

ALUMNI NEWSLETTER



OHIO NATIONAL GUARD

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Ohio National Guard helps to 'keep the faith,' forge relationships with state's clergy

By Bill Pierce

Ohio National Guard Public Affairs

(Columbus, Ohio) – Nearly 40 clergy members from across the state attended the Ohio National Guard's Clergy Familiarization Tour event Sept. 12, 2013, at Rickenbacker Air National Guard Base.

Clergy members heard from several speakers, including Brig. Gen. John Harris, assistant adjutant general for Army, who spoke about the mission and vision of the Ohio National Guard, and future organizational changes. They also listened to Army chaplains speak about troop spiritual wellness and ministry in combat.

Dr. James Futrell, pastor of pastoral care at Fairhaven Church in Centerville, Ohio, said he was curious about recent changes enacted by the Defense Department, with regard to allowing homosexuals to serve in the military and accompanying domestic partner benefits.

"This is a great opportunity," Futrell said. "I appreciate what Brig. Gen. Harris said about incorporating the changes, and how they are going to respect everyone."

Afterward, the clergy toured a hangar at Rickenbacker where static displays gave them a first-hand look at the Ohio National Guard's capabilities. Equipment on display included a Virtual Convoy Operations Trainer (VCOT), Beamhit laser marksmanship trainer, Mine-Resistant Ambush Protected (MRAP) vehicle, UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter and aircrew flight equipment.

Clergy were also treated to a tour of an Ohio Air National Guard KC-135 Stratotanker. The KC-135 is a large Boeing airplane that refuels aircraft while in midflight, thus removing the need for military planes to land several times before arriving at their destination.

"I am excited to experience this because it acquaints me with the lifestyle of some of the people I presently minister to," Futrell said. "I am particularly interested in the aircrew flight equipment. My son-in-law is stationed in Okinawa, Japan, and flies the KC-135."

As they made their way around the hangar, they noticed a display of Special Forces weapons which included weapons confiscated from enemy forces. Dan Alexoff, pastor at First Freedom Baptist Church in Brimfield, Ohio, was intrigued by the weapons on display. "It was nice to be able to see and compare," Alexoff said. "I also appreciated Staff Sgt. Clemente explaining the different weapons to me, because I have no military experience."

The goal for the day was to build awareness about the spiritual needs of service members and their Families, and engage civilian congregations in support of their tangible needs, according to Lt. Col. Kathy Lowrey, director of community outreach for the Ohio National Guard. Nearly half of the attendees expressed interest in supporting an Ohio National Guard Clergy Working Group.

"No one is a better sensor about the climate of a Soldier than a chaplain," Harris said.



Pastor Dan Alexoff, of the First Freedom Baptist Church in Brimfield, Ohio, inspects an AK series assault rifle, part of a Special Forces weapons display, during the Ohio National Guard Clergy Familiarization Tour on Sept. 12, 2013, at Rickenbacker Air National Guard Base, in Columbus, Ohio. Clergy members from all over Ohio were invited by Airmen and Soldiers from their congregations to attend a day at the base to learn about the military and how ministry can make an impact on service members returning from deployment. (Ohio National Guard photo by Bill Pierce)

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Ohio National Guard units currently deployed

Air units:

JFHQ
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 September 26, 2013, about 960 Ohio National Guard Airmen and Soldiers were deployed

Student Veteran program extends to Ohio campuses



The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) announced this month that it is expanding the availability of services through its VetSuccess on Campus (VSOC) program to two Ohio schools this fall, as well as 60 other locations around the country.



The new Ohio schools are The Ohio State University and the University of Cincinnati. The new additions bring the total number of schools with a VSOC in place to 94.

What is VSOC? According to VA Undersecretary for Benefits Allison Hickey, it's a program to help Veterans navigate what is often a difficult transition from military service to academic life. It places experienced VA counselors on the participating college campuses with the goal of helping Veterans succeed in both their educational and career goals through the Post-9/11 G.I. Bill and other federal educational programs.

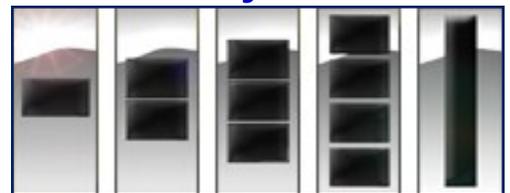
These counselors maintain close relationships with local VA medical facilities and Veteran Centers, which address mental health needs. They will refer student Veterans to medical and counseling services, and also provide assistance for them to enroll in or apply for VA medical or non-medical benefits.

According to the VA, there are currently over 22,000 Ohio Veterans and Family members attending colleges and universities in Ohio using VA educational benefits.

<http://dvs.ohio.gov/Portals/0/library/odvs/newsletter/2013/ODVNewsletter-Sep2013.pdf>

Army National Guard increases Warrant Officer ranks by 158

Warrant Officer Candidate Class 13-001 held its graduation ceremony at the Johnson County Readiness Center, Franklin, Ind., Sept. 22. There were a total of 158 warrant officer candidates that graduated; 147 from the Army National Guard and 11 from the Army Reserve. Ohio had nine warrant officer candidates in this year's class and on Saturday, all nine candidates were appointed to the rank of warrant officer.



After successfully completing phase I, and II (Jan - Aug 2013) in Ohio, the candidates' final hurdle was to finish phase III, conducted Sept. 7-21 at Camp Atterbury, Ind.

Some of the significant events over the 15-day period were: a staff ride at the Indiana War Memorial, Academic Instruction, Senior pinning, Army Physical Fitness Test and field leadership exercise, which consisted of land navigation, urban operations training, leadership reaction course, weapons familiarization, IED battle drill lanes, reconfigurable vehicle tactical trainer, entry control point, STX lanes and TOC operations.

Soldiers must meet the following administrative requirements before applying for the Warrant Officer Program; U.S. citizenship, general technical (GT) score of 110 or higher, high school graduate or have a GED, secret or top secret security clearance, pass the standard 3-event Army Physical Fitness Test (APFT) and meet height/weight standards, pass the appointment physical for technicians or the Class I flight physical for aviators (flight physical valid = 18 months from date initiated/technical physical valid = 24 months from date initiated) and all applicants must have 12 months or more remaining on their enlistment contract.

NCUA, VA team up on Veterans employment

DID YOU KNOW?

Since August 2012, TRICARE has added 3,323 Network Providers in Ohio. That's a 13.5 percent increase.

SEPT

September 28

Change of Command South Region Recruiting and Retention Battalion, McConnellsville Training Site, 1300 hrs
 Outgoing Commander: Maj. Al Renner
 Incoming Commander: Capt. Brandon Skiver

OCT

October 15

Change of Command HHC, 1-137th Aviation Regiment, Columbus, 1400 hrs
 Outgoing Commander: Capt. James J. O'Dell
 Incoming Commander: Capt. Philip R. Glotfelty

October 15

Change of Command Co. B, 1-137th Aviation Regiment, Columbus, 1500 hrs
 Outgoing Commander: Capt. Miranda L. Gahn
 Incoming Commander: Capt. James J. O'Dell

2014

April 24-27

ONGA/ONGEA Spring Events Weekend, Hyatt Regency, 350 North High St., Downtown Columbus

On Sept. 11, 2013, Rafael A. Torres, principal deputy assistant secretary for human resources and administration and Debbie Matz, chairman of the National Credit Union Administration (NCUA) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to provide NCUA with access to the VA for Vets high-tech, high-touch career readiness services to increase Veteran employment in the NCUA workforce.



Under the Feds for Vets initiative, all federal agencies have the opportunity to leverage the *VA for Vets* program by signing MOUs to solidify a partnership with VA through the Veteran Employment Services Office (VESO). The collaboration between VESO and NCUA is one of the many steps taken to follow up with President Obama's vision to increase Veteran employment. Although NCUA is the fifth federal agency to partner with VA, it is the first financial services regulatory agency to do so. Principal Deputy Torres said, "VESO is privileged to begin a cooperative effort with NCUA on Veterans employment."

VESO supports Veteran recruitment, retention and reintegration through the development and implementation of the innovative *VA for Vets* program. The program offers the most advanced online integrated military skills translator and career assessment tool on the market; a resume builder that tailors resumes so Veterans can more easily compete for open positions; and avatar-based technology that connects deployed military service members back to VA during their operational missions. In addition, Veterans have the option to receive one-on-one assistance from career coaches located in *VA for Vets* call centers.

Go to the link below to view the full press release.

<http://www.ncua.gov/News/Pages/NW20130911Veterans.aspx>

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-year 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**

End of an Era...

121st Air Refueling Wing says farewell to the 145th ARS



The crew of the 'Fini-Flight', along with past members of the 145th Air Refueling Squadron, stand in front of a KC-135 Stratotanker at Rickenbacker Air National Guard Base, commemorating the squadron's final flight on Sept. 24, 2013. The 145th ARS initially became an Air Refueling Squadron in Canton, Ohio in 1961 and has been flying tankers for 52 years. The American flag the crew is holding was flown during the flight. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Senior Master Sgt. Kim Frey)