

ALUMNI NEWSLETTER



OHIO NATIONAL GUARD

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National Guard questions Air Force budget plan

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By Ohio National Guard Public Affairs

COLUMBUS, Ohio (Feb. 10, 2012) — The proposed Air Force budget for fiscal year 2013, details of which were released by the Air Force in early February, has raised questions among National Guard leadership both here in Ohio and across the nation.

"It appears that the Air Force has chosen the Air National Guard as the majority bill payer," said Maj. Gen. Deborah A. Ashenhurst, Ohio adjutant general.

The information released by the Air Force, which thus far has addressed only aircraft and not personnel, appears to shift significant resources from the Air National Guard to the active-duty Air Force.

Included in the Air Force plan is the elimination of the new C-27J Spartan intratheater airlifter. "Ohio was the first state to receive the C-27J just 18 months ago," Ashenhurst said. "It just doesn't make sense to turn around and strip such a capable aircraft out of service.

"We need to know how the Air Force plans to support the homeland defense and time sensitive/essential missions in theater that were to be executed by the National Guard using the C-27J."

In the announcement, the Air Force said it plans to retire nearly 300 aircraft, which will affect more than 60 installations in 33 states, across all components. Specific to the Ohio National Guard, the Air Force's plans call for retiring four C-27J Spartans at the 179th Airlift Wing in Mansfield, which recently had two of its aircraft and crew members deployed to Afghanistan, as well as six KC-135 Stratotankers at the 121st Air Refueling Wing in Columbus.

Even though Air Force officials will not say exactly how the personnel cuts will impact these units until March 6, Ashenhurst noted that Air Force Secretary Michael Donley has stated publicly that of the 9,900 Airmen to be cut across the Air Force, 5,100 will come from the National Guard.

"We believe that maintaining military force in an era of fiscal restraint should argue for directing resources to the National Guard, which is a much more cost-efficient force," Ashenhurst said.

Brig. Gen. Mark Bartman, Ohio's assistant adjutant general for Air, said the country pays for the Guard member only when it needs them, making the National Guard force less expensive across the board than the active duty.

Ohio's military leadership spent this week in Washington, D.C. discussing the Air Force plan.

"My senior team and I met with nearly every member of Ohio's Congressional delegation, and there is virtual unanimous agreement that the Air Force needs to provide a lot of answers before the Congress is willing to sign off on the plan," Ashenhurst said.

U.S. Sen. Rob Portman, R-Ohio, organized a meeting Feb. 9 on Capitol Hill with the entire Ohio Congressional delegation to discuss the statewide impact of the Defense Department budget and the proposal for another Base Realignment and Closure round.



U.S. Sen. Sherrod Brown, D-Ohio, and Maj. Gen. Deborah A. Ashenhurst, Ohio adjutant general, meet in Washington, D.C. to discuss the Air Force budget proposal and the future of the Mansfield Air National Guard Base.

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Ohio National Guard units currently deployed

Currently deployed Air National Guard units:

121st Air Refueling Wing
 178th Fighter Wing
 179th Airlift Wing
 180th Fighter Wing
 123rd Air Control Squadron
 251st Combat Communications Group
 269th Combat Communications Squadron

Currently deployed Army National Guard units:

The Operational Mentoring & Liaison Team 1.7 and 1.8
 The 290th Engineer Detachment
 The 295th & 296th Engineer Detachments
 (Fire fighters)
 The 1484th Transportation Company
 37th NATO Training Mission Afghanistan
 684th Medical Company
 2-174 Air Defense Artillery Regiment (Avenger)
 37th Infantry Brigade Combat Team
 B/3-238 Aviation Regiment

There are about 3,000 Ohio National Guard Soldiers and Airmen deployed.

Total number of deployed Soldiers and Airmen is current as of 3/1/12



Air National Guard announces new referral program

Ever wonder how you could help the Air National Guard and get rewarded at the same time? The new Air National Guard Referral Rewards Program was created for current and retired Air Guard members to help recruit new Airmen at www.refer2ang.com. You can learn more about the program, claim your rewards once your recruit joins the Air Guard, and find out about special promotions for critical Air Force Specialty Codes.

***ANG Rewards include:**

Custom Black Backpack Kit
 Custom Black Duffel Kit
 Custom Executive Leather Kit
 Custom Tail Gate Package
 3D HD Blu-Ray Home Theatre System
² Custom Kitchen Kit or ANG iPad® 2 Tablet w/case

The Air National Guard Referral Rewards Program is a **voluntary** program that is a benefit for current Airmen and retirees of the Air National Guard.

** Rewards are redeemed via a 5-tiered system with more choices than shown.*

² Only Referrals into Critical AFSC's earn the referee the choice of Custom Kitchen Kit or iPad® 2 Tablet

source: www.refer2ang.com

Did you know?

- For 6% of the Air Force budget, the Air National Guard provides 19% of the Air Force total personnel and 35% of the Air Force fighter, tanker, and airlift capacity.

- The Ohio National Guard is the first validated Homeland Response Force in the nation - 1 of only 10 in the United States.

- The nation's Air National Guard operates on less than 2 cents of every dollar spent on defense.

Dates to Remember

March 6 - Ohio's Presidential primary election

March 27 - 1486th Troop Command Call To Duty ceremony: 1000 hrs. Kate's Gymnasium, Ashland Univ. 916 King Rd., Ashland

April 21 - 371st Sustainment Brigade Ball The Courtyard Marriott Springfield Downtown, 100 South Fountain Ave., Springfield
POC: CW2 Jennifer Hickman at 614-336-6106

May 20 - 2-174th Air Defense Artillery Retiree Association Golf Scramble 2012. Fuller's Fairways, 4370 Clay Pike, Zanesville
POC: CPT Charles Springer at 614-356-7937

Helpful web links**VA home Loan Program**

<http://www.benefits.va.gov/homeloans/eligibility.asp>

Getting Help Starting a Business

<http://www.vetbiz.gov/>

Specially Adapted Housing Program

<http://www.benefits.va.gov/homeloans/sah.asp>

Vocational Rehab & Employment

<http://www.vba.va.gov/bln/vre/index.htm>

Disabled American Veterans

<http://www.dav.org/>

ANG Retired License Plates

http://bmv.ohio.gov/m_air_national_guard.stm

Space-A planning now on Facebook

<http://www.amc.af.mil/amctravel/spaceatravelcategories.asp>

Veterans Health Benefits Handbook**Understanding your VA Health Benefits**

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is committed to informing the Veteran community about VA health benefits and services. Currently, the VA is producing personalized Veteran Health Benefits Handbooks for Veterans who are enrolled in VA health care. The new handbooks are tailored specific for each Veteran and provides detailed information about the VA health services the Veteran may be eligible to receive.

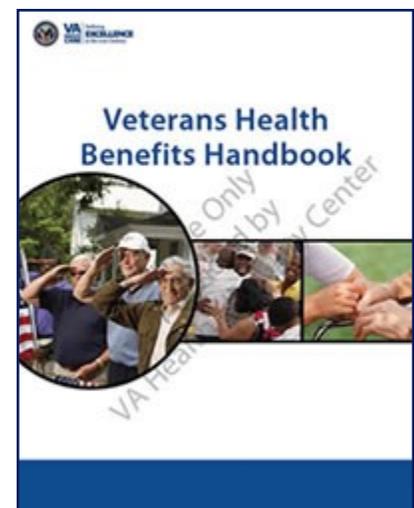
The Veteran Health Benefit Handbook provides answers to common questions such as contact information for the Veteran's local facility, instructions on how to schedule appointments, guidelines for communicating treatment needs and an explanation of the Veteran's responsibilities, such as co-pays, if applicable.

Veterans enrolled in VA healthcare should have received their personalized handbooks via mail as part of a national rollout campaign which began in February 2012 based on Priority Group, beginning with Priority Group 1 and ending with Priority Group 8. In the near future, VA will develop an online version of the handbook for Veterans to access via [MyHealththeVet](#). This will allow Veterans to access their up-to-date health benefit information anywhere, anytime.

For information call
1-877-222-VETS (8387)

Monday - Friday between the hours of
8:00 AM and 8:00 PM ET

source: www.va.gov



OHIO NATIONAL GUARD

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2012 Regional Inter-Service Family Assistance Committee Meetings:

Region 1 - April 26

Region 2 - April 18

Region 3 & 4 - April 24

Region 5 - April 17

Region 6 - April 11

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

“WHEN CALLED, WE RESPOND WITH READY UNITS TO EXECUTE FEDERAL, STATE AND COMMUNITY MISSIONS.”



