

Buckeye
GUARD

Winter 1997/1998

Still Making
the Grade

123rd Air Control Squadron
excels at first ORI in nine years
Pages 10-11

To All Members of the Ohio Army and Air National Guard

Christmas 1997

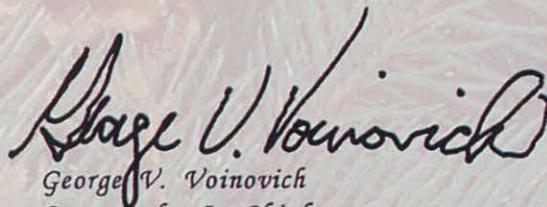
May the spirit of the holidays find you and your loved ones united in peace and happiness, and may you always be blessed with the warmth of friendship and comforted in memories of days gone past.

Once again this year, Ohio Guardmembers have stepped up their efforts to provide vital community services while continuing to serve other countries in peace-keeping endeavors. With the structural change in the active component, you have adapted well in becoming a larger part of the total force. For your strength and courage in the face of change, you are commended.

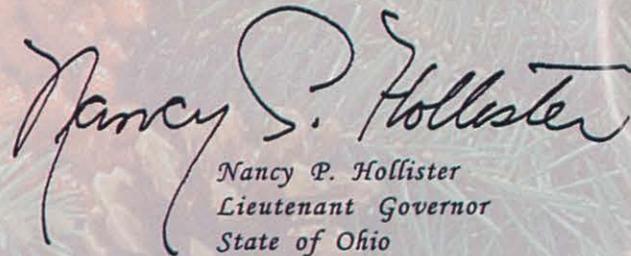
During a year when our focus turned to the spring floods in southern Ohio, Bosnian deployments, and hosting the Hungarian Partnership for Peace, we recognize the sacrifices our employees and personnel in uniform have made in the name of humanitarianism.

We are confident that you will meet the challenges of the new year before us, and continue to serve as a vivid symbol of willingness to defend the values we hold dear.

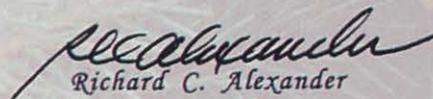
From the offices of the Governor, Lt. Governor and the Adjutant General, sincere thanks for making the Ohio National Guard the best that it can be. We wish you and your family a Merry Christmas and a Happy and safe New Year.



George V. Voinovich
Commander-In-Chief
Governor, State of Ohio



Nancy P. Hollister
Lieutenant Governor
State of Ohio



Richard C. Alexander
Major General
Adjutant General

Buckeye GUARD

Winter 1997/1998, Vol. 22, No. 1

F E A T U R E S



20

9 Ohio ANG Offers Airman Leadership School
Courses at Rickenbacker provide continuing education to state, nation.

10 Still Making the Grade
123rd ACS excels at first ORI in nine years.

13 Interpreting the Chaos
Army Guard officer shares memories of tour served in Bosnia as a linguist.

18 Tribute to WWII Heroes Held at Arlington
Addison Baker, 93rd Bombardment Group honored.

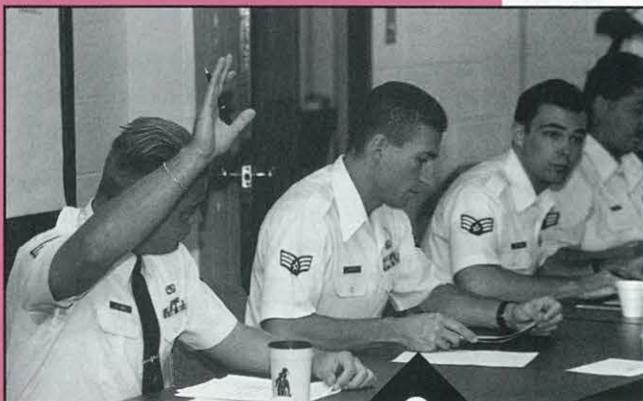
20 121st ARW Leads Aircraft Recovery Effort
U.S., Canada conduct first "hands-on" training.



13

D E P A R T M E N T S

- | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------|
| 4 National Briefs | 26 Buckeye Briefs |
| 5 Feedback | 28 All About People |
| 25 Drug Demand Reduction | 30 Benefits |



9

ABOUT THE COVER: Master Sgt. Bob Kasten, Tech Sgt. Tim Vollrath and Tech. Sgt. Rob Green drive in a ground rod preparing for the 123rd's Operational Readiness Inspection. After an equipment conversion, a two-unit consolidation and a change of command, the 123rd Air Control Squadron faced its first inspection in nine years.

Buckeye GUARD

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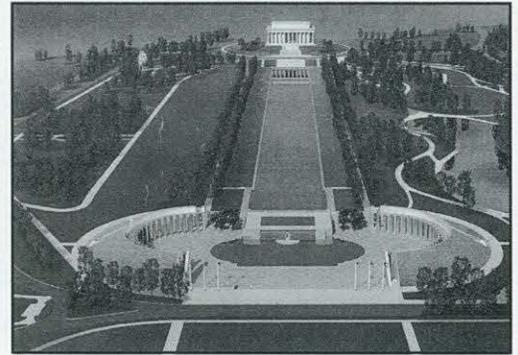
Guardmembers and their families are encouraged to submit any articles meant to inform, educate or entertain *Buckeye Guard* readers, including stories about interesting Guard personalities and unique unit training. Deadlines are:

Winter: October 15
Spring: January 15
Summer: April 15
Fall: July 15

NATIONAL NEWS

'M' device explained. Confusion reigns over who can wear the new "M" device for mobilized reservists, Defense officials said. President Clinton authorized the device to "recognize the sacrifice of our National Guard and Reserve people who are mobilized as part of the total force." Defense officials estimate 282,000 reserve component members are authorized to wear the bronze "M" device on the Armed Forces Reserve Medal. Air Force Col. Fred Reinero, director of military personnel at DoD reserve affairs, said reserve component members who served in support of a contingency operation on or after Aug. 1, 1990, can wear the device. Service is limited to the Persian Gulf War, Operation RESTORE HOPE in Somalia, Operation UPHOLD DEMOCRACY in Haiti and Operation JOINT ENDEAVOR in Bosnia. The "M" device can be awarded to any guardmember who served at least one day of active duty in support of a contingency operation; it does not matter whether the member volunteered for duty or deployed to the theater of operations. The "M" device can be awarded only once for any single operation. However, the "M" device may be awarded more than once to members who supported more than one contingency mission. After the first award of the "M" device, qualifying individuals receive an Arabic numeral indicating the number of times the device has been awarded. The numeral is worn on the Armed Forces Reserve Medal ribbon to the left of the "M" device. (AFPS)

Memorial Plan Unveiled. President Clinton unveiled the winning design for a national World War II memorial planned for the National Mall. The design by Friedrich St. Florian, former dean of the Rhode Island School of Design, was selected from more than 400 submissions in a nationwide competition. The design unveiled at the White House is intended to honor all who served and sacrificed in World War II—those who served in uniform and those on the home front. The memorial "will educate future generations on the spirit, sacrifice and commitment of the American people united in a just and common cause," said Fred F. Woerner, chairman of the American Battle Monuments Commission. The memorial will be constructed at the Rainbow Pool site, a 7.4-acre rectangular area at the east end of the Reflecting Pool between the Lincoln Memorial and Washington Monument. The \$100 million memorial will be funded through private donations. Dedication of the memorial is projected for Veterans Day in 2000. (ABMC Public Affairs Office)



Air National Guard Recruiting is now on-line. Anyone interested in becoming a member of the Air National Guard (ANG) now can access a wealth of information on the Internet. The ANG Recruiting Homepage went on-line in December. The ANG Recruiting Homepage, in addition to providing enlistment information, also has sub-pages and links which are designed to be attractive to people in the target recruiting age group (16-25). There is also information which could be of interest to current and former ANG members. Anyone interested can forward e-mail to the Recruiting/Retention Superintendent in any state. The web site address is <http://www.dtic.mil/airforcelink/goang>. (The Stinger)

Senate votes to give National Guard seat on Joint Chiefs. Despite strong opposition from Defense Secretary William Cohen, the Senate unanimously approved a measure that requires the chief of the National Guard Bureau be elevated to four-star rank and given a seat on the Joint Chiefs of Staff. As part of the FY 1998 Defense Authorization Bill, senators passed by voice vote the amendment sponsored by Sen. Ted Stevens (R-Ark.) intended to give the National Guard a more prominent role in decision making. Many have asserted that the National Guard was shortchanged in the Pentagon's recent strategy review, the Quadrennial Defense Review. In arguing for the amendment's passage, Sen. Wendell Ford (D-Ky.), co-chair of the Senate Guard Caucus and a longtime Guard supporter, pointed out that the Guard constitutes 55 percent of the nation's combat power and therefore should be given a larger role in shaping U.S. military strategy and policies. The Senate and House have to meet to iron out their differences in their respective bills. How the Senate measure will fare remains to be seen. (Wing Watch)

Soldier grateful for NCO's support

I want to take this time to thank Master Sgt. Roger Burnett for his response in helping me in my adverse situation, where my civilian job was taken away from me upon returning from annual training (AT). I was given a promotion before leaving for AT for my particular position, but found it was filled during my absence. I knew this was an illegal act but wasn't sure what action to take. Burnett directed me to Carl K. Price, director of Veterans Employment and Training at the U.S. Department of Labor—where I found that I was protected under the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act of 1994. I am pleased to say that the system works and that I was reinstated to the promoted position with back pay. With professionals like Burnett and Sgt. Maj. Thomas Payne running the show, I feel very secure being a part of this unit and the Ohio Army National Guard. I look to both of these men as mentors and strive to become as attentive as they are—holding a soldier's welfare in high regard—when I become an NCO. Again, thank you very much.

Spc. Michael Rochau
1/134th Field Artillery Battalion

Prosperous future lies in education benefits

Let's take a look at the future and career planning. Dr. Joann Harris-Bowlsbey, assistant vice president of American College Testing and executive director of ACT's Educational Technology Center, has done just that.

According to Harris-Bowlsbey, in the 21st Century we could see more unemployment. Lower-skilled jobs will decline due to work done by computers—and retail sales jobs will tumble due to the Internet and TV sales. Corporations will be smaller with less technical staff. Harris-Bowlsbey further states that 80 to 85 percent of the jobs will require at least a technical or vocational degree.

So, what can we do now to improve our skills and career flexibility?

As a member of the National Guard, you have education benefits that may help you make a career decision, further your education and make yourself more flexible in the future job market. All of these benefits relate to your civilian career choice or education goal.

Let us review. First, you have done something that not many people have done. You joined the service and that in itself provides you

with valuable experience and discipline that employers want. You also have earned college credits based on recommendations from the American Council on Education for your military training and specialty.

Second, you have money available to pay for tuition. There are two or three programs available, depending on your branch of service. They are: **a.** Tuition Grant (state funded for all members of the Ohio National Guard); **b.** Montgomery GI Bill, Chapters 1606 and 30 (federally funded programs for all members of the active duty and reserves); and/or, **c.** National Guard Tuition Assistance Program for members of the Army National Guard.

Third, you have access to various career interest inventories that may help you find a career. These inventories are free for you. The Education Services Office (ESO) can mail these to you. When you return them to the ESO, we can then assess your answers and help you decide where you want to go with your career. Although dependents may also use some of these inventories, they must pay for the service. Once you choose a particular career field, the ESO can help you design a degree plan that uses all aspects of your education benefits.

Putting your benefits aside, what should you do now and in the future? The first step is to understand that you may have more than one career in your lifetime, therefore, you must provide yourself with transition skills and transferable work skills. Transition skills are those necessary to make you attractive to employers, such as being dependable and a team player as well as being able to write a resume and interview well. Transferable work skills relate to your training and education. These skills are acquired through vocational and technical training and through advanced degrees. These skills also include your military training and experience. An education or skills training beyond high school will be essential.

Transition management from one job to another will become a key skill for you to master. The first step is understanding your life roles and finding satisfaction in them. Dr. Harris-Bowlsbey outlines four steps of transition: take stock of the situation, take stock of yourself, take stock of your supports and take stock of your strategies. Then take charge and select a strategy and action plan.

As members of the Ohio National Guard you have some very valuable assets to help you develop your civilian career. To learn more about these benefits call the Education Services Office at (614) 889-7275.

Lt. Col. Craig Hoon
Education Services

Military provides life lessons for new soldier

I never have been through a more terrifying or gratifying experience in my life. This past summer I enrolled in the Army National Guard and attended Basic Combat Training at Fort Jackson, S.C. Through sergeants, drills and classes, my perception of life assumed a much deeper angle.

The knowledge I acquired through my experiences will be useful not only in my service duty but also in life. Information from hands-on training and the classroom atmosphere varied from map interpretation to field training. The skills that I now possess will be valuable in crucial moments and life-threatening situations. Along with my technical education, I also profited from the wisdom of my service leaders—who shared their experiences and philosophies that reflect the moral code of military justice.

As a result of persistent drill sergeants, my moral values strengthened as I obtained a large amount of self-respect and confidence in order to persevere. I became compelled to familiarize myself with the concept of acceptance and methods for making the best of a bad situation. When you are face-to-face with a pressing ordeal, it is inevitable that your outlook and values are re-focused.

During my training, a select few were chosen to act as instructional aides. I was fortunate enough to be elected leader of my platoon which included 60 young soldiers. With this position came additional duties that I would not have otherwise attained. These duties included assigning tasks, assurance of work completion, promptness and maintaining order throughout my platoon. The responsibility of living independently was a challenge in itself.

Despite all of the hardships and emotional turmoil that was part of training, I consider myself fortunate that I had the experience. The lessons that I learned and the values I acquired will assume the role of armor in my journey through life. I am forever thankful that I was able to grow from a citizen to a soldier.

Pfc. Christy Lee Fry
737th Maintenance Battalion

FAX your Letters to the Editor to DSN 273-7410 or commercial (614) 336-7410. Mail letters to AGOH-PA, ATTN: Buckeye Guard, 2825 West Dublin Granville Road, Columbus, Ohio 43235-2789. All submissions are subject to editing based on space and style considerations.



Command Focus

Brig. Gen. John S. Martin, Asst. Adjutant General for Army

Army Guard achieves success despite obstacles

Even with funding reductions, assistant AG reviews FY97's notable accomplishments

Much has been made about the funding reductions the Ohio Army National Guard (OHARNG) has experienced in fiscal year 1997 (FY97). There are those that throw up their hands and say "we can't do it without the large budgets that we have enjoyed in the past."

I submit to you that the OHARNG *is* doing it. We are achieving success in many areas in spite of the obstacles. Every day our organization gets better and in many respects, on the national scale, is second to none. Let me give you a few examples:

Assigned strength. . . We began FY97 with 9,608 assigned soldiers. We ended the year with 10,050 assigned soldiers. That exceeds the goal we told the National Guard Bureau we would meet. This success was the result of everyone pulling together and pitching in to help. The recruiting and retention force had a record year by bringing in 2,076 new soldiers. Our non-commissioned officers (NCO) and first line leaders reduced the attrition rate from 22 percent in FY96 to 18 percent in FY97. Certainly this effort was aided by the fact that 3,525 of our soldiers completed formal first line leader training that prepared them to focus on taking care of soldiers. I have every confidence that the OHARNG will exceed the Oct. 1, 1998 assigned strength goal of 10,500.

Facilities. . . Military construction continues to be a growth industry. The Cleveland Green Road Armory has been completely remodeled and updated. The brand new armory on the Toledo medical campus is ready for occupancy. Ground has been broken for the new armory and billeting facility on the Ravenna training and logistical site. The new consolidated mess hall at Rickenbacker, a joint Army and Air facility, is in the final construction phase. And the contract has been awarded for a new billeting wing on the Regional Training Institute building at Rickenbacker. Even Beightler Armory received an exterior facelift. Our facilities just keep getting better.

Training. . . Our training philosophy is simple and achievable:

1. Fill every seat in every unit with a soldier.
2. Ensure that every soldier is MOS qualified.
3. Maintain proficiency at the squad, team

and crew level.

The lanes training format is the training tool that allows us to achieve training success. It is the way we train in inactive duty training or annual training—and the lanes format works for all units, combat to combat service support. I invite you to Camp Grayling next summer to attend an after action review conducted by our soldiers following a lanes training event. You will see from the enthusiasm, interest and esprit de corps that we

are training well and effectively.

Just as important is the fact that we have the resources to ensure that every officer, NCO and soldier can attend the schools needed for qualification, and professional development and advancement. We continue to do well in training.

Leadership and vision. . . The Army executive council is comprised of the very senior commanders, staff and command sergeant major of the Ohio Army National Guard. The council has developed the vision statement, missions statement, values, goals and objectives that will lead our organization into the future. These elements form the strategic plan that is the road map we will follow into the 21st century. The plan was developed by the council in a total quality leadership and management environment, with input from every major subordinate command, as well as the state headquarters staff. This means we are pulling together to meet common goals. Allow me to quote the vision statement of the Ohio Army National Guard . . . "The OHARNG is a community-based, volunteer citizen-soldier organization committed to quality, that is fully trained, mission ready and structured to exceed the expectations of the community, state and nation in the 21st century." We know where we are going.

From DESERT STORM to worldwide deployments to the winter floods in southern Ohio, you, as members of the OHARNG, have been asked to make many sacrifices. In every case, you have responded splendidly to the call. You continue to respond to every challenge with the spirit and enthusiasm characteristic of our symbol, the volunteer minuteman. Thanks to your pride and effort, our organization continues to achieve success in spite of all obstacles. With your continued help and commitment we can achieve any goal set for us.

Check us out at www.state.oh.us/adj-army. ■

"The OHARNG is a community-based, volunteer citizen-soldier organization committed to quality that is fully trained, mission ready and structured to exceed the expectations of the community, state and nation in the 21st century."

Strategy relies on mission-ready Guard and Reserve

By Deborah R. Lee

Asst. Secretary of Defense, Reserve Affairs

As DoD approached the Quadrennial Defense Review (QDR), we tried to take a new look at what's happened on the world scene over the past four years. Using that historical perspective along with future force projections, we tried to anticipate what's likely to happen to defense spending over the remainder of the decade and where we want to be as a military force over the long term. From this we developed a strategy for the future and made some macro-level decisions about what it will take to accomplish the strategy.

On the world scene, our future environment is likely to continue to include a range of threats—everything from small-scale contingency operations to large-scale wars to terrorism. The world is still a dangerous place so we must maintain our capability of fighting two major theater wars as well as meeting a number of smaller scale contingencies. We must also be prepared for the possibility of the use of weapons of mass destruction—chemical, biological and even nuclear weapons.

As for defense spending, the QDR projected stable annual defense budgets of roughly \$250 billion in constant FY97 dollars. Unless there's a marked deterioration in world events, we felt the nation would be unlikely to support significant additional resources for defense so it would be unrealistic to build a defense program based on an assumption that current resource challenges could be solved by increases in DoD's budget.

Looking to the more distant future, we made the judgment fairly early on that we must put more dollars toward modernization to protect force readiness and capability well into the 21st century. Funding for modernization over the last four years has been insufficient with procurement budgets stalled near the \$40 billion level. Defense leaders have established a future modernization goal of \$60 billion.

Taking all of this into account, we established a strategy with three pillars: shape, respond and prepare. First, we must shape the security environment to protect our national interests, promote regional stability and deter aggression. Second, we must respond quickly to the full

spectrum of threats through forces that are flexible, strong and ready. Third, we must prepare today through a robust modernization effort to meet any threats that might arise tomorrow. And we want to accomplish all of this with a reasonable perstempo (personnel tempo) for our people.

Our strategy relies heavily on the capability and readiness of the Total Force. Not only do we need the best-trained, best-equipped active forces, we must also have a comparably trained and equipped, compatible, mission-ready Guard and Reserve.

Because the QDR anticipates increased reliance on the Guard and Reserve, we are committed to giving our citizen-soldiers the tools they need to get the job done. We will make sure they have enough money to do both their wartime and peacetime jobs.

We will support training and equipment modernization as key essentials to readiness. And, in the case of the National Guard, we will

ensure that they're able to fulfill their domestic emergency responsibilities when they're needed to protect life and property at home.

In order to accomplish our plans for the National Guard and Reserve, we will need to reshape some of our forces to reflect recent world changes. In light of these changes, particularly as they relate to Russia's evolving relationship with NATO, a smaller hedge—and thus a smaller Army Guard and Reserve force—is needed. The Guard and Reserve forces that remain will be resourced better and more integral to missions than ever before. In fact, for the Army National Guard, planned personnel reductions will help pay for equipment necessary to accomplish the major division redesign developed by the state adjutants general and approved by the Army. The Guard will be able to shift resources from sustaining surplus combat units into equipping vital support units that are active-compatible and mission-ready. The Air Guard will add newer fighters as it takes on an increased role.

We need to keep in mind that the QDR is not the end of the road—it's only the beginning. Now it is up to DoD, Congress and the Services to work together to implement the strategy that will keep our nation strong and secure well into the 21st century. ■

"The Guard and Reserve forces that remain will be resourced better and more integral to missions than ever before."

— Deborah Lee



Command Profile



CSM Michael O. Howley Ohio Army National Guard

Age: 55

Occupation: State Command Sergeant Major, Ohio Army National Guard.

I grew up in: Akron, Ohio.

When I was little I wanted to be: a major league baseball player.

Friends and classmates in high school thought I was: easy to get along with.

My favorite time of the year is: Fall.

The one thing I treasure most is: my family.

My favorite junk food is: 4-way Skyline Chili.

My biggest pet peeve is: trying to help run a champagne organization on a beer budget.

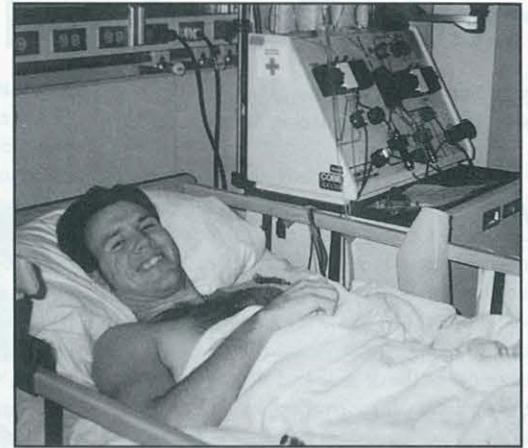
My favorite recreational activity is: attending a wide variety of live music concerts, theater, and sporting events.

If I won \$20 million in the lotto I would: take a lot of time to figure out how to spend it.

If I could travel in time, I would: travel to Europe during the Renaissance.

The older I get, the more I: realize how much older people have in common with younger people—that younger people are unwilling to give them credit for.

If I could leave today's guardmembers with one piece of advice it would be: to be proud and stay in service, because there aren't that many people good enough to take your place.



ABOVE: Matt Branson keeps a positive attitude during his hospitalization. **LEFT:** Branson is congratulated by family members after completing the 1997 Air Force Marathon.

Air guardmember taken down, but not stopped

Road to recovery from Guillain-Barre Syndrome leads to Air Force Marathon

Story by Staff Sgt. Shannon Scherer
HQ, Ohio ANG

Most people could not imagine the helplessness of becoming a paraplegic, but then again, most people are not like Matt Branson.

Branson, a member of the 121st Air Refueling Wing's Avionics Guidance and Control section, found himself completely paralyzed in 1994 from a rare disease known as Guillain-Barre Syndrome (GBS).

In February 1994, while attending Ohio University as a chemistry major, Branson seemed to be like any other 22-year-old college student.

"I hadn't even really decided on that major," Branson said. "I switched around a lot—everything interested me."

Then, one morning before class, Branson's life began to change dramatically.

"I had a headache and took some aspirin," he said. "Later that day the whole left side of my face was numb. At first I thought it was an allergic reaction."

Branson then went to the doctor and discovered it was actu-

ally Bells-Palsy, a condition that paralyzes the cranial nerves. After two weeks of treatment with prescription medication the condition went away.

Or so Branson thought.

He started noticing that his legs would get very weak. "I'd just be walking along and suddenly fall down," he said.

After a drill weekend, when he fell several times without explanation, he decided to see a physician. He was admitted to Riverside Hospital with a diagnosis of GBS, a disease that can strike anyone at any time without warning.

With GBS, the nerves of the patient are attacked by the body's own defense system. The onset of the disease can be rapid, anywhere from a few hours to a few weeks. Typified by paralysis, it goes in ascending order—equally affecting both sides of the body from the legs, arms, breathing muscles and face.

"Before I knew what it was, I was really scared," Branson said. "But the doctors felt that because of my age and health, there would be a 99 percent chance of complete recovery."

Completely paralyzed, Branson underwent six treat-

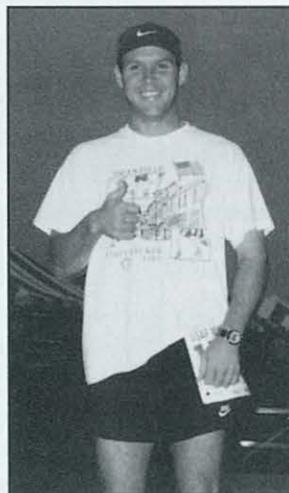
ments of plasmapheresis. He was then transferred to Ohio State University's Dodd Hall Rehabilitation Unit to undergo intensive physical and occupational therapy.

"I stayed on the same floor with people who suffer the worst ailments and injuries, and still live," said Branson. "I met a lot of great, strong people."

With a supportive family and friends awaiting, Branson was released from Dodd Hall in April 1994. Therapy continued for three months, but walking without difficulty took a long time.

Slowly, Branson worked his way up from a slow gait to an all-out foot race. In September 1997, he ran the first Air Force Marathon in Dayton. Completely recovered, Branson finished 393rd out of 1,600 participants.

Satisfied with his accomplishments, both as a patient and a runner, Branson said, "I really didn't see this disease as a bad experience. It helped show me how much you take for granted in your life." ■



Branson offers a smile and a thumbs-up after running in the Air Force's first marathon.

Citizen Spotlight is a column aimed at highlighting the civilian occupations and off-duty interests of Ohio guardmembers. Please send story ideas to:

AGOH-PA
ATTN: *Citizen Spotlight*
2825 W. Dublin-Granville Road
Columbus, Ohio 43235-2789

Ohio Air National Guard offers Airman Leadership School to state, nation

Story and photos by
Staff Sgt. Shannon Scherer
HQ, Ohio ANG

First Lt. Rich Mummy made it clear that you don't teach at Airman Leadership School, or ALS, for the money—you do it for the chance to shape tomorrow's leaders.

Mummy, the 121st Air Refueling Wing's logistics officer and the school's program co-manager, is one of several volunteers from across the nation who make Ohio's Airman Leadership Program a success.

When McGhee-Tyson Air National Guard Base in Tennessee closed its ALS course in 1992 due to low enrollment numbers, Ohio already had recognized the need to have an in-residence course for its Air National Guard members.

"Ohio is a large Air Guard state and we needed to step up to the plate," said retired Maj. Gen. Thomas Powers, former chief of staff. "We saw a need to create good solid future leaders."

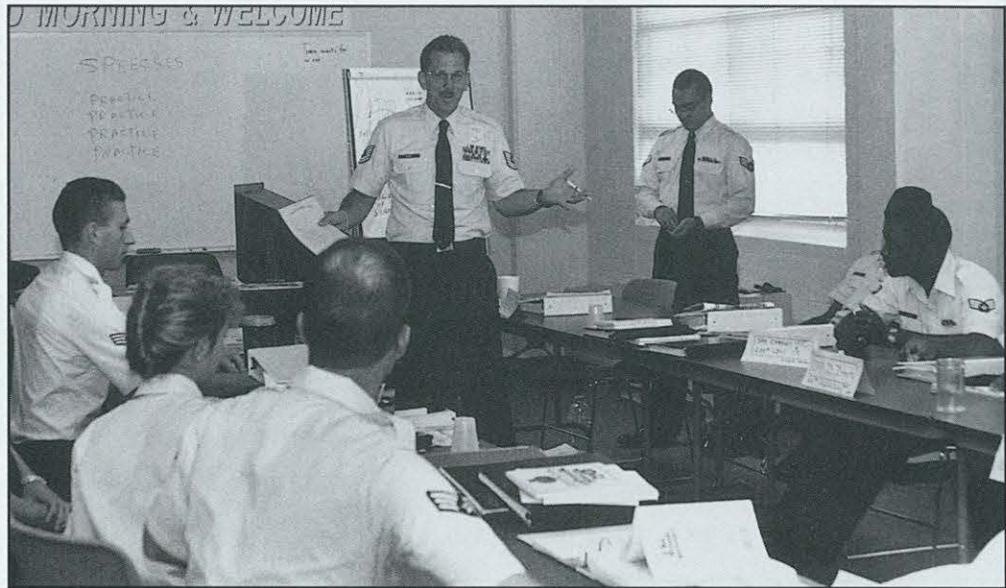
Powers, along with key leadership in headquarters and the units, already had started a leadership training program for E-4s and E-5s in the 1980s. This two-day course helped keep young noncommissioned officers oriented toward current management and leadership topics.

But it wasn't until 1987 that Ohio first opened the doors to the state's first full-fledged Airman Leadership School at Rickenbacker Airport in Columbus. With no funding and poor facilities, the school operated as a 14-day, in-residence course. A lack of supplies and dollars forced instructors to bring pens and paper from their respective units to use in the classroom. Class schedules sometimes consisted of 12-hour days to make the curriculum fit into the 14-day course. But today, with students from as far away as the Virgin Islands and Hawaii, this 30-day course is considered one of the better continuing education programs in the Air National Guard.

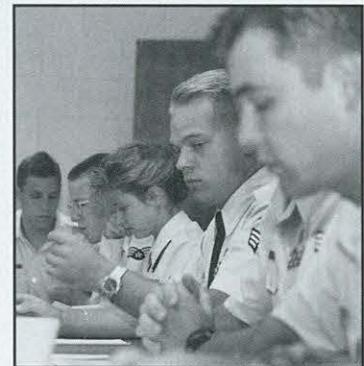
"If it wasn't for the support of the commanders and the dedication of its volunteers, this school could not be possible," said Tech. Sgt. Mike Haas, 180th Base Operations member and course instructor.

Instructors spend many personal hours preparing lesson plans, attending academic meetings and even cleaning the classrooms. Many instructors come from the ranks of the school itself and get quite a different perspective from being teachers. "There is no real personal gain, just the pride of teaching the course and passing on the knowledge we've gained," said Haas.

While the school now has an official supply cabinet and small operating



ABOVE: TSgt. Mike Haas instructs class 97-02 during Airman Leadership School. RIGHT: SrA. Jason Legris, 121st ARW, reviews a studyguide during break.



budget, the larger luxuries such as computers and copiers are still not available. But the message of leadership, quality and service-before-self has not been hindered by this lack of technology.

Although promotion can be granted with completion of a correspondence course, in-residence Airman Leadership School is often a more preferable method for promotion. "This school has given me a lot of insight," said Senior Airman Bertram Kikuchi, 292nd Combat Communications, Hawaii. "I completed the correspondence course, but the school incorporates it into real life experience. Application is the key to making the teaching a success."

Team-building and application are two of the main focuses of ALS. Through quality training, leadership, fellowship and communication classes, the students work together to accomplish individual and team goals. "We have stayed up till 3 a.m. working on speeches together," said Senior Airman Jason Legris, 121st Air Refueling Wing Logistics Support Flight and student. "You never realize the science behind leadership."

As Ohio welcomes more of the nation's future leaders into its Airman Leadership School, the program looks forward to a bright future. To help accommodate the increased demand for the in-residence course, the school's program managers have added a third course to next year's schedule.

"Eventually we'd like to operate two flights per class," Haas said, "and become the premier state for Airman Leadership within the Guard and active duty." ■

"If it wasn't for the support of the commanders and the dedication of its volunteers, this school could not be possible."

**Tech. Sgt. Mike Haas
ALS Course Instructor**

Still Making the Grade

Faced with its first Operational Readiness Inspection in nine years, 123rd Air Control Squadron earns an 'excellent' rating

Story by Staff Sgt. Judy Townsend
123rd Air Control Squadron Personnel

The 123rd Air Control Squadron (ACS), Cincinnati, returned triumphantly from its recent Operational Readiness Inspection (ORI) held in conjunction with Global Apache '97. The unit faced many challenges and changes in preparing for its first ORI in nine years.

The inspection drought stemmed from a combination of events. A major equipment conversion to the Modular Control Equipment (MCE), a consolidation of two units into one and a command changeover delayed entry into the inspection arena.

This was also the first ORI to receive the newly formatted two-phase inspection criteria. Phase I, Initial Response, consists of recall, operations security/communications security and suitability for movement. Phase II, Employment, consists of regeneration, continuous operations and ability to survive and operate (ATSO). Superior performances, good practices and an overall excellent rating highlighted the inspection.

"I cannot say enough about the exceptional job the men and women of the 123rd did at the ORI," said Lt. Col. Frederick Reinhardt, the 123rd commander. "Because the ORI was canceled in 1992 for the MCE conversion and postponed in 1996 because of the consolidation of the 123rd and 124th, we really had a lot of people at the state and Guard Bureau watching us closely.

"To say this inspection was high profile is probably an understatement. The unit could not have pulled together and become a team at a



Courtesy photo.

SSgt. Bob Clark (left) and MSgt. Tom Hoferer remain alert during guard duty.

better time. The innovative ways our people found to work through problems and ensure mission success was truly remarkable.

According to maintenance officer Maj. Gene W. Hughes, the combination of changes created a unique challenge, especially after factoring in the large turnover of experienced personnel in supervisory positions.

"To really appreciate how well this unit performed and accomplished its mission, you had to have seen us deploy in '95, '96 and this past spring," said Hughes. "To see this unit come together and really define itself in the Ground Theater Air Control System (GTACS) community over the past four deployments has been incredible. I honestly believe these folks are the best the Air National Guard has to offer."

The 123rd convoyed a total of 124 personnel and 516 short tons of cargo to Springfield Air National Guard Base from Aug. 7 through 17.

The radar site was regenerated in field conditions to participate in a simulated conventional wartime exercise scenario in the Middle East. Air space management, air control, surveillance and a recognizable air picture (via tactical data links) were provided to higher headquarters in real-time to accomplish all mission objectives.

A hostile multithreat environment afforded unit members many opportunities to defend themselves, their site and airborne assets under their control from both air and ground attacks. To remain a vital asset to the simulated combined joint task force, unit members also had to demonstrate the ability to survive and operate in a chemical environment.

A well-developed plan, teamwork and an understanding and belief in the mission were keys to the unit's success, said aerospace ground equipment NCOIC Master Sgt. Roger Kirby. And he should know, because his shop is often

used as an example for exceptional performance.

All personnel put forth a 100 percent effort from beginning to end to ensure the unit met or exceeded inspector general expectations. Everyone prepared as if they were going into a real world situation.

A little luck goes a long way as well. "Some things just can't be practiced ahead of time," said Master Sgt. Daniel J. Mullikin, information management NCOIC. "In all my years, I've never seen a site come together as fast and as well as this one did in the first 24 hours.

"Everyone and everything just clicked. It was truly an amazing sight."

Of course, no unit can do it all on its own. Support from units across Ohio and even other states was a tremendous asset, and the 123rd owes much of its success to their help.

Case in point was the depot mandate to halt use of any radar found to have metal shavings in the bearing grease upon the preventative maintenance inspection. The 123rd's Air Force Navy/Transportable Radar System 75 radar was found to be inoperable based on this criteria. The 101st ACS, Woestecester, Mass., came through during the 11th hour and loaned the unit's antenna to the 123rd for the ORI.

"Thanks to the help of the 101st's antenna, the 123rd's radar was 'turnin and burnin!' throughout the ORI," said Staff Sgt. Drew E. Macke, radar maintenance journeyman.

Any problems that arose during the preparation phase had to be addressed prior to the inspection. "Whenever you take a new weapons system, combine two units into one and have a change of command and leadership . . . you have problems. The inspection



ABOVE: SrA. Melissa Leurck sets up the TSC satellite communications van. RIGHT: SrA. Jay Hill keeps guard over the perimeter.



Courtesy photos.

was the true test of how well we, as a unit, adjusted to those changes," said Mullikin.

Now that the inspection is over, it's natural for people to let down their guard and catch their breath. However, 123rd unit members realize that when the ball gets rolling, don't stop—because it's that much harder to get started again.

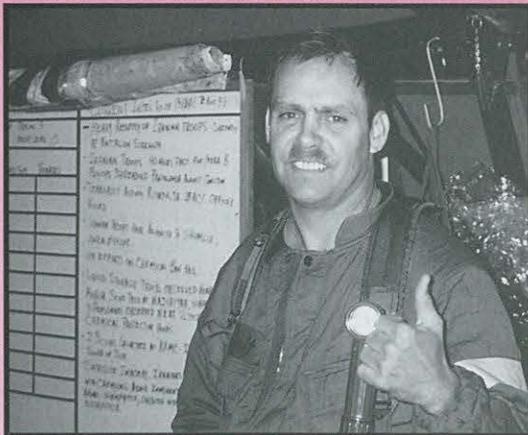
"We need to look at what we've accomplished, then build on those accomplishments through new and innovative policies and procedures," said Mullikin.

Maj. Norman A. Poklar, detachment commander and director of operations added, "We need to continue with the planning that took place before the ORI and bring some of those methods through to our day-to-day operations. Increasing emphasis on training and expanding unit members' knowledge of the Ground Tactical Air Control System is also ideal."

Members of the unit said they feel confident about having their roles expanded on a state, national and international level.

Mullikin, optimistic about the future, said, "Whether we are needed for a state emergency like the floods of '96 and '97, a national effort like the war on drugs, or an international concern like Operation DENY FLIGHT, we believe we are ready. The inspection proved our capabilities; now all we need is the task."

"Our reputation is growing," noted Poklar. "This inspection proved without a doubt that we are one of the most capable units in the field today. We will meet whatever challenge comes our way." ■



Courtesy photo.

Lt. Col. Fred Reinhardt gives a thumbs-up from the command post during the 123rd's ORI.

324th MPs field bike patrol team

Story and photos by
Capt. Patrick L. Williams
324th Military Police Company

“As I sat there in my hot HUMMWV, I thought, ‘we should be on bikes!’”

Those were the words of Cpl. William Blevins, 324th Military Police Company, as he reflected on the experience he and some of his military police peers had while pulling security at the 1996 All American Weekend in Middletown, Ohio.

The whole ordeal gave Blevins a great idea.

Blevins’ plan was to assemble a unit bicycle patrol team. He ran the idea up his chain of command, wondering if the brainstorm would truly be considered. Much to Blevins’ satisfaction, Lt. Col. Alfred Faber, the battalion commander, loved the idea and said to “make it happen.”

In general, soldiers want to be empowered with responsibility and will excel if given support. Blevins was no exception to this rule. He started by assembling 12 individuals who were interested in becoming bicycle patrol team members. This was no easy task, mainly because funding for bikes and equipment would rest on the shoulders of the members. Also, training would have to be performed in a non-paid status on non-drill weekends. Fortunately, many military policemen are civilian police officers and are open to any additional training that will enhance their careers.

Blevins attended an IPMBA (International Police Mountain Bike Association) certified school sponsored by the Cincinnati Police Department in April while on annual training status. After successfully completing the course, he then devised a similar program to administer to members in his unit who volunteered for the team. Four weekends would be needed to complete the training.

“Other MP units may have bicycle patrol teams,” Blevins said, “but I believe this is the first team

that has been through training that is designed to mirror those standards set forth by the IPMBA.”

Week one consisted of bicycle terminology, lane usage, safety skills and cone work. Students also had to complete a 10-mile bike trip and learn proper pursuit and apprehension techniques.

The second week consisted of a 20-mile confidence bike trip along with stair and cone work, maintenance training, law and traffic classes and dismount procedures.

By the third week, members of the bike team were beginning to realize that there was more than meets the eye to being a bike patrol officer. During the third week, there was a 40-mile bike trip, baton and use of force training, an overview of course work and practical check-offs (demonstrating proficiency in the learned tasks).

Finally, the fourth week had arrived and the students were ready to receive their diplomas, but not until they had completed their last blocks of instruction which included FATS, or Fire Arms Training Systems training. These were video scenarios that the students responded to after receiving a radio message and then biking about a mile. More baton and use of force training took place, as well as additional cone and stair work.

When the training was complete, Blevins conducted an after action review with his students and then gave them a written exam. After grading the exams he was proud to announce that all the members would be graduating.

Upon course completion, Faber, Battalion Executive Officer Maj. Mike Ore and Company Commander Capt. Patrick Williams made a special trip to watch some demonstrations, conduct the graduation ceremony and present the bike patrol team members with certificates of training. Faber re-



BACK ROW (L to R): SGT Joseph Bolser; SPC Todd Bennett; SGT David Roby; PFC Christopher High; CPL William Blevins; SPC Chad Stull; SGT Tammi Daugherty; SPC Garrett Doan; CPT Patrick Williams. FRONT ROW (L to R): SPC Benjamin Perna; SSG Diana Cloud; SPC William Tocci.

marked that it was rewarding to see traditional soldiers volunteer their time and effort to better the unit. “That’s what being a dedicated soldier is all about,” he said.

Now that the unit has a trained bicycle patrol team, it plans to use the team in many ways. At 1997’s All American Weekend, the unit’s MPs were on bikes in patrol uniform, looking as sharp as the civilian bike patrol teams. In January, the 324th is deploying to Fort Clayton, Panama, for AT to perform a law and order mission. The bike patrol team is going to be very active there.

On the local level, there are plans to use the bike patrol for many community events such as bicycle safety rodeos at elementary schools, fair and air show security missions, parades and various recruiting and retention activities.

The bicycle patrol team will continue to maintain and improve its skills by training on drill weekends during time allotted for unit physical fitness. The team is planning to fund itself by soliciting donations and holding fund-raisers to alleviate the financial burden on its members.

Blevins was quick to credit the support received from 1st Battalion, 73rd Troop Command.

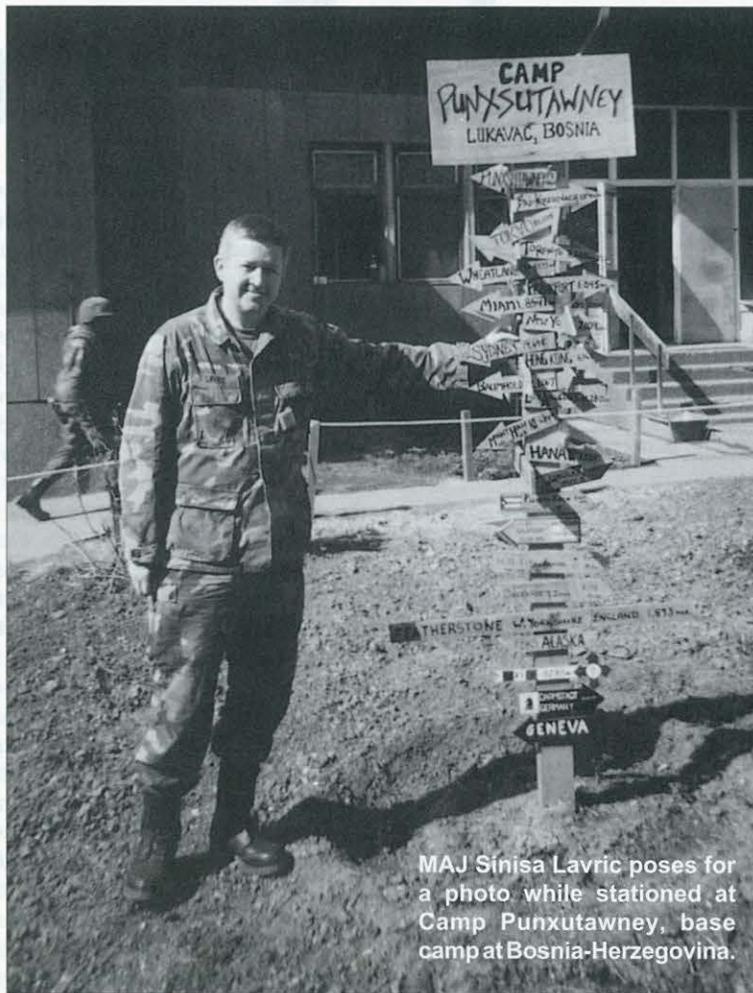
“Lt. Col. Faber and Maj. Ore were very instrumental in making



LTC Alfred Faber congratulates CPL William Blevins on establishing the bike patrol team.

this program a success. They took a great interest in making sure I had everything I needed to graduate this team,” he said.

Sacrifice was the name of the game during the four-week period of training. Many of the team members experienced bumps, bruises, aches and pains, not to mention no pay. Some of the members drove nearly 100 miles to attend training. When it was all said and done though, they all agreed that it was worth the effort. ■



MAJ Sinisa Lavric poses for a photo while stationed at Camp Punxutawney, base camp at Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Interpreting the Chaos

While the conflict in the distant country of Bosnia is foreign to many American citizens and soldiers alike, two Ohio Guardmembers gained firsthand knowledge of the situation when they spent eight months of 1996 there, in support of Operation JOINT ENDEAVOR.

Maj. Sinisa Lavric, state automation manager in the Ohio Army National Guard Directorate of Information Management in Columbus, and Capt. John Bonca, a combat engineer officer with the 112th Engineer Battalion in Brook Park, were deployed as Serbo-Croatian linguists from March through October 1996. Both are fluent in Serbo-Croatian and volunteered for service when the call came for linguists, about two years prior to their deployment. They were attached to the 272nd Military Intelli-

gence Company from California.

While deployed, the two men found themselves assuming duties not typically assigned to interpreters.

Bonca was stationed at the 1st Armored Division Headquarters for the U.S. Sector in Tuzla. He was assigned as the operations officer for the Mine Action Center, and was responsible for collating, translating, plotting, mapping and disseminating minefield information to NATO units in the former Yugoslavia.

Lavric was a contracting officer's representative, traveling throughout Bosnia meeting native linguists who were involved in a privately-contracted interpreter program. About 400 native linguists in Bosnia, Croatia and Hungary comprised the program.

Lavric was born in Zagreb, the capital

of Croatia. In 1958 Lavric, his mother and brother left Croatia to join Lavric's father in the United States, settling in Columbus, Ohio.

Lavric said it was a very gratifying experience getting to meet the people of his homeland, many of whom were living in extreme poverty and very grateful to have jobs as linguists that provided food, clothing and shelter for their families. He said it was interesting to interact with people who still held the same customs he remembered from his childhood in Croatia.

The stories that follow are excerpted from a journal of Lavric's observations while he was on duty in Bosnia. In one experience, Lavric and others discovered that language and communication skills can be much more powerful tools than any conventional weapons.

Rioting in the Streets

Learn

On Sunday, April 14 at about noon, a call from division came into the Rear Operations Center from the NORDPOL (Nordic-Polish-Lithuanian) brigade. They asked us to send a civil affairs (CA) team to help defuse a developing situation. The officer in charge (OIC) supplemented the CA team with a couple of native speaking American linguists (Nikola Bilandzich and I were "volunteered") to a village 5 kilometers west of Lukavac (pronounced luke` ah vaats). A Swedish patrol, west of Lukavac, encountered a problem that they had trouble solving. We heard radio information about an IFOR (Implementation FORce) unit being pummeled with stones. Our mission was to assist the unit in extricating itself from the situation. So far, so good.

Since this is Bosnia, we operate under general order number one which requires that all U.S. military personnel only travel in convoys of at least four vehicles, which must include at least one crew-served weapon. Gathering the vehicles took a few minutes, the crew-served and radio took a few more. Finally, we left the relative security of the base camp into the roadways in Tuzla canton.

The trip to the disturbance site was uneventful and took less than 10 minutes. When we got there, the colonel commanding the Swedes informed our young CA captain of the situation. A couple of Serbs were traveling to their old neighborhood; their presence enraged some local Bosnians, who caught one and promptly began to beat him. They were desperately trying to kill him, when a Swedish patrol arrived. The patrol immediately rescued the injured Serb placing him in one of their two armored personnel carriers (APC) for protection. A crowd gathered quickly. They demanded the Swedes give up the Serb; they refused.

The APCs started their engines planning to take the Serb to a medi-

cal facility. When they attempted to drive out of the village, the local people stood in front, behind and on top of the APC and refused to allow it to move. They were determined to finish killing him. Words were flying back and forth, tempers flared on both sides. The Swedes called for back-up. Their headquarters immediately sent six more APCs to the scene. Two went into the village while the rest stayed on the main road to keep additional Bosnian reinforcements from arriving to enhance the blockade. Unfortunately for the Swedes, the APCs that went into the village, also became victim to the blockade.

Now there were four Swedish vehicles, 25 Swedes and one beaten Serb surrounded by 150 Bosnians screaming for his blood. The Swedes then called for help to get them out. That's why we were called.

When we got there, a platoon of Swedish infantrymen were on the ground, standing shoulder to shoulder in a rough triangle formation between the trapped APCs. They tried to push the Bosnians out of the path of the APCs. The Bosnians, clustered between the four APCs, pushed back. They refused to leave or let the Swedish APC leave as long as the Serb was alive in there.

The rioting people in this area were Moslem survivors of the UNPROFOR debacle in Srebrenica. Voices were raised in a variety of questions and demands, "Why are you here? To protect those murderers? Give him to us, we will do to him what they did to us." They howled for revenge and blood; the shouting was insistent, loud and chilling. The crowd in-

cluded the very old, the very young and some middle-aged people; very few were military age men.

Many young men viewed the Swedish soldiers with discriminating eyes, assessing their weapons, positioning and tactics. These young men looked from one to another with knowing glances, silently agreeing on a course of action.

Dozens of ancient women were screaming toothlessly at anyone who would listen. They told heart-wrenching stories of their husbands, sons and grandsons killed when the U.N. forces abandoned

them in the Srebrenica "S A F E AREA." The U.N. left the Moslem residents to the tender mercies of the Serbs. As you may remember, the crowd certainly did,

there were dozens of reports that Serbs were slaughtering people as U.N. forces impotently watched.

The crowd wailed about disallowing any Serb near their home. In Srebrenica, the first Serbians to enter were two scouts early in the morning, by the evening there were 10. The next morning, the Moslems awoke to 150 Serbian fighters and the roads clogged with thousands more.

In their eyes, this hapless Serb was the advance scout, just like the last time. Only this time, the crowd determined that the result would be different. There would be no living Serbs in the village. Not this time.

The crowd screamed to the Swedes, "Let the Serb get his just punishment." Young men wearing military clothing, angry, fists balled and rage in their eyes, were getting the crowd even more aroused. The crowd closed in around the trapped APCs and pushed against the cor-

don of soldiers. One frail old woman waved a hatchet and said, "Let me in there, I will kill him myself!" Dozens of hoes, axes, stones, sharpened sticks and other primitive farm implements filled the air while hundreds of voices screamed their approval.

At the periphery of the crowd were scores of very young children flitting in and out of the crowd and the soldiers. The children were watching and reacting to the crowd. These people were mothers, grandmothers, great aunts, cousins, uncles and fathers. Children quickly started to gather straw and kindling when one of the men ordered his son to get firewood—he would burn the Serb out if that was what it took. The already high tension escalated like a mainspring, more pressure added slowly and inexorably.

The local Bosnian police simply stood by, looking at the crowd, unconsciously looking around (I presume for an avenue for escape). This crowd was growing larger, more focused and angry; these 15 policemen with pistols would make no impact on them. At best they could enrage the crowd with any form of resistance to the mob's will. Besides, by their suspicious looks at the soldiers and their lack of initiative to calm the crowd, they seemed to agree with the crowd's sentiments. They would gladly be rid of the bothersome Serb and go home to a cold beer and a soccer match on the radio.

Somebody in the crowd cut one of the Swedish soldiers. This act irritated and angered the Swedish commander even more; he was itching to end this impasse, one way or another. They had been here for two hours already; no progress was made. He was going to end it, now. He shouted orders in quick and decisive Swedish to his troops, they tightened their cordon; along a side road another 20 Swedish Military Policemen (MPs) were forming up to assist. The sight of

Dozens of hoes, axes, stones, sharpened sticks and other primitive farm implements filled the air, while hundreds of voices screamed....

more troops arriving sent the crowd into a frenzy of words, pushes, threats and activity. They pushed toward the soldiers; the soldiers tried to hold them back. The tension was increasing so rapidly that any incident would spark a tragedy.

I saw that Nick was becoming very concerned. There were 30 villagers behind us, 200 in front of us and dozens milling through the cordon. We saw military age men running over the hills, maybe to bring weapons or reinforcements. The eyes in the crowd displayed only rage.

He thought that something had to be done, at that moment, to decrease the tension. His next act was a spark of extraordinary brilliance. He spotted an old man, stooped down by years of back-breaking labor but spewing venomous rage at the Swedes and the Serb that they protected. Nick walked up to the man and said to him with a smile and a calm and friendly voice, "What's your name?" The sound of his language coming from an IFOR soldier seemed to startle him momentarily. He quickly recovered and gave Nick his name. Nick immediately offered his hand and said "I am Nikola Bilandzich, it's very good to know you. Can you tell me what this is all about?"

For several minutes, the wretched story of atrocities perpetrated against all of the members of his family rushed out of his mouth. Listening to the story was heart rending—the senseless infliction of pain, death and cruelty sickened my heart. After the old man finished his saga, Nick thanked him and repeated the process with another person. I took his cue, found a vocal woman, and followed Nick's lead. The same type of story ensued; she told me, "What do I have to live for? All of my family is dead, my husband, three sons, dead, dead, all dead—HE is one of those who did it!" Another person, another story, same ending.

But, the tension started, almost imperceptibly, to decrease. The Swedes seemed to be less ready to force their way out—and the crowd, a little less ready to start a conflagration. The hotheads were losing some of the steam that powered their rage. Here were real people asking about them and caring about their plight. This was no longer a faceless uniform, carrying enormous weaponry, but a person trying to help them with a problem. The crowd was now listening as well as shouting; slowly, the shouts turned to talk. The lust for blood became a little less urgent.

Things calmed down, somewhat. A local police chief proposed a plan to the crowd. This Serb would go to the local jail, by local police with some crowd members as witnesses. The crowd accepted the plan, somewhat. They would ALL march to the jail and see for themselves. With that, the crowd permitted the APC to start up its engine and slowly extricate itself from the blockade. The APC began a slow, walking-pace trip to the main road with villagers strolling alongside; walking to take this Serb to the Lukavac jail.

The moment that the APC touched the main road, it simply picked up the pace. People stepped out of the way as the APC sped off, easily outdistancing the trouble that surrounded them for an entire day. The crowd halfheartedly threw rocks, dirt and cow dung at the remaining Swedes and Americans left behind.

The whole thing ended in about five and one-half hours. Me, I don't like the idea of lynch mobs. I don't like commanders who place their troops into dangerous situations through a lack of forethought. I don't like the feeling in the pit of my stomach that comes from being in the middle of a mob hell-bent on killing. Next time, I don't plan on being volunteered. I'll nominate somebody else for a unique experience like this. ■

Bosnian Conflict in Brief

Many circumstances have contributed to the long history of conflict in the former Yugoslavia. The problems in the area date to the Roman Empire and Emperor Constantine, who divided the Roman Empire into East and West.

Roman Catholicism reigned in the West. Orthodox religions were preeminent in the East. The dividing line went through what later became Yugoslavia. Croatia looked to Rome, and the Kingdom of Serbia became Serbian Orthodox. In addition, many residents of the area converted to Islam when the whole area came under the rule of the Ottoman Empire in the 14th and 15th centuries.

While the Serbs and Croats distrusted each other, they both hated the Muslims.

More than 2 million Yugoslavians died during World War II. The Croats, connected with Nazi Germany, brutally killed more than 700,000 Serbs in Bosnia. Much of the ethnic tension between Serbs and Croats dates back to that time.

After the war, Yugoslavia was under Soviet-influenced communist rule, led by Josip Broz Tito, an ethnic Croat.

With the breakup of the Soviet Union in 1991, the restraint that kept Yugoslavia together was gone. Slovenia declared independence in 1991, followed by Croatia and Macedonia. Bosnia-Herzegovina declared independence in 1992 and has been embroiled in war ever since. The move for Bosnia's independence was backed by the Bosnian Muslims and Bosnian Croats, but the Bosnian Serbs opposed it. The conflict between ethnic groups has yet to be resolved.

Hundreds of thousands of people have died since fighting broke out in Bosnia. Nearly 3 million people have been displaced.

When the fighting in Bosnia started, the area was 44 percent Muslim, 33 percent Serb and 17 percent Croat. Though Islam is a religion, Muslims are regarded as an ethnic group in Bosnia.

All three groups are Slavic and speak Serbo-Croatian. While the groups are different socially and politically, their only obvious difference is religion: The Croats are primarily Catholic; the Serbs are Serbian Orthodox; and the Muslims are of the Sunni Muslim religion.

—American Forces Information Service

Living in Gotham City

I live in the Base Camp in Lukavac, Bosnia-Herzegovina, known officially as Camp Punxutawney. It sits in an industrial park at the edge of the city about 10 kilometers from the city of Tuzla. It's usually called Gotham City because of its resemblance to the mythical hometown of the comic character Batman. There are dozens of tall industrial structures, connected by a swarm of conveyors reaching crazily between them. Five huge smokestacks and a smattering of pressure vessels dot the area.

The only colors on the grounds are shades of dingy gray and dirty blue. At the end of winter, even the trees were dingy brown. Some of the pressure vessels, once painted silver, are now only spreading splotches of rust connected by silvery fingers; while a few others, replacements that never found use,

are colored primer red, lying on the ground with weeds and grass growing through them like so many forgotten and broken toys.

Glass panes in the buildings and the conveyors are rarely intact, as if an army of young boys spent a summer exercising their throwing arms.

"Gotham" also refers to the geysers of steam escaping the heating system, with its hundreds of leaks all over the site. The huge insulated piping is everywhere, but those leaks are some of the many obvious signs of neglect. Enormous coal-fired boilers produce the steam in Gotham; that ensures a thin layer of fine black coal dust finds its way onto everything.

Tuzla Main is the headquarters of Task Force Eagle. It was a Yugoslav Air Force Base with the usual air base facilities—a long air

strip, shelters for aircraft and support crews, freight loading ramps and maintenance bays. Added to the air base, are the force protection assets at Tuzla. Hulking Bradley AFVs (Armored Fighting Vehicles) noisily prowl the streets with their green, brown and black camouflage doing little to hide their huge bulk.

Each entrance to the base is a thicket of concertina wire and welded I-beam tetrahedrons placed carefully as obstacles, permitting only a serpentine path through the gate and sandbagged bunkers guarding it. These bunkers can sustain a tremendous amount of punishment before they fail, 6x6 timbers support the roof with three-fourths inch plywood all holding up four layers of hard packed sandbags. Several alternating layers of packed sandbags compose the bulk of the

Soaring Above it All

It is a cool morning—feels like mid 40s. To make myself comfortable, I dress with a polypro shirt and my normal uniform. This could be a problem if the weather gets hot, but with this morning as a guide, I should be okay. The airfield for departure is in Tuzla, an hour bus ride from here. The roads have not improved since I came here at the end of March, but the bus has much better suspension than the military vehicles that my backside has experienced to date.

Looking out of the windows of the bus has become too ordinary, too mundane, too predictable for me.

I know what I will see; homes shattered by fire from heavy weapons, thin unhealthy looking animals grazing along the unmined parts of the roadway, gaunt people walking to and from their homes, horse drawn carts carrying enormous piles of hay, wood or what-

ever, a few small overused vehicles—Yugos, Zastavas, Trabants—none of which are known for quality. I've seen more horse drawn carts in the last 60 days than I had seen in my previous 44 years. It might be my American upbringing and values, but the sight of so many draft animals engenders a sense of the primitive and backward.

There will be IFOR (Implementation FORce) vehicles everywhere: American, Swedish, Norwegian, Dutch, Danish, Polish, Russian, British and French. Rarely will the "former warring factions" have a convoy on the road, being closely watched by IFOR. As a community of nations, the industrialized world has contributed these to the cause of peacekeeping. Personally, I think it's too little and far too late.

The trip to the airfield is uneventful, as most things in the

Balkans are. Even with the relative calm, the U.S. forces in Bosnia always travel with people in full battle readiness: flak jackets, arms and ammunition, gas masks—the complete ensemble. Even the regularly scheduled bus travels in a convoy of four vehicles with automatic weapons and constant communications. Upon arrival at the Tuzla base, I hitch up my rucksack. Since I do not know how long I will be gone, I think it prudent to bring a couple changes of underclothing, a poncho liner, shaving gear, extra MREs (meals ready-to-eat), extra water and a book for the flight (*Congo* by Michael Chriton). I find the airfield control tent, check in and receive instructions to wait in a nearby "fest tent." If you have never seen a German fest tent, you have missed a wonder. It is about the size of an aircraft hanger, big enough to play soccer under cover

and invariably white. They pop up like mushrooms during the festival times all over Germany. Whether celebrating beer or historic events, fest tents are everywhere. I find a bench, drop all of my "battle rattle," and use my ruck as a backrest while I wait.

The flight is late, not unusual, in the Balkans we have a saying, "1=3, if you think it will take one soldier one hour to complete a task, then take three troops for three hours and you should be close." Nothing to be done but sit and read, listening for the sound of the Chinook.

The Chinook, more formally known as the CH-47D (Cargo Helicopter-Model 47 Modification D) is an odd looking aircraft. Its shape reminds me most of a grasshopper; the glass on the front has the same type of expressionless gaze as the insect eye. The Army shade of olive green adds to the image.

It is a medium lift chopper which

bunkers. Several of these bunkers overlook the entrance, each has at least one machinegun. After the initial obstacle-strewn 50 meters of entry road, there is a 90 degree turn. As your vehicle makes the turn, you can just barely see the outline of another Bradley lurking malevolently in the treeline.

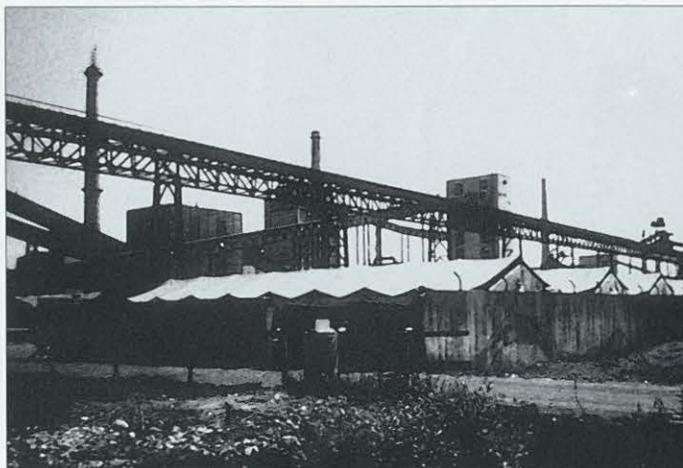
The crew seems to be casual, but a close inspection shows that all of the weapons have ammunition belts ready, the TOW-2 missiles are locked in their ready positions. Although the vehicles are mud splattered from top to bottom, the sights on the guns and missiles are spotless and ready. Though they appear relaxed, they are ready to act—quickly, accurately, violently.

I arrived in the dead of night on the 30th of March on a four-vehicle LOGPAC (logistical package) run from Tuzla Main. The LOGPACs

run at night in the Tuzla Valley because the Bosnian drivers do not believe that a 10-ton tractor will eat their Yugos; littered Yugo heaps all over the roads prove them wrong.

These trucks are military versions of Oshkosh heavy trucks found on U.S. roads, but painted the drab Army green color and covered with a fine layer of wet dust makes them a ghostly pale green-gray. The niceties of washing and waxing hold no sway here. Each truck pulls a 40-foot-long S&P (Stake and Platform) trailer loaded with routine supplies to the outlying camps.

A steady rain that greeted us at Gotham and the hundreds of floodlights that surround the camp lighting up most of the interior and the headlights of the trucks made millions of reflections in the pools of standing water on the roadway.



Camp Punxutawney was nicknamed Gotham City for its uncanny resemblance to the mythical hometown of Batman.

The temperature was in the low 40s so the steam leaks added tremendous billowing white clouds across the road reflecting brilliantly

in our headlights as we drove through the camp. This entry into Gotham was an image that even Hollywood couldn't top. ■

its main function is moving equipment, goods or people throughout the theater of war. It is currently the largest helicopter in the U.S. Army inventory, and Chinook pilots like to call themselves "Big Windy." I'll buy the windy part; a couple of decades ago I was a young private in Alaska hooking cannons to these choppers. There was a 90 mile per hour wind blasting down when the craft finally pulled the slings taut and started to lift the artillery into the air. As for big, not even close. Many other helicopters have the designation of heavy lift—they earn it. Several Russian craft I have seen absolutely dwarf the Chinook, but aviators prefer to consider themselves and their craft as larger than life.

People and cargo enter the Chinook through a hydraulically operated two-piece ramp in the rear of the craft. Vehicles drive right on; specially designed pallets hold

the cargo. A forklift places cargo on the ramp. The crew then pushes it to the front of the craft on rollers built into the floor then secures it down with cargo straps.

Once inside, the world becomes grey; there are grey quilted blankets fastened to the walls and ceiling of the interior. They serve to decrease the incredible noise and keep the systems that operate the Chinook from snags and incidental damage. The seats are similar to the cheap nylon webbed patio furniture with a 2 1/2 inch wide red webbing. The seat belts are industrial strength, very heavy duty and scarred from millions of operations.

Sitting down and strapping on the belt starts an immediate assault on the senses by the sounds of the turbine engines, the blades whirling through the air, the transmission that moves the blades and the hydraulic pumps that magnify the

pilots' movements. Smells pervade the grey womb; exhaust fumes, occasional drips of hydraulic fluid seeping from fixtures and even the MREs being casually consumed by passengers.

The vibration is ever-present and beyond description. It's not only the THWAP-THWAP-THWAP of the rotors traveling through the airframe, it is also the very movement of the blades in their relentless circuits. Tiny differences in the construction, weight, symmetry and even the tension used to tighten the nuts and bolts holding the rotors to the masts have an impact.

The view of the outside world disappears quickly as the ramp raises. Since the weather is warm, there is an abbreviated glimpse of the outside, three feet from the end of the ramp—since the crew doesn't close that piece of the ramp in summer flying. There are four

portholes on each side of the fuselage. I can look out and see the airfield rapidly dropping away. Through those few gaps in the grey womb, the outside world shines in.

I sit on the left rear side of the bird. Occasionally, I can see the wingman through the portholes. That ugly green grasshopper seems to be bouncing around the sky in quick jittery jumps. The cool breeze is refreshing and blows the stink of the machine out of my nostrils.

Views through the back are gorgeous, green woodlots, greening farm fields, tan hayfields and thin ribbons of road.

We travel low and fast in the Balkans, looked like about 400-500 feet and about 150 miles per hour. Quickly my orientation collapses and I start the queasy feeling of motion sickness trying to take command of my insides. I won't let it, nothing that willpower can't control ... I hope. ■



Photo by SSgt. Shannon Scherer, HQ OHANG.

Eight veterans of the World War II Ploesti raid pose with the painting commissioned for the dedication.

Ohio aviator, bombardment group honored at Arlington

Story by Master Sgt. Bob Haskell
National Guard Bureau

The National Guard and a brotherhood of aging World War II aviators honored one of their own in quiet dignity among Arlington National Cemetery's host of heroes on a sultry Friday in October.

Lt. Col. Addison Baker, posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor after crashing his blazing bomber into a heavily defended enemy oil refinery in 1943, was the focus of a tribute to the 93rd Bombardment Group that Baker led during the low-level raid at Ploesti, Rumania.

Baker was an Ohio National Guardsman. His twin-tailed B-24, *Hell's Wench*, flying over the burning oil field is depicted in the 52nd National Guard heritage painting unveiled on Oct. 10, more than 54 years after the daring and costly raid.

Eight veterans of that raid, Air National Guard leaders from the Pentagon and Ohio, and 100 others attended the full day of tributes.

Among them were Brig. Gen. John Smith, Ohio's assistant adjutant general for Air, and Col. Harry "A.J." Feucht, commander of the state's 180th Fighter Wing that includes Baker's former squadron among its lineage.

A bronze plaque and a living memorial, a six-foot American holly tree, honoring the 93rd Group's sacrifices during the deadly air war over Europe was dedicated that

morning at Arlington.

The painting by Arizona artist Roy Grinnell was unveiled during a mid-day ceremony at the neighboring Fort Myer officer's club by Brig. Gen. Paul Weaver, Jr., deputy director of the Air National Guard.

"These awards do nothing for what we owe you. You brought honor to these wings that we wear. This country owes you more than you can ever receive," Weaver told the decorated Army Air Corps veterans who recalled details of the Ploesti raid on Aug. 1, 1943, as vividly as if they had flown it last August.

"The smoke stacks were 125 feet high. I was flying so low I had to look up to see the tops of them," said retired Col. John "Packy" Roche.

"There were high tension power lines at the end of the refinery," Roche continued. "One of

my engines was on fire over the target. I didn't have time to climb above those wires, so I flew the plane under them."

Retired Maj. Gen. Ramsay Potts made no bones about how he survived that raid. "Both of my wingmen were shot down. They shielded me from getting shot down," he reflected. "I was just one of the lucky ones."

Many were not so lucky. Fifty-four of the 177 bombers sent to destroy the Ploesti refineries that supplied the German war machine with two-thirds of its gas and oil products were lost during that daylight raid. The operation code-named TIDALWAVE resulted in 532 dead, missing and captured airmen from the 1,726 who began the 2,100-mile round-trip ordeal.

Baker, 36, was a Chicago native who entered the Army Air Corps in 1929, earned his wings the next year, and joined the Michigan National Guard in 1936. He moved to Akron, Ohio, and transferred to the Buckeye State's 112th Observation Squadron before it was called into federal service in 1940.

He was in the lead plane as his 93rd Bombardment Group, the "Traveling Circus," flew from North Africa to Ploesti on Aug. 1, 1943, under radio silence. An anti-aircraft shell seriously damaged his plane and set it on fire as he approached the target, according to his Medal of Honor citation.

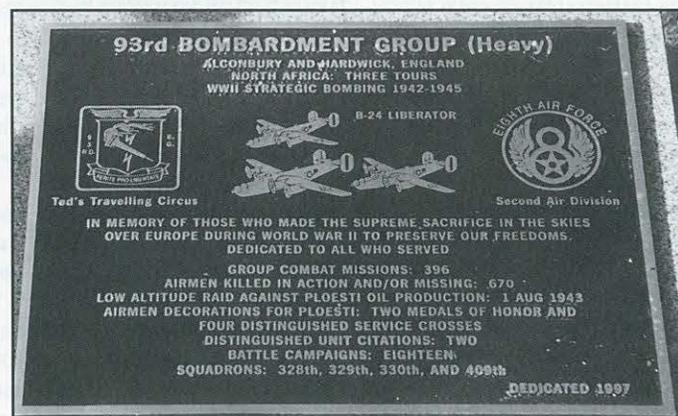


Photo by SSgt. Shannon Scherer, HQ OHANG.

Plaque dedicated to the 93rd Bombardment Group at Arlington National Cemetery.

Baker refused to land and jeopardize his group which approached the refinery from the south instead of the west as planned. He led his formation to the target and dropped his bombs before attempting to climb high enough so his crewmembers could bail out. It was too late, witnesses reported. The crippled B-24 crashed in flames after avoiding other planes in the formation.

All 10 men perished. Maj. John Jerstad, Baker's copilot, also received the Medal of Honor which is presented to warriors who cannot be faulted if they do not perform the deed that earns them this country's highest military tribute.

"Colonel Baker did not leave the formation to land in the flat fields in front of us but, showing

a brand of courage that I have never seen before or since, continued to lead us the last two or three miles to the target," wrote Capt. Raymond Walker.

"Lt. Col. Baker . . . continued to lead his force on the bombing run after his aircraft had been fatally hit and was, in fact, a raging inferno," reported Lt. Col. George Brown who lived to become chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Otherwise, "the formation would have broken up at the critical point on the bomb run," Brown added.

"Addison Baker had a total disregard for his own life. Every one of us would have followed him through hell," said retired Air Force Col. Alfred Asch who coordinated the October tribute. Asch was a young lieutenant fresh out of

flight school when he served with Baker before the Ploesti raid. The seasoned pilot once turned on his bomber's blue formation lights so Asch could follow him into a strange airfield in Algeria in the dead of night, Asch explained.

"Any German night fighters would have gone after Baker because he had his lights on," Asch added. Therefore, it made perfectly good sense to Asch to honor the National Guard pilot from Ohio who sacrificed his plane, his crew and himself so that others could fly into the hell over Ploesti and complete the mission.

"It was my privilege to fly with two great National Guard officers during that war. Addison Baker was one of them," Asch concluded. "They brought more to the Air Corps than the other way around." ■

179th on warpath to pollution prevention

Story and photo by 2nd Lt. Troy Cramer
179th Base Environmental Manager

Pollution Prevention (P2) is quickly becoming the new challenge facing the Air Force and Air National Guard. With ever-increasing environmental regulations, units are forced to find ways to reduce the quantity and toxicity of air, water and soil pollution they generate.

A shift from end-of-pipe pollution controls to the elimination of pollution at the source defines the new objective for the ANG. Pollution reductions are achieved by conserving resources, replacing hazardous materials with less hazardous alternatives, waste reduction and recycling.

The 179th Airlift Wing is preparing to meet these challenges through the implementation of a much more aggressive base recycling program and the establishment of the first pollution prevention team. The upcoming calendar year will see the installation and construction of several new pieces of equipment that will considerably reduce the quantity of waste that is generated, and toxicity of hazardous chemicals used in the workplace.

To eliminate the use of solvent-based part cleaners, the 179th is switching to aqueous-based parts washers which will reduce the amount of hazardous waste generated by more than 30 percent. This significantly reduces the unit's waste disposal costs. The aqueous-based units are scheduled to be installed this September in the Repair and Reclamation shop, Aero-Space Ground Equipment shop and Propulsion shop. A fourth unit is planned for Vehicle Maintenance later this year.

Projects planned for 1998 include the construction of a new consolidated bead blasting and paint spray booth, hazardous materials pharmacy (HazMart), and a washwater recycling system to be installed at the installation's new vehicle washrack.

The consolidated bead blasting/paint spray booth also will significantly reduce the amount of waste generated by nearly 10 percent,



TSgt Erik Bieznieks (left) and SSgt Mike Welsh stack scrap metal before shipment to a local recycling facility.

while completely eliminating all hazardous air pollutant emissions. The pharmacy will provide centralized control of all hazardous materials on base, considerably reducing the amount of expired shelf life chemicals that must be disposed.

Currently, washwater from the washrack is discharged in to the city of Mansfield wastewater treatment facility. With the installation of the new recycling system, all washwater now will be recycled, thus eliminating the discharge to the treatment facility while conserving large quantities of water and reducing the installation's water bill.

Through education, training and awareness, the 179th has incorporated P2 into all aspects of installation operations. The installation of the aqueous-based parts washers, washwater recycling system, construction of the HazMart pharmacy and bead blast/paint spray booth are just the beginning. The unit will continue to explore P2 opportunities to ensure a healthier place to live and work for many more generations to come. ■

121st ARW leads aircraft recovery effort

Story by Staff Sgt. Shannon Scherer
HQ, Ohio ANG

What began as a series of questions became an international exercise that would make military history—a prominent first for the U.S. Air National Guard and the Canadian Air Force.

The biggest question: Could Air Force members practice an aircraft recovery in the desert on a real aircraft?

This was asked in April 1996 at the first Aircraft Crash Recovery conference in Dallas, Texas. Repair and Reclamation, or R & R, people from the Air National Guard, Reserves and active duty, along with Canadian and British representatives discussed Air Force di-

rectives and the lack of training available to meet those directives.

Master Sgt. Ed Noce of the 121st Air Refueling Wing R & R, decided to research the idea of more standardized aircraft recovery training.

"The R & R shop is tasked with aircraft recovery," Noce said. "But there has never been any hands-on training for it."

Noce began his journey for information at his home unit. He made contacts in several different states and countries and gained facts so that he could present his idea of a real-life training scenario to the attendees of the second Aircraft Crash Recovery conference this past April in Jackson, Miss.

He informed the audience that he had permission to use a KC-135 Stratotanker

aircraft at the boneyard in Tucson, Ariz. The boneyard is an aircraft storage facility used by all branches of the service for future use, foreign sale or salvageable parts for other aircraft.

After this international conference, which included the United States, Canada, Great Britain, Germany and Australia, Noce was approached by Dave Herman, a Canadian warrant officer, who suggested the idea of a joint U.S. and Canadian training exercise. With support from the 121st, Noce was encouraged to further develop the idea and present it at the Air National Guard Aircraft Maintenance Commanders' conference in Knoxville, Tenn. in June. And he did just that.

During his presentation, Noce gave



the commanders a breakdown of U.S. and Canadian capabilities and expectations, as well as the cost estimates of operating the training and the proposed time frame for the operation. Commanders from 11 units supported the concept by committing personnel and funds.

"Many commanders were extremely anxious to get this training underway," Noce said. "They realized that their people needed hands-on experience in aircraft recovery and saw this training as the way to satisfy that need."

Within three months, Noce and Herman managed every detail of organizing an international training exercise—from arranging billeting to the logistics of shipping Canadian equipment and personnel. Both men worked diligently to

make this training concept a reality.

Ron Black and Evelyn Keeton at the Aerospace Maintenance and Regeneration Center, or AMARC, and Senior Airman Chuck Kinstle at Davis-Montham Air Force Base, Ariz., were instrumental in arranging the training details from the site in Arizona.

Three weeks before this landmark training was to occur, Noce was notified of a runway closure at Davis-Montham. This called for an alternate plan of action which included the Tucson Air National Guard providing a fork lift and flat-bed semi-truck for the transportation of Canadian equipment and personnel.

The exercise began on Sept. 29 at the AMARC facility in Tucson. The temperature hovered around 105 degrees during the entire exercise as 21 units from the U.S. and Canada began the excursion.

An overview of the activities and expectations started the week of training. Safety measures were explained at the forefront and stressed in all areas of the operation. Classroom instruction on the recovery of an aircraft and hazardous materials was discussed in detail—along with the viewing of videos of actual recoveries, both on land and sea.

Preparation for lifting an aircraft began on Sept. 30, with the set up of teams and a briefing on the theory of the lift.

Cribbing and sledge systems were assembled, and nose gear was installed on the aircraft Oct. 1. Cribbing is a support system built up under the aircraft to be used as a base for air bags. The sledge system moved the aircraft from the sight after it had been lifted by the air bags.

On Oct. 2, final preparations for the lift were completed. With the sledge system in place, the tug operator, Tech. Sgt. Norm Lyons of the 121st, sat anxiously waiting for the call to start the pull. When the radio crackled with the go-ahead signal, the RPMs of the tow vehicle's engine increased and the aircraft started its slow journey across the desert. When the aircraft reached the end of the cable, triumphant cheers and shouts rang across the training area.

"We hope that the participants will pass on what they



LEFT: Airmen from various units carry air bags to the tail section of the aircraft. **ABOVE:** Team members prepare to attach nose sledge and turntable to the aircraft. **BELOW:** Sgt. W.W. Zakhurak from 14th Wing, Greenwood, Nova Scotia, (left) and MSgt. Michael Wood from 134th ARW, Knoxville, Tenn., assemble a steerable sledge system and turntable.

learned through this training," said Herman. "We all worked together well, sharing ideas and making this a reality."

Funding for a 1998 exercise was allotted by unanimous votes at the Air National Guard Bureau's Readiness Center.

"The next step is to begin preparing lesson plans and the standards of training for next year," said Noce. ■

EDITOR'S NOTE: Master Sgt. Ed Noce contributed to this story. Photos provided by MSgt. John Briggs, 121st ARW.



Hungarian Air Force visits 251st *Former Eastern Bloc officers impressed with fixed, tactical communications- computer systems*

Story by Capt. Paul R. Harrison
251st Combat Communications Group

With the imminent expansion of NATO in Europe, a number of interesting military relationships have begun to evolve. Sponsored by the State Department and the Department of Defense, various states have been paired with former Eastern Bloc countries to exchange information and ideas regarding training and wartime missions.

Since 1995, National Guard units in the state of Ohio have been teamed up with the country of Hungary. One such relationship has flourished between the 251st Combat Communications Group, Springfield, Ohio, and the Hungarian Air Force. Through the Ministry of Defense, Communication and Information Systems Division, three Hungarian communications officers recently visited the Springfield Guard unit for a familiarization tour of their fixed and tactical communications-computer systems. There, they were able to view firsthand much of the communications equipment that is owned and operated by the 269th Combat Communications Squadron, co-located with the 251st in Springfield.

“Everything is still analog there so they were absolutely amazed to see all of our digital communications equipment, especially our LAN.”

The former Communist Bloc troops were very impressed with our satellite terminals, switchboards and technical control facilities according to Senior Master Sgt. Chris Muncy, superintendent of current operations for the 251st. “Everything is still analog there so they were absolutely amazed to see all of our digital communications equipment, especially our LAN (Local Area Network),” said Muncy, who acted as chief liaison for the group.

Several other locations filled the itinerary for the overseas visitors. Wanting to see a civilian commercial communications facility, the group was taken to LCI, Inc., in Columbus, which seemed equally impressive to them. Then it was off to Wright State University to get a taste of a large American university and later, a stroll through aviation history at the United States Air Force Museum.

Several members of the 251st and 269th took turns playing host and tour guide to these Hungarian officers, taking them to popular dining and recreational facilities. All were impressed with the relaxed and friendly atti-



Courtesy photo.

ABOVE: CMSgt. Glenn McConkey, (far left), maintenance superintendent for the 269th, along with Lt. Col. Mark Stout, 269th commander, and Lt. Garland Robertson, logistics officer, answer questions from two of the Hungarian visitors. BELOW: SMSgt. Chris Muncy (center), superintendent of current operations for the 251st CCG, and Col. Robert Meyer (far right), commander, exchange souvenirs with Hungarian officers during their recent visit to Springfield.



Courtesy photo.

tudes that the foreign officers presented.

“They were more concerned with honoring our customs and courtesies than their own,” said Muncy, who spent 47 days in Taszar, Hungary, in 1995 in support of Operation JOINT ENDEAVOR. This would, perhaps, make him more qualified than most to more fully appreciate the Hungarians’ perspective on the cultural and technological differences between the two countries. “They liked our food and loud country music,” quipped Muncy after taking them to the Lone Star Steakhouse. “They were also astounded by how many cars and wood-frame houses we have.”

This visit by the Hungarian Air Force is but one of several that have occurred since 1995.

Col. Robert Meyer, commander of the 251st, is very pleased to get the opportunity to work with the Hungarians and their Ministry of Defense. “We’ve learned a lot from each other over the last few years and I look forward to seeing them during their next visit.” ■

ROTC cadets march on to victory in competition

By Master Sgt. Tonya Minor
HQ STARC

The first Junior ROTC Color Guard competition took place on Sept. 21 at Camp Perry Training Site, Port Clinton.

All 18 schools in Ohio that have Junior ROTC programs were invited to participate. Five schools accepted: Colonel White High School (2 teams), Lorain Southview High School (2 teams), Martins Ferry High School, Columbus South High School and Trotwood Madison High School (2 teams).

The Ohio Army National Guard and its Southern State Honor Guard Team supported the competition. The Southern Honor Guard Team provided judges for the function. Sgt. 1st Class Michael W. Powers was in charge of the judges—Sgt. 1st Class Keith P. Summers, Staff Sgt. Michael E. Grove and Staff Sgt. Jeffrey L. Smith, all members of Battery A, 2/174 ADA (Avenger) Battalion in McConnellsville. These NCOs are among the best in the state; they received their formal training in drill and ceremonies from the Old



Photo by OC Devin Braun, State PA Office.

The Junior ROTC Color Guard from Colonel White High School took third place honors in this year's competition.

Guard in Washington, D.C.

Prior to the competition the teams received a briefing, at which Powers talked with the team captains, walked them through the entire course and answered questions.

The marching route was set up in the Bataan Armory, marked with

chairs. On each chair was a sheet informing captains which direction to march their team to get from point A to point B. The course markers did not tell the team what command to give, simply what direction they needed to move.

The first color guard team to compete was Colonel White High School. Team members added black pistol belts and silver helmets to their uniforms. As the day went on, each team cased and uncased the colors and displayed their uniform and accessories in their own unique way.

The judges chose top placers using criteria published in the Field Manual 22-5, *Drill and Ceremonies*.

Lorain Southview High School took top honors in the competition, Trotwood Madison High School placed second and Colonel White High School was third.

Every cadet who participated received a certificate of excellence, signed by Ohio's State Command Sgt. Maj. Michael Howley. Each

ROTC instructor was recognized for dedication to the program and given a coin of excellence on behalf of Howley.

But the top three teams earned plaques shaped like the state of Ohio, each engraved with first, second or third place, as well as the name of the competition, the date, high school and the names of each cadet who participated to place in the competition. Howley—who was originally scheduled to attend the drill competition but was called to duty in Hungary—added a touch of class by making arrangements to personally go to each high school and present the plaques, which was accomplished in mid-October.

Howley commended each cadet and spoke to his or her entire class of the team's achievement. He also spoke of the excellence of the Junior ROTC Program and encouraged each cadet to make the best of the values they were learning. Howley personally presented each member of the top-placing color guard teams a coin of excellence.

The Junior ROTC competition will be an annual event and organizers are looking forward to even more participation and more competition next year. ■

178th Fighter Wing helps Turkish orphanage

Story by Maj. Eric Smith
162nd Fighter Squadron

While members of the 178th Fighter Wing deployed to Incirlik, Turkey, to support Operation NORTHERN WATCH, another contingency also received much needed assistance—an orphanage which housed 150 small children.

On Sunday, May 11, 22 enthusiastic unit members gathered at Incirlik Air Force Base and forged a caravan of three vehicles which drove 30 minutes to the orphanage located in the Turkish town of Adana.

Upon arrival, unit members were greeted by some very enthusiastic youngsters whose playing field was overgrown with weeds, littered with broken glass, and was very uneven with rocks and ruts.

Within minutes, volunteers began to make progress. The morning quiet was suddenly broken by the sound of weed-whackers and three lawn mowers. Curious neighbors peered

out the windows at these crazy Americans working in the hot sun. While some members used power tools, others hauled off debris, filled in ditches and raked the soccer field. Still others used push brooms and swept off a basketball court and cleaned up the inner courtyard of the orphanage.

By noon the volunteers were hot and tired, but much progress had been made. The children were quite curious, and they would share their smiles and practice English with their new friends every chance they could.

"The children really took to us, and the community was very complimentary of our efforts," said Lt. Col. Craig Wallace, detach-

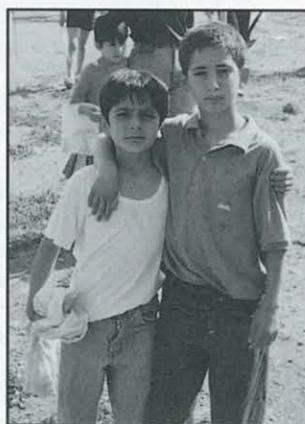


Photo by SSgt Keith Buddelmeyer, 178th FW.

Two Turkish boys pose for a photo at the soccer field during its renovation by 178th unit members.

ment commander.

After the noon hour, the unit's sporting goods contingent arrived. New basketball nets were installed and new soccer goals provided. The children were absolutely ecstatic to receive new soccer balls, all purpose play balls and basketballs.

Deployed members of the Springfield unit not only donated their time, but also their money—more than \$1,000—to what they considered a very worthy cause. To provide some perspective, each of the children were provided their own roll of toilet paper as a special treat.

Many of the volunteers left Turkey and the orphanage with a renewed perspective of how fortunate they are to live in America. ■

Guard gives energy program green light

Before 1970, most people were relatively unconcerned with the supply and rate of consumption of energy. However, following the oil embargo of 1973, energy came to the forefront of political, social and economic debate worldwide. Significant progress has been made in energy management, but many energy saving opportunities are underutilized or yet to be explored. For nearly two decades, Congress and the presidents have established national goals for energy reduction.

The United States Environmental Protection Agency, or USEPA, established the Green Lights Program in January 1991, to reduce pollution by encouraging organizations to install profitable lighting upgrade projects that maximize energy savings and maintain or improve lighting quality. This will also result in improved worker productivity and a reduction in air pollution caused by electricity generation.

Lighting accounts for 20 to 25 percent of all electricity sold in the United States. If efficient lighting was used throughout the country, the EPA estimates the demand for electricity would decrease more than 10 percent. This would save users nearly \$17 billion and result in the following annual pollution reductions:

- * 202 million metric tons of carbon dioxide (the equivalent of taking 44 million cars off the road);

- * More than 13 million metric tons of sulfur dioxide (which contributes to acid rain); and

- * 600,000 metric tons of nitrogen oxides (which contribute to smog).

In July 1993, Gov. George Voinovich signed a Green Lights Memorandum of Understanding with the USEPA. In March 1994, President Clinton signed Executive Order 12902. This requires every federal agency to reduce facility energy consumption by 30 percent by the year 2005, based on the agency's 1985 energy usage.

In April 1995, the National Guard Bureau signed the Green Lights MOU with the purpose of reducing energy demands at all National Guard installations.

The Ohio Army National Guard is focused on improving energy efficiency, eliminating energy waste and enhancing quality of life while meeting mission requirements. Accomplishing these objectives will help reduce energy costs and ensure energy conservation goals are achieved by 2005.

To meet these goals, the Ohio Guard's Facilities Management Office has completed several projects and planned others, including lighting upgrades and other energy-reducing actions.

Most of these projects are funded by energy conservation funds from the National Guard Bureau. This program is managed by George Teynor, who is a design specialist with the additional duty of energy manager.

One such action in Teynor's program was the replacement of all overhead doors in maintenance shops with more energy efficient doors.

The heating systems at the Combined Support Maintenance Shop and United States Property and Fiscal Office warehouse in Newark were renovated. With the reduced energy costs, these projects will pay for themselves in 10 years.

In 1996, Teynor established ties with the Energy Service Branch of the Ohio Department of Administrative Services. This resulted in the Adjutant General's Department receiving funds for an \$87,000 lighting upgrade in several buildings at the Camp Perry Training Site. Existing 40-watt fluorescent lamps were replaced with 34-watt energy efficient fluorescent lamps, and all incandescent bulbs were replaced with compact fluorescent lamps. The estimated annual savings will be about \$11,000 per year.

Renovation of lighting and heating systems in the National Guard buildings at Rickenbacker International Airport will be completed in 1997 through an energy savings performance contract. The money for this contract will be obtained through state bonds. The energy reduction will allow for immediate savings which will be used to pay back the bond money. The project will pay for itself.

Other projects in progress or planned for the near future include lighting and heating upgrades at most maintenance shops and the armories at Felicity and Oxford. New shower heads with reduced water usage will be installed in some facilities.

The Army National Guard is becoming involved in energy conservation by taking advantage of the opportunities to learn about the resources and the real savings that can be gained by successfully managing their use. Energy awareness is important to National Guard commanders, soldiers, staff and civilians, not only for cost and energy reduction, but also for the positive effects on the environment. *Submitted by Candace Kline, Environmental Office and George Teynor, Facilities Management Office.*

200th RHS hosts national conference

Pollution prevention, hazardous waste and water treatment were just a few of the topics discussed by environmental managers June 16-20 during the 1997 Environmental Conference



Photo by SSgt. Shannon Scherer, OHANG.

1st Lt. Mike Hrynciw, 200th RHS Environmental Engineer, discusses current issues during conference.

hosted by the 200th RED HORSE Squadron, Port Clinton, Ohio.

This year's conference, "Surviving Today While Preparing for the Future," hosted a representative from every Air National Guard base in the 54 states and territories.

"Hosting this conference is a nice honor," said 1st Lt. Michael Hrynciw, 200th RHS environmental engineer and conference organizer. "It gives the 200th visibility and it gives Ohio a good name."

The 200th RHS was recognized for hosting the outstanding conference by guest speaker Col. Samuel Lungren, National Guard Bureau Chief Civil Engineer.

During his presentation, Lungren advised attendees to "leave your place better than when you got there. You cannot afford to have a bad reputation with your community," he said.

On that note, nine national environmental awards were presented. Chief Master Sgt. Richard McKibben, the 121st Air Refueling Wing Maintenance Squadron chief, received the National Volunteer Environmental Quality award for his recycling program.

"Our office generated a lot of recyclable material such as cardboard, scrap metal and oil," McKibben said. "We're just cleaning up the waste we're putting out."

Although conference attendees spent long days learning about current environmental issues, they also were able to see Ohio's "heart of it all." After-hour trips were planned to local attractions such as Cedar Point, Put-in-Bay and Toledo Mudhens baseball games. Attendees' families also were invited to relax and enjoy the sites of northern Ohio.

"This week gave environmental managers a chance to network with other people in their field," Hrynciw said. "And hopefully they will want to revisit Port Clinton someday." *Submitted by Staff Sgt. Shannon Scherer, HQ, Ohio ANG.*

Ohio students step up to 'Higher Ground'

Approximately 250 high school students have received training through the Ohio National Guard's new character education program called Higher Ground (see *Buckeye Guard*, Autumn 1997). Higher Ground premiered this past fall at two youth training seminars attended by students from Toledo and Cleveland area schools. These students were the first recipients of the Guard's new character education effort being launched in conjunction with the Ohio Department of Education and Ohio Parents for Drug Free Youth.

Higher Ground teaches youth the importance of exercising character and ethical decision-making through a hands-on approach. The program's curriculum is fun for the students while, at the same time, teaches them valuable lessons in life skills. Higher Ground instructors do this by utilizing small group discussions and educational activities that encourage participation of all the youth and are similar to ethical dilemmas they currently face.

The 200th Red Horse Civil Engineering Squadron, located at the Camp Perry Training Site, hosted 70 students from Toledo Public Schools for the first Higher Ground training session on Sept. 20-21. Seven Army National Guard recruiters, having undergone Higher Ground instructor training in June, facilitated the small group sessions. Dr. Ken Newbury, who helped train the recruiters, oversaw the program.

The second implementation of Higher Ground took place on Oct. 8, at Lakeland Community College near Cleveland. The 180 students, representing 15 different high schools, attended the annual Ashtabula, Lake and Geauga Counties Student Leadership Academy and Growth

Seminar Toward Drug-Free Living. The Ohio National Guard was honored to be invited by Project CARE, the seminar's coordinating agency, to provide this year's drug-free educational program.

Initial feedback from students and the soldier-facilitators was positive for both training sessions. In fact, the most frequent complaint from students was the desire to stay longer and learn more about the program. Organizations involved in both of the recent training sessions have already discussed hopes of future Higher Ground seminars and working with the National Guard again.

New prevention resources available

The Drug Demand Reduction office has two new prevention resources available for use by Ohio National Guard units and family support groups performing alcohol and other drug prevention programs for guardmembers, their dependents or the public.

"**Images About Alcohol**" is a slide program from FACE, Facing Alcohol Concerns through Education. The program, consisting of 140 color slides and a Presenter Manual, focuses on two primary issues. First is our society's understanding of alcohol and alcohol-related problems presented through images from alcohol advertising.

The second issue relates to the actions, policies and awareness efforts to offset or counter-balance the misinformation of alcohol industry marketing.

"Images About Alcohol" is organized into six subject areas: Alcohol Problems in our Society, Alcohol Advertising, Alcohol and High Risk Populations, Alcohol and Sports, Drinking and Driving, and Public Alcohol Policy. The subject areas can be briefed individually in 20-25 minutes or as a group comprehensive alcohol awareness program presented in two or two and a half hours. By using the alcohol industry's own glamorizing advertisements, and then rebuffing them with unjaded facts, the program gives the audience an eye-opening view of how society's perceptions of alcohol and alcohol use have been manipulated.

The Presenter's Manual is the key to successfully facilitating the "Images" program. The guide contains a more de-

tailed breakdown of each slide's content—listing additional information and statistics, including sources. The manual also includes recommendations for putting together and delivering an alcohol presentation, as well as frequently asked questions and how to respond to them.

"**Faces of Addiction**," a program sponsored by HBO, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, Join Together and the Community Anti-Drug Coalition of America, was televised this past summer. "Faces" graphically depicted the drug problem in America today, yet centered on the hope associated with today's prevention and treatment programs.

There are three sections to the "Faces of Addiction" video. "Flashback" is a true story, shown through the eyes and words of a teenager struggling to overcome peer pressure and her addiction to drugs. Viewers first sense the hopelessness of wasted youth, as Patty slips ever deeper into the drug culture, even losing her best friend to an overdose. Patty then fights to reclaim her life, inspiring the audience by becoming her class valedictorian. Hosted by journalist Linda Ellerbee, the second segment, "Addicted," uncovers the faces of addiction amidst facts and figures of disease, violence and death caused by substance abuse. What viewers find most shocking is how common and indistinguishable these addicts are, not the stereotypical "junkie." The third segment, "27th & Prospect," chronicles one year in an inner city neighborhood's fight against drugs. This Kansas City community gathers every New Year's Eve to remember local victims of drugs and to celebrate all of their victories, large and small, against this plight. If you missed the series on HBO and are interested in viewing this powerful and inspiring production, you are in luck. The Drug Demand Reduction Program has a copy of the video and a corresponding Community Action Pack. The Action Pack outlines how the video can be utilized as a community mobilization tool. It also includes a brief lesson plan for presenting each video and facilitating a viewing session. Suggestions are made for possible discussion topics and audience activities, as well as how to develop a community action plan. One hour should be used to present and discuss each video.

Both programs would be an excellent tool in augmenting unit drug and alcohol prevention programs or community based efforts. Anyone interested in "Images About Alcohol" or "Faces of Addiction" can contact the Drug Demand Reduction Office at (614) 336-7432.

EDITOR'S NOTE: *DDR* articles submitted by OC Devin Braun, Drug Demand Reduction Office.



Photo by SPC Nancy McMillan, State PA Office.

A Cincinnati youth group performs at the 1997 Red Ribbon Campaign kick-off celebration at the State House in downtown Columbus.



Courtesy photo.

SSgt. Joe Coleman (right) of the 179th CES poses for a photo with a Norwegian Air Force officer.

Unit sets record for airfield damage repair

Forty-six members of the 179th Civil Engineers Squadron established a new American record for Norwegian style airfield damage repair when they deployed to Bodo Main Air Station June 14-29. The team from Mansfield recorded a time of three hours, eight minutes and 34 seconds in repairing three craters, beating the previous record established in 1996 by a team of civil engineers from the 180th CES, Toledo, Ohio. Since 1989, combat engineer teams from both Army and Air National Guard units have deployed for this exercise.

The Norwegian style of airfield damage repair consists of excavating debris from craters caused by bomb damage, filling the crater with ballast rock and gravel, then covering the hole with an aluminum mat or concrete slabs. The actual timed exercise capped off four days of intensive training on heavy equipment, developing specialized teams, and performing command and control exercises.

The second week of the deployment was as exciting as the first for the Mansfield group, as they designed and constructed various projects for the Norwegian military community. The projects included building a road, boat ramp, footbridge, sand volleyball court and a barracks deck. The team also moved a small storage facility for a local daycare center, cleared brush for new construction and excavated areas for installing communication cables. The Norwegian hosts recognized the craftsmanship and professionalism demonstrated by the team members with a warm

"Thank you" upon completion of the projects.

With Bodo located north of the arctic circle, the 179th CES had 24 hours of daylight to enjoy several tours of the scenic Norwegian countryside after duty hours. Team members observed such sites as the world's largest whirlpool in Salstrumen with its different tidal phases and the midnight sun after climbing rugged mountain peaks. Members also took an underground tour through local caverns and then visited an active glacier by boat, crossing one of the many fjords along the coast.

Many of the civil engineers enjoyed shopping and dining in the local communities. A steak fry and awards ceremony, complete with a souvenir exchange, topped off the two weeks training session spent in Norway. *Submitted by Lt. Tim Kern, 179th Airlift Wing.*

Ohio Guard Web page ready for surfing

The Ohio National Guard Web page, created by the Ohio Army National Guard Directorate of Information Management/Visual Information (DOIM/VI), is designed to provide information about the Army and Air National Guard.

The Web site is divided into three sections: the Adjutant General's segment, the Ohio Army National Guard page, and the last section is devoted to the Ohio Air National Guard. The Air Guard Web page is currently in the design process and is slated for viewing soon.

All of the Web sites are set up to appeal to the target audience of high school seniors, college students and prior service members.

The Adjutant General's Web page contains information about the Ohio National Guard's purpose and mission, its history and the family assistance and education programs.

The Army page is a bit more detailed and contains information such as frequently asked questions about the National Guard, how to become a member, the qualifications for membership, educational benefits, the different levels of training, the pay scale for the first few years of enlistment, promotions, a state-wide job map, a list of job descriptions and retirement benefits.

One of the more exciting aspects about this Web site is its ability to help a person locate the types of jobs available in the Ohio Army National Guard and in what region of the state these positions are found. Using the State Wide Job Site Map, a person can locate jobs by city and then go to a job description that includes the major duties and specific qualifications for that military occupational specialty.

The Web address is www.state.oh.us/adj. All comments, suggestions and inquiries are welcome. Please email them to doimvioh@ohngnet.army.mil, or by postal mail to: Ohio Army National Guard, AGOH-CS-DOIM-VI, 2825 W. Dublin Granville Road, Columbus, Ohio 43235. *Submitted by Spc. Don Flowers, HQ STARC, DOIM/VI.*

Applications for youth camp '98 available

Would you like to send your dependent(s) ages 8-12 to a fun-packed six days of National Guard Youth Camp? If so, pick up an application through your unit orderly room and send it in as soon as possible. The application deadline is March 31, 1998, with a \$50 registration fee paid at the time of application submission. Due to the overwhelming response of applications received for Youth Camp '97, first-time attendees will have preference over those campers who have previously attended.

Youth Camp provides a unique opportunity for Guard (Air and Army) youth to attend a quality overnight camp for six days. Camp will provide a positive experience in a safe, caring environment and will encourage cooperation, punctuality, good sportsmanship, habits of orderliness, and respect for others.

Obviously, a stay at National Guard Youth Camp is educational and quite beneficial because every single thing which happens to your child during his waking and sleeping hours contributes in some way to his development and so is actually part of his education.

Camp serves to fortify and enlarge upon qualities already developed elsewhere as well as contributes in ways of its own because it differs from other environments in certain aspects. How often does your child get to sleep out under the stars, experience the joy of cooking over an open fire, catch a fish or two, march and sing cadences over unknown territory, learn CPR and mouth-to-mouth resuscitation as well as archery and marks-

manship skills, and master difficult tasks with persistence and cooperation. These are just a few of the exciting experiences your child will enjoy at Youth Camp.

If you are interested in Youth Camp for your child and/or would like to volunteer your time, please contact your Unit Readiness NCO or the State Family Readiness Office at (614) 336-7192. We look forward to hearing from you. *Submitted by Warrant Officer Carmen Coventry, State Family Program Coordinator.*

Senate bill favorable for National Guard

Gov. George V. Voinovich signed Senate Bill 130 into law in September, effecting numerous changes in the Ohio Revised Code pertaining to the Ohio National Guard.

SB 130, introduced and carried in the Ohio Senate by Senator Gene Watts and in the House by Representative E. J. Thomas, primarily conformed state law to current federal law and regulation relative to the National Guard.

Among the major provisions:

- * National Guard members called to serve the State of Ohio by the governor during disasters and emergencies now enjoy the same employment protections and reemployment rights guaranteed by the federal government for federal service. Guardmembers have been protected under the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act when called to federal service for mobilization or training (either voluntary or involuntary). However, no such protection existed for state active duty missions.

- * Military pay for National Guard members (i.e. UTA; annual training) is now categorically exempt from municipal tax. Military pay has always been exempt in the state code, however, some municipalities did not view National Guard pay the same as those of the other services, leading to local interpretation of the exemption.

Among other changes, SB 130 elevates the rank of both the assistant adjutants general for Army and Air from brigadier general to major general. Concurrently, National Guard officers vying for these positions must be a colonel (O-6) at the time of appointment and must be selected from the ranks of active National Guard members. The requirement for the assistant adjutant general to be a rated officer (pilot; navigator) no longer exists.

The bill also allows the sale of intoxicating beverages at state owned or operated facilities

(National Guard properties) with valid permits from the Ohio Department of Liquor Control. The adjutant general recently issued a revised alcohol policy reflecting this change. National Guard "sponsored" events may contain alcohol as long as it is handled responsibly by the units.

Senate Bill 130 is the second omnibus bill introduced and passed on behalf of the Ohio National Guard in the last three years. *Submitted by Maj. Jim Boling, State PA Officer.*

178th Fighter Wing takes top honors

The 178th Fighter Wing in Springfield won top honors during the annual Turkey Shoot competition on Oct. 17 -18, at Jefferson Proving Grounds, Ind.

Despite what one might think, the Turkey Shoot competition only deals with one type of bird—the F-16 Fighting Falcon.

The competition judges pilots according to time on target and the accuracy of bombs dropped. The pilots have to calculate the number of seconds they should wait to drop a bomb from 16,000 feet for it to hit the target at a specified time.

The 178th competed against Indiana's 181st Fighter Wing to prevail with the top unit award. The Springfield team of Capt. John Denezza, Capt. Barry James, Maj. Eric Smith and Capt. Mike Taylor accepted that award. Maj. Randall Roberts of the 181st took home the top gun award.

"We worked as a team and didn't worry so much about individual scores," Denezza said. "Teamwork was the key. This award proves that the 178th is prepared to do its job well whenever called upon." *Submitted by Staff Sgt. Shannon Scherer, HQ, Ohio ANG.*

Beightler Armory undergoes renovation

What would you do with a few million dollars? Would you buy a car, build your dream house, travel around the world? Or perhaps you're due for a \$3.2 million facelift? Sounds crazy, but that is the approximate



Photo by SPC Carrie Clevidence, HQ STARC.

Scaffolding was a common sight around Beightler Armory as the exterior was being renovated.

cost to renovate Beightler Armory, headquarters of the Ohio National Guard, located in northwest Columbus.

Since construction began in 1996, the sound of drills and hammers, and sight of men with hard hats have become all too familiar to employees at the armory. The staff tolerates the noise and interruptions because of the end product—a more efficient work place with a new, modern look.

Built in 1965, the Robert S. Beightler Armory has been in dire need of the improvements to bring the building up to standards and into the 21st century. The armory's last update was in 1978.

The money is being spent on exterior and interior improvements throughout the armory. Much of the faded brick on the exterior was replaced with a styrofoam-cement siding. The parking lot has been expanded and redesigned with trees and shrubs to make the grounds more visually appealing.

Inside the armory, changes include new windows in all of the offices, a new phone system, a new heating and cooling system and renovation of the restrooms to bring them up to code.

Where did the money come from to accomplish this project? According to Michael Snow of the state quartermaster office, it came from the state of Ohio. "Ohio's budget has been in good shape over the past few years, allowing the state legislature to pass a capital improvement budget for the armory back in December 1995," said Snow.

The projected date for completion is September 1998. *Submitted by Spc. Carrie Clevidence, HQ STARC.*



Photo by SPC E. G. Kirkland, HHC, 1/107th Armor Bn.

CSM Michael Campbell says farewell to the battalion's first sergeants at his retirement ceremony.

Armor command sergeant major retires

Command Sgt. Maj. Michael G. Campbell of Ashtabula, Ohio, retired Sept. 30 from the Ohio Army National Guard with 27 1/2 years of military service.

Campbell began his military career April 23, 1968, when he enlisted in the United States Army as an infantryman with the 101st Airborne Division. While serving in Vietnam, Campbell earned the Combat Infantry Badge, Bronze Star, Vietnam Service medal, Vietnam Campaign medal and several other honors.

Campbell left active duty on April 2, 1970, and served as an inactive reserve member for six years. Then, in February 1976, Campbell joined the Ohio Army National Guard. He was assigned to the 3/107th Armored Battalion in which he held many positions.

On Oct. 1, 1992, Campbell became the battalion command sergeant major. It was then that he had the difficult task of assisting and retaining troops of the 3/107th through the restructuring of the Ohio Army National Guard units. Due to Campbell's efforts and his concern for the troops, many soldiers made the decision to be flexible and adapt to the changes—"changes that would eventually benefit their military careers," according to Campbell. He continued to serve as the CSM until his retirement.

During his retirement ceremony at the Stow armory, Campbell sat with his wife, Gloria, two children, Derrick and Courtney, and many friends as fellow soldiers from the past and present spoke with sincere gratitude for his

leadership and the opportunity to proudly serve with him.

At the end, the soldiers of the 1/107th wished Campbell the best that retirement has to offer—which Campbell commented would include playing golf, continued affiliation with many veteran's organizations and to remain employed as an electrician in order to assist in the financing of a college education for his children. *Submitted by Spc. E. G. Kirkland, HHC 1/107th Armor Bn.*

Unit members aid fallen soldier, friend

Sgt. Greg Henman, a member of the Det. 1, 1487th Transportation Company, was a valuable asset to the unit. "He was always a soldier who you could count on," said Staff Sgt. Doug Lewis, unit administrative clerk. "If you had a commitment come down and you needed some people on the road you could always count on Greg. He was ready to go in a heartbeat."

Henman was especially helpful in preparing the unit for inspections. He greatly aided the unit in passing ORE's conducted in 1993, 1994 and 1995. He was one you could count on to get the job done and get it done right. Since his contributions to the unit were so vitally important, news of his unfortunate medical problem stunned the unit members of the 1487th as they worried not only about his condition but also about his future with them in the Guard.

In June 1996, the 1487th received news from Marie and Richard Henman, Greg's parents, that Henman had been hospitalized. His mother informed the unit that he had been driving a civilian truck when a highway patrolman pulled him over after he observed the truck weaving on the road. When Henman exited the truck, he informed the officer that he had a terrible headache, then collapsed. Fortunately, the patrolman was able to get immediate medical support. Henman was then transported to a local hospital. According to the doctor's examination and several tests, it was discovered that he had suffered an aneurysm. Surgery was performed in hopes of improving his condition but, as time progressed, the prognosis began to look bleaker.

Doctors were concerned about several aspects of his condition. One was the possibility of the same thing occurring at any time. Another concern was Henman having another aneurysm

before he had a chance to recuperate—if so, the chances of survival were slim. More surgery was definitely needed but was delayed because of his health status at the time. The longer he remained in a coma, the chances of a full recovery diminished.

Henman remained in a coma for approximately three months. He suffered severe loss of memory and control of his basic motor skills. He needed extensive therapy in order to have a successful recovery. In addition to Henman's medical problems, a lack of insurance added to the complexity of the situation. That is when Henman's family called on the unit for some assistance. They asked if Henman's friends would volunteer one day a week to assist in therapy. By doing this, tremendous expenses could be cut from their bill. Three individuals jumped at the opportunity to assist this Desert Storm veteran: Sgt. 1st Class Eddie Richards, Sgt. Clarence Reese and his wife, Tammy Reese.

Richards felt obligated to help Henman. His commitment to putting the family back into the unit encouraged him to donate his time. Since then, Richards stated that Henman has made drastic improvements.

"When he started therapy, he was basically bedridden—he had no mobility," says Tammy Reese. "Now, he has some use of his left arm, he's starting to walk with assistance, feed himself and his speech has greatly improved."

"We are basically there to encourage him," Richards said. "Without someone there to motivate him, he could go down quickly. He needs someone there to motivate him to work a little harder and push himself."

Richards and the Reese's have been doing the therapy with Henman since January. They work with him once a week for an hour and a half at each session. The time donated by these three is greatly appreciated and reflects upon their unselfish desire to help a dear friend in need. They are excellent examples of what the Guard is—family—taking care of each other just as a biological family would.

Henman is no longer in the unit, but he is still part of the Guard family. Unit members try to include him in anything that they can.

Unit members miss many things about Henman. They miss his commitment to the missions and the hard work he put in every drill along with his sense of humor.

"What I miss most is joking around with him and giving him a hard time," said Spc. Howard Currence. "He was a good guy."

Tammy Reese says the whole experience has been very humbling and rewarding. "Volunteering my time and seeing a person try so hard to improve their condition is uplifting," Reese

said. "Henman has his fair share of bad days where he gets easily discouraged, but he's normally positive and puts forth a good effort during therapy."

It is wonderful to be a part of an organization that cares so much about its people, according to Henman. Richards, Reese and his wife are special. Their efforts are commendable. *Submitted by Lt. Kerry Gudakunst, Det. 1, 1487th Trans. Co.*

Ohio Air Guard lends support to minority youth conference

"The Guard needs to get smarter about how we reach out to young people," said Maj. Jeff Curry, 179th Airlift Wing navigator.

The Ohio Air National Guard did just that on Sept. 26 when seven members from across the state participated in the 1997 African-American Male Leadership Conference in Columbus, Ohio. The conference, hosted by Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc. and the Tabernacle Baptist Church, helped prepare minority youth for the life challenges of today and tomorrow.

More than 175 central Ohio high school juniors and seniors participated in a full day of workshops and listened to guest speakers. The Air Guard was there to lend support and information to the young men.

"We have a true commitment to reach out to youth," said Chief Master Sgt. James Mock, Headquarters Human Resource Management noncommissioned officer. "It's our duty to be role models."

Mock, a member of Phi Beta Sigma, realized the need for the National Guard's involvement after the first conference held in 1995.

"The National Guard is in the local community and should be more visible," he said. "This conference will help us interact and explain the many benefits of Air Guard membership."

"The National Guard serves as an inspiration," said 1st Lt. Marlon Crook of Air Guard headquarters. "I hope we impress a lot of beliefs. If you're grounded in beliefs, you're less likely to stray."

Workshop topics focused on the relevant issues that impact the African-American male, including healthy lifestyles, emotional and physical self control, economic empowerment, and male and female relations.

The keynote speaker was Jim Clemons, the Dallas Mavericks basketball coach. Clemons talked about his accomplishments and goals in the basketball industry and about his life as a youngster.

"At age 16, my grandfather told me there would always be time for parties and girls," Clemons said. "I'm now 48 years old and I'm telling you there's still time for parties and girls. Don't get wrapped up in all that, follow your dreams first."

Also speaking at the conference was Brig. Gen. John H. Smith, assistant adjutant general for Air. He opened the ceremonies by delivering a message about leadership and responsibility: "We hope these young men make the correct choices that allow them to grow as adults and hopefully contribute to their community and the world." *Submitted by Staff Sgt. Shannon Scherer, HQ, Ohio ANG.*

Meanest PFC of Army awarded certificate

Just another boring day, thought Pfc. Troy McMichaels of Company A, 112th Engineer Battalion, Wooster, Ohio, during annual training at Camp Grayling, Mich. Just another duty assignment for this little private—being the front gate security guard for Range 20, demolition range.

"My job was to stop traffic when the range went hot and allow traffic in and out when the next squad was not priming explosives in the mine field—which meant staying awake and alert," McMichaels said.

Then onto Range road came a HMMWV. Inside were four officers: a colonel, two majors and a captain. Their radio was squawking loudly. McMichaels told them to turn it off because of the explosives being used on the range. The colonel stepped out and approached the gate. "We're here to view your training. Open the gate," he said.

McMichaels replied, "I'm sorry, sir. The range just went hot. You cannot enter."

"Open the gate private. It's our job to view your training," the colonel demanded. Again, McMichaels told them no.

"What is your name private?" questioned the colonel. "What is your unit? What is your commander's name?" he continued. "Open this gate!"

After another negative blow to the colonel's

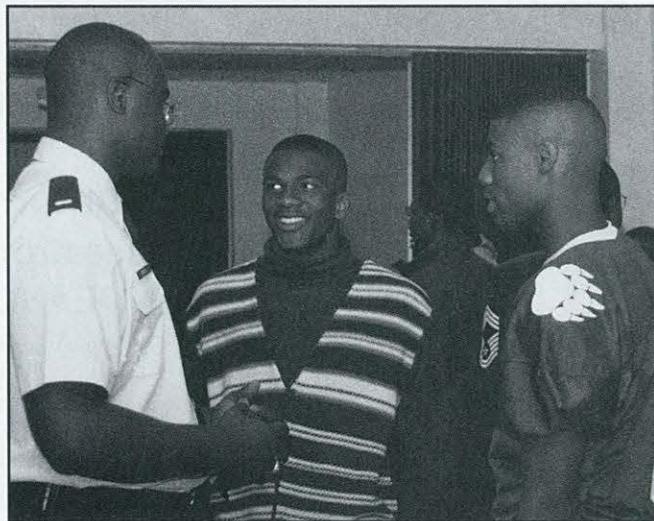


Photo by SSgt. Shannon Scherer, OHANG.

1st Lt. Marlon Crook talks with two local high school students during the African-American Male Leadership Conference.

authority, he and the other officers left—rattled and furious. Shortly afterwards, an explosion was heard on the range as a mine field was breached.

For McMichaels, the rest of the day was uneventful. "I was thankful for that, but I still wondered if I had done the right thing. I thought their safety was the key issue, so I told them no."

That evening, back at the unit, McMichaels was called out of evening formation by Capt. Hal Kendrick, commander of Company A. "I'm in for it now," McMichaels thought as he saluted Kendrick. Then the commander read the following citation aloud: "For doing your duty well. To Pfc. Troy S. McMichaels, 'Meanest Pfc. of the Army,' July 14, 1997. I present you with an Army Certificate of Appreciation as Soldier of the Day."

A round of applause from his peers, along with an Ohio Sergeant Major's coin, completed the award for McMichaels. Command Sgt. Maj. Jack Farrant of the 112th Engineer Battalion presented McMichaels with the coin, which is given to exemplary soldiers.

By the end of lanes training, McMichaels shared the spotlight with more than 20 other soldiers who received awards for being exemplary soldiers. *Submitted by Spc. Neal Powers, Company A, 112th Engineer Battalion.*

AAFES introduces new ways to save

AAFES has a new pricing strategy called 4-Ways to Save. The program offers savings for all our customers with special emphasis on young families and junior enlisted personnel. In addition to its tabloid sale items and special buys, AAFES is introducing two major programs.

OneHOTprice will feature high-demand merchandise with a minimum savings of 25 percent off regular sale prices. Most oneHOTprice items will represent a 40 to 60 percent savings. And the Extra Value program has been expanded so consumers will see this merchandise at significantly lower prices throughout the exchange every day.

Visit your local exchange and discover privileges which are now an even greater benefit and value. (AAFES)



DANTES tests help earn a college degree

The Defense Activity for Non-Traditional Education Support, or DANTES, program offers a series of examinations in college and technical subjects designed to measure knowledge gained outside the traditional classroom setting.

Based on recommendations of the American Council on Education, many colleges and universities award college credit for successful completion of DANTES Subject Standardized Tests, or DSSTs, and the College Level Examination Program tests.

DSSTs and CLEPs are provided through the DANTES program at Army Education Centers to soldiers at no charge. Family members and DA civilians may participate on a self-pay, space-available basis for about \$30 for DSSTs and \$42 for CLEPs, per exam.

Test preparation manuals such as study guides, video tapes and computer assisted instruction are available at education centers at Army installations around the world. There is no charge for the use of these materials.

Your unit education counselor or the professional staff at your local Army Education Center can assist you in selecting from a wide range

of examinations which fit into your degree plan.

In addition, adult family members are eligible to participate in other educational programs and services on a space-available basis through Army Education Centers. (Army Families)

Tax information: Operation JOINT ENDEAVOR/GUARD

There is a wealth of information concerning the extension of combat zone tax benefits to soldiers away from home station in support of Operation JOINT ENDEAVOR/GUARD.

The Internal Revenue Service offers a wide variety of services (year round) to help soldiers with their federal income tax returns. Tax publications, toll-free telephone services, on line and e-mail access are a few examples.

The following are several IRS publications that address OJE/G:

IRS Publication 3, Armed Forces Tax Guide answers general questions.

The IRS also has Notice 96-34, which contains 37 questions and answers, and an Internal Revenue Bulletin #1996-24, June 1996.

These publications are available from the IRS and may be obtained by telephone, mail or with a computer and modem. Call the IRS toll-free at 1-800-829-3676 or write to: Internal Revenue Service, Forms Distribution Center, P.O. Box 25866, Richmond, Va. 23289. To obtain publications with a computer and modem, the IRS's Internet address is: <http://www.irs.ustreas.gov>. (Army Families)

AMVETS offers life membership

The AMVETS Department of Ohio, in commemoration of the 50th anniversary of President Truman signing its National Charter, is issuing an instant rebate on life membership. The AMVETS will instantly rebate \$75 of the \$150 life membership dues, during January and February 1998. This special rebate for guardmembers and reservists will be limited to January and February 1998 only. Do not miss out on this opportunity to be a member of the fourth largest veterans organization in Ohio and nationwide.

Membership in AMVETS is open to those who have served honorably in the United States Armed Services after September 1940, including active duty personnel.

Join at your local post or send \$75 directly to:

AMVETS Department of Ohio
1395 E. Dublin Granville Road #222
Columbus, Ohio 43229

Please include your name, address, gender, date of birth and branch of service.

For additional information call 1-800-OH-AMVET (1-800-642-6838). (AMVETS)

Publications make parenting easier

Health issues . . . Is your child protected against childhood diseases? How can you make sure your children are protected from potential harm? The Food and Drug Administration offers a set of three free publications tackling health and safety issues for kids. You can get them by sending your name and address to:

Free Kid Care, Pueblo, Colo. 81109. When you write, you'll also receive a free copy of the Consumer Information Catalog, which lists more than 200 free and low-cost federal publications on a variety of consumer topics.

School issues . . . As a parent there's a lot you can do to help your kids do better in school. It doesn't take a certified teacher to turn everyday experiences—reading books, playing a license plate game, going on a neighborhood walk—into simple lessons that give kids more confidence and success in class.

To help you choose books that will stimulate your kids' imagination and help them to learn, the National Endowment for the Humanities has compiled a list of what they believe to be the best children's books. Called *Timeless Classics*, the books are arranged for kids from kindergarten through grade 12.

To order this publication, send your name, address, and a check or money order (no cash) for \$1 to Fun Learning, Pueblo, Colo. 81109. When you write, you'll also receive a free copy of the Consumer Information Catalog which lists more than 200 free and low-cost federal publications on a variety of consumer topics.

Also, connect to the Consumer Information Center's web site <http://www.pueblo.gsa.gov> for the catalog, hundreds of publications, consumer news and tips. (Army Families)

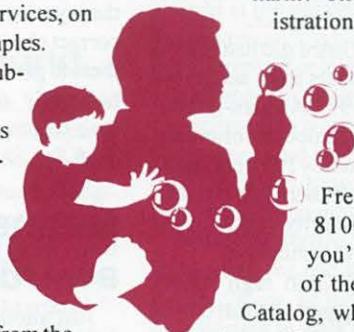




Photo by TSgt. Kim Frey, 121st ARW.

Recovery in the Desert

**The 121st Air Refueling Wing leads first hands-on aircraft recovery exercise at the 'boneyard' in Tuscon, Arizona.
For more, see pages 20-21.**

The Arlington Color Guard honors
the 93rd Bombardment Group for
their service in World War II.
For more, see page 18.



Photo by SSgt. Shannon Scherer, HQ, OHANG.

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