

ALUMNI NEWSLETTER



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180th Fighter Wing Airmen take part in large multi-state training exercise in Hawaii

Story by Staff Sgt. Chris Hubenthal
Defense Media Activity-Hawaii News Bureau

JOINT BASE PEARL HARBOR-HICKAM, Hawaii — More than 600 participants from five states participated in the largest Sentry Aloha exercise to date March 6-19.

Sentry Aloha is an air-to-air exercise focused on offensive and defensive counter measures and fighting integration, providing pilots with the opportunity to integrate different generations of aircraft into one air-to-air exercise.



An Ohio Air National Guard F-16 prepares for takeoff during the largest Sentry Aloha exercise to date, at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii, earlier this year. U.S. Air National Guard photo by Master Sgt. Beth Holliker/Released

“What we’re working on here is fifth generation advanced air-to-air tactics,” said Lt. Col. Mike Didio, 112th Fighter Squadron commander, Ohio Air National Guard, located at the Toledo Air National Guard Base in Swanton, Ohio. “We’re working on defensive counter air missions where basically we’re blue air trying to protect an asset integrated with the (F-22 Raptors). Then we will move on to an offensive counter air mindset where we’re actually taking the fight to the simulated enemy working with F-22s and F-15 (Eagle).”

For Maj. Brian Moran, 112th Fighter Squadron weapons officer, working alongside and supplementing other airframes like the F-22 has been a useful training experience.

“It’s been awesome being able to come out here and support our fifth generation brethren, the F-22,” Moran said. “Working with them on the blue side and seeing how we can all integrate together has been great.”

Although Moran has trained beside the F-22 before, Sentry Aloha offered something new for him.

“At weapons school out at Nellis Air Force Base, I was able to work with the F-22 mostly in air-to-ground missions where (Raptors) provided the escort for us as we were going in to drop the bombs,” Moran said. “This is my first time getting to strictly fly air-to-air with them.”

The location of the exercise also makes Sentry Aloha an uncommon and effective training experience.

“(Sentry Aloha) is great and a very rare training opportunity,” Didio said. “We get opportunities to train with the F-15 a little more than the F-22. Being out here in the good weather and the great air space over the water is a very good and very unique training opportunity for our guys to make that happen.”

According to Didio, the execution of this year’s Sentry Aloha exercise is how he believes air-to-air training will be designed down the road.

“Total force integration is pretty much here to stay and it’s the way of the future,” Didio said. “It seems like this is the trend both in the Guard and the active components to maximize our training with our limited resources we now have available for exercises.”

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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: N/A

As of April 30, 2014, about 80 Ohio National Guard Airmen were deployed supporting GWOT



Visit <http://www.whitehouse.gov/aapi> to find out more about the White House's Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders.

VA offers identity theft help line

By Stanley F. Lowe
 Deputy Assistant Secretary, Information Security
 U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Every piece of personally identifiable information, whether it's a Social Security number, date of birth, home address, etc., is more than just a number. It represents a person's identity, livelihood and personal or financial well-being.

The Veterans Administration's *More Than a Number* identity protection program provides information to educate Veterans and their beneficiaries on how to protect themselves from identity theft. On this website (<http://www.va.gov/identitytheft/index.asp>), you will find a wide range of information on identity theft, how to spot it, ways to prevent it, and what to do if you suspect you are a victim. You can also browse through links to other useful identity theft resources from across the Web.

In addition, there is a toll-free Identity Theft Resource Line for Veterans and their beneficiaries to call for more information or if they suspect that their identities may have been compromised. The toll-free number is 855-578-5492. The hours of operation are Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. - 8 p.m. (EST). You may also email questions to vaidtheft@va.gov.

Below are some *frequently asked questions* concerning the *More Than a Number* campaign.

1. What is the More Than a Number Campaign?

The More Than a Number Campaign is the Department of Veterans Affairs' (VA's) initiative for spreading awareness of identity theft and disseminating information on identity theft prevention to Veterans and their beneficiaries.

2. How do I change or update my contact information with VA?

Call 1-800-827-1000 and select Option 1, then Option 3.

3. What is personally identifiable information (PII)?

PII refers to information that can be used to distinguish or trace an individual's identity. Examples of PII include: names, Social Security numbers, addresses, phone numbers, credit card or bank numbers, and biometric data (like your fingerprint).

4. Why is it important to protect Veterans from identity theft?

Identity theft can result in serious consequences for Veterans and their beneficiaries. When a person's identity is compromised, it can take considerable time and money to resolve the criminal charges that occur and close bad accounts. Victims can even be denied loans or jobs as a result of the crime's impact on their credit.

Source: <http://www.va.gov/identitytheft/>

DID YOU KNOW?

May is Asian-Pacific American Heritage Month – a celebration of Asians and Pacific Islanders in the United States. A rather broad term, Asian-Pacific encompasses all of the Asian continent and the Pacific islands of Melanesia (New Guinea, New Caledonia, Vanuatu, Fiji and the Solomon Islands), Micronesia (Marianas, Guam, Wake Island, Palau, Marshall Islands, Kiribati, Nauru and the Federated States of Micronesia) and Polynesia (New Zealand, Hawaiian Islands, Rotuma, Midway Islands, Samoa, American Samoa, Tonga, Tuvalu, Cook Islands, French Polynesia and Easter Island).

MAY 4

Change of Command for Company E, 237th Brigade Support Battalion (1-148th Infantry Regiment Forward Support Company), 855 South Collett Street, Lima, 1400 hrs.
Outgoing Commander:
Capt. Scott Osborn
Incoming Commander:
1st Lt. Christopher Wood

MAY 17

The 2-174th Air Defense Artillery 5th Annual All Ranks Ball, VFW Post 1058, 1308 Putnam Ave., Zanesville, 1730hrs. RSVP by May 5 to Sgt. Justin Spring at justin.m.spring.mil@mail.mil.

JUNE 7

Change of Command for the Fort Ohio Training Installations Command, Camp Perry Joint Training Site, Bldg 950, Lawrence Road, Port Clinton, 1100 hrs.
Outgoing Commander:
Col. Dean Brown
Incoming Commander:
Lt. Col. Barb Herrington Clemens

JUNE 7

237th Brigade Support Battalion 2014 Battalion Ball, Embassy Suites, 3775 Park East Drive, Beachwood, 1700 - 2400 hrs. RSVP by May 17th to Sgt. 1st Class Anthony Walker at 614-336-6020.

JUNE 8

B Company, 2nd Battalion, 19th Special Forces Group (Airborne) Valor and Service Awards Ceremony, Naval Reserve Center, Rickenbacker Air National Guard Base, Columbus, 1200 - 1400 hrs. Contact Staff Sgt. Clemente at 614-336-6717 for more information.

JUNE 28

371st Sustainment Brigade Ball, Courtyard by Marriott, 100 S. Fountain Avenue, Springfield, 1800 hrs. RSVP by May 31 to Chief Warrant Officer Binckley at 937-322-3600.

How the Ohio Attorney General's office can help Service Members and Veterans

By Mike DeWine, Ohio Attorney General



The men and women of our armed services make tremendous sacrifices in their service to our country. As Ohio Attorney General, I want to make sure that, whenever possible, my office extends a helping hand to active-duty military personnel and their families as well as our veterans.

Through the Attorney General's Patriot Program, volunteers from my office provide some free legal services for military personnel and their families for services like drafting wills and delegating power of attorney.

In addition, my office can provide a dispute resolution process between consumers and businesses and can expedite certain cases or issues raised by active duty military members and their families.

One of the areas we hear from service members about is debt collection practices. Problems range from those companies that may not be complying with the federal Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, to outright scammers who pretend to collect on debts but instead are simply out to steal your money.

Debt collectors may take advantage of high standards to which service members are held in order, for example, to maintain their security clearance. Scammers may threaten service members with the loss of their security clearance and VA benefits unless they pay up. These tactics make it all the more important that service members keep track of their obligations and verify the credibility of a collector and the agency they represent before making payments.

The first line of defense in protecting your wallet is to know your rights. If you receive calls or letters from third-party debt collectors, you should know:

- A debt collector must send you a letter within five days after contacting you by phone, stating how much you owe, who you owe it to, and how long you have to dispute the debt.
- You have the right to dispute the debt by writing a letter within 30 days from the date you are contacted by the debt collector. In that letter, you may also specifically request verification of the debt.

Whether or not you owe the debt, you can tell a debt collector in writing not to contact you again. That will not eliminate the debt.

Debt collectors may not:

- Harass or use obscene words when talking to you.
- Contact you before 8 a.m. or after 9 p.m.
- Contact you without identifying themselves.
- Tell others about your debt.
- Contact you at work if you or your employer disapproves.

Since it can be difficult to determine whether you are being approached by a debt collector or a fraudster, below are red flags that someone claiming to be a debt collector may not be legitimate:

2014 Regional Inter-Service Family Assistance Committee Meetings:

Region 1 - 24 July

Region 2 - 16 July

Region 3 - 29 July

Region 4 - 22 July

Region 5 - 15 July

Region 6 - 9 July

For questions regarding the time or place of RISFAC meetings, contact Staff Sgt. Ikiia 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.

How the Ohio Attorney General's office...

(Cont. from pg. 3)

- The "debt collector" refuses to provide proof that you owe the debt.
- They request personal information, such as your name, address, credit or debit card number, bank account number, or Social Security number.
- They demand immediate payment usually via wire-transferred funds or a pre-paid money card.
- They use vulgar language or threaten arrest if payment isn't immediately provided.

The easiest way to curb debt collection abuse is to know your rights and to always remain vigilant.

If you suspect an unfair debt collection practice or a potential scam, please contact the Ohio Attorney General's Office at 800-282-0515 or www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov.



Pilots and crew members from the 121st Air Refueling Wing, located at Rickenbacker Air National Guard Base in Columbus, Ohio, recently conducted a refueling mission off the coast of North Carolina, as an Ohio Air National Guard KC-135 Stratotanker provided aerial refueling to a group of F-15E Strike Eagle fighters. The 121st ARW provides aerial refueling and airlift capabilities in support of combat and humanitarian missions worldwide. (Staff Sgt. Nicholas Pavlik, ONG)