

ALUMNI NEWSLETTER



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OHIO NATIONAL GUARD

First Air National Guard Weapons Instructor Course graduate hails from 178th Fighter Wing

By Senior Master Sgt. Joseph Stahl
178th Fighter Wing, Public Affairs

SPRINGFIELD, Ohio — A recent graduation at Nellis Air Force Base, Nev., provided the 178th Fighter Wing with the distinction of having the only U.S. Air Force Weapons Instructor Course graduate in the Air National Guard who flies remotely piloted aircraft (RPA).

Maj. Jim Tom set himself apart by earning the academic and flying awards for his graduating class and is the only current Air National Guard graduate.

The U.S. Air Force Weapons Instructor Course is an intensive six-month course held at Nellis Air Force Base. Only five RPA pilots are chosen for each class, and only one of those is from the Air National Guard. The RPA portion is a new addition to the weapons school.

"It's new, a lot of people wash out," Tom said.

Tom is one of 29 graduates of this school including all of active duty, National Guard and Reserve.

Tom believes that he "jumped to the front of the line" because of his experience as an Air Force F-15 Eagle and F-16 Fighting Falcon training pilot.

"There was a high level of interest that the Guard send someone who could make it through (the course), and be successful," Tom said. "I have background instructing tactical aviation; it was a good fit."

Tom says the class teaches pilots to take a tactical problem, then break it down and come up with a plan to solve that tactical problem. Students then must brief and communicate their plan, and execute that plan. Students must be able to debrief what went right, what went wrong, and what they were going to do to fix any issues next time.

Tom earned the academic award for his class for having the highest test average and for writing the best research paper. Topics for the research paper were chosen from the Air Force RPA community based on the most pressing concerns in the community.

"My topic was based on what the (RPA) community thought was a deficiency in the knowledge of their pilots," Tom said. "My paper set me apart (from the rest of the class); the instructors really liked my paper."

The second award Tom received was the "Top Stick," or top flying, award. This award was based on successful training missions flown and the instructor's consensus of best overall flying performance.

"I had no idea that I was going to win any awards," Tom said. "Getting the patch at the end was the only think I cared about. It was nice to win, but graduating was all I cared about."

Tom is thankful to be back at the 178th FW and is preparing to put his training to good use in his role as chief of weapons and tactics.



An MQ-1B Predator unmanned aircraft takes off for a training mission at Creech Air Force Base, Nev. (U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Larry E. Reid Jr./Released)

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Ohio National Guard units currently deployed

Air units:

121st Air Refueling Wing
178th Fighter Wing
179th Airlift Wing
180th Fighter Wing
220th Engineering Installation Squadron
269th Combat Communications Squadron

Army units:

1487th Transportation Company
Military Advisor Team - 2
837th Engineer Company
838th Military Police Company
437th Military Police Battalion
371st Sustainment Brigade

As of July 29, 2013, about 1,064 Ohio National Guard Airmen and Soldiers are deployed

The Ohio Women Veterans Conference

The Ohio Department of Veterans Services' 2013 Women Veterans Conference is Saturday, Sept. 28, 2013, at the Aladdin Shrine Center, 3850 Stelzer Road in Columbus.

Featured speakers will be Maj. Gen. Deborah Ashenhurst, Ohio adjutant general, and former Soldier Jessica Lynch. Pfc. Lynch was the first successfully rescued American prisoner of war since Vietnam and the first-ever woman.

For additional information or to register, go to http://dvs.ohio.gov/home/committees/women_veterans_advisory_committee/ohio_women_veterans_conference.aspx.

National Veterans
SMALL BUSINESS CONFERENCE
August 6-8, 2013 | St. Louis, MO
REGISTRATION NOW OPEN!

Inspirational. Informative. Intrigued?

The Ohio Women Veterans Conference

Sat., Sept. 28, 2013

at the Aladdin Shrine Center

3850 Stelzer Rd.
Columbus, Ohio



with guest speakers



MG Deborah Ashenhurst
and Jessica Lynch

Registration:
8 am - 10 am

Conference:
10 am - 4 pm

Find out more at
www.ohiovet.gov



First Air National Guard Weapons Instructor...

(cont. from pg. 1)

"This mission is only getting bigger, and the Guard's role is expanding," Tom said. "Part of the appeal for this (job) is that I could get in on the ground floor (and) help lay a solid foundation for years to come. That's not to say that the foundation isn't there already ... there are many Guardsmen who have been successfully flying RPA for many years, but things always change. We won't be fighting the same way forever."

Tom said that he would be there to prepare Airmen for what's next, and to help instructors spread the good word when the time comes.

Source: <http://www.ang.af.mil/news/story.asp?id=123355466>

VA adds more ships to Vietnam Agent Orange exposure list

The Veterans Administration has updated the list of U.S. Navy and Coast Guard ships that operated in waters in around Vietnam that had crews likely to have been exposed to the toxic defoliant Agent Orange, adding more ships and expanding information for others. There are now 285 ships on the list. This list can help Vietnam-era Veterans find out if they qualify for presumption of Agent Orange exposure when seeking disability compensation for related diseases.

You can see the list of ships at: <http://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/agentorange/shiplist/list.asp>

For help applying for benefits, contact your county veterans service officer by locating your county on the map at: <http://dvs.ohio.gov/>.

Past events**1788**

July 27 - This day marked the beginning of The Ohio National Guard, founded in Marietta, Ohio. Since that time, The Ohio National Guard has been rooted in the English and early colonial tradition of Citizen-Soldiers and -Airmen

2013

July 1 - A ceremony for the new Camp Ravenna Joint Military Training Center Shoot House took place as the command team entered the shoot house and fired the ceremonial first shot as a group

July 8 - The 2013 National Rifle and Pistol Matches began with the opening ceremony at Camp Perry Joint Training Center (CPJTC) in Port Clinton, Ohio

July 17 - The new Light Demo and Hand Grenade ranges opened at the Camp Ravenna Joint Military Training Center

July 28 - Six members of Detachment 21 returned home after a nearly 10-month deployment to Bagram, Afghanistan

Future events

August 8 - 1194th Engineer Company (Vertical) Change of Command, Camp Sherman. Outgoing: CPT Michael Barnes; Incoming: 1LT Jared Hoffman

Department of Defense names City of Columbus as one of 15 recipients of the 2013 Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award

ARLINGTON, Va. - Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR), a Department of Defense office, announced today that City of Columbus of Columbus, Ohio is one of 15 recipients of the 2013 Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award. The Freedom Award is the DoD's highest recognition given to employers for exceptional support of Guard and Reserve employees. These employers distinguished themselves among the 2,899 nominations received from Guardsmen and Reservists. The 2013 recipients will be honored at the 18th annual Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award ceremony in Washington, D.C. on Sept. 26, 2013.

"I commend and thank the 15 recipients of the 2013 Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award for providing exceptional support to our Citizen Warriors," said Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel. "So many of our nation's employers are finding ways to contribute to our nation's security, but these employers stand out for their commitment to our Guardsmen and Reservists. They have the gratitude and thanks of the entire Department of Defense."

Source: <http://www.defense.gov/utility/printitem.aspx?print=http://www.defense.gov/releases/release.aspx?releaseid=16019>

ODVS director retires after 46 years in public service

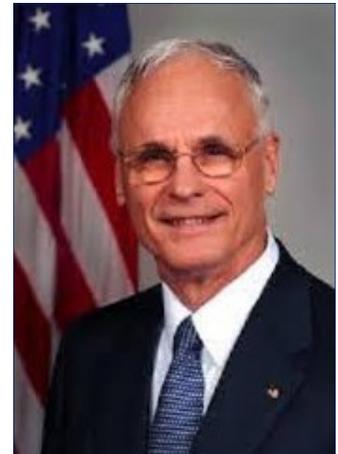
We said farewell last month to a great leader and friend — Director Tom Moe. Effective July 22, he retired, ending a 46-year-career of public service both in the military and in government. He has served as Director of the Ohio Department of Veteran Services since being appointed by Governor John R. Kasich in January 2011.

"Having Col. Moe serve on my cabinet over the past two-and-a-half years has been an honor," Kasich said in a July 3 news release. "I'm grateful to Col. Moe for stepping out of retirement at the beginning of my administration when I asked him to lead DVS. He is a true American hero and we were fortunate to have him on our team as long as we did. I wish him and his family all the best."

Director Moe said his retirement is for personal reasons. "I've been reminding myself of my priorities, and there's a debt I have to my family for all the love and support they've given me, whatever challenges we've faced. I cannot serve both the veterans of this state and my family as they need to be served.

"I am extremely grateful to Gov. Kasich for the opportunity he's given me to pay back the debt I also have to our veterans' community in Ohio. If even in a small way, it's enabled me to give back to them for the support that was given to my family during some difficult times in my military career," he said.

Under his leadership, the department worked with Ohio's county veteran service officers to connect more veterans to benefits than ever before. He forged a personal working relationship with the leadership of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and has helped move that agency into a closer partnership with the Department of Defense on veterans' records. Ohio also obtained access to 20 years' worth of service records in a DOD pilot program to speed up and improve the quality of veterans' claims. He has also worked hand-in-hand with Kasich and other agencies to improve veterans' prospects for employment, and with former Ohio Supreme Court Justice Evelyn Stratton to establish veterans' courts as a means of treatment rather than punishment. Moe also oversaw a committee that planned and conducted four days of events in Columbus in honor of Vietnam Veterans Day this past March.



2013 Regional Inter-Service Family Assistance Committee Meetings:

Region 1 - October 24

Region 2 - October 16

Region 3 - October 22

Region 4 - October 29

Region 5 - October 22

Region 6 - October 9

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

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 to include the following: NGB Form 22, DD Form 214(s), NGB Form 23, 20-yr letter and SBP election. If you are missing any documents, contact Ms. Jeanette Coughenour at 614-336-7038 (ONG HQs).

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

ODVS Director retires...

(cont. from pg. 3)

"I have very much enjoyed working with everyone... I can't express in words the appreciation I have for the team spirit I've experienced, he said. "I want to thank my staff, and everyone who's worked with us throughout our veterans' community, for their tireless efforts at my side."

Moe grew up in Arlington, Virginia, but came to Ohio to attend Capital University. He also served in the U.S. Navy Reserve for four years and became a member of an engineer detachment in Columbus. While a student at Capital, he became an Ohio resident, and also joined Air Force ROTC. He graduated from Capital in 1965 and was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Air Force.

Following training to become an F-4 fighter pilot, Moe was assigned to Da Nang, Vietnam in 1967. There he flew 85 combat missions, 60 of them over North Vietnam. In March 1968 his aircraft went down over North Vietnam due to a weapons malfunction. Captured after three days of evading the enemy, he was held as a POW for over five years until his repatriation in 1973. He remained in the Air Force, and later earned a master's degree from the University of Notre Dame. After a number of command and staff assignments, he retired in 1995 as a colonel. He earned two Silver Stars, the Bronze Star Medal for Valor, and two Purple Hearts among his 24 awards and decorations.

After his military retirement, he worked for the Ohio Department of Education and later as director of the Office of Emergency Management and Homeland Security in his home county of Fairfield. He remains active there in church and community affairs. Moe has been honored with a number of public service awards from the State of Ohio, Capital University, The University of Notre Dame, The Daughters of the American Revolution and others. He is a member of both the Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame and the Ohio Military Hall of Fame for Valor.

Moe and his wife, Chris, have been married for 48 years. They have a daughter, two sons and six grandchildren.

Source: <http://dvs.ohio.gov/Portals/0/library/odvs/newsletter/2013/ODVSnewsletter-July2013.pdf>

Are Veteran Benefits waiting for you?

We thank you for your service to our country. Because you're a veteran, you've earned a number of benefits that you may not be aware of. Most of these benefits originate at the federal level with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). Based on the time you served, you may be eligible for compensation for injuries, health care, educational assistance, home loans or many other benefits. There are also a number of state benefits available to Ohio veterans, to include the Ohio Veterans Bonus as well as direct financial assistance from the county to veterans in need.

The place to find out what you've earned and to apply is your county Veterans service office. You can locate yours in the interactive map on the Ohio Department of Veterans Services' department home page, www.ohiovet.gov, or by calling 1-877-OHIO-VET (1-877-644-6838).

Source: <http://dvs.ohio.gov/Portals/0/library/odvs/newsletter/2013/ODVSnewsletter-July2013.pdf>