

ALUMNI NEWSLETTER



OHIO NATIONAL GUARD

VOLUME 6, EDITION 11 NOVEMBER 3, 2014

164th Weather Flight Airman freezes competition to earn national award as Senior NCO of year

Story by **Bill Pierce**
Ohio National Guard Public Affairs

COLUMBUS, Ohio — Master Sgt. John “Johnny” Hobbs, a member of the Ohio Air National Guard’s 164th Weather Flight, has been chosen as the 2013 Headquarters U.S. Air Force Reserve Component Weather Senior Noncommissioned Officer of the Year.

Hobbs said he considers earning the award — among his peers from the worldwide military weather community — as his top achievement in his Air Force career to date.

Hobbs joined the Ohio Air National Guard after finding an advertisement in his college newspaper announcing an opening in the weather flight at Rickenbacker Air National Guard Base. “At the time, I was enrolled in the meteorology program at The Ohio State University,” Hobbs said. “With my prior active-duty service and knowing that my training in the weather career field in the military would surpass anything that Ohio State could offer, I enlisted.”

While his award nomination submission package included his accomplishments with his unit, and his personal and professional development enabled him to be competitive, Hobbs said it was his six-month deployment in 2013 under the 19th Expeditionary Weather Squadron, in east-central Afghanistan while attached to the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division from Fort Drum, N.Y., that gave him the “hard-hitting impacts,” or experiential accomplishments, which helped earn him the award. “As a drill status (traditional) guardsman, it’s often difficult to come up with hard-hitting impacts when performing your normal weekend and annual training,” Hobbs said.

When he first enlisted in the weather career field, Hobbs learned that there was more to the job than what he originally envisioned. Hobbs said he expected analyzing weather data and putting together a forecast would be the whole job, but never realized how critical the mission would be in supporting Army operations. His last 75-90 days of training was with an active-duty Army-support weather unit where Hobbs honed his skills and prepared himself further for Army support missions. “Looking back at my years in weather, I would say it has been the most exciting, demanding and fulfilling part of my job,” said Hobbs.

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Maj. Gen. Mark Bartman (left), Ohio assistant adjutant general for Air, presents the 2013 Headquarters United States Air Force Air Reserve Component Weather Senior Noncommissioned Officer of the Year award to Master Sgt. Johnny Hobbs, of the 164th Weather Flight, Oct. 5, 2014, at Rickenbacker Air National Guard Base in Columbus, Ohio. Hobbs was selected over several other candidates throughout the worldwide Air Force weather career field. (Ohio National Guard photo by Tech. Sgt. Zachary Wintgens)

Veterans Transportation Service

OVERVIEW OF VTS PROGRAM

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), Veterans Health Administration (VHA) Healthcare System provides primary care, specialized care and related medical and social support to serve America's Veterans' health and wellness needs. To do this, VHA needs to be a comprehensive, integrated healthcare system providing excellence in health care value, excellence in service as defined by its customers and excellence in education and research. To enhance the VHA system, the Central



Business Office (CBO) is launching a new transportation program for immobilized and remote VA patients to enhance existing programs implemented by local VA Medical Centers (VAMCs). Veterans Transportation Service (VTS) seeks to provide transportation services to include vehicle routing/scheduling software for VA Medical Facilities. The ride scheduling and routing systems will include GPS modules for VTS vehicles.

VA especially recognizes the problems Veterans who are visually impaired, elderly or immobilized due to disease or disability, particularly those living in remote and rural areas, face in traveling to access VA health care. To work toward providing these Veterans with the most convenient and timely access to transportation services, VA's vision is to explore the establishment of a network of community transportation service providers that could include Veteran Service Organizations (VSOs); community and commercial transportation providers; federal, state and local government transportation services as well as non-profits, such as United We Ride, operating within each VISN or even local facility.

This initiative will not replace current activities, but will rather supplement existing benefits and programs to improve access to VA health care.

This program is currently enabled at 45 sites, and will be implemented at remaining locations by 2015. VTS ride information will be updated as new locations come on board.

Source: <https://www.va.gov/HEALTHBENEFITS/vts/index.asp>

America Gets Cooking this November for American Diabetes Month

KEY MESSAGES AND TAKEAWAYS

1. The American Diabetes Association is behind the largest national movement to Stop Diabetes and its deadly consequences.
2. During American Diabetes Month 2014, the Association encourages Americans to get started living a healthy active lifestyle through the America Gets Cooking to Stop Diabetes campaign.
3. Anyone can find out great tips, recipes and more each week by visiting the American Diabetes Association interactive web page at www.diabetesforecast.org/adm.
4. Host a "do-it-yourself fundraiser," we're calling Cook to Stop Diabetes, where you can incorporate healthy cooking activities into fun parties for friends and family, while also raising money to Stop Diabetes.
5. You can also visit us on Facebook ([facebook.com/AmericanDiabetesAssociation](https://www.facebook.com/AmericanDiabetesAssociation)) or by calling 1-800-DIABETES.
6. Read our blog (www.diabetesstopshere.org) and follow us on Twitter (@AmDiabetesAssn), Pinterest (@AmDiabetesAssn) and Instagram (@AmDiabetesAssn) to receive updates all month long.



Source: <http://www.diabetes.org/in-my-community/american-diabetes-month.html>

DID YOU KNOW?

The classic Thanksgiving menu of turkey, cranberries, pumpkin pie and root vegetables is based on New England fall harvests. In the 19th century, as the holiday spread across the country, local cooks modified the menu both by choice (“this is what we like to eat”) and by necessity (“this is what we have to eat”). Today, many Americans delight in giving regional produce, recipes and seasonings a place on the Thanksgiving table. In New Mexico, chilis and other southwestern flavors are used in stuffing, while on the Chesapeake Bay, the local favorite, crab, often shows up as a holiday appetizer or as an ingredient in dressing. In Minnesota, the turkey might be stuffed with wild rice, and in Washington State, locally grown hazelnuts are featured in stuffing and desserts. In Indiana, persimmon puddings are a favorite Thanksgiving dessert, and in Key West, key lime pie joins pumpkin pie on the holiday table. Some specialties have even become ubiquitous regional additions to local Thanksgiving menus; in Baltimore, for instance, it is common to find sauerkraut alongside the Thanksgiving turkey.

NOVEMBER 8**37th IBCT Brigade Ball**

Embassy Suites Columbus/Dublin
5100 Upper Metro Pl.
Social Hour - 1700 hrs.
Dinner - 1830 hrs.

NOVEMBER 14**Change of Command**

52nd Civil Support Team
Rickenbacker Air National Guard Base
8302 South Perimeter Road, Bldg. 931,
Columbus
1100 hrs.
Outgoing: Lt. Col. Jeffrey Suver
Incoming: Lt. Col. Jeff Watkins

RSVP to Maj. Joe Adams at 614-336-6593

NOVEMBER 15**Change of Command**

HHO 147th Regional Training Institute
(Regiment)
1600 hrs.
Outgoing: Capt. Dewayna Brown
Incoming: Capt. Robert Budde-Albrecht

NOVEMBER 15**8th Annual Veterans Day Ball and Awards Ceremony**

112th Motor Transport Battalion
McKinley Grand Hotel, Canton
Social Hour - 1730 hrs.
Dinner - 1830 hrs.

NOVEMBER 21**St. Barbara's Day Ball**

1st Battalion, 134th Field Artillery
Regiment
Embassy Suites Columbus
2700 Corporate Exchange Drive
Social Hour - 1800 hrs.
Dinner - 1900 hrs.

RSVP to Sgt. 1st Class Craig Cashner at
614-336-6710

Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame Class of 2014 to be inducted Nov. 6 at Lincoln Theater in Columbus

COLUMBUS – The Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame will induct the Class of 2014 in a ceremony at 11 a.m., Nov. 6, at the **Lincoln Theater** in Columbus. The Ohio Veterans' community and the public are cordially invited to attend and honor the 20 Ohioans in this year's class as they join the 443 others who are enshrined in the Hall.

The Hall is dedicated to recognizing Ohio Veterans who, after their military service, put their skills and abilities to work in their local communities. They are Veterans who have continued to serve others, and by their continued service and positive accomplishments, inspired their fellow citizens.

The Lincoln Theater is located at 769 E Long Street.

A brief biography of each of the inductees of the Class of 2014 is available at:

http://dvs.ohio.gov/Portals/0/library/odvs/news/archive/2014/Ohio_Veterans_HOF_Inductees_Release_2014.pdf

This year's inductees are: James F. Albright, 69, of Orient; John F. Bankowitz, 60, of Tipp City; Michael J. Bennett, 65, of Anna; James P. Bowes, 65, of Lancaster; David R. Cooper, 69, of Westerville; Louis J. DeLoss, 70, of Medina; Richard Gandarilla, 58, of Gahanna; Ruby C. Gilliam, 91, of Minerva; Lewis J. Gottfried, 92, of Sandusky; Mary Louise Gruber, 91, of Bay Village; Herbert M. Heilbrun, 94, of Cincinnati; Elaine M. Tisdell Herrick, 65, of Clayton; Brian V. Jarvis, 59, of Beaver Creek; Robert A. Kincses, 67, of Centerville; James J. Leach (deceased); Ruben J. "Jerry" Lemons, 77, of Brunswick; Charles A. Lococo, 79, of Sandusky; Howard W. Osterkamp, 85, of Cincinnati; Jose R. "Rafi" Rodriguez, 59, of Beaver Creek and DeFord R. Schwall, 93, of Wauseon.

Source: ODVS website

The Perfect Turkey

Ingredients

- 1 (18 pound) whole turkey, neck and giblets removed
- 2 cups kosher salt
- 1/2 cup butter, melted
- 2 large onions, peeled and chopped
- 4 carrots, peeled and chopped
- 4 stalks celery, chopped
- 2 sprigs fresh thyme
- 1 bay leaf
- 1 cup dry white wine

Directions

1. Rub the turkey inside and out with the kosher salt. Place bird in large stock pot, cover with cold water. Place in the refrigerator, allow turkey to soak in mixture 12 hours, or overnight.
2. Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Thoroughly rinse turkey, discard the brine mixture.
3. Brush turkey with half the melted butter. Place breast side down on a roasting rack in a shallow roasting pan. Stuff turkey cavity with 1 onion, 1/2 the carrots, 1/2 the celery, 1 sprig of thyme, and bay leaf. Scatter remaining vegetables and thyme around the bottom of the roasting pan, and cover with the white wine.
4. Roast uncovered 3.5-4 hrs in the preheated oven, until internal temperature of the thigh reaches 180 degrees. Carefully turn the turkey breast side up about 2/3 through the roasting time, brush with the remaining butter. Allow bird to stand about 30 minutes before carving.

PREP TIME: 30 mins
COOK TIME: 4 hrs
READY IN: 17 hrs



2015 Regional Inter-Service Family Assistance Committee Meetings:

Region 1 - 22 Jan

Region 2 - 21 Jan

Region 3 - 13 Jan

Region 4 - 27 Jan

Region 5 - 13 Jan

Region 6 - 14 Jan

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

Retirement Packets

Retirement packets are mailed to your last known mailing address. If you change your address 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.

Ohio National Guard Northeast Joint Employer Event



The Ohio National Guard hosted its largest-ever Joint Employer Event **Sept. 18, 2014**, with over 90 employers and their Guard members in attendance at Camp Perry Joint Training Center, located in Port Clinton, Ohio, where highlights included a flight on an CH-47 Chinook helicopter. These events are held to educate employers about their employees' military service as an Ohio National Guard Soldier or Airman. (Photo by Tech. Sgt. Joseph Harwood, ONG)