

ALUMNI NEWSLETTER



OHIO NATIONAL GUARD

VOLUME 7, EDITION 2 FEBRUARY 3, 2015

Celebrating African-American/Black History Month

Who are the Tuskegee Airmen of World War II?

COLUMBUS, Ohio — The Tuskegee Airmen were dedicated, determined young men who enlisted to become America's first black military Airmen, at a time when there were many people who thought that black men lacked intelligence, skill, courage and patriotism. They came from every section of the country, with large numbers coming from New York City, Washington, Los Angeles, Chicago, Philadelphia and Detroit. Each one possessed a strong personal desire to serve the United States of America at the best of his ability.

Those who possessed the physical and mental qualifications were accepted as aviation cadets to be trained initially as single-engine pilots and later to be twin-engine pilots, navigators or bombardiers. Most were college graduates or undergraduates.

Others demonstrated their academic qualifications through comprehensive entrance examinations. No standards were lowered for the pilots or any of the others who trained in operations, meteorology, intelligence, engineering, medicine or any of the other officer fields.

Enlisted members were trained to be aircraft and engine mechanics, armament specialists, radio repairmen, parachute riggers, control tower operators, policemen, administrative clerks and all of the other skills necessary to fully function as an Army Air Corps flying squadron or ground support unit. The black Airmen who became single-engine or multi-engine pilots were trained at Tuskegee Army Air Field (TAAF) in Tuskegee, Alabama.

The first aviation cadet class began in July 1941 and completed training nine months later in March 1942. Thirteen started in the first class. Only five successfully completed the training, one of them being Capt. Benjamin O. Davis, Jr., a West Point Academy graduate. The other four were commissioned second lieutenants, and all five received Army Air Corps silver pilot wings.



From 1942 through 1946, 992 pilots graduated at TAAF, receiving commissions and pilot wings. Black navigators, bombardiers and gunnery crews were trained at selected military bases elsewhere in the United States. Mechanics were trained at Chanute Air Base in Rantoul, Illinois until facilities were in place in 1942 at TAAF. Four hundred and fifty of the pilots who were trained at TAAF served overseas in either the 99th Pursuit Squadron (later the 99th Fighter Squadron) or the 332nd Fighter Group. The 99th Fighter Squadron trained in and flew P-40 Warhawk aircraft in combat in North Africa, Sicily and Italy from April 1943 until July 1944 when they were transferred to the 332nd Fighter Group in the 15th Air Force.

The 332nd Fighter Group consisted originally of the 100th Fighter Squadron, 301st Fighter Squadron and 302nd Fighter Squadron. They prepared for combat at Selfridge Air Base, Michigan from March 1943 until December 1943. Training was conducted in the P-40 Warhawk and P-39 Airacobra aircraft. The Group began overseas combat operations near Naples, Italy in February 1944 with the 12th Air Force, flying air patrols over Naples Harbor and the Mediterranean Sea. In April 1944, the 332nd Fighter Group transferred to the Adriatic Sea side at Ramitelli Air Strip, near Foggia, Italy and began conducting long-range heavy bomber escort missions for the 15th Strategic Air Force.

In July 1944, the 99th Fighter Squadron was transferred to Ramitelli and the Group became the only four-squadron fighter group performing bomber escort missions in the 15th Air Force. This was a significant factor in the effectiveness and success of the group as it established the incredible and unprecedented record of flying 200 of its 205 bomber escort missions (never lost a bomber is a myth that started because of the very low bomber losses when the Tuskegee Airmen were escorting. No other escort group can claim such low losses), without the loss of a single bomber to enemy aircraft.

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SPECIAL EDITION

**ONGA/ONGEA
Spring Events Weekend
Registration Forms (pgs. 6-9)**

Tuskegee Airmen...

(cont. from pg. 1)

The 99th Fighter Squadron received two Presidential Unit Citations (June-July 1943 and May 1944) for outstanding tactical air support and aerial combat in the 12th Air Force before joining the 332nd Fighter Group.



The 332nd Fighter Group received the Presidential Unit Citation for its longest bomber escort mission to Berlin, Germany, March 24, 1945. They destroyed three German ME-262 jet fighters and damaged five additional jet fighters without losing any of the bombers or any of its own fighter aircraft to enemy aircraft. The 332nd Fighter Group also distinguished themselves in June 1944 when two of its pilots flying P-47 Thunderbolt aircraft discovered a German destroyer in the harbor at Trieste, Italy. One of the pilots, Lt. Gynne Pierson of the 302nd Fighter Squadron, using only the aircraft's 50-caliber machine guns, strafed the destroyer, causing it to explode and sink. This was another unprecedented aerial gunnery feat of World War II.

The tenacious bomber escort cover provided by the 332nd "Red Tail" fighters often discouraged enemy fighter pilots from attacking bombers they escorted. This resulted, however, in fewer enemy fighter challenges with resultant fewer enemy aircraft destroyed or damaged by the group, as compared with other 15th Air Force fighter escort groups. The successful escort record did result in frequent expressions of appreciation from the bomber crews.

The outstanding record of black Airmen in World War II was accomplished by men whose names will forever live in hallowed memory. Each one accepted the challenge, proudly displayed his skill and determination while suppressing internal rage from humiliation and indignation caused by frequent experiences of racism and bigotry, at home and overseas. These Airmen fought two wars — one against a military force overseas and the other against racism at home and abroad.

The Airmen who did not go overseas and trained at Selfridge Field, Michigan as bomber crew in the 477th Medium Bombardment Group experienced a great deal of racism. These highly trained military officers were treated as "trainees" and denied access to the base officers' club, an act contradictory to Army regulations. There was a rather heated reaction and the Group was transferred to Godman Field, Kentucky. The unfair treatment and hostility continued at Godman Field and in early 1945, the group was transferred to Freeman Field, Indiana where the hostilities finally reached a climax. When black officers tried to enter the Freeman Field Officers' Club, against direct orders for them to stay out, 103 officers were arrested, charged with insubordination and ordered to face court martial. The court martial proceedings were quickly dropped against 100 of the officers; two officers eventually had their charges dropped and one officer, Lt. Roger "Bill" Terry, was convicted.

Fifty years later, on August 12, 1995, at the Tuskegee Airmen National Convention in Atlanta, Georgia, fifteen of the original 103 officers that were arrested received official notification that their military records had been purged of any reference to the Freeman Field incident. Also, Mr. Terry's court martial conviction had been reversed and his military record cleared. The remaining officers received instructions for clearing their records. After the war in Europe ended in 1945, black Airmen returned to the United States and faced continued racism and bigotry despite their outstanding war record.

Tuskegee Army Air Field continued to train new Airmen until 1946, with women entering the program in several support fields. Large numbers of black Airmen elected to remain in the service but because of segregation their assignments were limited to the 332nd Fighter Group or the 477th Composite Group, and later to the 332nd Fighter Wing at Lockbourne Air Base, Ohio. Opportunities for advancement and promotion were very limited and this affected morale. Nevertheless, black Airmen continued to perform superbly. In 1949, pilots from the 332nd Fighter Group took first place in the Air Force National Fighter Gunnery Meet at Las Vegas Air Force Base, Nevada. During this period, many white units were undermanned and needed qualified people but were unable to get the experienced black personnel because of the segregation policy.

The newly formed U.S. Air Force initiated plans to integrate its units as early as 1947. In 1948, President Harry Truman enacted Executive Order No. 9981, which directed equality of treatment and opportunity in all of the U.S. Armed Forces. This order, in time, led to the end of racial segregation in the military forces. This was also the first step toward racial integration in the United States of America. The positive experience, the outstanding record of accomplishment and the superb behavior of black Airmen during World War II, and after, were important factors in the initiation of the historic social change to achieve racial equality in America.



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DID YOU KNOW?

Jim Crow laws mandated the segregation of public schools, public places and public transportation and the segregation of restrooms, restaurants and drinking fountains for whites and blacks. The U.S. military was also segregated, as were federal workplaces, initiated in 1913 under President Woodrow Wilson, the first Southern president since 1856. His administration practiced overt racial discrimination in hiring, requiring candidates to submit photos.

These **Jim Crow** laws followed the 1800–1866 **Black Codes**, which had previously restricted the civil rights and civil liberties of African Americans with no pretense of equality. State-sponsored school segregation was declared unconstitutional by the Supreme Court of the United States in 1954 in **Brown v. Board of Education**. Generally, the remaining **Jim Crow** laws were overruled by the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

FEBRUARY 7

**945th Engineer Company
Change of Command**
Norwalk Armory
400 West Main Street
Norwalk, Ohio
Time: 2:00 p.m.
Outgoing: Capt. Luis Diaz
Incoming: 1Lt. Timothy Cope

FEBRUARY 8

**122nd Army Band
Change of Command**
8202 S. Perimeter Road, Bldg. 945
Columbus, Ohio
Time: 10:00 a.m.
Outgoing: Chief Warrant Officer 4
Robin Kessler
Incoming: Warrant Officer 1 Joseph Lewis

FEBRUARY 21

The Adjutant General requests the pleasure of your company at a retirement dinner in honor of Brig. Gen. Michael McHenry. Dinner will be at 5:30p.m. at the Zanesville Country Club, 1300 Country Club Drive, Zanesville, Ohio.

MARCH 31

Registration Deadline
For the ONGA/ONGEA
Spring Events Weekend
April 23-25
Columbus, Ohio
Online registration and secure payment are available at:
<https://eventgrid.com/Events/14576/>

APRIL 11

**Annual OCS Dining Out &
147th Regimental (RTI) Ball**
5462 Center Street, Hilliard, Ohio.
Social Hour: 6 p.m.
Dinner: 8 p.m.
RSVP: OC Derek Moore at 614-542-7889
or derekmoorej05@gmail.com

Social Media safety is everyone's business

by Shana Bales-Rakowsky
ONG Antiterrorism Program Coordinator

As a result of recent world events and a continual effort to protect the force, we are recommending that all those associated with the Ohio National Guard review their social media accounts to make sure they are using the best security settings to protect their online profiles.

Social media platforms such as Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn are powerful tools that can help bring communities together. However, an individual's online profile can provide cyber criminals with an endless pool of personal information and potential targets to be exploited. As such, it is vital that individuals stay on the alert and be personally responsible for their online presence to protect themselves, their loved ones and the Army.

With that in mind, the following information will help the greater military community protect themselves online and significantly reduce the chance of becoming a victim of cyber crime.

SOCIAL NETWORKING SAFETY TIPS:

Things to Know:

* The internet does not forget. Once something is posted on a social networking website it can spread quickly, and no amount of effort can delete it. Do not post anything you would be embarrassed to see on the evening news.

* You are not anonymous. Cyber criminals have the capability to gather and exploit both individuals and organizations if the information is out there.

* More isn't always better. Participating in multiple social networking sites significantly increases ones risk and affords cyber criminal alternate avenues to strike and gather information.

How to Protect Yourself:

* Know the terms on social networking websites. Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn and other social networking sites frequently change their privacy and user policies. Social networking sites' privacy settings default to everyone. This means anyone can view your profile, not just the people you know. Securely configuring ones account will minimize who can see your information.

* Practice safe social networking. Never disclose private information when using social networking websites. Be very selective who you invite or accept invitations from as criminals often use false or spoofed profiles to gain access to personal and private information, such as birthdates, marital status, and photographs. Social media posts that contain personal identifying information (PII), digital photos that contain metadata (i.e., information written into the digital photo file such as who owns it, contact information, location, and internet search terms) can be used against you and your Family.

* Click with caution. Always use caution when clicking on links in social networking posts, even from someone you know. Reports of personal social networking accounts being hacked by criminals have increased in recent years. Clicking on a link that appears to be benign in nature may in fact contain embedded malware that can compromise your device. Once compromised, any data on your device can be exploited.

* Hide your profile from search engines. This can be accomplished by going to the social networking site account settings and un-checking the "Public Search Results" box. This will remove your public preview from Google, Bing, and Yahoo search returns.

* Check-out and tag-out. Do not use check-ins or post your specific location on social media. Also, prevent people from "tagging" you in photos and videos.

* Login No-Nos. Do not use your social networking site to log into other sites or use the save password, remember me, and keep me logged in options from a public or shared device. Use strong, unique passwords and never use the same password for all online accounts.

2015 Regional Inter-Service Family Assistance Committee Meetings:

*Region 1 - 23 Apr; Region 2 - 15 Apr; Region 3 - 21 Apr
Region 4 - 28 Apr; Region 5 - 14 Apr; Region 6 - 8 Apr*

For questions regarding the time or place of RISFAC meetings, contact Lt Col Kathy Lowrey at (614) 336-7002.

Educator license fees eliminated for Veterans and active duty service members and their spouses

The Ohio Department of Education is eliminating fees for educator licenses to recognize the contributions of military Families. Beginning Jan. 2, 2015, the fees for any initial Ohio educator license, permit or certificate — or for a renewal — will be waived for candidates who are Veterans or current service members of all branches of the United States Armed Forces, including the National Guard or Reserve. Spouses of active-duty service members also may receive a license free of charge. For more information, go to: <http://education.ohio.gov/Topics/Other-Resources/Family-and-Community-Engagement/Supporting-Ohio-s-Military-Families/Educator-License-Fees-Elimin-for-Veterans-and-Acti>

Retirement Packets

If you are an Ohio Air Guard/Reserve or an Ohio Army Guard/Reserve retiree, contact Sgt. 1st Class Richard Wright at 614-336-7277 for assistance in submitting your retirement packet **nine months before your 60th birthday**, or at whatever age you become eligible to begin receiving non-regular retired pay. If you find you are missing any documents for your packet, contact Ms. Jeanette Carter at 614-336-7038 (ONG HQs). Once you complete your packet, mail it to the following address for processing:

**U.S. Army Human Resources
Center of Excellence - Fort Knox
ATTN: AHRC-PDR-TR
1600 Spearhead Division Ave.
Dept. 420
Fort Knox, KY 40122-56402
1-888-276-9472**

Social Media Safety...

(cont. from pg. 3)

* Install/update your anti-virus/firewall software. Antivirus and firewall software is a must for anyone to safely navigate online. Always keep your security software up to date in order to provide the most complete protection from malicious programs as thousands of new viruses are detected every year. Also, ensure your antivirus software program updates automatically and scans your computer on a recurring schedule.

179th AW Airman shares skill



Staff Sgt. Dante Cheatham (far left), of the 179 Airlift Wing, demonstrates some mechanical tools engineered for the aviation field to Crestview High School sophomore Sam Richards, Jan. 22, 2015, in Mansfield, Ohio. Richards is one of two nominees from Crestview participating in the Richland County Young Leadership Institute, a seven-month program that selects two sophomores from each area high school to learn and develop leadership skills as well as participate in community service projects. (Tech. Sgt. Joe Harwood, ONG)

Subject: BRIGHT New Leaders for Ohio Schools

1. **Summary:** "BRIGHT New Leaders for Ohio Schools" is a joint effort between the State of Ohio, The Ohio State University (OSU), and the Ohio Business Roundtable. BRIGHT's goal is to identify, recruit, and place outstanding leaders as Ohio school principals. BRIGHT is selecting an inaugural team of 30-40 leaders to be individually placed into Ohio public schools during a 12 month full-time Fellowship beginning in June 2015, working and learning under the mentorship of an accomplished school principal. Fellows will concurrently earn an MBA – fully paid for by the State of Ohio – from the top-ranked OSU Fisher College of Business and also will receive a modest monthly stipend for living expenses. Following the Fellowship, in accordance with a recent law enacted by the Ohio legislature, upon program completion, Fellows will be certified to become a permanently placed principal in any Ohio school, although Bright will be targeting placements in high-poverty schools. Successful Ohio National Guard leaders are ideal candidates for this unique opportunity.

2. Key Points:

a. "BRIGHT New Leaders for Ohio Schools" is a joint effort between the State of Ohio, OSU, and the Ohio Business Roundtable. Pilot and associated \$3.5M in funding authorized by the General Assembly. Goal is to identify, recruit, and place outstanding leaders as Ohio School Principals by the fall of 2015 (pilot starts with 30); but, by 2018, the project endeavors to place 200 new principals.

b. Program includes placement as a Fellow to be assigned a master school principal and earn an MBA from the OSU Fisher College of Business concurrently.

c. Strong applicants will have demonstrated leadership success, business acumen and/or aptitude, intellectual/academic capabilities (generally defined as 3.0 and above in an undergraduate program), and are committed to helping kids and their education. Background in education not required.

d. Applications will be made directly with "BRIGHT New Leaders for Ohio Schools" and OSU Fisher School of Business (www.brightohio.org). The Ohio National Guard does not have a role in this process. The application website is live and applications are due by **March 1, 2015**.

3. Actions Senior Leaders Must Take:

a. *Immediately* identify leaders who: may benefit from this opportunity and are interested; have demonstrated leadership success; fully live the Army, Air Force, and Ohio National Guard Values; have a minimum of a Bachelor's Degree (generally with a 3.0 average or above); and are committed to helping children and their education.

b. Direct interested leaders to Mr. Idin Pirasteh at idin@BrightOhio.org or 1-614-657-8413 or www.brightohio.org for more information on the program. **Applications are due by March 1, 2015.**



ONGA / ONGEA Spring Events Weekend
April 23-25 2015 – Columbus, Ohio
Registration Deadline: 31 March 2015



#OHNGAssociation



#Ohio National Guard Association

www.ohionga.org
www.ongea.org



SPRING WEEKEND AGENDA

Thursday, April 23

ONGA/ONGEA Golf Tournament 8:30am (Registration)
 Kinsale Golf & Fitness Center 10:00am (Shotgun Start)
 3737 Village Club Dr. Powell, OH 43065

Friday, April 24

Friday Night Clippers Game 5:30pm
 330 Huntington Park Lane Tickets provided at side gate
 Columbus, Ohio 43215

Saturday, April 25

ONGA/ONGEA Retiree Luncheon 11:00am – 12:30pm
 OGO Break Out Session 9:00am – 11:30am
 OGO Luncheon 12:00pm – 1:00pm
 Spouse / Guest Events 12:30pm – 4:30pm
 Joint ONGA/ONGEA Conference 1:00pm – 2:00pm
 ONGA/ONGEA Breakouts 2:00pm – 4:00pm
 Social Hour 6:00pm – 7:00pm
 ONGA/ONGEA Spring Dinner Dance 7:00pm

Hyatt Regency Columbus
 350 North High Street
 Columbus, Ohio 43215



Registration

Online Registration and Secure Payment available at: <https://eventgrid.com/Events/14576/>

OR

Complete registration form and mail check to ONGA

Attn: David Swisher
 1299 Virginia Avenue
 Columbus, Ohio 43213

*Make check payable to ONGA

Accommodations:

Hotel rooms are booked at the Hyatt Regency, 350 North High Street. All Ohio Army & Air National Guard Soldiers and airmen (active & retired) may reserve a hotel room during the night of 23-25 April 2015 for the group rate \$99. Your reservation must be made with the hotel NLT 31 March 2015 to secure the group rate. For online registration, go to <https://resweb.passkey.com/go/ohioguard2015> or you may contact the hotel at (614) 463-1234



ONGA / ONGEA Spring Events Weekend & Exhibition
April 23 -25 2015 – Columbus, Ohio
 Hyatt Regency Columbus
 350 North High Street
 Columbus, Ohio 43215



Conference Registration Form (DEADLINE 31 March 2015)

MEMBER REGISTRATION:

Full Name: _____ **Name on Badge:** _____
 (Include Rank/Title/Prefix/Suffix if applicable)

Unit: _____

Address: _____ **City:** _____ **State:** _____ **Zip Code:** _____

Email _____ **Phone:** (____) _____ - _____
 *by providing an email address, ONGA will be able to send you conference updates, special event invitations, etc.

GUEST REGISTRATION (if applicable):

Full Name: _____ **Name on Badge:** _____
 (Include Rank/Title/Prefix/Suffix if applicable)

CONFERENCE EVENTS:

Event	Date	Fees	Participation
ONGA/ONGEA Golf Tournament (See insert for more details)	23 April	\$90/person	___ Member ___ #Guests
Friday Night Social (Clippers Game) *Fee includes 1 Game Ticket & 2 drink tickets per person *See insert for additional details	24 April	\$25/person	___ Member ___ #Guests
CGO Luncheon *If unable to attend, must cancel NLT 22 April	25 April	\$10/person	___ Member ___ #Guests
ONGA/ONGEA Retiree Luncheon *Deposit refundable upon attendance	25 April	\$10 deposit	___ Member ___ #Guests
Joint ONGA / ONGEA Conference * Vendor exhibitions * Prize raffles will be conducted at conclusion of conference	25 April	\$5/person	___ Member ___ #Guests
Spouse / Guest Event * Spouses & Guests enjoy a social event from 1230 – 1630 at the Hyatt * Hair and nail stylists available in the hotel (Costs dependant on service ordered) * Wine, beverages, and appetizers provided at no cost	25 April	No cost	___ Member ___ #Guests
Spring Dinner Dance (See insert for more details)	25 April	\$45/\$50/\$55 (See insert)	___ Member ___ #Guests

Accommodations: Hotel rooms are booked at the Hyatt Regency Columbus, 350 North High Street, Columbus Ohio 43215. All Ohio Army & Air National Guard Soldiers and airmen (active & retired) may reserve a hotel room during the night of 24-26 April 2014 for the group rate \$99. Your reservation must be made with the hotel NLT 31 March 2014 to secure the group rate. For online registration, go to <https://resweb.nasskey.com/go/ohioguard2015> or you may contact the hotel at (614) 463-1234.

Check-in Date: _____ **Check-out Date:** _____

Method of Payment for Conference Events: Check or online registration (Eventgrid)

Checks are made payable to: **ONGA**

Please mail Registration Form & Check to: **ONGA, Attn: David Swisher, 1299 Virginia Avenue, Columbus, Ohio 43212**

Total Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

Or register and pay on-line @ <https://eventgrid.com/Events/14576/>



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2015 ONGA Golf Outing

THURSDAY, 23 APRIL 2015

KINSALE GOLF AND FITNESS CLUB

3737 Village Club Drive, Powell, OH 43065

4 Player Scramble: 10:00am Shotgun Start
Registration and Practice Range Opens at 8:30am

Entrance Fee: \$90.00 per person

Includes:

18 Holes of Golf and a Cart

Dinner

Valet Bag Service

Luxurious Locker Room Facilities

On Course Contests

Two Tickets Good for Domestic Beer, Non-alcoholic Beverage or Hot Dog

NAME: _____

MEMBERS OF FOURSOME: _____

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

TELEPHONE NUMBER: _____

The format will be a 4-person scramble. If you do not have a foursome we will assign you to a team.

We are looking for donations for raffle prizes, door prizes and goodie bags. If you own a company or know someone who does, this is a good way to get recognition and publicity. Items do not have to be golf specific. Please contact Doug Green @ 740-815-0065 if you would like to make a donation.

Deadline for Registration: 31 March 2015 Limited to 144 players, so please register early

Please return this form with the Conference Registration Form and Payment.

Questions? Call Doug Green @ 740-815-0065, Damian Dominic @ 330-714-8493, or
Mike McHenry @ 614-486-4186, Ext 3



2015 ONGA / ONGEA Spring Dinner Dance

SATURDAY, 25 APRIL 2015

Hyatt Regency Columbus

350 North High Street

Columbus, Ohio 43215

Registration Deadline: 31 March 2015

Pricing

E7 and Below \$45.00

E8-E9, WO1 – CW3,
O1 – O3 - \$50.00

CW4 – CW5, O4 and
above - \$55.00

*Retired service members pay at the rate of their retired pay grade

* Guests pay according to the pay grade of their accompanied military service member
Please select the number attending for the corresponding meal selections below:

<u>Meal Selections</u>	<u>Member</u>	<u>Guest</u>
Sliced Roasted Sirloin	_____	_____
Herb Marinated Chicken Breast	_____	_____
Maple Glazed Faroe Islands Salmon	_____	_____
Eggplant Parmesan	_____	_____

Social hour starts at 6:00pm

Dinner begins at 7:00pm

*Please return this form along with Conference Registration Form & Payment
Direct questions or any special dietary needs to:

James Markley @ 740-670-2559

Susan Markley @ 614-701-4429 or 614-670-3549