBA small business loan programs established, which are described on the SBA financing website at

<http://www.sba.gov/financing/index.html>.

Patriot Express Loan

On June 14th, 2007, SBA launched a loan program for Veterans called **Patriot Express**. Patriot Express is part of the SBA 7(a) small business loan program.

More information can be found at <http://www.sba.gov/patriotexpress>

Grants

Grants are a form of funding for specific federal research and social programs. Contrary to popular belief, there are no federal grants made specifically for the purpose of starting a business. Organizations can use the **Grants.gov** website to electronically find and apply for competitive grant opportunities from all Federal grant-making agencies. **Grants.gov** is THE single access point for over 900 grant programs offered by the 26 Federal grant-making agencies.

Disclaimer: More information on Funding & Financing is located at the website listed below. Because of space requirements, we have shortened the article. Please be sure to visit the webpage and click 'Veteran Entrepreneur Portal' for the complete article.

Source: <http://www.va.gov/osdbu/>

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Community Outreach Office

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ONG.OHIO.GOV**2012 Regional Inter-Service Family Assistance Committee Meetings:**

Region 1 - October 25
Region 2 - October 17
Region 3 - October 23
Region 4 - October 30
Region 5 - October 16
Region 6 - October 10

For questions regarding the time or place of RISFAC meetings, contact Sgt. Michael Carden at (614) 336-4135

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ong.ohio.gov

30th Annual Ohio Adjutant General's Golf Outing**When:** Monday, August 20th**Where:** Little Turtle Golf Club
5400 Little Turtle Way
Westerville, Ohio**Contact :** SGT Nicholas Pavlik at 614-336-7125

Four Person Scramble - \$80.00 Per/Person entrance fee includes 18 Holes w/cart, Cookout and one beverage of choice.

0700 Registration
0800 Shot Gun Start (Note early start time)
1330 Cookout/Awards

Register now for the 2012 Alumni Reunion

The 2012 Alumni Reunion will be held September 29, 2012, at Camp Perry Joint Training Center. The reunion is returning to Camp Perry due to its popularity and the beautiful location.

The Community Outreach office will conduct a morning half-day event with a catered continental breakfast and buffet lunch. Update briefings from senior Ohio National Guard leaders will be provided. Table-top vendors such as TRICARE, Employer Support of Guard and Reserve, National Guard Partners in Education, the Ohio Attorney General's Department and others are expected to participate.

The event will be held in Bldg 950 due to construction at the conference center. Ample lodging is available on site; please reserve your place to stay by contacting 1-888-889-7010 or www.cplcc.com.

Cost is \$15.50 per person for the continental breakfast, a snack and lunch. Meals are being catered by Chfsbest. Lunch is Italian boneless chicken, pasta Alfredo, California vegetables and green vegetables, rolls and cheese cake/assorted pie for dessert. Please submit your registration form and check to Community Outreach by September 20, 2012.



Maj Gen Miles Durfey (Ret) discusses Heavy Mobile Equipment operations with then Staff Sgt. Brian Hettinger during the 2009 alumni reunion at the Defense Supply Center Columbus (DSCC). (Ohio National Guard photo)