

# Buckeye GUARD

Summer 1997

*A mission for the  
good of the  
people*



Courtesy Photo

**“Up and around the bend” on Route 49 in Scioto County came to an end as high water and debris obscured the way. For more, see pages 9 - 21.**

# Buckeye GUARD

Summer 1997, Vol. 21, No. 2

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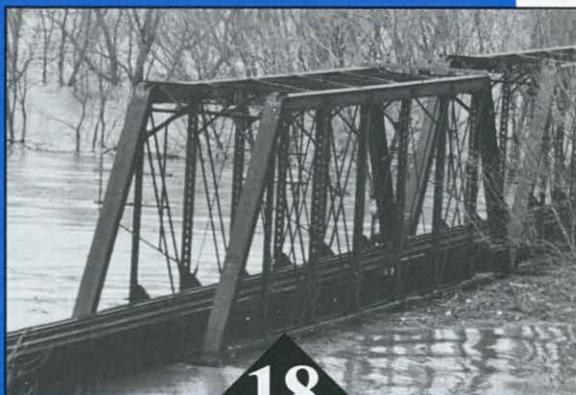
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**ABOUT THE COVER:** A Ripley resident stands silent, watching Staff Sgt. Michael McConnell and Staff Sgt. Brian Ross remove an unstable sign from a local business. *Photo by Marley C. Starkey, Battery F, 134th Field Artillery.*



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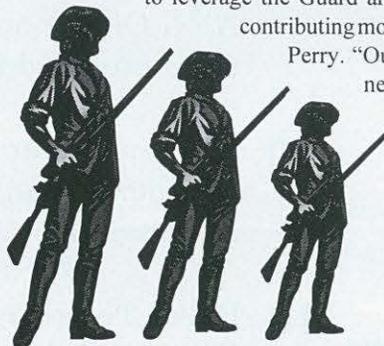
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The *Buckeye Guard* staff always welcomes articles that cover interesting Guard personalities and unique unit training. Deadlines for submissions are:

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

## NATIONAL NEWS

**DoD announces National Guard reduction.** The Department of Defense (DoD) force structure reductions and unit inactivations for Fiscal Year 1997 (FY97) resulted in a net loss of 10,608 personnel slots for the Army National Guard and an increase of 289 slots for the Air National Guard. Army Guard force structure went from 413,530 in FY96 to 402,922 in FY97, while the Air Guard went from 113,344 to 113,633 during the same period. By FY99, however, the Army Guard force structure will be increased to 405,000 as prescribed by the Offsite Agreement, and the Air Guard will be reduced to 111,500. "We have seen improvements in National Guard and Reserve personnel readiness because we strive to put our people first," said William Perry, former secretary of defense. "We have downsized, but we've done it smartly by restructuring without hollowing out the force. We had a master plan in which we decided what we wanted our military to be able to do," said Perry. "Then we sized and shaped the force accordingly, making it a priority to look for smart, mission-effective ways to leverage the Guard and Reserves." As a result, the Guard and Reserve are



contributing more than ever to the daily work of the active-duty forces, said Perry. "Our National Guard and Reserve forces of the future will, of necessity, be smaller," said Perry. "But they will be more essential to our nation's military readiness, our capability to deter aggression and our flexibility to respond effectively to crises here at home and worldwide," he said. "Such increased reliance on the National Guard and Reserve is at the very foundation of this administration's national security strategy." A complete list of Guard unit inactivations is available to the public by calling (703) 697-5737. The list is also available on the World Wide Web using the key word "Defense LINK." (AFIS)

**'Don't ask, don't tell' headed for showdown.** There is a chance that the constitutionality of the military gay ban could be decided by the Supreme Court by late 1997. While the high court refused to hear the first appeal under "don't ask, don't tell" in October, several cases now either decided by or pending before lower federal courts could leave the military services with unclear directives on the law's legality, inviting Supreme Court review. Under "don't ask, don't tell," servicemembers who say they are gay have the opportunity to remain on duty by appearing before a discharge board and rebutting the presumption that they will engage in banned homosexual acts. Gay-rights activists plan to press the courts in the coming year to overturn a policy they deem discriminatory because it violates constitutional guarantees of free speech and equal protection under the law. "The facts show that the military's rationale for the gay ban is baseless," said Michele Benecke of the Servicemembers Legal Defense Network, a gay-rights organization spearheading the fight against "don't ask, don't tell." "If the court is willing to look at those facts, we'll win," said Benecke. "If it defers to the fears of the military brass, we'll lose." Proponents of the gay ban will hold their ground in court, while trying to sway a conservative Congress to put muscle into a law they believe prohibits any homosexual from serving in the military. "Don't ask, don't tell," which became law in 1994 after contentious debate between the Clinton administration and Congress, took measures to protect individual privacy but left the proscription on homosexuality intact. "We will try to get Congress to force the administration and the Pentagon to abide by the law," said retired Lt. Col. Robert Maginnis of the Family Resource Center, a conservative organization that supports the gay ban. "We continue to believe that the law is very different from what is being implemented," Maginnis said. (AFIS)

## Nation's 20th Secretary of Defense promises face-to-face leadership.

In an interview shortly after being confirmed as secretary of defense, William S. Cohen pledged to visit the troops in the field as often as he can. After spending time learning the ropes at the Pentagon, Cohen said, he will try to schedule frequent visits to field sites. Cohen also said he plans to continue the quarterly senior-enlisted visits started by his predecessor, William Perry. Maintaining quality people and high readiness and modernizing the force top Cohen's agenda as the 56-year-old from Bangor, Maine, takes the reins as the nation's 20th defense secretary. Cohen said his greatest challenge as secretary will be to take advantage of the immense talent in the military. "The one thing I still get a spinal shiver about when I meet the men and women who serve here is the enormous intelligence, dedication and can-do spirit," he said. "Most people are unaware of how good the military really is at carrying out the missions we assign to them." Cohen said his job is to shape the military's enormous capability and maintain the high level of readiness and morale in the face of budget cuts. (AFIS)

## Retention needs attention at all levels

Dear General Martin,

I would first like to thank you for taking the time to read this letter.

My enlistment ended in January 1997, but I am still concerned about the retention problems in the Ohio National Guard. Our command sergeant major informed us recently that higher commands are looking to possibly strip certain units out of this state. That would be a serious loss not only to the state, but to the families that belong to the Guard.

I had 11 years active duty before joining the 148th Infantry Battalion in Lima, Ohio. I have had a lot of good times with fellow members and put forth a lot of hard work which provided some great team building. It is sad to say that I can see no future in the Guard for myself. However, other good soldiers may not be lost if more attention is paid to the junior NCOs. Greater attention needs to be shown to these individuals who possess the assets the Guard needs and can cultivate. For too long, all we heard was "take care of the private." We were able to do that but neglected to take care of the junior NCOs. The implied intention was that we were going to stay in anyway.

Well sir, if any of this letter helps the Guard retain one good person, then I will have made a change. It is sad that the Ohio Militia looks better to me for advancement than the Guard. I am in a uniform only to serve my country the best I can.

Thank you for your time.

**David Gross**  
Staff Sgt., Ohio ARNG

## From one big family to another

I come from a family of seven. My parents raised me to believe in and put God first in everything I do. I am thankful for the moral, spiritual and mental support I receive from my family.

It has been over two years now since I joined the Army National Guard. I enlisted to gain more independence and become an example to my three younger siblings and my friends. I will never forget the day I met my recruiter, Staff Sgt. Reginald Johnson. I was working as a waiter and he sat at one of my tables. We started talking about life after high school. He asked me if I had ever thought about joining the Army. Not knowing he was a recruiter, I said I wasn't interested in joining the military. Johnson was persistent, spoke with confidence and was very

convincing. Obviously, he was successful. Joining the military has not only opened my eyes to the Army but to life as well.

Since joining the National Guard, I have acquired a couple of different trades. I have a 75D PMOS (Personnel Records Specialist). I am in the 337th Personnel Services Detachment and the "first to work" under the direction of a great commander, Capt. Mark T. Ahles. I have also worked at HQ STARC Supply with Sgt. James Frye. I was really amazed by his determination to make improvements. Frye had ideas and set goals even before he had moved into the office. He was motivated, inspired and dedicated.

Now I am working in the USP&FO purchasing and contracting department. My supervisor has been a teacher and a friend. I want to thank him for his patience during my trial and error of learning the job.

By joining the Army National Guard I have a great new job and a slew of extended family members, as well as my current best friend. Needless to say, the Guard has been good to me. I owe Sgt. Johnson a "Thank you!"

**Ira Daniels**  
Pfc., Ohio ARNG

## Disney World glows with Shades of Green

Fellow Guardmembers,

It was my distinct pleasure to stay at the military hotel in Orlando with my entire family.

The hotel, called Shades of Green, is on the immediate Walt Disney World (WDW) property. The complex is excellent — first-class quality. You are afforded all the rights of WDW transportation and early entry into the parks. You cannot beat the hotel discount price for tickets

into WDW or any other Orlando attraction, which is based on your rank. Anyone in the Ohio National Guard planning a trip to Disney World in Florida should check out this facility.

**Dick Simon**  
Chief Warrant Officer (Ret.)

For more information write or call:  
Shades of Green Hotel, PO Box 22789  
Lake Buena Vista, FL 32830-2789

Hotel Direct Phone: ..... 1-407-824-3400  
Fax: ..... 1-407-824-3460  
Reservations Phone: ..... 1-407-824-3600  
Fax: ..... 1-407-824-3665



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Beginning with the May 1997 issue, commander's call topics (CCT) will be distributed only in electronic format. The transition to a paperless format will ensure you receive CCT in a timely manner and eliminate postal costs. To continue receiving CCT, subscribe electronically through one of the following methods:

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Login: anonymous

Password: guest (or use your e-mail address)

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FAX your Letters to the Editor to DSN 273-3820 or commercial (614) 766-3820. Mail letters to AGOH-PA, ATTN: Buckeye Guard, 2825 West Dublin Granville Road, Columbus, OH 43235-2789. All submissions are subject to editing based on space and style considerations.



# Command Focus

Brig. Gen. John H. Smith, Asst. Adjutant General for Air

## Update on Ohio's Air National Guard

In many respects, 1996 was a watershed year for the Ohio Air National Guard. Practically all of our units participated in a major contingency deployment during the past year. Compare that to the Air National Guard that many of us joined 20 years ago.

Until Total Force came about in the mid to late 1970s, unit deployments consisted of yearly annual training treks to a Guard training center.

The Guard did support major contingencies, but it was usually in a mobilized status. The Berlin Airlift of 1947, the Korean War, Berlin again in 1961 and Vietnam are vivid examples of the Guard's mobilized response to our country's needs. Today, however, we still respond, but we do it in a less formalized way. We are counted on to "volunteer" as part of the Total Force and to assist our active counterparts in the pursuit of our national interests.

Many of you welcome the opportunity to participate in an ongoing manner in these important contingencies. Conversely, many of you face increasing demands and hard choices in trying to balance the needs of family, employer and the Guard. Most of you are probably asking the question, do the experiences of 1996 and those so far in 1997 predict what will be happening in the foreseeable future? Probably so. There are indications and developments within DoD and the Air Force that support this contention.

I do not foresee an expanding military in the United States in the next several years. As a matter of fact, I believe that the military will continue to decline with respect to force structure, equipment and infrastructure. But, I do not see major changes in the immediate future for the Air Guard as a result of this reduction. As the active forces decrease their force structure, there

will be continued and probably increased reliance on the Guard and Reserve. In time, the Air Force will transform its forces to adapt to a changed world that is still very unstable. In fact, there are parts of the world that are going to be unstable for quite some time.

The realities that strengthen this need to transform are quite obvious. In years past, we had a good understanding of the enemy and its accom-

*"Although advanced equipment and computers can go a long way in making us a more effective force, people will continue to be our most important asset."*

panying array of threats. We tended to portray the world situation as a struggle between theirs and ours. Today, and for the foreseeable future, there is great unpredictability as to whom our opponents are and what are the challenges.

The combination of these new, emerging strategies and realities lead to the premise that U.S. forces must be able to engage globally in a very timely and accurate manner. It will follow multilateral connections as we sponsor the expansion of democracy to third-world countries that will need assistance to establish themselves as sovereign, self-governing nations. I can imagine overnight responses to crises that require U.S. intervention to stabilize a situation within a country or particular region. I can imagine limited engagement, immediate in nature, that requires precise application of airpower to counter a serious terrorist threat on our nation or ally.

Where the commitment is long term, such as JOINT ENDEAVOR or PROVIDE COMFORT or SOUTHERN WATCH, the Guard will be involved. When the commitment involves a large infusion of mobility assets, the Guard will be involved. Time does not allow a discussion nor am I smart enough to elaborate on the circumstances that would require "mobilization" rather than a

"volunteer" response from the Guard. Suffice to say, we, the Guard, will continue to play a major role in carrying out our country's interests.

What does this mean to us today? Undoubtedly, the most critical element to be able to respond as I described above, is the existence of a ready force. That readiness must include the best weaponry and equipment available, advanced intelligence and information systems that allow us to track and locate the threat, and most importantly, dedicated and highly trained people. The Guard has demonstrated its ability to answer the call and do the job professionally. There is not much doubt that we will continue to be called upon. Our ability to respond will depend more on the availability of our people than it will on any other factor. That is why it will continue to be important to be able to attract and retain dedicated, competent people.

As the assistant adjutant general for Ohio's Air National Guard, I welcome the challenges we face in this rapidly changing world. Although advanced equipment and computers can go a long way in making us a more effective force, people will continue to be our most important asset. I consider my most important responsibility to be the effective management of our most critical resource, people. Although we do not foresee significant mission changes in the near future, in time our units will see changes that follow the transformation that will occur in the Air Force. We must be prepared to accept those changes. In fact, with one of the largest, most diverse and competent ANG forces in the country, we need to be first in line. Again, we get there with good people.

You can anticipate that the leadership of the Ohio Air National Guard will be emphasizing programs to not only attract quality people, but that within the Ohio ANG, people have the opportunity for a fulfilling career. I look forward to working with all of you toward that end. ■

## DSCC still serves national defense needs

A vital U.S. military base since 1918, the 570-acre installation known today as the Defense Supply Center, Columbus (DSCC), continues to serve the nation as one of the most important installations in the Department of Defense (DoD).

Renamed in 1996 for the 14th time in its history, the present organization is a product of the 1993 Base Realignment and Closure Commission (BRAC) decision to merge the former Defense Construction Supply Center (DCSC) with the former Defense Electronics Supply Center of Dayton.

Additional BRAC decisions in 1995 added to the defense role of DSCC and further refined its transition toward one of the nation's premier weapon systems management organizations. Today, DSCC is a procurement and supply organization supporting the military services, other DoD components and federal/civil agencies around the world. Known to 22,000 military and civilian customers as the largest supplier of weapon systems spare parts and end items, DSCC is one of the Defense Logistics Agency's (DLA) inventory control points.

Not only does the installation serve as the largest DLA organization outside the agency's Fort Belvoir, Va., headquarters, but the facility also serves 26 other defense and governmental tenants. The tenants' spectrum of activities vary from weapon system management and defense finance to telecommunications support, automated information support, computer systems support, security and even surplus disposal.

In 1962, the installation became known as the Defense Construction Supply Center under the Defense Supply Agency. From that time, DCSC and later DSCC, worked to establish direct and fast moving supply lines to support U.S. troops in all parts of the world through the Cold War, Korean and Vietnam wars, Desert Storm and other conflicts and humanitarian relief efforts. DSCC is responsible for developing and executing planned emergency support actions in accordance with DLA War and Emergency Plans.

Today, after numerous name changes that describe an evolution of missions and service in every major military engagement since World War I, DSCC continues to hold an important place in the defense of this great country.

As one of the DoD's largest procurement organizations for consumable management, DSCC had sales of \$913 million in 1996. Procurement was in the \$800 million range for its 22,000 customers.

In a nutshell, DSCC purchases material, monitors inventory levels, maintains technical data and assures quality conformance. The items DSCC buys and manages are shipped directly from the

contractor facilities or stored at distribution depots until requisitioned by customers and shipped worldwide.

Today's workforce consists of about 3,000 people employed in a unique operating structure that consists of self-directed, multifunctional work teams. Their focus is directed toward supporting weapons systems organized by their application in combat. There are four "Applications Groups"—Land, Aerospace, Maritime and Commodities. Each of the groups specialize in specific weapon systems. For example, Aerospace focuses on airplanes, helicopters and missiles. The Land group includes trucks, tanks and cranes. Maritime consists of ships, submarines and landing crafts. Commodity focuses on lumber, piping and miscellaneous items. The remainder of the work force supports the four groups with administrative and maintenance functions.

DSCC manages 1.8 million items with 60 percent of those items supporting some 1,300 primary weapons systems. The center is one of the largest employers in the Columbus area with an annual payroll of almost \$91 million. Every year, DSCC employees pay approximately \$8 million in payroll taxes to the cities of Whitehall and Columbus and to the state of Ohio.

In regard, to business dollars, DSCC spends almost \$800 million in contract dollars per year, while the Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS) disperses \$85 billion per year. The Defense Distribution Depot Columbus handled 1.5 million line items in fiscal year 1996.

DSCC handled 5.3 million requisitions last year and had total sales of \$1.84 billion.

For more information about DSCC, contact the web site at <http://www.dsccl.com/internal.html>. Reprinted from the Columbus Federal Voice.

### Here is a list of some of the installation's name changes and the year the change occurred.

1918	.....	Columbus Quartermaster Reserve Depot
1930	.....	Columbus General Depot
1942	.....	Columbus Quartermaster Depot
1943	.....	Columbus Army Service Forces Depot
1946	.....	Columbus General Depot
1947	.....	Columbus General Distribution Depot, U.S. Army
1948	.....	Columbus General Depot, U.S. Army
1962	.....	Columbus Army Depot
1963	.....	Defense Construction Supply Center
1996	.....	Defense Supply Center, Columbus

## Command Profile



### Col. Gregory L. Wayt Commandant, 145th Regiment (RTI)

Age: 44

**Occupation:** Director of Plans, Operations, Training and Military Support.

**Life has taught me:** Never go by first impressions of people. Applying leadership and empowerment creates an amazing environment and the least expected person will surprise you.

**If I could have just one day all to myself, I would:** Play golf.

**The one film I would have liked to have starred in:** Kelly's Heroes.

**When no one's looking I:** Attempt to organize my thoughts, work and family.

**When I was little I wanted to be:** A professional golfer.

**The worst advice I ever received was:** Don't go to college (by my high school principal).

**The best advice I ever received was:** Never quit educating yourself.

**If I could dine with anyone, past or present, I would invite:** My father (deceased) and father-in-law.

**The best moment of my life happened when I:** Married my wife, Debbie, and the birth of our daughter.

**My favorite book:** 7 Habits of Highly Effective People.

**My favorite movie:** Rainman.

**If I could leave today's guardmembers with one piece of advice it would be:** Always be proactive, use your initiative and act rather than to be acted upon.

# And baby makes three . . .

## *Air Guard major gives two little girls a home*



**Maj. Mary Tom Williams poses with her children (from left) Brandi, Chelsea and Coreona.**

**Story and photo by  
Staff Sgt. Lori King  
196th Public Affairs Detachment**

**B**aby Chelsea was only a day old when an agent from Toledo's Children Services Board (CSB) crossed her fingers and dialed the number of Maj. Mary Tom Williams.

The agent wanted to know if the Ohio Air National Guard officer would take another child into her loving home. She explained that the baby's mother was giving the child up, and the agency wanted to find a good home for the baby girl as soon as possible.

"Getting this newborn came from out of the blue," described Williams as she fondly recalled that day nearly three years ago. "I guess if you don't ask for a newborn, you

get one," she laughed.

Williams, chief of Social Actions in the 180th Fighter Wing in Toledo, already had two children: Brandi, her biological child, 15; and Coreona, 11, whom she adopted seven years ago.

"I already knew about sleeplessness, potty training and all the other things that come with newborns," she explained. "So I was actually looking for another little girl between the ages of two and four. I didn't have anything in the house for a newborn."

Ready or not, CSB offered Williams 24 hours to prepare for her third child. "Can you pick her up at the hospital tomorrow at 10?" the agent inquired.

The next day, Brandi and Coreona had a baby sister.

It's a remarkable story of a

single parent who selflessly opened her heart to two homeless children.

It all started in 1985, when Williams was still living with her husband. She said the adoption process took a long time, about five years. When the adoption finally went through, she had separated from her husband and filed the papers as a single parent.

"I was beginning to wonder what was wrong with me. I had a good job, a home, no bad habits, wasn't a convicted criminal. So I kept bugging them," recalled Williams, a

librarian at the Lucas County Main Library in Toledo who holds a master's degree in library science.

Her determination paid off. She adopted then 4-year-old Coreona in 1990.

Williams said she always intended to adopt more than one child. "I told them (CSB) to keep me on the books, that I'm still interested."

You know the rest of the story.

Williams, 43, and her daughters now live contentedly in a quiet, upscale subdivision outside of Toledo. She still works at the main library, but has since been promoted to the position of staff training coordinator.

She credits her regimented military habits for being able to successfully juggle the responsibilities of holding down demanding leadership positions in two jobs, and raising three bright, active daughters.

"The military sees things in black and white, which teaches you to prioritize and deal with things as needed, like what can be put off until later, what do I have to do now, and when can I throw something in," explained Williams, who has been in the Air Guard for 19 years now. "As for myself, the military has enhanced and honed my people skills. It's been very beneficial.

"The military also allows my kids to see their mother in a different light. When we go through the gate and the guard salutes me, that recognition of my rank shows them another aspect of the person I am. I'm not just a mom or a librarian. It impresses them."

She said they also witness the military bearing in their mother, which they probably think they can do without. "When I start firing off a lot of rapid-fire directions, like: 'you go there, you do this,' they'll salute me! It's really funny," she laughs.

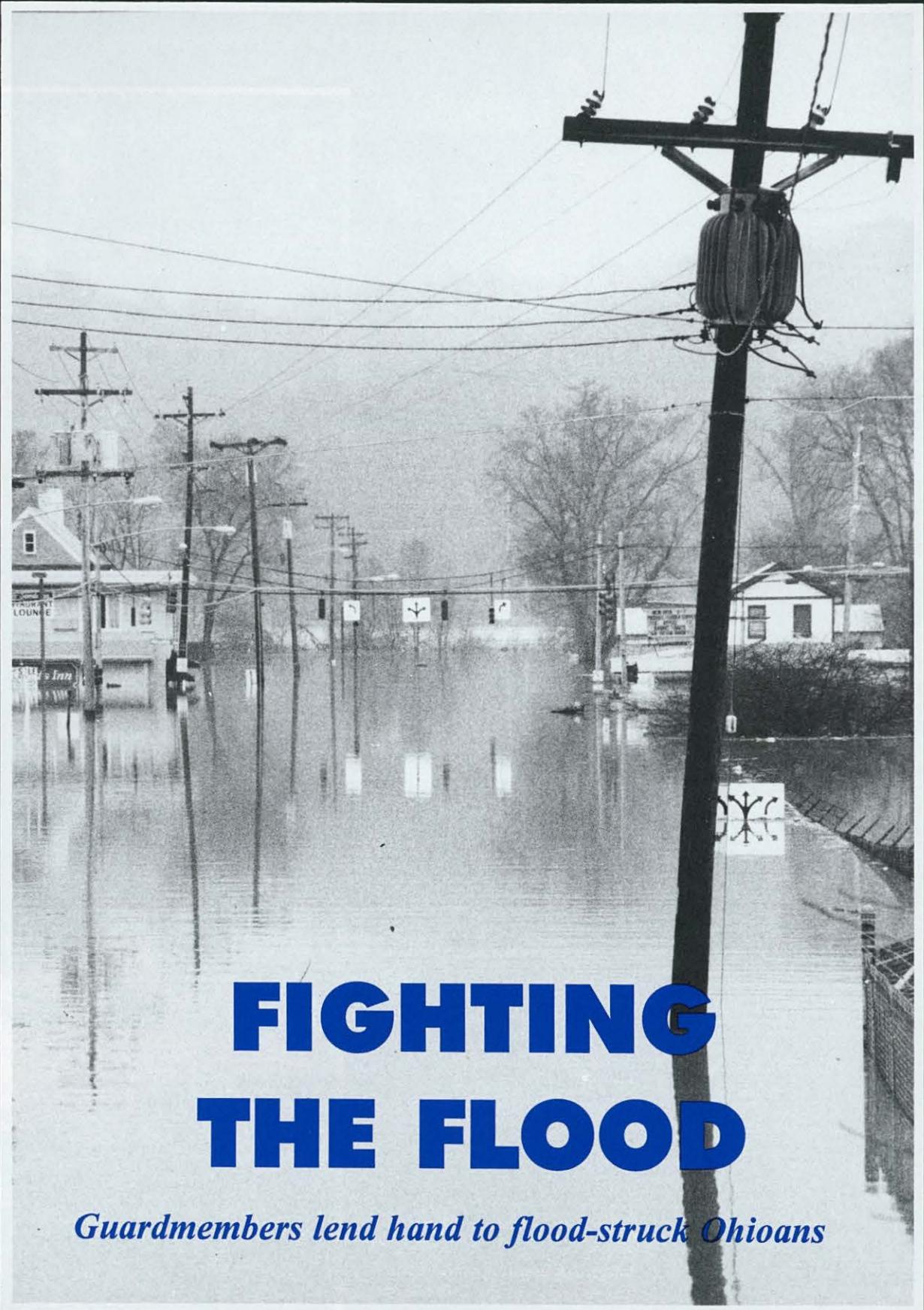
"I get the idea I may be sounding like I'm giving a bunch of orders. Then again," she pauses, "people at the library accuse me of doing that too."

Though it has not been easy, Williams is happy devoting her love and energy to her three children. To watch them interact together, one would never know two of the three girls weren't hers from day one.

Maybe Williams should keep her newborn stuff, just in case. ■

*Citizen Spotlight* is a feature 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



# FIGHTING THE FLOOD

*Guardmembers lend hand to flood-struck Ohioans*

Photo by Sgt. Nicole Smith, HQ STARC (-Det 1-5)

# Spring floods ravage southern Ohio counties

For thousands of residents of southern Ohio, the flash floods that marked the spring of 1997 will not soon be forgotten. While torrential rains flooded nearly every waterway in the region in a matter of hours, it will take months, if not years, to recover from the path of destruction left behind.

On March 1, Gov. George V. Voinovich declared a state of emergency in 14 Ohio counties, with three others added in the days following. The governor called on the Ohio National Guard for help on March 2, with soldiers and airmen assisting in evacuations, repairing roads, removing debris, purifying water and constructing flood gates.

"We have a lot of roads that have shifted and the blacktop has rolled off of them, along with destroyed bridges and washed-out culverts," said Jane Cahall, director of the Emergency Management Agency (EMA) in Brown County. "We also have a large number of mudslides and hillsides that have just caved in," said Cahall during the flood crisis.

More than 20,000 people were evacuated from the southern Ohio area that was declared a major disaster by President Clinton. Financial relief was offered to thousands of residents displaced or left homeless due to the flooding. Federal assistance included disaster housing grants and low interest loans for individuals and business owners trying to recover damaged property. All 17 counties were declared eligible, with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) coordinating relief efforts from regional offices.

In a show of concern from the Oval Office, Vice President Al Gore flew into Ohio March 5. He spoke to citizens of Hamilton County and toured other affected areas that were swamped with mud, trash and debris from the river that topped 64 feet that day—the highest flooding stage in 33 years. Gore was met by Ohio Adjutant General Maj. Gen. Richard C. Alexander and Lt. Gov. Nancy P. Hollister, who also were touring some of the areas that were hardest hit.

On March 7, Alexander accompanied the governor to three of the most heavily damaged areas, starting with the Village of New Richmond in Clermont County. Voinovich and Alexander met with New Richmond Mayor Jack F. Gooding and concerned residents.

"Approximately 800 families live in the village, with 85 percent of them in the flood plain region," said Gooding. "The hardest hit were the lower income families."

Guard bulldozers cleared timber and other debris from countless waterways in southern Ohio.





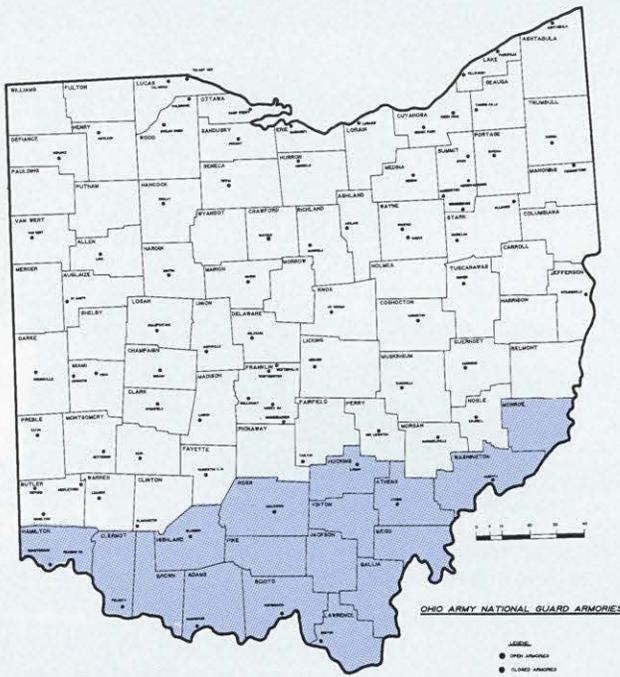
## FIGHTING THE FLOOD



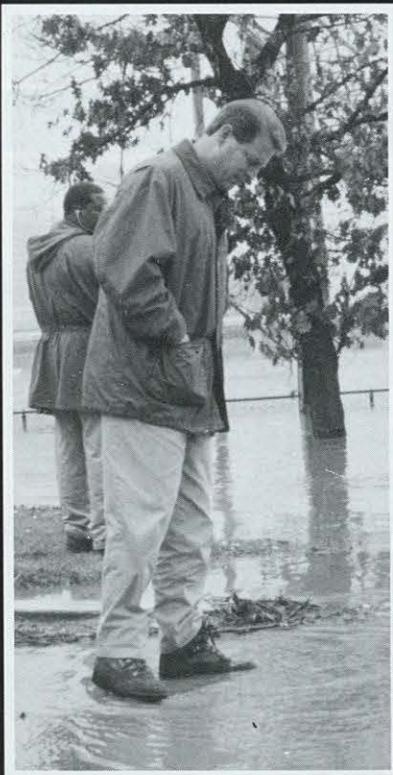
ABOVE: Floodgates were built and sandbags were piled to control rising water. RIGHT: Engineers hauled nearly 5,000 dump truck loads, including debris removed from the disaster sites and building materials delivered to the areas. FAR RIGHT: Vice President Al Gore sees firsthand the flood damage in southern Ohio.



Counties declared in state of emergency



- Adams
- Athens
- Brown
- Clermont
- Gallia
- Hamilton
- Highland
- Hocking
- Jackson
- Lawrence
- Meigs
- Monroe
- Pike
- Ross
- Scioto
- Vinton
- Washington



The governor addressed some of the mayor's concerns including the future of the homes and the cost of getting things back to normal again. "The state of Ohio will pick up 25 percent of the cost to help the community clean up, clear out and rebuild if necessary," said Voinovich. He added that he was very pleased with the response and accomplishments of the state administration and Ohio National Guard.

"Seeing the governor and the AG was quite a relief," said Gooding. "I feel their visit makes them more accessible to those affected. We expect their visit to help expedite the cleanup process and back up our need for manpower, equipment and supplies."

"We started cleaning mud and debris from the primary roads first and brought in power brooms to sweep the secondary roadways," said Lt. Col. Mike Ernst, the Ohio National Guard liaison for Clermont County.

"Pumps were supplied to drain flooded basements, public facilities and administration buildings. Water buffalos and 5,000-gallon tankers rolled in to distribute water to the residents throughout the area," he said. "We also helped the Ohio Department of Transportation with bridge inspections when needed.

"Since day one," he said, "we were kept busy."

According to Jack Horn, the administration assistant superintendent of New Richmond, residents were happy to see the soldiers, who were involved throughout the entire clean up.

"It started when the Guard rode in on the evening of March 3. It was still dry at the time, so I took them down to the village," said Horn. "I had them moving equipment and furniture to a higher level in the administration building. They did an incredible job without one complaint.



“The people here are extremely grateful,” he said, “and so am I.” To the Guard, Horn says, “THANKS! And that’s an understatement!”

Voinovich and Alexander then flew to the town of Blue Creek in Adams County. Blue Creek, a small community in the hilly region of the county, suffered severe damage to its roads and bridges.

Soldiers from the 216th Engineer Battalion out of Tarlton worked with the local fire department and Department of Transportation to mend the damage. Culverts, streams and creeks were overflowing with water and polluted with debris. Several gravel roads were completely washed away, while roads surfaced with blacktop had buckled and crumpled from the raging force of the floodwaters. Many of the bridges also were damaged or destroyed.

Residents who owned mobile homes suffered some of heaviest damage as their trailers were picked up and moved to other locations.

“I watched as water from the creek surrounded my neighbors’ homes,” said Claudia Hackworth, Blue Creek resident and mobile home owner. She described how the banks of the creek had been washed away, uprooting one large tree that lodged itself lengthwise across the muddy waterway. It completely blocked the flow of water, catching all of the debris from upstream including two bridges that had collapsed. The water began to spill over the banks, moving rapidly toward the homes of Hackworth and her neighbors.



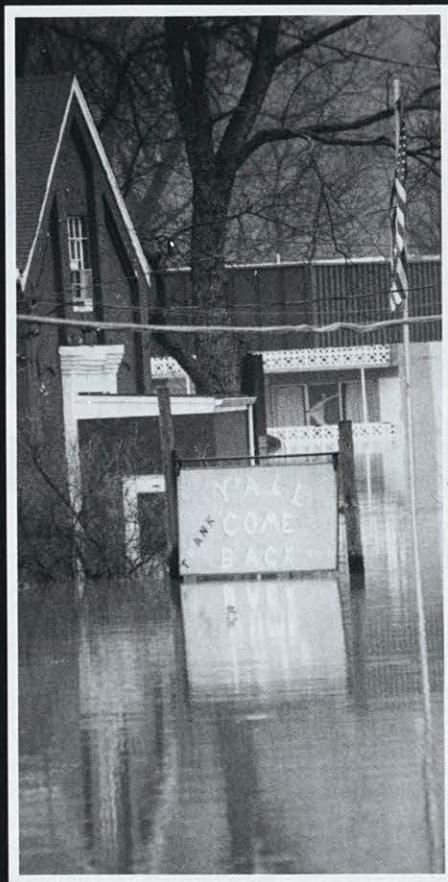


ABOVE: Thousands of Ohio residents were forced to flee their homes in the wake of the "Flood of '97." FAR LEFT: A Guardmember cuts cleared timber into manageable limbs to be hauled to a local dump site. LEFT: Gov. George V. Voinovich gets briefed on relief efforts conducted by the Guard.



ABOVE: Guard engineers worked to rebuild roads that were destroyed by rushing water during spring floods. RIGHT: Staff Sgt. Michael P. McConnell, 216th Eng. Bn., lends a helping hand to a young cleanup volunteer. FAR RIGHT: Communities affected by the floods thought of creative ways to show their appreciation for recovery efforts.





"The water got as close as my front porch before it began to back off," said Hackworth. She breathed a sigh of relief when Guard engineers showed up, laboring for several hours to clear the timber and debris which finally set the creek free.

The city of Manchester, also located in Adams County, was almost completely submerged underwater. Military police units were sent to the town to help evacuate the residents, who were resistant to leave for fear of looters. The Guard, along with local law enforcement officers, provided security throughout the community until the town folk could return home.

After leaving Adams County, Voinovich and Alexander headed out to see the damage done in New Boston. They met with Scioto County Commissioner Opal Spears who gave them a tour of Lakeview Drive, the hardest hit area in the city. The state officials were invited to walk through some of the damaged homes, including that of Ethel Stone. A typical example of the flood damage, Stone's house was filled with water, standing as high as the counters in the kitchen. Again, the governor and AG assured local residents that their community would receive the fullest extent of resources the state had available.

In the end, the flooding in southern Ohio took five lives; damaged approximately 5,600 homes, destroying nearly 800; and caused an estimated \$180 million in damage.

Though this was a time of great loss, several significant gains can be counted as well. Numerous state agencies, including the National Guard, various relief organizations and complete strangers were able to pull together to aid the countless communities affected by the floods. Base needs were met at all ends of the spectrum. Debris was cleared, roads were repaired, security was provided, water was hauled and medical units provided vaccinations and other supplies. All the while, flood victims were offered emergency shelter, financial assistance and donations to include food, clothing, diapers, toys, furniture and appliances.

"No matter what organization you may be from, (at times like these) everyone pulls together," said Liaison Officer Capt. Leo Genders. "It makes a big difference when you have a common goal and the mission is for the good of the people." ■

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** Sgt. Steven R. Johnson and Spc Nancy McMillan, 196th Public Affairs Det., and Sgt. Nicole Smith, HQ STARC (1-Det 1-5), contributed to this story.

## Ohio Guard response at a glance

Air and Army guardmembers deployed .....	1,925
Missions accomplished .....	315
Engineering units deployed .....	13
Military Police units deployed .....	4
Air Guard units deployed .....	11
Medical units deployed .....	3
Other units deployed .....	20
<i>(transportation, water purification and maintenance)</i>	
Units involved in civilian evacuations .....	4
<i>(in four different counties)</i>	
Pieces of equipment involved .....	over 400
Dump truck loads .....	4,800
<i>(including debris hauled away from the disaster sites and building materials hauled to the areas)</i>	



Photo by Spc. Nancy McMillan

# Ohio River shows no mercy

## *Town of Ripley seeks help, offers thanks*

Story by Sgt. Steven R. Johnson and Spc. Nancy McMillan  
196th Public Affairs Detachment

The swift response of the Ohio National Guard was a blessing to those who suffered from the damage caused by this year's floods, one of the worst natural disasters in the state's history. Nowhere was this more apparent than in the town of Ripley, located on the banks of the Ohio River, where most residents were left homeless and helpless.

Units from the 216th Engineer Battalion, the 324th Military Police Company and the 118th Medical Company moved into Ripley on March 2, to begin relief efforts. Under the command of Capt. Scott Evans, the engineers, medics and MPs worked closely with the Brown County trustees and local authorities to lend a helping hand.

Based at Ripley Union Liberty Huntington (RULH) Learning Center, one of the few areas in town that sustained little or no damage, the Guard and Emergency Management Agency (EMA) coordinated and dispatched engineers to assess, clear and make repairs to areas washed out by the flooding.

For 13 days, the Guard handled the bulk of the recovery efforts with the help of the Ohio Department of Transportation. "The Guard was very helpful to the county," said Brown County Commissioner Dale Reynolds. "They did a great job and were well-prepared."

The work done at Myers Hollow, located just outside of Ripley, is one example of how the Guard helped an area which lost a much-needed access road. An embankment, approximately 250 feet high overlooking the only road leading to three homes and a herd of cattle, collapsed—completely covering and destroying the roadway and the berm running alongside the creek.

"I've never seen anything quite like this," said Staff Sgt. Brian Ross, the NCO in charge of the mudslide site. "It looks more like a continental drift. Tons of earth has shifted, taking with it trees and anything else that was in its way."

"Our objective is to give these families their road back," said Ross. "We will most likely give them a better road than they started with," he added.

On March 3, the engineers' first day on the site, a temporary route was cleared using D-7G bulldozers, 5-ton dump trucks and MW24C loaders.

"Before we arrived, the families were having to travel through the creek that ran parallel to the road," said Pfc. James Craig, a combat engineer and equipment operator for the 216th. "When we're through, they'll be able to use the road again."

"So far, we have hauled away at least 50 loads of dirt using the 5-ton dump truck," said Sgt. Everly McCully, a heavy equipment operator with the 612th. "And we're not finished yet."

In addition to hauling soggy earth from the path, removing large rocks and dragging away a 60-foot sycamore tree stretched across the road and waterway, the soldiers also built a shoulder alongside the creek.

For many of the soldiers involved in rebuilding the road, this type of work is nothing new. "Many of the soldiers here have years of experience on this type of equipment," said Ross, who works for Valley Construction Company in Cincinnati. "A lot of us are involved with construction in our civilian jobs," he explained.

But something these soldiers don't ordinarily experience on the job is the relationship formed with a community in need. "The township trustees and highway department have been great," said Ross. "They really appreciate our help. They have told us repeatedly that the work we have done in just a few days would have taken them weeks to do."

One of the farmers who lives at the end of what was once the road came

out to visit almost every day. "He always tells us that we are doing a good job and voices his appreciation," said Craig.

"I really enjoy putting my skills into action and helping others," he added.

Less than two weeks from when the relief efforts began, the entire town of Ripley hosted a thank-you banquet for the more than 100 Guardmembers and volunteers who temporarily called the city their home. In the auditorium of the leaning center, Guardmembers and area residents broke bread together as they honored one another for the combined support given during this crisis.

Emotions were soaring throughout the room as Guardmembers and civilians presented each other with certificates and plaques of appreciation. Jane Calhall, Brown County EMA director said of the Guard, "I never asked them to do something that they didn't say 'O.K. We can do it,' and I appreciate that from the bottom of my heart."

Ripley Mayor David Gray had kind words to say about Col. James Caldwell, commander of the 16th Engineer Brigade. "If I were president



Photo by Sgt. Steven R. Johnson, 196th PAD

### Guardmembers enjoy a banquet thrown in honor of those who came to the aid of the town of Ripley.

here the last few weeks, and I will never forget it," he said. To the guardmembers present he concluded, "When you return to your homes, you can go knowing that we care and we thank you." ■

of the United States, I'd pin that star (promoting Caldwell to general) on you tonight."

The students of RULH's audio/visual department presented a video which documented the flood damage and the city's recovery. As the tape played, everyone relived the horror and despair the flash floods brought to their community.

Evans, who helped coordinate the event, spoke to the audience with sincerity. "It has been a wonderful experience to meet all of you. My only regret is the tragedy that brought us together....I hope we never have to meet under these circumstances again."

As the banquet came to a close, Dr. Steve Oborn, RULH superintendent and host of the event, gave an emotional final address to the honorees. "The National Guard has been a big, significant and important part of our lives

## Soldier talks money with students at Ripley school

Story by Sgt. Steven R. Johnson  
196th Public Affairs Detachment

When the Ohio National Guard was activated to provide relief to the communities affected by the spring floods, tons of mud and debris were hauled away and several miles of road were repaired. While many Guardmembers went about the task of cleaning up, one Guardsman went about the business of conducting class.

Spc. Tony Rahill of Detachment 1, Headquarters Support Company, 216th Engineer Battalion in Felicity, was one of more than 100 Guard personnel assigned to the town of Ripley. Normally, Rahill is a heavy-equipment operator on a bulldozer or front-end loader. But for this trip, he was tasked with manning the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) which was set up in the Ripley Union Liberty Huntington (RULH) Learning Center. Being somewhat savvy with computers, it was deemed that Rahill's special skills would better serve in the EOC.

Rahill assisted with setting up the computers and communications, and worked with the Liaison Officer (LNO) and the Emergency Management Agency (EMA) staff, assessing damage and dispatching guardmembers to affected areas. While

servicing in this capacity, Rahill was able to meet and befriend many of the emergency personnel, school staff and local residents who were temporarily housed there.

Russell Curtis, the economics teacher at the school, was one such person Rahill got to know. As the days went on, Curtis and Rahill discussed many topics including economics and stocks. Rahill, by trade, is an accountant for the Lemforder Corporation of Cincinnati, where he buys and sells foreign currency.

Curtis believed Rahill, who has a degree from the University of Cincinnati and ten years with the Guard, could offer the students some insight from both sides of the spectrum.

Rahill agreed to be a guest speaker for Curtis' economics class. By explaining the type of work he does and how it affects the economy, Rahill was able to paint a mental picture of the similarities between civilian and military careers in the minds of the young students.

The students had been playing a mock stock market game as part of the economics course. Rahill spoke on the trends to look for when trading foreign currency. "I wanted to give them something from the real world," Rahill said. The



Photo by Sgt. Robert Alderson, 196th PAD

### Spc. Tony Rahill speaks to a RULH economics class.

students responded hesitantly at first because of the unfamiliar face, but loosened up and began to ask questions as Rahill explained some tricks of the trade.

As the end of class drew near, the students seemed intrigued by the military aspect of Rahill's visit. They asked such questions as "What's basic training like? Can women join combat units? Can the military police arrest civilians?" Rahill answered the questions the inquisitive teenagers were shooting at him, giving them with a solid idea of the life of a traditional Guardmember and insight into the world of stocks.

Rahill conducted two such classes while in Ripley, providing an alternative way of reaching out to a community in need and gaining a few new friends along the way. ■

# HMMWV delivers 'Meals on Wheels'

Story by Staff Sgt. Daniel F. Wallace  
Co. E, 1-148th Infantry

During the Flood of '97, the Senior Citizen Center of Jackson County in southern Ohio lost its transportation for the "Meals on Wheels" program. Water climbed to four feet in the center's garage. Four of the vans used to deliver food were considered total losses, and the remaining vehicles were damaged and nonoperational. Without a means to travel through high floodwaters, the program came to a halt.

Then, on March 3, the soldiers of the 612th Engineer Battalion, Company B, arrived in HMMWVs. Under the command of liaison officer Maj. Michael Ore, the "Meals on Wheels" program was running once again. Sgt. Kevin Cronin and Spc. Robert Jahna became "Angels in Green." Their mission—come hell or high water they were to get food to the needy.

The center volunteers began preparing the meals at 7:30 a.m. Then the food was boxed up in insulated travel containers.

Cronin and Jahna arrived at 10 a.m. to begin their merciful mission. The packaged cuisine was loaded into the HMMWVs, with all the deliveries scheduled between 10:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. The two soldiers made approximately

75 stops a day, with each traveling over 100 miles to remote areas of Jackson County.

Mary Agee, a volunteer guiding one of the trips, explained the "Meals on Wheels" program. She said that many people on the routes had different needs that had to be met. Some of the recipients had Alzheimer's disease and were afraid to fix their own meals. Others were just elderly and frail, and unable to get out to a store or restaurant.

Agee enjoyed her work and seemed grateful for the chance to get out and help during this devastating time. "We don't know what we would have done without the Guard," she said. "These young men are so nice to work with."

During one of the deliveries, Jahna cautiously walked up to the home of an elderly man with

a prepared lunch in hand. While his dog scratched anxiously at the door, the gentleman gestured for Jahna to leave the meal on the front porch. Jahna waved goodbye as he walked away and jumped into the vehicle. "That dog doesn't like strangers," he said with a pained smile. "I know, because he bit me yesterday."

Another stop was made to the home of Wayne "Happy Farmer" Horton. A retired Clerk of Courts in Jackson County with 34 years of service, Horton has been receiving Meals on Wheels for 10

years. During the first days of the flood, he missed them. As Jahna handed him the warm boxed bundle, Horton commented on the soldiers' overall involvement during the flood. "Some of the people around here don't know what they would have done if the Guard wasn't here," he said.

Out of all the meals he carted, Cronin's fondest memory was delivering to an elderly blind woman. "I took time to cut up her food for her," he said.

"This is just an extension of what I do at home. I am a Christian and I minister in my home town of Toledo," explained Cronin. "These people really appreciate what we're doing for them."

The sight of the devastation and despair had an effect on Jahna also. "It's really sad to see people's lives destroyed, but I enjoy being able to put a smile on their faces. I'm really thankful for what I have," he said. ■

*"Some of the people around here don't know what they would have done if the Guard wasn't here."*

Wayne "Happy farmer" Horton



## Guard grants wish for flood victim

Story by Staff Sgt. Ralph G. Rohner III  
Co. E, 1-148th Infantry

Bringing a smile to a flood victim's face can be as simple as granting a wish for a ride. In the aftermath of the spring Flood of '97, Governor George V. Voinovich and Maj. Gen. Richard C. Alexander toured the southern Ohio region. One of these expeditions brought them to the home of Wilson Bond of Jackson County.

Bond's home was severely damaged by water that reached 4 feet high. He spent 33 years working hard at the Jackson County Water Treatment Plant in order to have a home and a

life in which to enjoy when he retired. The man who once glowed with pride in his success of obtaining that strategic plan, sat staring at his water-soaked life scattered about his front lawn.

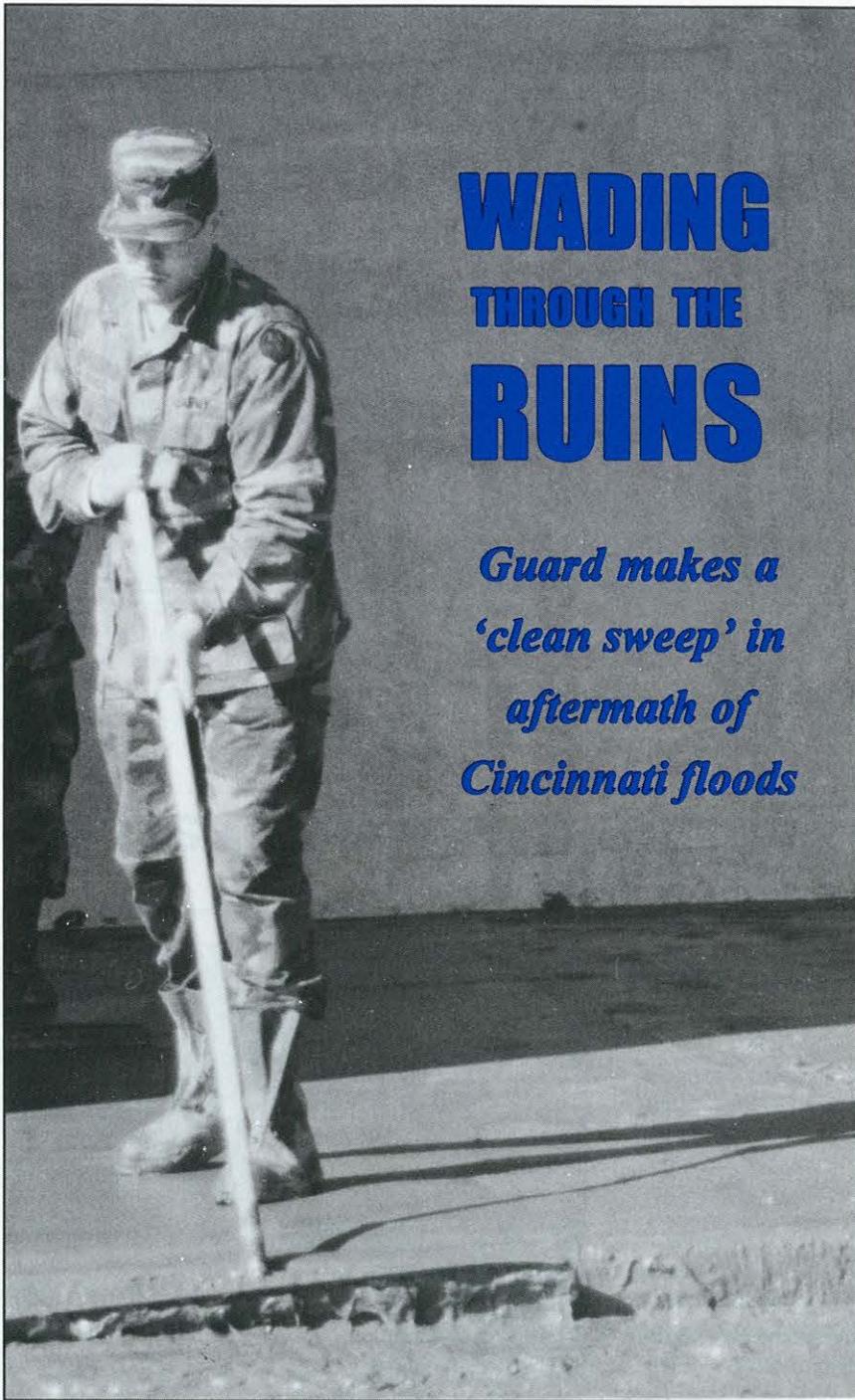
Voinovich listened as Bond described how the flood took the life he had and changed it forever. When asked by the governor if there was something he could do to lift Bond's spirit, he replied, "I wasn't in the military, I'd really like to go for a ride in a HMMWV!"

The governor gave the request to Alexander, who then directed Staff Sgt. Daniel Wallace and myself to take the gentleman for a spin.

With Bond seated as comfortably as possible in

the front seat of the HUMMV, we took him around the outskirts of the city. Bond tested our knowledge on the vehicle by asking such questions as "How much does a HMMWV weigh?" and "What company manufactures them?"

When the trip around the town was over, Wallace and I took some extra time to talk to Bond and listen to his tale of terrible misfortune. A simple ride and a little conversation brought a smile to the face of a man whose spirit Mother Nature had broken. ■



# WADING THROUGH THE RUINS

*Guard makes a  
'clean sweep' in  
aftermath of  
Cincinnati floods*

Story and photo by Capt. Ann Coghlin  
178th Public Affairs Officer

**M**ud-coated and debris-strewn streets, parking lots and sidewalks challenged civil engineers from the Ohio Air and Army National Guard as they helped clean up along the Ohio River in Cincinnati after the "great Flood of '97."

Members of the 121st Air Refueling Wing, 178th Fighter Wing, 179th Airlift Wing, 180th Fighter Wing, 200th Civil Engineering, 220th Engineering Installation Squadron and the 612th

Engineering Battalion, Company A and B, all were tasked to assist with the cleanup process in eastern Cincinnati.

Initially, Guardmembers were divided into two groups working 12-hour shifts. On March 8, they deployed with their equipment to Pete Rose Way near Cinergy Field (formerly Riverfront Stadium), Riverfront Coliseum and Sawyer Point. Floodwaters had totally submerged Sawyer Point, surrounded the stadium and coliseum, and crossed Pete Rose Way.

The on-site commander, Maj. James Loux of the 220th, said the military members were

tasked with removing the mud left on the sidewalks, roads and parking lots by the receding flood waters.

The majority of the Guardmembers were heavy equipment operators using front-end loaders and dump trucks. Working alongside city and Hamilton County workers, the civil engineers performed several duties. They used squeegees to remove mud from hard surfaces, picked up small debris by hand, used heavy equipment to scoop the wet earth and larger items, and hauled the mess to the Gray Landfill on the west side of Hamilton County.

Guardmembers were also busy collecting other ruined items caused by the disaster. Residents and business owners in the affected areas placed water-soiled belongings on the edge of the streets to be loaded into dump trucks and removed.

Hazardous materials such as tires, gas tanks, propane tanks and paint cans were disposed of by the city.

Because of the combined efforts of the engineers, city and county workers, the city was able to open many roads and parking lots near the stadium in time for the downtown workers to use Monday morning.

March 10, the civil engineers moved to the east end, one of the hardest hit residential areas of Cincinnati. The work was much tougher and different there, according to Staff Sgt. Michael MacLean, of the 220th. "It's a more congested area than the stadium and there is all kinds of debris," he said. "All around, there were tires, clothes, Christmas decorations and trash in the trees and bushes. The thick layer of mud on the roads did not help," said MacLean.

After removing the clutter, the Guardmembers used front-end loaders to scrape the soggy dirt. Then the fire department hosed down the streets with pressurized water to finish the cleanup.

Tech. Sgt. Dana Kelly of the 178th, said the cleanup within the residential areas was much more rewarding for her than in downtown Cincinnati. Residents were openly grateful for the work the Guardmembers were doing.

Though many citizens watched as a part of their lives floated down river, the majority said they were determined to assess the losses, rebuild and stay. One resident, who has lived 20 years in the area, explained that she had grown up with the lady across the street and the two of them were now raising their kids together. Leaving would be hard, she said, "It's the people that make me want to stay." ■



Photo by Master Sgt. Charles Seaman, 178th Fighter Group

Safety Dog takes a break during his visit to the Air Force Safety Conference.

## Oversized canine found in Orlando area

Story by Master Sgt. John Fleeger  
178th Fighter Group

It was a dark and stormy night. Well actually, it was a gloomy, gray Ohio day when Safety Dog and his entourage boarded an Army C-12 aircraft for sunny central Florida. The furry mascot of the KiDSAFE Program, at the special invitation of the Air Force Safety Agency, was headed for the 1996 Air Force Safety Conference. The KiDSAFE contingent was headed up by Lt. Col. Tom McGinley, executive officer for the 178th Fighter Wing, Springfield.

During the safety conference in Orlando, the Ohio National Guard formally introduced Safety Dog to Air Force, Air Force Reserve and Air National Guard personnel. After his initial briefing, Brig. Gen. Orin Godsey, Air Force Chief of Safety, asked Safety Dog to stroll in on two sessions of the executive council meetings. Attendees were also given the opportunity to meet with Safety Dog and members of the 178th between sessions.

Safety Dog is the tool used by the Safety Office of the 178th Fighter Group to communicate safety issues, and currently is an element of the Ohio National Guard's Drug Demand Reduction Program. The brainchild of

Senior Master Sgt. Ron Ray (and bearing a very strong resemblance to his beloved family dog), Safety Dog is a cartoon character that made his debut in 1991 in the unit SafetyGrams (one-page safety messages distributed by the unit). Working at his kitchen table and using ideas from other members of his safety staff, Ray's "pet project" quickly became well-known and very popular among members of the unit.

Ray explained that educating people out in the field is a real challenge for safety offices. "A strong education program means fewer injuries," said Ray, "but people don't like to read long articles. So I attached the cartoon with the article so they would be more interested in reading it."

Safety Dog was introduced to the children of the area in 1992 during a balloon festival held at the Springfield Air National Guard Base.

While Ray's Safety Dog theme was growing, the unit's Security Police Office realized



Photo by Master Sgt. Charles Seaman, 178th Fighter Group

Brig. Gen. Orin Godsey learns all of Safety Dog's secrets at the Air Force Safety Conference.

that a program was needed to identify children in the event they were lost or abducted. As a result, Staff Sgt. Tom Tinker, a security policeman with the 178th, developed Identi-Kid, a program in which Guardmembers compile fingerprints, photographs and other physical data for parents of the children who participate.

With plans to implement Identi-Kid in conjunction with the unit's Adopt-A-School pro-

gram, Tinker and Ray determined that the community needed a drug and alcohol awareness and personal safety program which included child abuse, molestation and household emergencies aimed at children in grades kindergarten through four.

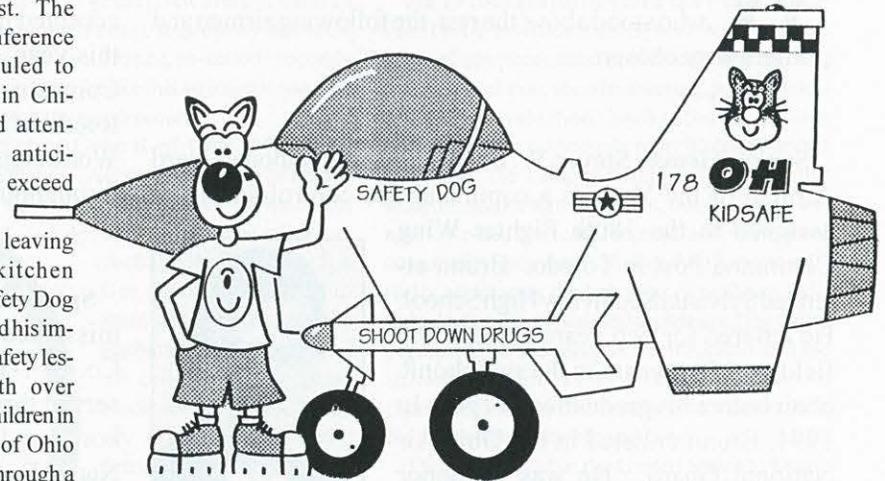
"Other local law enforcement agencies provide this type of education to children in grades five and above, but there was nothing for the younger children," said Ray. "So we combined the cartoon and Identi-Kid with the needs of the program. KiDSAFE, an acronym for 'Kids Identifying Dangerous Situations and Facing Emergencies,' came out at the other end."

During the conference, attendees from over 40 states and five foreign countries requested additional information to develop and operate similar programs at their bases. Godsey was immediately impressed with the program and expressed an interest in adopting it at the Air Force level. Representatives from the host hotel also expressed an interest in the program and invited Safety Dog back to Orlando this year in support of "Dreamflight 97," a Euro-

pean equivalent of the "Make a Wish Foundation" here in the states. John Fleming, director of the National Safety Council (NSC), also indicated he would like to see Safety Dog and the KiDSAFE Program represented at this year's conference, and offered a display area at no cost. The 1997 conference is scheduled to be held in Chicago and attendance is anticipated to exceed 20,000.

Since leaving Ray's kitchen table, Safety Dog has shared his important safety lessons with over 50,000 children in the state of Ohio alone. Through a series of local cable television

programs, an estimated 500,000 additional children have been exposed to Safety Dog and these safety lessons. Program organizers hope to expand their efforts to the national and possibly the international level, educating and protecting as many children as possible. ■



Art by Senior Master Sgt. Ron Ray, 178th Fighter Group

## Visions of history come to life

Story by Sgt. Sandy Pinkerton  
Co. A, 237th Forward Support Battalion

He saw the colonial blue uniforms, smelled the black powder of the muskets and sensed the staunchness of the soldiers lined shoulder to shoulder in battle. It was 22 years ago when he saw his first historical reenactment and said to himself, "This is neat, I've got to do this!" He knew he had to be a soldier—and he became one.

Maj. Ted Filer is involved in two militias. First, he is a member of the Ohio Army National Guard. Other times, Filer is a British grenadier, an English artillery crewman, an Eastern Woodland Indian or a rifleman fighting in the Revolutionary War. He has also dug Yankee earthworks, stormed ashore from a WWII landing craft and flown in a B-17 bomber.

Filer's hobby? Reenacting: pulling our

country's history out of museums, personalizing it and bringing each era to life by recreating events as seen through the eyes of our ancestors. He enjoys drifting into the past with other Ohio Guardmembers such as Master Sgt. Bob Marsh, Sgt. Maj. George Sams and Chief Warrant Officer D.K. Taylor.

One of the pleasures that Filer enjoys is the connection of his role to the soldiers of yesteryear, and the problems and misery they went through in the battles for victory. He believes that portraying the events carved in history by our great grandparents gives the audience a greater appreciation of the human sacrifices made so that the United States remains the "home of the free."

In the future, Filer would like to have a collection of uniforms, weapons and equipment from all the major conflicts in American history. He spends countless hours sifting through textbooks and pictures in search of replicas. Often Filer handcrafts the items needed.



Courtesy photo

**Maj. Ted Filer as an Army Air Corps armorer at Lexington, Ky.**

Filer's immediate goals include sailing on a man-of-war warship and making a WWI trench raid. Whether it be these interests or the calling of his hobby, Filer will always be a relic in his own time. ■

# Guardmembers honored as best of '97

**W**hen officials in the Ohio Air and Army National Guard made their annual selections honoring those who stood above the rest, the following airmen and soldiers were chosen.

**Senior Airman Steven W. Brunn**, Ohio Air National Guard Airman of the Year, is a command and control specialist assigned to the 180th Fighter Wing Command Post in Toledo. Brunn attended Sylvania Southview High School. He lettered for two years in track and field, and four years in the symphonic choir before his graduation in 1983. In 1994, Brunn enlisted in the Ohio Air National Guard. He was an honor graduate from basic training and received the Small Arms Marksmanship Ribbon. His other military awards include the Ohio Training Ribbon and the Air Expedition Force Medal. Brunn is enrolled at the University of Toledo in the pharmacy program and is a pharmacy technician at Seaway Food Town, Inc.



tion and Aeronautical Science at the Ohio State University in 1990. He is currently taking undergraduate classes to be accepted into the MBA program at Franklin University later this year. Reed is employed at the Nationwide Insurance Company in Columbus as a Lead Business Systems Analyst. Reed and his wife, Suzanne, attend St. Michael's Church in Worthington and are involved in several community activities throughout the year.

**Sgt. Brian E. Bowen**, Ohio Army National Guard Noncommissioned Officer of the Year, is a gunner in a tank crew for Co. B, 1-107th Armor Battalion. He served three years with the 82nd Airborne and participated in the Multi-Nation Force and Observers in the Sinai Peninsula. Bowen has a bachelor's science degree in computer sciences from Akron University. He is employed by Quest Integration Services as a systems programmer. Bowen and his wife, Lynette, live in Akron and are expecting their first child in September.



**Spc. Patrick J. Judge Jr.**, Ohio Army National Guard Soldier of the Year, is a light-wheel vehicle mechanic with Detachment 2, HQ STARC, Camp Perry Training Site, Port Clinton. Judge was formerly assigned as a mechanic in the 112th Engineer Battalion. He is a 1987 graduate of Lorain High School. He enjoys golf and fishing. Judge and his wife, Tina, live in Lorain.



**Senior Master Sgt. Jerry W. Sanford**, Ohio Air National Guard Senior Noncommissioned Officer of the Year, is a supervisory training specialist in the 121st Air Refueling Wing Command Post. His military career began in 1959 when he joined the Navy Reserve. After graduating from Columbus West High School in 1960, he began serving in the helicopter anti-submarine, Squadron Five unit. Sanford participated in the recovery of the capsule from Alan Shepard's first space flight and in the Cuban Missile Crisis Blockade. Sanford was discharged from the Navy in 1965 and entered the Ohio Air National Guard in 1975. In 1976, he became the Chief of Command Post and continues in this position. He received a bachelor's degree from Franklin University in 1968 and expects to complete his master's degree this year. Military awards include the Air Force Commendation Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster, Air Force Achievement Medal, Southwest Asia Service Medal and the Ohio Commendation Medal.



**Tech. Sgt. Michael R. Reed**, Ohio Air National Guard Noncommissioned Officer of the Year, is a plans and implementation specialist assigned to the 179th Communications Flight at Mansfield Lahm Airport. Reed attended Grandview Heights High School where he lettered in football and track during his junior and senior years. He also received several academic awards for excellence during that time. Reed completed his bachelor's degree in Avia-



Congratulations to all the winners. ■

# Ohio colleges face common foe: binge drinking

In a 1989 Carnegie Foundation study, college and university presidents identified alcohol abuse as their number one campus-life problem. Nineteen Ohio colleges now are involved in a statewide effort to tackle the issue of binge drinking by forming community coalitions and developing prevention strategies from a "campus culture" or environmental perspective.

Problems associated with binge drinking and higher education are well documented, and evidence is often highlighted on the evening news. For example, alcohol consumption is associated with 90 percent of campus rapes and 70 percent of violent behavior on campuses. Alcohol use also has been directly linked to students' academic performance—the more a student drinks,



the lower his or her grade point average tends to be. The resulting damage to property and incidence of public disturbance, so-called "second-hand binge effects," make this an issue of concern for the entire campus community.

The Adjutant General of Ohio, Maj. Gen. Richard C. Alexander, was an honorary guest at a media kick-off luncheon on Nov. 4, 1996. The event was co-chaired by Dr. E. Gordon Gee, president of The Ohio State University, and Dr. Barbara Ross-Lee, dean of the college of osteopathic medicine at Ohio University. Alexander's attendance demonstrated the Ohio National Guard's commitment to preventing substance abuse throughout Ohio. According to Gee, "The way to deal with this (issue) is to raise awareness and get a number of people to jump off the cliff together."

All 19 colleges participated in a workshop on Feb. 13-14, in which training was received in the areas of environmental prevention approaches, building coalition, social marketing, policy panels and project evaluation. Each of the universities sent a team of individuals representing various aspects of the campus community, including: students, school administration, faculty, local business owners, law enforcement and concerned community members. Rather than focusing directly on altering the behavior of problem individuals, this effort is aimed at changing the entire perception of the campus environment and the attitudes towards alcohol abuse. In order to change the environment, a coalition must include the widest diversity of members.

Ohio is the first in the United States to have a statewide campaign against college binge drinking. Other states already are using the "Ohio model" in the development of their own efforts. If you are interested in becoming involved in this effort at your local college or university, contact Officer Candidate Devin Braun at (614) 889-7000. ■

# Anti-drug conference goes statewide via satellite

Recently, the Drug Demand Reduction Program of the Ohio National Guard sponsored a satellite down-link conference with members of anti-drug organizations from around the state. The conference focused on one of the hottest topics to come out of the '96 elections—the legalization of marijuana in the states of California and Arizona for medical purposes.

Lawmakers and concerned citizens in both of these states currently are trying to overturn this legislation, which could actually legalize so-called "schedule one drugs," including heroin and LSD. Various medical experts and former drug users were on hand to provide insight into the potential threat this legislation could pose to the nation's youth. The program, titled "Say It Straight—Our Health, Our Youth & Marijuana," brought to light the underlying facts of this legislation: Have medical ailments? No problem—smoke dope or take a hit. You'll feel fine—no crime.

A two-hour round-table discussion of the issues was devoted to callers with specific questions. Viewers throughout the United States who saw the broadcast had the opportunity to address the topic of legalization and how these types of

issues pass.

In Ohio, one such issue passed unbeknownst to the voters. Hidden in 1,000 pages of another piece of legislation, the subject matter slipped by unnoticed. Unlike California and Arizona, the Ohio legislative system chose not to openly flaunt this issue to the public. There now is speculation on how this proposal traveled so far. Other states face the same quandary, whether debated openly or through backdoor politics.

The overall issue of legalizing marijuana has opened the proverbial "can of worms" for advocates on both sides of the track. The question, "What message are the children receiving if topics such as these continue to pop up on ballots and pass?"

Scientific research, so far, has found no usage for marijuana in the treatment of medical problems that other FDA-approved medications treat now. Statistics tell of the growing use of marijuana by young adults and the potential use of harder, more potent narcotics. Legalization could only make it easier to get these drugs, and not just from physicians.

The Ohio National Guard will

continue to sponsor and facilitate these types of down-link forums in an effort to inform the American people about this type of legislation and other related issues. The importance of knowing the truth about the legalization of marijuana and the potential repercussions it may have, is imperative to maintaining a safe and drug-free environment for our children.

If you would like more information on the dates and subjects of these forums, contact Officer Candidate Devin Braun or Sgt. Steven R. Johnson at the Drug Demand Reduction office at (614) 889-7000.

Get the facts before you vote on an issue that could send our youth down a path to harmful habits. ■



## Hangar Dance: Air Force celebrates first 50 years. . .1947-1997



As many of you may know, the United States Air Force, the Air National Guard and the 121st Air Refueling Wing have something in common—a 50th anniversary. Across the country and around the world, the United States Air Force is celebrating. You've seen

the commercials, the pre-game Super Bowl flyover, parades, airshows and unbelievable media coverage. Now it's the Wing's turn.

On Aug. 15, the 121st invites you to come celebrate. A pig roast picnic has been arranged with an unbelievable cake, spectacular ice sculptures, photo albums, music and dancing, static displays, and best of all, friends from the past. Invitations are being sent to past commanders of the 121st and 160th. Retirees and prior members of the 121st/160th are being notified and invited to attend, because without them, the 121st as it is known today, would not be here. If you are interested in joining the festivities, please contact Capt. Tommy Calhoun at 492-3548. *Submitted by Tech. Sgt. Nancy Butcher, 121st Air Refueling Wing.*

## Ohio ANG initiates '360 Feedback Process'

The State of Ohio has become the pilot state for the Air National Guard in developing and implementing a new process designed to communicate members' performance strengths and weaknesses to assist in career planning and progression.

In a survey conducted by the Ohio Strength Management Utilization Team, Air Guard members identified a need for feedback communications to ensure the potential of each member is identified and nurtured. As a result, a team represented by each Ohio unit began development of a "360 degree" feedback process for all Ohio Guardmembers.

"We want all Guardmembers to have the opportunity to make educated career choices," said Lt. Col. Nancy August, the 360 Feedback Process team leader. "Members deserve to

know where they stand with their supervisor—in terms of meeting expectations and potential career progression and satisfaction."

The feedback program became effective January 1997. Both Guardmembers and supervisors are required to prepare feedback prior to each annual interview. To better enable Guardmembers to provide effective feedback, all members are required to view a 50-minute video created by Professional Military Education Course specialists at McGhee Tyson ANGB.

Supervisors will be notified when individual feedback sessions are to take place by a Record of Individual Personnel (RIP) forwarded by the retention office manager through unit career advisors for enlisted members, and through the Personnel Concept III (PCIII) computer system through orderly rooms for officers. Enlisted member feedback sessions will be held in conjunction with annual interviews, and officer sessions will be held in conjunction with annual officer performance reviews (OPRs).

The program will be monitored through quarterly status reports by the unit commander, wing commander and OHANG chief of staff. However, to promote candid feedback and to ensure confidentiality, the feedback worksheet used during the session will not be placed in the interviewee's file. Only the supervisor and member will have copies.

A 360 Feedback Process goal is to ensure all unit members and their supervisors have the same understanding of the member's ANG career goals and opportunities. "We need to take the time to talk to our people," said August. "An investment in their future is an investment in ours."

Brig. Gen. Paul Sullivan, chief of staff of the Ohio Air National Guard, agreed. "The 360 Feedback Process gives the members an opportunity to communicate one-on-one with their direct supervisor," he said. "The main objective in all of this is to make the Ohio Air National Guard the best place to be, servicing our community, state and nation." *Submitted by Senior Master Sgt. Stephen Butcher, Superintendent of Recruiting and Retention, HQ Ohio ANG.*

## ANG announces officer vacancies

The Ohio Air National Guard has undertaken a renewed effort in providing equal opportunities for upward mobility to every member of this organization. One of the more recent changes in this effort is announcing every traditional Guardmember (part-time) entry level officer position. In January 1997, a state policy letter was

signed by Brig. Gen. John H. Smith, assistant adjutant general, ANG, with the full concurrence of the commanders. This policy letter ordered all entry level officer vacancies be announced statewide for a minimum of 60 days for nonrated positions, and 180 days for rated positions.

The program is now fully operational and utilizes the Local Area Network (LAN) system to communicate the vacancies between the units. The announcement form is very easy to read and will provide all the basic information needed in order to consider applying as well as how to apply. The application provides a point of contact for the position, position title and grade, opening and closing dates, minimum and maximum grade, areas of consideration, duties, the evaluation process and the application requirements.

If you would like to investigate the opportunities of becoming a commissioned officer in the Ohio Air National Guard, contact the following people for the announcements:

- \* Maj. Lewis—220 EIS, Zanesville (614) 450-4735
- \* Master Sgt. Edwards—121 ARW, Rickenbacker ANGB (614) 492-3559
- \* Master Sgt. White-Callendar—121 ARW, Rickenbacker ANGB (614) 492-3560
- \* Capt. Donaldson—178 FW, Springfield (513) 323-8653
- \* Master Sgt. Flook—178 FW, Springfield (513) 327-2399
- \* Capt. Bixler—180 FW, Toledo (419) 868-4048
- \* Master Sgt. Sadowski—180 FW, Toledo (419) 868-4070
- \* Master Sgt. Carson—200 RHS, Camp Perry (419) 635-2777
- \* Master Sgt. Smith—123 ACS, Cincinnati (513) 984-8858
- \* Lt. Fork—179 AW, Mansfield (419) 522-9355
- \* Master Sgt. Wolfenden—179 AW, Mansfield (419) 521-0207

*Submitted by Senior Master Sgt. Stephen Butcher, Superintendent of Recruiting and Retention, HQ Ohio ANG.*

## Family Readiness to hold conference

The State Family Readiness office will hold a conference Sept. 19-21 at the Lenox Inn in Reynoldsburg. The purpose of this workshop will be to familiarize volunteers with the State Family Readiness Program, and to train volunteers to be family support group leaders.

The mission of the State Family Readiness Council is to promote family readiness through improved communication, education and the development of a mutual support network.

The success of the mission incorporates the council's vision of strong Guard families equipped to handle the challenges of life in the National Guard.

For more information contact the Ohio National Guard Family Readiness Council Family Program Coordinator, WO Carmen Coventry, at 1-800-589-9914 or 1-614-889-7192.

The following council members can be reached by dialing 1-800-686-8802 and then their pager number.

**Chairperson:**

Sue Galchick - 673-5382

**Vice Chairperson:**

Vacant

**Volunteer Coordinator:**

Bonnie Swaney - 673-5381

**Secretary/Treasurer:**

Tina M. Lee - 673-5392

**Education Coordinator:**

Vacant

**Region I Coordinator:**

Kathy Kenep - 673-5392

**Region II Coordinator:**

Vacant

**Region III Coordinator:**

Kathy Taylor - 673-5389

**Region IV Coordinator:**

Vacant

**Region V Coordinator:**

Vacant

**Region VI Coordinator:**

Linda Dershem - 673-5394

**Region VII Coordinator:**

Neoma Lucas - 673-5387

**Region VIII Coordinator:**

Linda Holdren - 673-0336

**Marketing/Public Relations:**

Vacant

**FAMILY PROGRAM OFFICE ADDRESS:**

Ohio National Guard Family Readiness Office  
Adjutant General's Department  
Attn: AGOH-MPMO-MP-FA  
2825 W. Dublin Granville Rd.  
Columbus, Ohio 43235-2789

*Submitted by Staff Sgt. Betty Delk, ONG Family Readiness Office.*

## Combat shooters compete at Camp Robinson

Some of the best shooters in the world, including members of the Ohio National Guard, came to Camp Joseph T. Robinson in North Little Rock, Ark. in October 1996. The 25th annual Winston P. Wilson (WPW) Championships and the sixth annual Armed Forces Skill at Arms Meeting (AFSAM) began on Oct. 14.

In the WPW matches, a total of 718 rifle and pistol sharpshooters, snipers and machine gunners represented National Guard units from 48 states, the Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico. Approximately 275 rifle and pistol shooters from the U.S. Army Reserve, Marine Corps, National Guard Combat Team and eight foreign countries competed in the AFSAM.

The battle-combat "move and shoot" courses of fire are the main focus of both events. The courses have continued to evolve over the years to reflect more realistic training.

Ohio sniper team members Sgt. Todd M. Bright and Spc. Samuel B. Howlett, both from Company C, 1/148th Infantry, won in the sniper competition for the novice-class field-fire scope match. Bright won first place with a score of 95, and Howlett fired off a score of 90 to take second place. Bright also qualified for second place in the special-reaction scope match.

The Ohio sniper team won second place in the overall field-fire aggregate match and the field-craft exercise with scores of 148 and 248 respectively.

Bright, a 1990 distinguished honor graduate of Sniper School, Fort Benning, Ga. and a first-time competitor at WPW, said his only interest was in the discipline of sniper fire. "Sniping is something I am good at doing," said Bright. "I like being on my own out in the woods, because you don't have to worry about other people messing you up."

Howlett, also a first-time competitor, said he received some good quality practice at the WPW matches, and would like to see more support for sniper shooting in Ohio.

Bright agreed with his teammate. "I've

learned a few things and picked up some good tips here. Hopefully, I will learn some more pointers from the competitors from other states and take that knowledge back to Ohio," said Bright.

During the WPW and AFSAM ceremonies, Brig. Gen. Don C. Morrow, commander of the 39th Infantry Brigade, encouraged competitors to share their marksmanship knowledge and skills with others. "When you go back home, take the newfound knowledge and incorporate that into your units, because our country needs the skills of our soldiers," said Morrow. "With the active forces relying more heavily on the readiness of the reserve components, combat training and combat firing are receiving even greater emphasis," said the commander.

The Wilson matches are named for Maj. Gen. Winston P. Wilson, former chief of the National Guard Bureau. He was a member of the Arkansas Air National Guard. *Submitted by 1st Lt. Magnolia L. Winkler, Camp Robinson, Ark.*

## ONGEA Family Days at Kings Island

Cut out the coupon to enjoy the theme park excitement of Paramount's Kings Island. In conjunction with the Ohio National Guard Enlisted Association, Kings Island will host guardmembers and their families during the dates specified below. Coupons are also available at your unit for park attendance July 20-27, 1997.



**OHIO NATIONAL GUARD FAMILY DAYS**

**June 29, 30 & July 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 1997**



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## ALL ABOUT PEOPLE



Courtesy Photo

**Representative James Jordan takes a shot on the TOW missile guidance system, as Spc. Joseph Palumbo gives some pointers.**

### Representative visits local Guard unit

State Representative James Jordan of West Liberty made a trip to the 148th Infantry (Mech), Company E, 1st Battalion Army National Guard unit in Urbana. The visit allowed Jordan to tour the facilities, talk with the soldiers and observe Guardmembers during training exercises.

Several members were engaged in light anti-armor maneuvers using a weapon called the Dragon. Other soldiers were studying multi-vehicle movements as well as feigning attacks with and without enemy contact.

Jordan seemed attracted to the training which used the help of a computer simulator. Guardmembers were using a simulator called a TGT (TOW Guidance Trainer) to practice firing a heavy anti-armor weapon called a Tube-launched Optically-tracked Wire-guided missile (TOW). The instructors, Spc. Joseph and Spc. John McGinnis, explained the details of the equipment and asked the representative if he wanted to go to battle against the simulated enemy.

Positioned behind the monitor and ready for his mission, Jordan listened carefully as Joseph McGinnis spoke of the incoming and threatening opponent. "You have a T62 tank moving from right to left at 2,000 meters, identify and engage," said McGinnis. After several successful shots at everything from helicopters to tanks, Jordan replied, "The detail of this machine is fantastic. That is just incredible."

The next item for show and tell was the M901 ITV (Improved Tow Vehicle). Again, the representative was offered the opportunity to take part in the training experience. With a gleam in his eye, Jordan replied, "Yes, absolutely yes."

Jordan was briefed on the purpose of the transport, the way the missile system is used and seating arrangements inside the vehicle. After donning the proper headgear, Jordan was driven

up and down and all around the newly purchased land behind the armory. Escorted by Capt. Gregory Rogers, the unit commander; Staff Sgt. Paul Bennett, the unit Readiness NCO; Staff Sgt. Ralph Rohner, the unit Public Relations NCO; and Spc. Kevin Taylor, Jordan was able to feel, firsthand, the full off-road capabilities of the ITV.

As the end of the day drew near, Rogers and Bennett sat with Jordan and explained the ongoing need for support from elected officials and the status the unit held with the state and city of Urbana.

The representative also was invited back to the 148th for the June 21 Open House given by E Company. The event is scheduled to start at 7:30 a.m. with breakfast being served for a small donation which will benefit the unit's Family Support Group. Activities planned throughout the day include a helicopter display, weapons display and mock exercises. The Red Cross also is having a blood drive at the armory from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on June 21. Medics from the unit will conduct blood pressure screenings in a outside tent. And last but not least, the Champaign County Shriners will collect aluminum cans to benefit Shriner Children Hospitals. *Submitted by Staff Sgt. Ralph G. Rohner III, E Co., 1-148th Infantry.*

### Ohio Commendation Medal awarded

Fighting back tears of joy and surprise, Neoma Lucas was presented with an Ohio Commendation Medal on Jan. 4 for her many years of work with family support and readiness groups within the Ohio Army National Guard.

Lucas is the wife of Command Sgt. Maj. James Lucas Sr., post command sergeant major at Camp Perry, located near Port Clinton.

The award was presented to Mrs. Lucas by Maj. Gen. Richard Alexander, state adjutant general, during a State Family Readiness Council meeting held at Beightler Armory in Columbus. Alexander commended Lucas for her efforts and commitment to the Guard over the years.

"This is certainly a surprise, and it is indeed an honor to receive the award," said Lucas at the ceremony. "This is very special to me. I hope to continue to do as much as I can in the future."

Lucas currently serves as the Family Readiness Council coordinator for the northwest region of the state. She works with family support groups at individual units, helping each group to maintain their purpose, which is preparing families for separation if a soldier is activated.

"It is a big honor for her," said Command Sgt. Maj. Lucas. "She's been involved (with family

support) as long as I've been in the military—since day one."

Mrs. Lucas said that her involvement with family support began in 1962, as a young newlywed Army wife living at Fort Sam Houston, Texas. She found that military life can be stressful for the spouse and family as well. During the first few weeks of the couple's marriage, the Bay of Pigs incident occurred and the entire base was put on alert. Another military wife befriended Lucas and helped educate her about the military lifestyle through a group known as the NCO Wives' Club.

It was then that she vowed if her family continued in the military, she wanted to help another wife or family, as she had been helped.

When her husband went from active duty to the Guard 22 years ago, Lucas started a wives' club at the first unit where he was stationed. The group did everything from holding rummage sales and raising money for charity to organizing social and family picnics. In a way, it was a form of support and bonding with other wives and families, she said. Since then, Lucas has been a part of support groups at other units.

Lucas said she currently is concentrating on quality of life issues at Camp Perry. She is working to garner support to get a playground installed at the base for visiting children. *Submitted by Pfc. Steve Toth, HQ STARC (-Det. 1-5).*

### Tank crew scores as state top gun

The ultimate goal of any National Guard tank crew is the successful qualification of Tank Table VIII. Preparation for this event begins at the start of the training year.

Gone are the days when a tank crew could be readily assembled and allowed to go down range. Many exhausting hours are spent to achieve required prerequisite levels of training. And during annual training '96 at Fort Knox, Ky., elements of the 2nd Squadron, 107th Cavalry did just that.

Prior to qualification a crew must negotiate several challenges, such as a Tank Crew Gunnery Skills Test (TCGST); Basic Gunnery Requirements (MCOFT/Tank Table IV); and Intermediate Gunnery Tables. Time must be allotted to accommodate these events during the progression of the training year.

Tank commander and gunner combinations must attain a minimum reticle aim level of 14 and pass a gate exercise in the Conduct of Fire Trainer (COFT). The time that it takes to attain this level depends upon the crew experience and the availability of COFT/MCOFT assets. Ohio currently has three mobile COFTs which are

shared by armor and cavalry units. Generally, a crew requires five training sessions to initially achieve this level and must continue to sustain this training throughout the year to maintain proficiency.

Conducting the TCGST provides the commander a diagnostic tool for planning the gunnery training program and ensures all personnel have achieved proficiency in individual skills. Armor crewmen must successfully complete the TCGST within six months of the main gun firing. The TCGST consists of 17 tasks which are tested during drill weekends. Availability of assets determines when, where and how this test will be accomplished.

Tank Crew Proficiency Course (TCPC)/Tank Table IV is conducted usually during IDT weekends. This event is designed to evaluate the tank crew's ability to battle against stationary and moving targets placed in tactical areas within a stationary and moving tank. The test run is then scored and evaluated. The crew must achieve a minimum score of 700 out of 1,000 total points before progressing to the intermediate tables (V through VIII).

Successful completion of the TCPC/Tank Table IV enabled crew members from Troops A, B and C of the 2nd Squadron to move ahead to the following levels.

One crew distinguished itself by achieving a qualifying score on its first run of Tank Table VIII. Considering the length of time the crew has been together, this was a noteworthy achievement accomplished through hard work and dedication. The A43 tank crew consisted of the tank commander, Staff Sgt. Eric Miller; gunner, Spc. Leon Garcia; driver, Spc. William Moore; and loader, Pfc. Joseph Stern. The group has set the standard for others to shoot for "State Top Gun!"

Troop A, 2nd Squadron, 107th Cavalry would like to express our sincere appreciation to Master Sgt. William J. Horne, Sgt. 1st Class David S. Biscaro and Sgt. 1st Class Ronald V. Urkuski from the 37th Armor Brigade for their untiring efforts and assistance in making this gunnery successful. *Submitted by Sgt. 1st Class Larry S. Herald, Troop A, 2-107th Cavalry.*

## Pilot flies Ohio visitors to Turkey

Maj. John Sheedy's eyes snapped wide open as he glanced out the window while flying over the island of Elba, where Napoleon was once exiled off the western coast of Italy.

The Dayton resident was piloting an Ohio Air National Guard KC-135R Stratotanker at 29,000 feet above the southern edge of Europe amidst

the Mediterranean Sea en route to Turkey.

Sheedy was flying 27 Ohio visitors to an Air Force base in southern Turkey about 2,000 miles from western Germany. The group spent an afternoon socializing with many of the Ohio Air Guard fighter pilots and groundcrew members involved in Operation PROVIDE COMFORT, a mission of patrolling the no-fly zone over northern Iraq.

What would happen if the Stratotanker or any aircraft flew into another country's airspace without a diplomatic clearance or after being told to stay out? Would there be cause for alarm? These were hypothetical questions directed toward the pilot.

"You would be in a lot of trouble," said Sheedy, whose wide-eyed expression made it clear he wouldn't even think about it.

"You just don't jump into an airplane and fly across Europe," said Lt. Col. Ronald Albers, Guard operations commander for the 121st Air Refueling Wing in Columbus.

The repercussions for doing so could range from the American embassy getting a nasty letter from the offended country, a pair of jet fighters popping up outside the pilot's window, to radio traffic controllers ordering the plane to get out NOW! It would not be nice by any means.

Diplomatic clearances from France, Switzerland, Italy, Greece and Turkey consist of crossing borders within designated time windows, knowing the international language of aviation and listening carefully and understanding the many international air traffic controllers speaking English.

So getting to Turkey meant hopping through some diplomatic hoops and exercising a little patience—a lesson this crew learned right away. There was an hour wait at Ramstein Air Force Base in Germany, for example, because the controllers in Brussels, Belgium decided that too many airplanes were flying across France at that time.

"It was a flow problem," said Albers who has been flying tankers for 26-1/2 years. "I had never encountered that before," he said.

"We had a window into Turkey. We couldn't be there earlier than a certain time," explained Maj. James Boling, public affairs officer for the 121st.

The view of the Alps along the French and Italian border, including Mt. Blanc which stands 15,700 feet tall, was breathtaking for those who could peer out one of the few windows on the tanker.

Most of the travelers on the KC-135R had never been to that mystical land. The crew's attention to the details of diplomacy made sure the trip went smoothly and without incident. *Submitted by Master Sgt. Bob Haskell, National Guard Bureau.*

## In Memoriam

Capt. Larry Schmook, of the 112th Medical Brigade, passed away May 10, 1997, as a result of a motorcycle accident. He worked for the Cincinnati Fire Division, and had just completed 20 years of military service. After graduating from high school, Schmook joined the Air Force, where he served six years as an active-duty member. Upon discharge, he joined the Ohio Army National Guard. Before becoming a firefighter for Engine Co. 29 in 1994, Schmook put in 14 years as a phlebotomist at the Good Samaritan Hospital in Cincinnati. Schmook is survived by his wife, Brenda; and son, Adrian.

Maj. Gen. Dana L. Stewart passed away March 1, 1997. Stewart proudly served as

adjutant general for the Ohio National Guard from 1971 to 1975. He was a 1943 graduate of the United States Military Academy at West Point. In 1956 he resigned from the regular Army and later rejoined the Ohio Army National Guard with the rank of major. Stewart was promoted to colonel in 1965 and served six years before being appointed major general. Stewart is survived by his wife, Elizabeth; daughter, Susan; son, Dana Jr.; and grandson, Jeb.



Col. Charles R. Stahl passed away July 4, 1996, after a lengthy illness. Stahl enjoyed a long and prestigious military career which began in 1935 as a clerk in the Ohio National Guard, and later as a lieutenant in the Signal Corps during World War II. He organized and commanded the 605th Signal Light Construction, the first Air National Guard unit in Springfield, in January of 1948. Later, he established and became the first commander of what is now the 251st Combat Communications Group. Stahl was promoted to the rank of colonel in April of 1963 and retired in May of 1968 after 33 years of dedicated military service.



## Tuition Assistance still available to Guard soldiers

Tuition Assistance (TA) funds are available for this fiscal year. Effective Oct. 1, 1996 to Sept. 30, 1997, TA funds are available for all qualified traditional Army National Guard soldiers. The primary goal of the TA program is the retention of MOS-qualified soldiers. Every enlisted soldier and officer without a bachelor's degree is eligible for this benefit. Master's degree programs may be funded on a limited basis, if needed, to retain soldiers. The following will guide distribution of funds:

- ONE: E1 to E6, O1 to O3, WO1 to WO2 without associate or bachelor's degrees.
- TWO: E1 to E6, O1 to O3, WO1 to WO2 with associate or bachelor's degrees and going to graduate school.
- THREE: All others.
- FOUR: Soldiers going to law, medical and dental schools.

The Army Continuing Education System (ACES) program authorizes a maximum of 15 semester or 22 quarter hours of college work per year, not to exceed 75 percent tuition assistance.

TA is subject to the following caps per hour:

- LOWER LEVEL CLASSES (freshman/sophomore) \$60 per semester or \$40 per quarter hour;
- UPPER LEVEL CLASSES (junior/senior) \$85 per semester or \$56.66 per quarter hour; and
- GRADUATE LEVEL CLASSES \$170 per semester or \$113.32 per quarter hour.

Soldiers may contact the Education Services Office (ESO) directly to receive additional information. Point of contact for this program is the ESO at (614) 889-7293, 7275 or 7023.

## Videotape explains retirement benefits

The National Defense Authorization Act, 1997, has changed the maximum inactive duty points for retired pay to 75 points, effective Oct. 1, 1996. This means Guardmembers who retire after this date will have their retired pay calculated with the new maximum points.

Soldiers must apply for retired pay within six years of eligibility or they will not receive retired pay at all.

There is a videotape made by the Professional Education Center, titled *PEC Retirement Benefits*. Anyone nearing 20 years of service and/or approaching 60 years of age should view this

educational tape that explains the retirement process. Distribution was made down to battalion level.

For more information, call retired Command Sgt. Maj. Warren L. Myers, Retiree Affairs Chairman ONGEA at (614) 879-4089.

## DoD ask Congress to suspend RRMIIIP

The mobilization income insurance program is the product of years of effort, beginning with several major surveys of Reservists in the late 1980's and early 1990's, which showed that the potential for income loss resulting from involuntary activation was a important quality-of-life concern for both officers and enlisted personnel, particularly after the Persian Gulf War. From 1992 to 1994, Congress directed the Department of Defense (DoD) to conduct several studies assessing the feasibility of providing insurance against Reservists' income loss. The results showed that more than 67 percent of enlisted personnel and 55 percent of officers said they would buy, or were interested in buying, mobilization insurance at \$10 per \$1,000 of coverage. Moreover, 73 percent of enlisted personnel and 60 percent of officers said they would buy it at \$4 per \$1,000 of coverage.

The intent was to have the program cover its losses and expenses from premiums paid by members of the Ready Reserve. The rates were recommended by the DoD Board of Actuaries in an August 1996 memo to the Secretary of Defense at \$12.20 per month for each \$1,000 of coverage up to the maximum \$5,000 per month of income replacement benefits. There were risks associated with the program, but DoD believed the risks to be manageable and worth taking, considering the quality-of-life concern among Reservists.

The program ran into trouble because a substantial majority of Reservists activated for the Bosnia peace-keeping operation elected to purchase income protection coverage. Thus, before it had accumulated adequate premium income, the program's fund incurred a significant liability.

On that note, and with great reluctance, the DoD has asked Congress to suspend the 1996 Ready Reserve Mobilization Income Insurance Program (RRMIIIP). After a three-month study, the DoD concluded that the program's immediate problems—the unfortunate timing of the Bosnia call-up announcements coinciding with the initial enrollment period—were further complicated by fundamental long-term problems of low enrollment and a significant overrepresentation of

mobilized Reservists in the insured population. These systemic problems will require program suspension while the DoD examine other options for addressing Reservists' concerns about income loss upon activation.

The DoD is committed to performing an extensive study of this issue before making a final recommendation to Congress. There are several topics to be researched for presentation: Do Reservists still want or need such a program (as they did in previous surveys); is a mandatory program feasible and acceptable to Reservists and the Services; and, could the program be contracted to a private insurance agency?

While it is not possible to predict a precise date for suspension of the program, early action by Congress is expected. Despite the suspension, the DoD is confident that Reservists entitled to RRMIIIP benefits will be paid in full.

## Worldwide lodging made quickly, easily

The Army has over 26,000 guest rooms worldwide, located within 120 military installations in the continental United States, Alaska, Hawaii,

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Courtesy Photos

LEFT and INSET: An Air Force One look-alike poses as the president's plane. Ohio National Guard members take a stand against the enemy, while the production crew prepares to "roll 'em."



## Ohio National Guard goes Hollywood

Story by Sgt. Steven R. Johnson  
196th Public Affairs Detachment

Picture this: You are standing on the tarmac at Ramstein Air Base in Germany. Word has gotten out that the president's plane has been hijacked. Suddenly his plane makes an emergency landing in your neck of the woods and is now careening down the runway, dodging other planes and vehicles. Instead of slowing down, the large mass of metal starts picking up speed with obvious intentions of taking flight. What do you do? The aircraft is in an area not equipped to handle such maneuvers. Again, what action are you going to take? Run? Yeah, run like crazy!

Fortunately, the scenario is only fiction, though a similar tale took place at Rickenbacker International Airport not too long ago. Rickenbacker was selected as one of the many filming sites for Harrison Ford's new movie titled *Air Force One*. And Ohio Guardmembers played the role of their lifetimes. Okay, maybe not a huge role, but many were cast as "extras" in the movie and seemed to have fun doing so.

*Air Force One*, a new motion picture coming to theaters this summer, plots good against evil in a fight for freedom and democracy. The movie, directed by Wolfgang Peterson, takes the viewers on a suspenseful and action-packed flight as the president of the United States, Ford, deals with a terrorist on his own 747.

*Air Force One* is being praised as the most important film to highlight Air Force personnel,

missions and equipment in 14 years. Scheduled for release in July, the movie is slated to be one of the biggest blockbuster films of the season.

The project involved costs of more than \$318,000, paid by Columbia Pictures, for the use of Air Force and Army personnel and equipment. With the help of Maj. James Boling, director of ONG public affairs, Rickenbacker became Ramstein Air Base—complete with planes, helicopters and most importantly, guardmembers. The support and cooperation of several major commands, wings, squadrons and dedicated people helped make Ohio's part in the movie a success.

More than 350 Ohio Guardmembers interviewed for roles in the movie. Two hundred soldiers and airmen got the job. For eight concurrent days, Guardmembers suited up in various costumes, representing ground crews, pilots, security police, Green Berets and even the Delta Force. Regardless of their usual branch of service, rank or job title, Guardmembers could be anyone in the movie. Many senior NCO's and officers lost rank in the name of Hollywood, and yet, everyone involved played their roles as if they truly occupied the position.

Under the watchful eye of Boling, numerous scenes such as vehicles racing up and down the runway, fighter jets taking off and people scrambling left and right, were filmed. And of course, the "big scene" with Air Force One barreling down the runway, scaring some of the Guardmembers, was carefully observed.

Unfortunately, the first day of filming saw heavy rainfall, soaking the tarmac along with Guardmembers who rode in the back of the

vehicles used for the scene. That day paved the way for the entire week of hindered shooting. Each day the ground had to be hosed down to provide continuity from the first scene. There were mechanical problems with equipment, such as burnt-out lights and the aerial helicopter camera not working properly. A host of other small problems also slowed the filming process, like one of the cameras blowing over due to the enormous thrust put out by the 747 made up to look like Air Force One.

Most of the movie was filmed at night. Powerful lights were used to help emulate dusk, also known on the set as the "magic hour." Various angles and takes were shot of each scene. So, for 10 to 14 hours each night, Guardmembers were involved in a cycle of reruns. Most of the scenes were filmed out of sequence, causing great interest in how each clip would be pieced together to make a smooth flowing movie. Additional scenes were to be shot and edited at various locations and at the Sony Studios in Hollywood.

The overall experience seemed to be a positive one for Guardmembers who traveled from all over the state to provide a force that stood tall in the face of danger. Well, even if the scenario was only fictional, the National Guard stepped up once again to provide support in a time of "recreational" need.

So, during the hot months when the sun is scorching and the humidity is hovering in every inch of outside space, step into an air-conditioned theater and try to find your fellow Guardmembers. ■

## REMEMBER ME?

**S**ome people call me Old Glory. Others call me the Star-Spangled Banner. Whatever they call me, I am your flag—the flag of the United States of America. Something has been bothering me. I thought I might talk it over with you.

I remember sometime ago people lined up on both sides of the street to watch the parade, and naturally I was always there, proudly waving in the breeze. When your daddy saw me coming, he immediately removed his hat and placed it over his heart. Remember? And you—I remember you standing there, straight as a soldier. You didn't have a hat, but you were giving the right salute. Remember your little sister? Not to be outdone, she was saluting the same as you, with her hand over her heart. Remember?

What happened? I'm still the same old flag. Oh, I have added a few more stars since you were a boy, and a lot more blood has been shed since those parades of long ago. But I don't feel as proud as I used to. When I come down your street, you stand with your hands in your pockets. I may get a small glance, but then you look away. I see the children running around and shouting. They don't seem to know who I am. I saw one man take off his hat and look around. He didn't see anybody else with his hat off, so he quickly put his hat back on.

Is it a sin to be patriotic anymore? Have you forgotten what I stand for and where I've been? Anzio, Normandy, Omaha Beach, Guadalcanal, Korea and Vietnam. Take a look at the memorial honor role sometime. Look at the names of those who never came back in order to keep this republic free. One nation under God. When you salute me, you are actually saluting them.

Well, it won't be long until I'll be coming down your street again. So when you see me, stand straight, place your hand over your heart. I'll salute you by waving back, and I'll know that you remembered. *Author Unknown, Reprinted from AMVET.*

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