

# ALUMNI NEWSLETTER



## OHIO NATIONAL GUARD

VOLUME 2, EDITION 2 FEBRUARY 3, 2014

### Celebrating National African-American History Month

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#### The Buffalo Soldiers

African Americans served in the U.S. military during the Civil War and continued to serve afterward. Many of these Soldiers went on to fight in the Spanish-American War and the Philippine-American War. Although the pay was low, only \$13 a month, many African Americans enlisted because they could earn more and be treated with more dignity than they often received in civilian life.

In 1866, Congress established six all-black regiments (consolidated to four shortly after) to help rebuild the country after the Civil War and to fight on the western frontier during the "Indian Wars." It was from one of these regiments, the 10th Cavalry, that the nickname Buffalo Soldier was born. American Plains Indians who fought against these Soldiers referred to the black cavalry troops as "Buffalo Soldiers" because of their dark, curly hair, which resembled a buffalo's coat and because of their fierce nature of fighting. The nickname soon became synonymous with all African-American regiments formed in 1866.



**Buffalo Soldiers in Formation**  
(Photo courtesy of U.S. Army)

In addition to their military duties, the Buffalo Soldiers also served as some of the first caretakers of the national parks. Between 1891 and 1913, the U.S. Army served as the official administrator of Yosemite and Sequoia National Parks. The Soldiers were stationed at the Presidio of San Francisco during the winter months and then served in the Sierra during the summer months. While in the parks, Soldiers' duties included fighting wildfire, curbing poaching of the park's wildlife, ending illegal grazing of livestock on federal lands, and constructing roads, trail and other infrastructure. In 1903, Capt. Charles Young led a company of Buffalo Soldiers in Sequoia and Gen. Grant (now King's Canyon) National Parks. Young and his troops managed to complete more infrastructure improvements than those from the previous three years. They completed a road to the Giant Forest and a road to the base of Moro Rock. Their work on these new roads now allowed the public to access the mountaintop forest for the first time.

The Buffalo Soldier regiments went on to serve the U.S. Army with distinction and honor for nearly the next five decades. With the disbandment of the 27th Cavalry on Dec. 12, 1951, the last of the storied Buffalo Soldiers regiments came to an end.

Source: <http://www.nps.gov/chyo/historyculture/people.htm>

### Black (African-American) History Month: February 2014

#### U.S. Census Bureau

To commemorate and celebrate the contributions to our nation made by people of African descent, American historian Carter G. Woodson established Black History Week. The first celebration occurred on Feb. 12, 1926. For many years, the second week of February was set aside for this celebration to coincide with the birthdays of abolitionist editor Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln. In 1976, as part of the nation's bicentennial, the week was expanded into Black History Month. Each year, U.S. presidents proclaim February as National African-American History Month.

Source: [http://www.census.gov/newsroom/releases/archives/facts\\_for\\_features\\_special\\_editions/cb14-ff03.html](http://www.census.gov/newsroom/releases/archives/facts_for_features_special_editions/cb14-ff03.html)

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## Ohio National Guard units currently deployed

### Air units:

JFHQ  
121st Air Refueling Wing  
123rd Air Control Squadron  
178th Fighter Wing  
179th Airlift Wing  
180th Fighter Wing  
251st Cyberspace Engineering and Installation Group

### Army units:

838th Military Police Company  
437th Military Police Battalion  
371st Sustainment Brigade

As of Jan. 24, 2014, about 650 Ohio National Guard Airmen and Soldiers were deployed

## The 2014 Captain Nicholas J. Rozanski Memorial Scholarship

### Awarded to Dependents of Ohio Army National Guard Soldiers—Active or Retired

Capt. Nicholas J. Rozanski lived in Dublin and graduated from Dublin High School in 1994. After high school, Nick went on to The Ohio State University where he received a bachelor's degree in communications. In 2003, Nick joined the Ohio Army National Guard, where he served for 8.5 years. Nick was deployed in 2004 to Kosovo, 2007 to Kuwait/Iraq and 2012 to Afghanistan which was his final deployment. He died of combat injuries sustained in Afghanistan on April 4, 2012.

Capt. Rozanski was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 148th Infantry Regiment of the 37th Infantry Brigade Combat Team. This scholarship is a \$1,000 one-time scholarship awarded to high school seniors who exemplify Nick's dedication to community service and leadership. There will be a total of three awarded.

The recipient must meet the following requirements: must be a high school senior or currently enrolled in an accredited college and dependent of a current or retired member of the Ohio Army National Guard; must have at least a 2.8 grade point average (based on a 4.0 scale); must plan to attend any accredited post-secondary public educational institution, and must have participated in community service and leadership activities.

Your application must consist of the following (in order of importance):

1. Personal statement - The statement should reflect how your connection with the Ohio Army National Guard has impacted your life and how you plan to give back to your community. It must be typed, double-spaced and no more than two pages.
2. Two letters of recommendation - One from school personnel and the other from an individual in the community not related to the you.
3. Description of school and community involvement - Provide a list with the dates you participated in each activity and any leadership positions held.
4. GPA - Attach a copy of your official high school transcript.
5. Post-secondary institution - Indicate the date of proposed entrance to college and name of college, university or other post-secondary institution.

If the student who qualifies to receive this scholarship receives an all-inclusive scholarship by the college he/she will attend, the award will be granted to the next qualified candidate.

Applications should be sent to the address below by Friday, Feb. 28, 2014.

Nick Rozanski Memorial Foundation  
Attn: Jenny Rozanski  
P.O. Box 1930  
Dublin, OH 43017

**DID YOU KNOW?**

From 1866 to 1918, there were 22 Medal of Honor recipients from members of the Buffalo Soldiers.

**FEB 8**

**The 112th Medical Brigade Association will be holding it's "Semi-Annual Sunshine State Reunion,"** Feb. 8, 2014, 5 p.m., Jacksonville/ Orange Park, Florida. All members and friends of the 112th are welcome. For more information call: John Good at 614-288-5799.

**FEB 22**

**1-134th Field Artillery Regiment Battalion Ball,** The Columbus Athenaeum, 32 N. Fourth Street, Columbus, 7:30 p.m. RSVP to Capt. Jeffery Jones at [jeffery.w.jones24.mil@mail.mil](mailto:jeffery.w.jones24.mil@mail.mil) by Feb. 3.

**APR 24-27**

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

**APR 26**

**ONG Alumni Muster (Reunion),** Hyatt Regency, 350 North High St., Columbus, 0930-1130

## Ohio Tax Commissioner Issues Alert to All Ohio Small Businesses

50 percent tax cut retroactive to Jan. 1, 2013

COLUMBUS, Ohio – A majority of small business owners and entrepreneurs in Ohio are eligible for a 50 percent tax deduction on their first \$250,000 of business income as part of tax cuts approved last year, according to an alert issued by Ohio Tax Commissioner Joe Testa recently.

“Virtually all small businesses in the state will enjoy a significant reduction in tax if they take advantage of this deduction,” Testa said. “The sooner these businesses have extra money in their pockets, the faster they can begin to grow their business by using the savings to increase advertising, buy new equipment or hire help.”

As part of the tax cut, business owners can exclude 50 percent of Ohio net business income from the adjusted gross income they report on their Ohio personal income tax return. If the business has multiple owners, each is eligible to claim the deduction. This exclusion is available on up to \$250,000, meaning the deduction is capped at \$125,000 for each investor or owner.

For businesses to determine whether they are eligible and learn how to file for this deduction, a guide has been posted to the Ohio Department of Taxation’s website ([www.tax.ohio.gov](http://www.tax.ohio.gov)).

For additional information, contact Gary Gudmundson, communications director, Ohio Department of Taxation, at (614) 466-0099.

## GI Bill Call Center and VA National Call Center issue important fraud alert

### U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Veterans should be aware of a marketing scam targeting callers trying to reach the GI Bill Call Center and VA National Call Center. Two fraudulent numbers that differ from the official VA call center numbers by one digit are being used to gain access to personal and financial information, including credit card information, from Veterans that call in.

Please note that the VA will never ask you for a credit card number or banking information over the phone. Be cautious giving sensitive personal information over the phone and make sure that you dial the correct number when trying to reach them.

The fraudulent numbers are:

- 800-872-1000 (the CORRECT VA National Call Center number is 800-827-1000)
- 888-442-4511 (the CORRECT VA GI Bill Call Center number is 888-442-4551)

Source: <http://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/>



**Operation Legal Help Ohio (OLHO)**, helps to connect low-income service members and Veterans with volunteer lawyers willing to represent them free of charge in the following legal actions: landlord/tenant evictions, credit card debt and other consumer issues, employment and reemployment challenges (as defined under USERRA), and uncontested divorce and dissolutions. For more information, contact the OLHO at 1-877-759-6182.

**2014 Regional Inter-Service Family Assistance Committee Meetings:**

*Region 1 - 17 Apr*

*Region 2 - 16 Apr*

*Region 3 - 29 Apr*

*Region 4 - 29 Apr*

*Region 5 - 8 Apr*

*Region 6 - 9 Apr*

For questions regarding the time or place of RISFAC meetings, contact Staff Sgt. Ikiya Perry 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**

If you are an Army Guard/Reserve or an Air Force Guard/Reserve retiree, and need help completing your retirement pay packet, contact Sgt. 1st Class Richard Wright at 614-336-7277.



**ONG and Columbus Chamber of Commerce host Federal Military Retention event at Rickenbacker Air National Guard Base**



Columbus, Ohio —The Ohio National Guard and the Columbus Chamber of Commerce hosted a Federal Military Facilities Working Group on Jan. 17, 2014, which brought together federal, state and local elected officials along with community business and development leaders, showcasing the facilities and capabilities of the Ohio Air and Army National Guard units stationed there, as well as the Army, Navy and Marine Corps Reserve tenants at Rickenbacker.

