

ALUMNI NEWSLETTER



OHIO NATIONAL GUARD

VOLUME 4, EDITION 10 – OCTOBER 1, 2012

Story by: Capt. Nicole Ashcroft, 179 Airlift Wing

During the 134th National Guard Association of the United States General Conference, the 179th Airlift Wing received three major awards for unit excellence. This year's conference was held Sept. 9-15 in Reno, Nev.

The wing was awarded the NGAUS Distinguished Flying Unit Spaatz Award, the National Guard Bureau Curtis N. "Rusty" Metcalf Award, and the Maj. Gen. John J. Pesch Flight Safety Award for exceptional readiness, safety, retention and other key factors.



The awards were presented by Lt. Gen. Harry Wyatt III, director of the Air National Guard to wing representatives at the conference: Col. Gary McCue, 179th Airlift Wing commander; Col. Lindsey Whitehead, 179th Mission Support Group commander; Maj. Kevin Wuebker, 179th chief of safety; and Capt. Nicole Ashcroft, 179th chief of public affairs.

"I think it's pretty apparent as we awarded the outstanding unit awards and gave recognition to the best units in the Air National Guard, the 179th was on stage for three separate awards and walked away with all the honors." Wyatt said, "I think that's a great tribute. Especially when you take a look at some of the turmoil with the PB13 [Fiscal Year 2013 President's Budget]; the challenges that the wing has faced while being deployed in the C-27J, seeing all the publicity and being able to work through all those distracters and still have the year that the wing has had. It's just phenomenal and makes me extremely proud."

The Spaatz Award, named for Gen. Carl A. "Tooe" Spaatz, WWI ace and first Air Force Chief of Staff, is given annually by NGAUS to the overall outstanding flying unit in the entire Air National Guard. Selection of the winner is based on overall combat readiness during the reporting year with specific factors including: flying safety, aircraft operational readiness, combat skill proficiency, deployments, unit manning, skill level qualifications, retention and drill attendance.

The Curtis N. "Rusty" Metcalf Award, bestowed annually by the National Guard Bureau, recognizes the airlift or air refueling unit that demonstrates the highest standards of mission accomplishment. Units considered for this award are evaluated in the areas of exercises, deployments, human resources, accident rate history, accident prevention and significant accomplishments during the award period. The award is named for a former deputy chief for plans and operations at the National Guard Bureau, in Washington, D.C.

The Maj. Gen. John J. Pesch Flight Safety Award is presented annually to two flying units judged to have demonstrated the highest standards of flight safety in the Air National Guard. The 179th Airlift Wing's record and commitment to safety protocol was spotlighted when it activated the first Expeditionary C-27J Spartan Squadron only 10 months after acquiring the new aircraft.

Chief Master Sgt. Christopher Muncy, command chief master sergeant of the Air National Guard, offered his congratulations after the awards presentation and some words for wing members. "Congrats on all the awards. It's pretty awesome and nothing surprising; you guys deserve it." Muncy said, "To gain that through all the adversity just shows its great Airmen, from a great state, doing super stuff."

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Ohio National Guard units currently deployed

Air units:

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

Army units:

Operational Mentoring & Liaison Team 1.8, 1.9
 296th Engineer Detachments (Fire fighting)
 1486 Transportation Company
 323 Military Police Company
 2-174 Air Defense Artillery Regiment (Avenger)
 37th Infantry Brigade Combat Team (STB)
 Company B, 3-238th Aviation Regiment

About 1615 Ohio National Guard Soldiers and Airmen are deployed

(current as of 9/17/12)

WPAFB Retiree Office serves retirees, survivors and dependents from all services

Over 93,000 retirees, survivors and dependents of all Services live within a 150-mile radius of WPAFB. The retiree office provides an information center and facilitates clients' questions about rights, privileges, benefits and obligations associated with military service. The office service retirees from the tri-state area of Ohio, Indiana, and Kentucky. Office volunteers also support information centers at the Medical Center, Commissary and the Health and Wellness Center and provide administrative support for various other military offices. The office director is Col (Ret.) Paul Moore.

For additional information or to inquire about services, please call 937-257-3221 or email paul.moore@wpafb.mil.

President orders improved access to mental health services for Veterans

Executive Order to Expand Veterans' Access to Behavioral Healthcare.

August 31, 2012

President Obama signed an Executive Order executive-order-improving-access-mental-health-services-veterans-service giving veterans, service members, and their families expanded access to suicide prevention, mental health, and substance use treatment. The executive order directs the Veterans Administration (VA) to partner with the U.S. Department of Defense on a one year suicide prevention campaign focused on connecting vets to mental health services. The order also directs the VA to increase the veteran crisis line capacity by 50% before the end of the year and to ensure that any veteran identifying him or herself as being in crisis connects with a mental health professional or trained mental health worker within a 24-hour period. The order further directs the VA to partner with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to implement a fifteen-site pilot project in areas experiencing difficulty with hiring and placing mental health service providers. In pilot sites, the VA will contract with local mental health and treatment facilities to help reduce VA mental health waiting lists. In addition, the executive order includes provisions to increase the number of VA mental health providers, promote mental health research and development, and launch a collaborative effort addressing these issues through a Military and Veterans Mental Health Interagency Task Force.



Source: www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2012/08/31/

Dates to Remember:**October 13 -**

Capt. Nick Rozanski Dublin 5K Walk/Run, at 9:00 a.m., Glacier Ridge Metro Park; Sign up at dublinalumni.org

October 14 -

Medical Detachment Change of Command at 7:30 a.m. at DSCC Bldg #11, Sec II; Incoming Col. Tranovich, Outgoing Col. Call

174th ADA Change of Command at 10:30 a.m. at DSCC Bldg #2; Outgoing BG Smith, Incoming Col Powell

147th RTI Change of Command Ceremony at 12:00 p.m. at DSCC Bldg #1; Incoming Col. Stivers, Outgoing Col. Dreisbach

JFHQ Change of Command at 3:00 p.m. on Beightler Armory Drill Floor; Incoming Maj. Crawford, Outgoing Maj. Noll

October 20 -

37th IBCT Change of Command at 6:00 p.m., at DSCC Bldg #2. Incoming Col. Gordon Ellis, Outgoing Col. James Perry

October 26 -

Col. William Zieber's Retirement Celebration at 6:00 p.m.; Brookside Country Club, Columbus. POC: Col. Dernberger, 614-336-7202

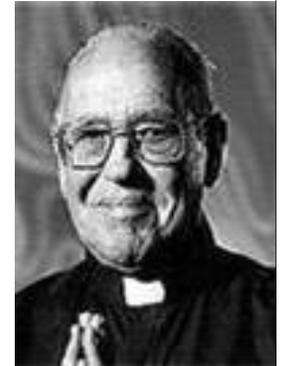
November 10 -

112th Motor Transport BN 6th Annual Veterans Day Ball at 7:30 p.m.; Dayton Convention Center. POC 2Lt. Hornacek at shannon.hornacek@us.army.mil

Fort Benning named new center after WWII chaplain who served with 37 Infantry Division

FORT BENNING, Ga. — Fort Benning named the new home of an Army Reserve unit in honor of one of the military's most decorated chaplains from World War II, Lt. Col. Elmer W. Heindl.

The Roman Catholic chaplain from Rochester, N.Y., joined the Army in 1942. Heindl served in combat in Guadalcanal, the Solomons and the Philippines armed only with his faith. Yet he was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross, the Silver Star, Legion of Merit and the Bronze Star during the war.



The President of the United States of America, authorized by Act of Congress, July 9, 1918, presented the Distinguished Service Cross to Captain (Chaplain) Elmer W. Heindl, United States Army, for extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations against an armed enemy while serving as Chaplain with Company E, 2d Battalion, 148th Infantry Regiment, 37th Infantry Division, in action against enemy forces on 6, 8 and 11 February 1945, in the Philippine Islands. During the assault on the Bilibid Prison in Manila on 6 February, Chaplain Heindl learned that a soldier lay critically wounded on the top floor of a two-story watch tower under enemy fire. Accompanied by a medical aid-man he entered the tower and climbed to the wounded soldier, who was bleeding profusely and obviously had but a few moments to live. Fully aware that enemy machine guns were trained on the tower, Chaplain Heindl calmly knelt and offered prayers for the dying man. He then carried the body down the ladder and away from the tower. Entering the tower once more, he carried out a second man who lay wounded on the first floor, and under enemy fire helped to carry him to an aid station. On 8 February when his unit was under enemy mortar and rocket fire, Chaplain Heindl observed an officer who was seriously wounded. Without hesitation he left his foxhole, crawled to the officer and dragged him to an aid station. On 11 February when nine men were killed and others wounded during an engagement, he dragged the wounded under fire to comparative safety and administered last rites for the dying. Through his extraordinary heroism and firm faith in the face of all danger, Chaplain Heindl proved himself worthy of the highest tradition of his Church and his military service. Heindl died in 2006 at the age of 96.



Sources:

<http://www.armytimes.com/news/2012/09/ap-fort-benning-center-named-after-elmer-heindl-090912/>

<http://www.militarytimes.com/citations-medals-awards/search.php?medal=2>

OHIO NATIONAL GUARD

Community Outreach Office

Alumni Affairs
2825 W. Dublin Granville Road
Columbus, OH 43235
ong.outreach@ng.army.mil
(614) 336-4135

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

Retirement Packets

Retirement packets are mailed to your last known mailing address. If you change addresses before your 59th birthday, make sure you contact the office below so they will know where to send your packet.

You will need to send the packet back to receive your retirement pay. Make sure you include the following forms: NGB Form 22, DD Form 214(s), NGB Form 23, 20yr letter and SBP election. If you are missing any of the above documents, please contact Ms. Jeanette Coughenour at 614-336-7038 (ONG HQs) for assistance.

U.S. Army Human Resources Center of Excellence-Ft. Knox
ATTN: AHRC-PDR-RCR
1600 Spearhead Division Avenue
Dept 420
Ft. Knox, KY 40122-56402
1-800-318-5298 or 502-613-8950

37 IBCT deployment recognition ceremonies**Units: HHC, A Co & C Co 1-148th IN, E Co 237th BSB**Date/Time: **14 October 2012, 0930 hours**

Location: Sawmill Creek Resort, 400 Sawmill Creek Drive West, Huron, Ohio 44839

Units: HQ 37th IBCTDate/Time: **20 October 2012, 1600 hours**

Location: Crowne Plaza Hotel – Dublin, 600 Metro Place North, Dublin, Ohio 43017

Units: HHB 1-134th FA and A Co 1-134th FADate/Time: **21 October 2012, 1600 hours**

Location: Crowne Plaza Hotel – Dublin, 600 Metro Place North, Dublin, Ohio 43017

Units: B Co 1-134th FA and A Co 37th STBDate/Time: **21 October 2012, 1600 hours**

Location: Hope Hotel – Dayton, BLDG 823 Area A, Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio 45433

Units: 237th BSB and G Co 237th BSBDate/Time: **27 October 2012, 1600 hours**

Location: John S. Knight Center, 77 East Mill Street, Akron, Ohio 44308

Units: B and D Co 1-148th INDate/Time: **28 October 2012, 1600 hours**

Location: Sawmill Creek Resort, 400 Sawmill Creek Drive West, Huron, Ohio 44839

Units: HHC and C Co 37th STBDate/Time: **02 December 2012, 1600 hours**

Location: Marriott Columbus NW, 5605 Blazer Parkway, Dublin, Ohio 43017



Soldiers assigned to Headquarters, 37th Infantry Brigade Combat Team spell out **O-H-I-O** July 13, 2012, at Camp Mike Spann, Afghanistan.