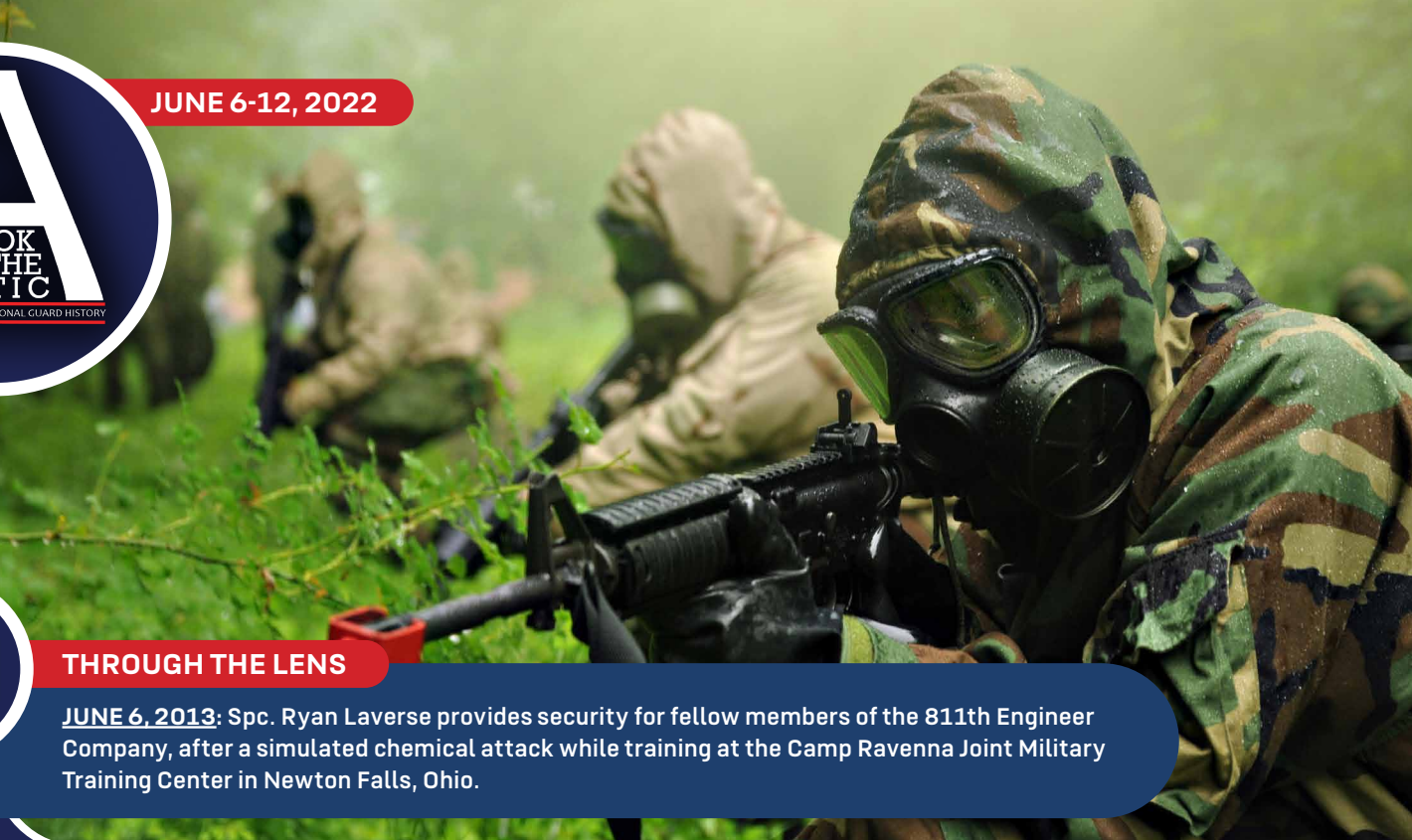




JUNE 6-12, 2022



THROUGH THE LENS

JUNE 6, 2013: Spc. Ryan Laverse provides security for fellow members of the 811th Engineer Company, after a simulated chemical attack while training at the Camp Ravenna Joint Military Training Center in Newton Falls, Ohio.



WEEK IN REVIEW

M **JUNE 6, 1944:** The 112th Combat Engineer Battalion lands on Omaha Beach in support of the 1st and 29th Infantry Divisions during Operation Neptune, the Allied invasion of Normandy, France.

Tu **JUNE 7, 1944:** The 987th Field Artillery Battalion lands on Gold Beach in support of the British 50th Division during Operation Neptune.

F **JUNE 10, 1942:** The 37th Infantry Division arrives at Suva, Fiji Islands.

JUNE 10, 1966: The 180th Communications Flight is federally recognized in Toledo.

Sa **JUNE 11, 1966:** The 121st Communications Flight is federally recognized in Columbus.

Su **JUNE 12, 1966:** The 179th Communications Flight is federally recognized in Mansfield.



IN THEIR OWN WORDS

1st Sgt. Rans Blando of Company B, 112th Combat Engineer Battalion recounts some of his memories from D-Day.



"I watched the warships and rocket launchers send their gifts to Hitler and trained the glasses ashore and saw them strike. Water was rough. Everyone was in a good mood and immediately shut up as two bodies floated by us. We then made an agreement that we would meet in Cleveland every June 6.

The ramp went down and we were waist deep in water. We walked ashore. No shelling at that time. Just the zip zip of small arms fire going by. Lots of smoke. Pappy Glen Kloth, at the edge of the water, asked me to cut his life preserver loose and I started to do so when an 88 shell came over and exploded a hundred yards away into the sea. I found myself standing there with my knife in my hand and Kloth was gone as were all others.

It did not take much encouragement for me to start my run for the safety of the vertical dirt at the base of the bluff. The shells and small arms fire was now increased. I would run like hell and flop down awhile and up and running again.

Word came to me that we were all to move to the north and exit the beach. I was informed to bring up the rear and to be assured that all B Company got off the beach. That turned into a chore. Most of the men started to move to the north and we did fine till we reached the exit. Shells started to come over and several of our men jumped off to the left into a German minefield. I had to yank them out of there and kick butts and threaten some to get them moving. I warned them that they would not have to worry about a shell, they better worry about me cause I was ready to leave that hot beach and they were not going to take up too much of my time. Some of those poor bastards got to me I guess. Hell, we were all afraid, so what was new?"

