Ohio fields only Air National Guard unit at AMC Rodeo

After the Storms: Providing a Ray of Hope
Ohio National Guard Soldiers and Airmen help Gulf States recover from hurricanes' devastation
See pages 14-16
Thank You

To the men and women of the Ohio Army National Guard and their families.

You have served your country, state and community with pride and distinction. You have ensured a better way of life for those at home and abroad. Help us make tomorrow a better day for everyone. Contact your first-line leader, first sergeant or commander, and let them know that you want to extend today.

Eligible Soldiers are able to receive a $7,500 bonus if they extend their enlistment for three years. Soldiers signing up for six more years can receive a $15,000 bonus.

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Command focus
Living these identified core values is key to success, says Maj Gen Feucht.

Feedback from the field
A B O U T   T H E   C O V E R S

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A B O U T   T H E   C O V E R S
Command focus

Embracing core values leads each of us to success

I am honored to serve in the Ohio National Guard as a member of the Joint Force Headquarters and as the commander of the Ohio Air National Guard. This is an organization that understands service and duty at the community, state and national level. The success of this organization is directly attributed to your professionalism, dedication and selfless answer to the call to duty.

I continue to be impressed with your excellence, competence and character. When I travel throughout the state to visit units, I continue to so impressed with the manner in which they fulfill their mission and contributions to the defense of our homeland. That pride translates into a level of performance and excellence that few organizations can equal.

The U.S. Air Force has three core values that are applicable to all of us in the Ohio National Guard. These values provide stability to organizations in an ever-changing environment and can affect the behavior and culture of an organization. They are values by which I have tried to live my life and that have guided me throughout my career.

As Citizen-Airmen and Soldiers, and with the support of our families, employers and communities, we sustain our force by embracing the core values of: Integrity First, Service Before Self and Excellence In All We Do. Allow me to detail each of these values, to provide a greater understanding of these guiding principles.

This is an organization that understands service and duty at the community, state and national level. The success... is directly attributed to your professionalism, dedication and selfless answer to the call to duty.

Integrity First is the most important of the three values. Integrity is a character trait. Simply put, it is what we do when no one is watching. It is our moral compass – our inner voice; the voice of self-control and the trust imperatives of today’s military. As a person of integrity, you act on convictions and control impulses and appetites. A person of integrity possesses moral courage and does what is right even if the personal cost is high. A person of true integrity is responsible and acknowledges his or her duties and acts accordingly. Professionalism of integrity encourage a free flow of information within the organization and seek feedback from all directions. A person of integrity is sobered by the awesome responsibility of defending the Constitution of the United States. I encourage each of you to practice integrity both on a personal and organizational level. It should show in the treatment of our people and our words must be followed by actions.

Service Before Self is the second core value. As members of the Ohio National Guard, you are all too familiar with this core value. You may have heard this concept described as selflessness, serving above and beyond the call of duty, helping others and giving 110 percent. Many talk the talk, but it is those who walk the walk who put those words into action. Each time you answer the call to duty you put service before self. Many of you have missed birthdays, anniversaries, weddings or the funeral of a loved one because you were serving others. Your commitment, your sacrifice and your dedication are what set you apart from others and your service on behalf of our community, state and nation is appreciated.

Excellence In All We Do is the third core value. Excellence is the difference between simply doing something and doing it to perfection. It is your personal satisfaction and the thrill you get from performing your best. If you live your life with a passion for excellence you can contribute tremendously to the success of our members. As a professional you promote mission accomplishment not just to the minimum standard but to the achievement of excellence. When you put your head on your pillow at the end of a productive day, you should be able to say to yourself, “I could not have been more productive or given any more.” Some settle for less than their best and are convinced that excellence is negotiable. It is not. Excellence is a commitment to continuous improvement. Excellence is a value that we must nurture and promote throughout the Ohio National Guard. There are only two directions to move in life, forward or backward. Maintaining the status quo means you are actually falling behind.

I believe several key elements make members and organizations successful. Effective communication through leadership and the promotion of values and goals are essential to success. Encouraging improvements to existing norms is essential for effective organizational change. I encourage each of you to be a team player and to be a proactive, positive voice for the continued promotion of values and goals within our Ohio National Guard. I am proud of all of you and your great contribution to our nation, state and community.

Many Gulf States grateful for Ohio Guard’s assistance

The eye of Hurricane Katrina passed over my sister Carriere’s home, with 150 mph winds. She told me that the Ohio National Guard was in the area and that they came to her home to check on them and to see if they had any needs. Thank you for leaving your families to care for mine. I appreciate the sacrifices you made.

I live in Moss Bluff, which is just outside of Lake Charles. We had a National Guard unit here assisting with ice, water and food. They were working from the “old” Wal-Mart location here. Hopefully, my husband obtained the correct information for me: 112th Engineering—Aloha. If that isn’t correct, maybe this is enough information to know who I am talking about.

This group was so kind, polite, generous and really did care! I know they were away from their families, friends and homes! Please give them a “pat on the back” for us. They truly deserve recognition for their work. I think they were away from their families, friends and homes. They truly deserve recognition for their work.

I was pleased to be involved with a company (I do not know which one) of the 437th Military Police Battalion during the crisis in lower Mississippi. The distribution point they were manning (VFW Post 58, on Highway 603 North of Kiln, Miss.) was run in an efficient manner, and they made it a point to see that everyone who showed up had all the essentials.

This unit is a credit to the state of Ohio, and should be treated as such.

Pat r i c k G. M a r t i n

EDITOR’S NOTE: Mr. Martin was referring to the 838th Military Police Company, Youngstown.

My name is Stan Warren and I live in Poplarville, Miss. I wanted to drop a short message and express our gratitude for the Ohio National Guard, who supported our town following Hurricane Katrina.

The individuals of your group were very professional and courteous at all times; they are what makes America such a great place to live.

Let your guys and gals know somehow that they are in our hearts and will always be remembered by the Warren family. Also tell them that our lives are getting back to normal more every day.

The Warrrens (Stan, Deborah, Kirsten and Lorrie) Poplarville, Miss.

As a resident of the Moss Bluff Community just north of Lake Charles, La., I wish to personally thank all your fine National Guardmen for coming to our aid. Everyone who assisted us were all very friendly.

On behalf of our little community, we hope that they all made it back home safe and sound and in the arms of their families who missed them.

Linda S. Manuel Lake Charles, La.

State command sergeant major weighs in on ACU

Recently all of the Ohio National Guard’s general officers and the state command sergeant major received a complete set of the new Army Combat Uniform.

The ACU replaces both the temperate and enhanced hot weather battle dress uniform (BDU) in the clothing bag and the desert camouflage uniform (DCU) as an organizational clothing item and individual equipment (OCIE) item. The ACU was initially fielded in February 2005 as an OCIE item to units supporting Operations Iraqi Freedom and En- dure Freedom.

The phase-in period for the ACU universal camouflage pattern is from May 2005 until May 2008. During this period, Soldiers will have a mix of camouflage equipment. Commanders can authorize the wear of BDU and DCU camouflage equipment with the ACU until May 2008.

The ACU will be placed in the Federal Fiscal Year 2006 clothing bag, and next April will be available in stores and the Kentucky logistics op- eration center.

In order to maximize the service life of the uniform, Soldiers will not starch the ACU under any circumstances. The use of starch, sizing and any process that involves dry cleaning or a steam press will adversely affect the treat- ments and durability of the uniform, and is not authorized. It is recommend- ed that to clean the new uniform, you wash it in cold water and tumble dry at low heat. Sleeves on the coat will be worn down at all times, and not rolled or cuffed.

Rigby, Brig. Gen. Gregory L. Wayt, Ohio ad- junct general, Brig. Gen. Matthew L. Kambic, assistant adjutant general for Army, and I agree that the uniform is Horrific! The feel and comfort of the new uniform is outstanding. It was designed by Soldiers, for Soldiers.

CSM William Gilliam

STATE COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR

Right: CSM William Gilliam (from left), state command sergeant major; MG Gregory L. Wayt, Ohio adjutant general; and BG Matthew L. Kambic, assistant adjutant general for Army, try on the new Army Combat Uniform (ACU).
Airmen show off different combinations of the new Air Force physical training uniform while jogging during the wear-test phase conducted earlier this year at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas.

Air Force sets physical training uniform wear date

The Air Force Uniform Board established an Oct. 1, 2006, mandatory wear date of the physical training uniform, or PTU, for unit fitness activities.

The board also released additional guidance for Airmen wearing the uniform for personal workouts. Airmen may wear the PTU during personal workouts given the following conditions:

- T-shirts may be worn out or tucked in.
- Jackets may be zipped, unzipped and worn with civilian clothes.
- Black or navy blue leggins or stretch shorts may be worn under the uniform shorts.
- White socks of any length and small conservative trademarks are authorized.
- Any athletic shoes may be worn.
- Safety items such as reflective belts, camelbacks and fanny packs are authorized.
- Hats or knit caps are authorized provided they meet military image requirements.
- Headphones are still authorized.
- Bandanas and other similar head scars are not authorized unless Airmen have a medical waiver; and
- Saluting is not required.

For more information, Airmen should contact their commander’s support staff, military personnel flight or personnel office at allotted locations.

SOLDIERS/AIRMEN OF THE YEAR

The best Soldier, Airmen and noncommissioned officers for 2004 were selected and announced earlier in 2005. These six individuals represent the best resource that the 15,000-member Ohio National Guard has to offer—men and women able and willing to respond, when called and ready to do the job required of them, whether at home or overseas.

SOLDIER OF THE YEAR

Sgt. Matthew J. France was a member of Joint Force Headquarters, Columbus. He since has been commissioned as a second lieutenant, and now is a member of Battery B, 1-134th Field Artillery Battalion, Alliance. During the time for which he was recognized as NCO of the Year, France worked full-time for the National Guard as a personnel clerk. He was honor graduate at both his infantry (1B) and administrative (42A) advanced individual training courses.

AIRMAN OF THE YEAR

Senior Airman Patrick M. King has been a member of the 178th Fighter Wing Command. While in flight, Springfield, Ohio, King took control into the Ohio Air National Guard in August 2002. King was the quickest in the history of his unit to complete Air Force “S” level requirements related to his training as a computer technician. He was recognized for his overall computer hardware support to the entire 178th Fighter Wing. He is currently attending Wright State University.

NCO OF THE YEAR

Spc. Paul A. Kapera is a member of Company C, 112th Engineer Battalion. While deployed for two years in support of Operation Noble Eagle, Kapera provided force protection and security at Springfield Air National Guard Base, home of the 178th Fighter Wing. He played an important role in several security force responses, which included a civilian helicopter medical evacuation, a drowned power line and a major vehicle accident.

NCO OF THE YEAR

Tech. Sgt. Dean Butler is a member of the 180th Fighter Wing, Toledo, as security forces craftsman in the wing’s SF squadron, and also serves as the training noncommissioned officer. Butler was mobilized for both Operations Noble Eagle and Enduring Freedom, and also was tasked to deploy to Shaw Air Force Base, S.C., to supplement security forces personnel there. In his civilian capacity, Butler works full-time as a City of Perrysburg police officer.

FIRST SERGEANT OF THE YEAR

Master Sgt. Ruben S. Kinion is the first sergeant of the 121st Air Refueling Wing, Columbus, where he is security forces supervisor. He is a veteran of Operations Desert Shield/Storm, Northern Watch, Noble Eagle and Enduring Freedom. With more than 20 years in law enforcement, Kinion is also a published author, having written more than 10 books and 200 articles, technical documents and lesson plans focusing on law enforcement, security and corrections.

SENIOR NCO OF THE YEAR

Senior Master Sgt. Tony L. Jones is a member of the 121st Air Refueling Wing, Columbus, where he is security forces supervisor. He is a veteran of Operations Desert Shield/Storm, Northern Watch, Noble Eagle and Enduring Freedom. With more than 20 years in law enforcement, Jones is also a published author, having written more than 10 books and 200 articles, technical documents and lesson plans focusing on law enforcement, security and corrections.
Story by Spc. Michelle Morgan, Joint Force Headquarters-Ohio

Taylor

“Hollywood Out” was 612th soldier’s sign-off shot.

There are things that fathers “just know.” They know when their son is ready to take on the challenge of a new discipline; when it is time to take the training wheels off his bike; they know when he is ready for his first driving lesson; and sometimes … fathers know that the men in uniform on your front porch are the bearers of bad news.

When Mike Hodges, an 11-year Air Force veteran, went home on his lunch break, men were standing on his front porch. “I just knew he didn’t want to know, but I did,” Hodges said from his home in Rushsylvania, a village located about 50 miles northwest of Columbus. “I knew in my heart that he was gone.”

The uniformed men told him that his son, Spc. Jeremy Michael Hodges, died Oct. 10 in Baghdad, Iraq. The 19-year-old Ohio National Guard member died of a non-combat related injury the previous day, while serving with the 211th Maintenance Company a year-long tour in Nasiriyah, Iraq.

For Vince Gillfillan, Jeremy’s best friend and fellow Soldier, the loss is especially painful. They were just like brothers throughout high school. They lived close to each other and were inseparable. Whenever you saw one, you knew the other was not far behind. “I treated them both as my sons and I know this is tough on Vince too,” Mike said. “They were together in this same unit, in the same convoy.”

Taylor and his coaches remember Jeremy as someone who always offered help to others. In high school, Jeremy sang in the choir and played football and baseball. He was a tough competitor on the track, football and baseball field but was not afraid to stand out in choir or during musicals. He was a country boy at heart who loved the outdoors. “Here in the Buckeye State, where I grew up, we hunt a lot. We made him keep yelli...
Airmen of the 180th Fighter Wing take their places Nov. 6 in the aircraft maintenance hangar at the Toledo Express Airport, prior to a welcome home ceremony honoring them.

Toledo-based ANG unit returns from overseas

SWANTON—With the Thanksgiving holiday, many Americans reflect on what they are thankful for this year. However, none may be as grateful as the family, friends and Airmen who attended a welcome home ceremony Nov. 6 in the 180th Fighter Wing’s aircraft maintenance hangar at the Toledo Express Airport.

More than 300 members of the 180th took part in the most recent Aerospace Expeditionary Forces (AEF) deployment, which spanned from Aug. 1 to Sept. 30. On this deployment, the 180th—working with units from the Iowa and Oklahoma Air National Guard—fulfilled a U.S. Air Force Aerospace Expeditionary Forces (AEF) rotation in Southwest Asia. Personnel provided aerial support to military operations throughout the U.S. Central Command region, in support of the Global War on Terrorism.

The 180th provided close support for ground forces directly engaged, and used the sound of their aircraft to put fear into the enemy,” said U.S. Air Force Col. Stanley Kresge, base commander.

More than 300 members of the 180th Fighter Wing supported several missions in the state. Soldiers from all over the state of Ohio.

Airmen of the 180th Fighter Wing take their places Nov. 6 in the aircraft maintenance hangar at the Toledo Express Airport, prior to a welcome home ceremony honoring them.

Ohio Army National Guard members attended the range fire with 408 qualifying on either an M-16 rifle or M-9 pistol. Much of the lower-than-planned attendance was due to the very rapid deployment of the always ready Ohio National Guard Soldiers who went to support the response to Hurricane Katrina.

A total of 88 gunners ran the combat pistol range, four M-16 Alternate Course “C” ranges, the engagement skills trainer (EST) and various support elements. While 100 percent of the detachment was fully engaged in this operation, an additional 40 Soldiers from the three major subordinate commands provided support.

The 180th and its pilots completed 2,600 flying hours and 370 sorties with the unit’s F-16 “Fighting Falcon” jet aircraft.

Ohio National Guard leadership and many public officials were on hand to pay tribute to 180th Airmen who deployed, including: Maj. Gen. Gregory L. Wayt, Ohio adjutant general; Maj. Gen. Harry “AJ” Feuch, Ohio assistant adjutant general for Air; U.S. Rep. Marcy Kaptur (D-Toledo), congresswoman for Ohio’s ninth Con- gressional District; Diane Miller, representing U.S. Sen. Mike DeWine; Dennis Fligator, representing U.S. Sen. George Voinovich; state Rep. Mark Wagner (R-Toledo); Toledo Mayor Jack Ford; and Col. Thomas E. Schart, 180th Fighter Wing command- er.

“We were there for you when you left and our hearts re- mained with you while you were gone,” Kaptur said during the ceremony. After her speech, Kaptur presented Schart with an American flag that flew over the U.S. Capitol.

In addition to the AEF deployment, other unit members have recently participated in several Expeditionary Combat Support deployments, in various locations including Iraq, Germany, Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates.

“Like your fathers and grandfathers before you, you have liberated millions from oppression,” Wayt said at the ceremony. Exemplary of today’s Air Force—with elements always on the go—the 180th has members who are currently deployed, and more Airmen who are preparing to deploy in the near future.

“I want us all to remember those who are still deployed or are getting ready to deploy,” Schart said. “Please hold them in your thoughts and prayers until we get them home.”

Story by Senior Airman Janet Dougherty
180th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

Unit supports several missions

More than 500 members of the 180th Fighter Wing served on the most recent Aerospace Expeditionary Forces (AEF) deployment, which spanned Aug. 1 to Sept. 30. In addition to the AEF deployment, other 180th Airmen have participated in several Expeditionary Combat Support (ECS) deployments during 2005, including:

• Security Forces personnel who deployed to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, and to Kuwait in a U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM) support role; • Field personnel who deployed to Balad, Iraq, and also to Rhein Main Air Base, Germany, where they provided more than 9 million gallons per month of jet fuel to transport aircraft in their area of responsibility; • Military Personnel Flight members who deployed to Moron Air Base, Spain, where they provided a Personnel Support Contingency (PERSCO) Team; • Services Flight personnel who deployed to Southwest Asia, where they supported more than 7,800 U.S.-led coalition forces at the second-largest food services operation in the Air Force while monitoring more than 16,000 morale calls on a monthly basis; and • Firefighters and Civil Engineers who deployed to Balad Air Base, Iraq, where the first Hazmat Safety program was initialized, and the largest, most compounded Hazmat incident—with 500 gallons of sulfuric acid—was mitigated without injuries.

The engagement skills trainer (EST) was an American flag that flew over the U.S. Capital.

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Riding in a humvee convoy, 237th Forward Support Battalion Soldiers react to small arms fire from an “insurgent” role player.

**Ohio convoys thunder through Michigan**

As part of convoy training operations conducted at Camp Grayling, Mich., Ohio Army National Guard vehicles rolled over hilly (paved roadways), gravel, sand, narrow roads, bridges and hills. Soldiers overcame heat and fatigue to survive the mock exercises and, when the situation dictated, destroyed Opposition Forces (OPFOR) with M-249 Squad Automatic Weapons, M-16 rifles and 50-caliber machine guns from turrets atop humvees and trucks, also known as “guardian angels.”

Lanes and Ground Assault Convoy (GAC) exercises at the expan-sive training grounds located in northern Michigan were designed to reflect conditions that Soldiers are facing when deployed overseas to places like Iraq, where the possibil-ity of encountering improvised ex-plosive devices, also called IEDs, are a constant concern while conduct-

convoys missions. IEDs normally consist of one or more artillery shells and a trig-
grging device. Soldiers are being taught to look for specific signs indicating the presence of an IED, based on Soldiers’ deployment experiences. IEDs allow small groups of insurg-

ents to select when and where they want to attack, and also permit them the opportunity to blend into society without face-
to-face combat. These weap-

ons have been the cause of about half of U.S. servicemen-

ber deaths in Iraq.

Soldiers assuming the role of OPFOR during the training ex-

ercises at Camp Grayling placed dummy IEDs alongside routes and hid them in the engines and frames of vehicles in the motor pool. Through the use of items including blank ammunition, hand grenade simulators, smoke canisters, flour bombs and pseudo rocket-propelled grenades (RPCG), OPFOR made the training even more realistic for Ohio National Guard Sol-

diers. “We’re going to hit them like we got hit in Iraq,” said Sgt. Rich-

ard Householder, a truck driver for the 148th Transportation Com-

pany, located in Dover. Householder’s unit was called up for a year of duty in Iraq in February 2003. Members who served in Operation Iraqi Freedom provided experience-driven training as they served as OPFOR during a six-day, 40-

mile lanes training exercise.

Soldiers were required to safely navigate the supply route. The emphasis was on communication and awareness. “On a convoy, you have to watch everyone around, be-

cause any civilian can also be an insurgent,” Householder said.

Soldiers learned how to travel through a simulated vil-

lage using proper tactics, and how to identify civilians on the battlefield.

Middle Eastern music, de-

signed to cause confusion, ham-

per communication and increase stress levels, blared over the loud speakers on wooden buildings. Some convoys were road-blocked and forced to halt in the village where individuals in Middle East-

ern garb approached the vehicles and antagonized Soldiers to test the troops’ understanding of the rules of engagement.

While in a village, the instruc-
tion was to maintain an interval of one to one-and-a-half humvees apart and not to engage unless engaged first. Outside of a road-

blocked village environment, con-

voys focused on getting from one point to another without stopping. “They’re going to keep the con-

voy rolling as much as possible,” said 148th Staff Sgt. Bryan Cole, noncommissioned officer in charge of OPFOR for his unit at Camp Grayling. “A rolling target is harder to hit than a stopped target.”

The 237th Forward Support Bat-

talion, headquartered in Spring-

field, normally would conduct sup-

ply convoys, but sometimes when

Leadership focus drives cavalry training

Or photo by Spc. Parker Steele

196th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Story and photo by Spc. Chad Menegay

196th Mobile Public Affairs Det.

Soldiers take cover behind their vehicle while it takes the impact of enemy fire. A sergeant devises a plan that might turn the tables in his Soldiers’ favor. They work together and use the skills they gained at annual training to overcome their challenges.

Soldiers under the leadership of Capt. Devin A. Braun, commander of Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 2nd Squadron, 107th Cavalry Regiment, headquartered in Kettering, took advantage of their mission to support other units by building their own leadership skills in preparation for combat. The focus of the 2-107th at Camp Grayling’s annual training this year was on Warrior Task Training. The skills they capitalized on were basic troop leadership and weapons safety, according to Braun.

“Our goal at AT was to be safe and to provide a meaningful event for our Soldiers,” Braun said. “At the same time we developed individual combat skills. The junior enlisted will become more proficient in basic leader skills that will prepare them to deploy and potentially go to combat.

Braun continued, “Safety is always a big concern. During the initial phase of the AT we were very concerned with pre-

combat checks and pre-

combat inspections. We

units are deployed overseas, they must carry out assault convoys to maintain supply routes. ‘Open’ humvees of the 237th carried out one such convoy operation, at times, directly assaulting insurgents. The GAC exercise consisted of a 15-mile route, repeated three times on the first day and a live-fire exercise on the second.

The 2-37th Training Sup-

port Battalion from Selfridge, Mich., which helps mobilize units all over the country, led the training of the 237th FSB and gave detailed blocks of instruction on field communi-

cation, mounting and dis-

mounting a vehicle, check-

point procedures, 360-degree security, tow bar usage and breaching a suspected IED. The two-day exercise was packed full of techniques and situations, and although a few team members commented to one another that it was a lot to juggle all at once, the in-

structors commented on how well the 237th performed and absorbed information.

For the 2-37th’s final live-fire exercise, members of the 237th FSB navigated six engagement zones, many of which had not fired live rounds from a moving vehicle before. “Obviously, the situations change every day overseas,” Householder said. “These Sol-

diers are going to be more pre-

pared (for the conditions in Iraq) than we ever were.”
Rodeo Round-Up
121st Air Refueling Wing only Air National Guard unit to take on challenge of international competition

The 121st ARW last participated in 1998. The international event has been on hold since it was last conducted at Pope Air Force Base in 2000, due to the increasingly important role air mobility professionals have played during the Global War on Terrorism. Rodeo 2005 allowed AMC professionals to take a pause from the very real, very demanding work they do and come together in an intense but friendly competition that allowed competitors to honor the “best of the best.”

Rodeo 2005 boasted more than 900 competitors from seven countries: Brazil, France, Germany, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, the United Kingdom and the United States. It featured more than 40 aircraft from U.S. and foreign air forces, ranging from the C-21—which is about the size of a Learjet—to the gigantic C-5 Galaxy. France and Germany flew the C-160, a twin-turboprop cargo aircraft. Other foreign nations flew the C-130 Hercules, a four-engine turboprop cargo aircraft. Aircraft the U.S. Air Force teams flew included the C-17 Globemaster III, C-5 Galaxy, C-130 Hercules, KC-10 Extender and the KC-135 Stratotanker (the refueling aircraft flown by the 121st ARW), along with smaller aircraft like the C-21 and the T-1.

Nine other countries participated as observers. In 2000, there were 2,500 attendees, more than twice the participants of this year. The decrease in turnout for 2005 is the result of an increase in operations tempo and funding restrictions.

The Rodeo showcased airdrop, airrefueling, aeromedical evacuation, security forces procedures, short-field landings, related ground operations and the first time—physical fitness. The world’s best aerial refuelers and airliners demonstrated their capabilities, improved procedures, compared notes and enhanced standardization for worldwide operations. Rodeo tested the flight and ground skills of aircrews and aeromedical evacuation personnel as well as the related skills of ground support teams like security forces, aerial port operations and maintenance. It also provided valuable joint and combined training for all participants.

A team made up of two security forces members of the 121st Air Refueling Wing placed second at the Rodeo. Tech. Sgt. Jamie Burr and Staff Sgt. Troy Taylor out-performed 29 other security forces teams from around the world and were the only representatives of the Air National Guard unit to compete. Burr and Taylor competed in the Combat Endurance, Weapon Apons and Tactics tests.

For months prior to the 2005 Rodeo competition, Burr and Taylor engaged in an intense one-on-one competition. The one who fell short at practice did the push-ups. After all the training, and at least a six-year friendship, they knew each other well enough to cue off of each other’s body language. When quick decision-making and prompt action was needed in a scenario which required them to secure a C-130 on foreign soil from civilian protesters, hostile military and a sniper, this immediate, nonverbal communication produced ideal teamwork.

“I am really proud of them. This result is a great way for our security forces team leader, TSgt Jamie Burr, and me to continue our ongoing commitment to the Ohio and the U.S. Air Force,” said Tony Botchie, 121st ARW commander.

The 121st ARW placed third of all the KC-135 teams in attendance. This ranking included air refueling, arrival time, cargo loading, fuel servicing, preflight inspection, daily observations and home station check scores. The unit received perfect scores for on-time arrival and fuel servicing. On the first day of the competition, the 121st ARW received the highest air refueling score.

The unit, headed by aircraft commander Maj. Chris Fuller and co-pilot 1st Lt. Nick Hupp, ranked fourth. Of the 11 tankers participating, the 121st ARW placed fifth.

The 11-member maintenance team, led by Master Sgt. Kevin Cameron, placed sixth. Brining 160 years of combined military maintenance experience gained from worldwide deployments, this im prove ment in their efforts. Cameron, who has spent his entire 22-year career on the KC-135 airframe, consistently demonstrated his wealth of knowledge and expertise in his leadership role. “We have never been more prepared to make Ohio and the Guard proud,” Cameron said.

Serving in the military for 36 years, Master Sgt. Martin Frey was honored by his co-workers by receiving the 121st ARW maintenance Knockle Buster award for his all-around great performance and teamwork.

The youngest member of the team, Senior Airman Colin Gallagan, said, “I didn’t want to let anyone down due to my lack of experience, so I hit the books pretty hard. It was a great learning experience for me and all of my fellow team members and I look forward to going back as a veteran.”

Boom Operators Tech. Sgt. Jeff Morgan and Tech. Sgt. Kevin Cartwright were responsible for composing the 121st ARW tent for “Tent City.” Thanks to the scarlet and gray flag and the specially constructed bar, the unit was known as “the Guard from Buckeye State.” This tent drew multitudes of Buckeyes from all over the country to visit. Often, visitors would start singing the Ohio State University fight song or alma mater as a greeting, and everyone else would join in. The tent was very well received and provided a very welcoming and memorable Air National Guard presence at the event.

“I am really proud of the outstanding performances of each team member and what we learned,” said Maj. Dave Johnson, team commander.

“Security did great, bringing home second place. Maintenance worked hard, as always, and showcased how much they love what they do. And, our aircrew got the highest air refueling score on one day of the competition. We came together and did our best,” he said.

Gen. John W. Handy, commander of U.S. Transportation Command and Air Mobility Command, said he believed it important to hold Rodeo 2005 to allow competitors to test their abilities against peers, while sharing knowledge and building bonds that strengthen joint commitments for peace and security across the international landscape.

The 121st ARW, which has 18 aircraft and about 1,400 people, is the second largest Air National Guard unit in the United States. Located at Rickenbacker Air National Guard Base, the primary mission of the 121st ARW is to provide aerial refueling to the U.S. Air Force, Navy and Marine Corps and allied aircraft. The unit’s Airmen perform worldwide wide refueling and transport missions on a daily basis during times of peace as well as during times of international conflict.

About 220 wing personnel have been mobilized in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, during which time they have performed 27 percent of all the refueling missions, flown more than 3,700 hours and 797 sorties.

In 2004, the 121st ARW was recognized as the best ANG wing in Ohio, and also received the 2004 Outstanding Ohio Air National Guard award.

“Leading this group of fine citizen-warriors has been the highlight of my military career,” Johnson said.
Modern-Day Minutemen Answer Call

By Maj. Nicole Gabriel, AGOH-Public Affairs

Maj. Rob Fenstermaker got the call as he arrived home from work on a Friday, ready to enjoy the Labor Day weekend.

I phone call from a sergeant awakened Spc. Ricky Robinson early that Saturday morning. I arrived home from work on a Friday, ready to enjoy the Labor Day weekend.

On Sunday, these two 21st-Century “minute men” boarded an Ohio Air National Guard C-130 aircraft with 340 Soldiers from the 1st Infantry Regiment. They headed to the Gulf Coast. They joined the Ohio National Guard task force that had been arriving throughout the week in Mississippi and Louisiana to support the national relief efforts in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.

In the tradition of National Guard—which traces its history to the colonial militia or “minute men,” who were ready to defend the homeland on a “minute’s” notice—Fenstermaker and Robinson were among the 1,600 Ohio National Guard members who quickly and efficiently answered the call to support their fellow Americans in a time of crisis.

Like their 18th-Century counterparts, these modern-day minutemen dropped what they were doing, left behind families, jobs and college to answer the call.

Fenstermaker, the battalion operations and training officer, packed a few last-minute things Friday night before saying goodbye to his wife and two children on Saturday. He departed from his family cookout and put his wife’s “honey-do” list on hold indefinitely. “I reported Saturday morning to my unit and started working on the plan to get the battalion down there,” he said.

About the same time, Robinson received a call from his Army supervisor. “He told me I had to come in ASAP (as soon as possible),” Robinson said. A resident of Carlisle, located southwest of Dayton, Robinson is a communications specialist for Headquarters Battery, 1-148th Field Artillery Battalion, Columbus.

“I called my mom to get her to help take care of some personal affairs. I packed up all I could and then headed to my unit in Columbus,” Robinson said. On Sunday, Robinson met up with the battalion’s advance party of about 10 Soldiers who had arrived in Poplarville, Miss., the day before.

During the days immediately following the hurricane, C-130s from the 170th Airlift Wing in Mansfield flew Soldiers and Airmen to the affected states, while other units made three-day conveyances in humvees and military trucks down south.

Ohio’s Air National Guard played a critical role in getting Soldiers, Airmen, supplies and equipment on the ground so quickly, said Maj. Gen. A.J. Feucht, assistant adjutant general for Air. “Obviously, aircraft can get people and equipment there in a matter of hours versus the three days it takes to ground convoy. Having our C-130s from the 170th and our KC-135s from the 121st proved vital to our success.”

Those C-130s and KC-135s enabled the artillery battalion to quickly set up operations.

Robinson spent his first days in Mississippi at the battalion headquarters monitoring the radio. He said he was anxious to go out and help at one of the food and supply distribution sites. “Things are not as bad here as in the other areas, so in some ways, I feel I am not doing as much as I should,” Robinson said. “I am glad to be here, though. I wanted to come. I volunteered. I know if I was a citizen down here, I would expect the help.”

Less than a month later, Mother Nature let loose another punch to the Gulf Coast—Hurricane Rita—and the Ohio National Guard provided an additional 1,100 Soldiers and Airmen to the relief efforts. The assistance was provided under the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC), a national mutual aid and partnership agreement that allows state-to-state assistance during states of emergencies declared by the governor or president.

“The quick response of our Citizen-Soldiers and Airmen was amazing,” said Maj. Gen. Gregory L. Ways, Ohio adjutant general. “We had more than 350 Soldiers and Airmen on the ground in about 36 hours after the hurricane struck. Another 1,000 were on their way within 48 hours and we continued to respond with ready units in the days following as the situation unfolded. This is a testament to our readiness, as well as the sense of selfless service inherent in our guardmembers.”

Ohio’s 1-148th Infantry Soldiers Shine in New Orleans’ Muck

By Maj. Nicole Gabriel, AGOH-Public Affairs

Initially, Lt. Col. Gordon Ellis thought his unit, the 1-148th Infantry Battalion, was headed to Mississippi to assist with Hurricane Katrina relief efforts. About an hour into the planning process, however, Ellis was called by Brig. Gen. Jack Lee, commander of the 73rd Troop Command and Joint Task Force Buckeye.

“He wanted to know how quickly we could get about 300 Soldiers to move by air to New Orleans,” Ellis said. Within 13 hours of starting the battalion recall, 315 of his Infantrymen were aboard Ohio Air National Guard aircraft heading to the Gulf Coast. As they boarded the planes, the Soldiers grabbed body armor, shotguns and ammunition—last-minute supplies that would prove critical to the mission they faced at the New Orleans Superdome.

The Soldiers landed that night at Belle Chase Naval Air Station in Mississippi to extremely austere conditions. There was no power, no sanitation, nothing. “Imagine trying to gather people and equipment with no lights except the lights from the aircraft,” Ellis said.

They spent the first night in a gymnasium at the air station knowing they would be moving to the “Dome” sometime the next day, Sept. 1. “About 7 or 8 a.m., a major at the reception station said, ‘There’s a riot at the Superdome. We need your people there as quick as possible.’” Within a half an hour, the 1-148th Soldiers arrived at the airfield.

“It was a scene out of the movie Apocalypse Now,” Ellis said. “There were all types of military helicopters. Crew chiefs ran out the doors saying, ‘Give me 10, 20 50 pa (passengers). We were loaded and in the air in about 30 minutes. It was the most amazing thing.”

During the 20-minute flight from the air station to the Superdome, Ellis viewed the devastation that was New Orleans. Before him a building burned and as the helicopter descended through the smoke, the Superdome came into view. He saw several thousand people milling around the building, but they did not appear to be rioting.

As the world watched the images of the helpless citizens being rescued from roof tops and heard reports of horrendous crimes taking places in the Superdome, not many knew that the professional Soldiers of Ohio’s 1-148th were on the scene, quietly and efficiently re-establishing order and moving the evacuees out of the building to await transportation out of the city.

The battalion, which returned from peace support and peace keeping operations in Kosovo less than six months earlier, was well prepared for this type of mission, Ellis said. That mission could not, however, prepare them for the conditions they encountered upon entering the Superdome.

“It was surreal,” Ellis said. “The garbage was up to your knees. There was every type of bad smell you can imagine—human waste, rotten food and dead body all mixed into one.”

—Lt. Col. Gordon Ellis

1-148th Infantry Battalion commander

“‘It was surreal,’” Ellis said. “The garbage was up to your knees.

—continued on next page
There was every type of bad smell you can imagine...human... visits Ohio troops, helps distribute supplies to evacuees.

These days, the threat of explosive materials for making “dirty bombs.” Utilizing sleeper cells within a foreign country, a secular terrorist purchased materials for making “dirty bombs.” Vigilant Guard, a three-day, single-site, multi-state training exercise involving a period of heightened alert, was followed by a mock Chemical Biological Radiological Nuclear Explosive (CBRN) attack on a major city in the Great Lakes region which included participants from Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Minnesota and Wisconsin.

Governor visits Ohio troops, helps distribute supplies to evacuees.

Vigilant Guard: an exercise in preparedness.

Story by Sgt. 1st Class Nancy McMillan
196th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Columbus—These days, the threat of explosive-loaded zealots detonating themselves in vehicles, buildings, or any other place of human聚集ability. In this scenario, the terrorist injects that portrayed a heightened awareness of credible terrorist threats.

Crisis of this magnitude bring together many organizations worldwide on a regular basis. The scenarios that were presented helped better prepare us to perform our jobs in a real-life mission.

First, Operation Vigilant Guard was ready to respond...to a mission means hours, not days... A vital component and the first of its kind,” said... “Crisis of this magnitude bring together many organizations worldwide on a regular basis. The scenarios that were presented helped better prepare us to perform our jobs in a real-life mission.”

Vigilant Guard, a three-day, single-site, multi-state training exercise involving a period of heightened alert, was followed by a mock Chemical Biological Radiological Nuclear Explosive (CBRN) attack on a major city in the Great Lakes region which included participants from Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Minnesota and Wisconsin.

Governor Bob Taft traveled Sept. 13 to Southern Mississippi to tour the devastation caused by Hurricane Katrina and visit Ohio troops assisting with recovery efforts near Klin, Miss. Taft visited with several Ohio National Guardmembers supporting Joint Task Force Buckeye.

“I am proud that our Ohio National Guard (provided) much-needed support for the families and communities that are trying to recover from the devastation caused by Hurricane Katrina,” Taft said.

Joint Task Force Buckeye was responsible for security operations in parts of Mississippi and Louisiana and provided support to local law enforcement. The units also were involved in missions including search and rescue, evacuation and delivering supplies to the local populations.

The governor thanked Ohio troops aiding in the Hurricane Katrina relief efforts and helped the troops distribute supplies to evacuees outside Klin, Miss. Taft visited Ohio National Guard Soldiers from the 73rd Troop Command, Columbus; 371st Corps Support Group, Kettering; and 324th Military Police Company, Middletown; and Airmen from the 269th Communications Squadron, Springfield.

Ohio National Guard Soldiers were in New Orleans.

Maj. Gen. Gregory L. Wayt, Ohio adjutant general, thanked Taft for spending time with the Soldiers and Airmen.

“When the (state) commander-in-chief arrives in theater, it shows the men and women he commands that he is proud of them, and that he appreciates their effort and their sacrifice. That means a great deal to a Soldier or an Airman,” Wayt said.

Joint Task Force Buckeye drew personnel from many units of the Ohio National Guard, both Air and Army, utilizing people from all over Ohio to aid in Hurricane recovery efforts.

However, more than 80 percent of the Ohio National Guard’s assets remained in Ohio, ready for missions closer to home, if the need arose. Governor’s COMMUNICATIONS OFFICE.

Vigilant Guard: an exercise in preparedness.

Shorty after the “Vigilant Guard” exercise in August, about 2,700 Ohio National Guard Soldiers and Airmen deployed to assist in the Hurricane Katrina and Rita rescue and recovery efforts.

The assistance was provided under the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC) and through an agreement with a state to provide support to states during emergencies declared by the governor or president. The agreement provides a response and deployment framework for the National Guard in unaffected states to send personnel and equipment to help disaster-relief efforts in affected states.

Although there was no way of knowing that the lessons learned from the Joint Staff exercise would be employed so quickly, Operation Vigilant Guard was the best preparation for the Guard’s support mission in response to Hurricane Katrina a mere two weeks later, and to Hurricane Rita, three weeks after that. ”You saw the results (of the exercise) with Katrina and Rita,” Wayt said. “(The response and deployment plan) was the 21st Century’s finest hour. The entire Ohio National Guard was ready to respond.” AGOH-PUBLIC AFFAIRS.
M embers of Company A, 216th Engineer Battalion, performed their annual individual weapons qualification in August at Camp Sherman, an Ohio National Guard training site just outside of Chillicothe. The unit, headquartered in Chillicothe, has more than 100 members who perform various engineering jobs including carpentry, plumbing and electrical work. The unit also has Soldiers who operate heavy equipment including bulldozers, backhoes, rollers and semi-trucks.

But on this particular weekend, everyone, regardless of their job skill, had the requirement to try and qualify their assigned small arms weapons. This requirement enables Soldiers to maintain familiarity with their weapons, should they ever be called upon to use them.

Weapons qualification consists of a Soldier trying to hit at least 40 targets at a specified distance with 40 rounds of ammunition within a limited amount of time. The minimum required score for an M-16 rifle on a range with stationary targets is 26 hits out of 40 shots. As easy as this may sound, the targets are of varying distances from 50 meters to 300 meters. Soldiers also have to qualify wearing their protective mask and at night.

“The Soldiers of the unit ran a very efficient and effective range," said Capt. Donald Westfall, Company A commander. "I feel very comfortable with the results of this range and the Soldiers who qualified said Capt. Donald Westfall, Company A commander. "I feel very comfortable with the results of this range and the Soldiers who qualified today. This is just another example of why we are the best (company) in the battalion.”

Soldiers held varied views about the weapons qualification. “I really look at the weapons qualification differently now since I have returned from Iraq,” said Spc. Christopher Wysong, a resident of Washington Court House. Added Sgt. Patrick Wolfe: “This was an adrenaline rush. It was good hands-on training. This was one of the reasons why I joined the Ohio Army National Guard.”

Two Soldiers from Company A, 216th Engineer Battalion “zero” their weapons under the watchful eye of a range safety noncommissioned officer. This was done by a UPAR! Ohio Army and Air National Guard Unit Public Affairs Representatives, or UPARs, are a critical element in telling the great Ohio National Guard story. UPARs are encouraged to submit articles and photos meant to inform, educate or entertain our readers, including stories about interesting Guard personalities and unique unit training. Submissions also may be used on the Ohio National Guard website, www.ohionationalguard.com. For information on article and photo specifications, or to submit completed stories and photos, you can send an e-mail to buckeye@tagoh.gov.

LEFT: From the range control tower at Camp Sherman, SSG Richard Wright gives instructions to troops on the firing line. ABOVE: A Soldier takes aim at a target with his M-16 rifle while firing from the “prone, unsupported” position.
HELP FROM ABOVE:
Ohio Army National Guard aviators assist with border security

Some 30 barriers were placed by Ohio Army National Guard Chinook helicopters and crews. The twin-rotor aircraft are each capable of hauling between 18,000 to 26,000 pounds of cargo from as many as three locations located on the helicopter’s underbelly. The aircraft used two of their three hooks for the 1,600- to 2,200-pound barricades. Besides creating a more stable load, it made it easier for the pilots to land the barriers with the pinpoint precision required. “It’s a tricky load for us,” said Maj. Anthony Digiacoimo, the company commander. “The pilots have to place these loads down on the ground using 40-foot slings, plus or minus 6 or 8 inches. It takes a tremendous amount of coordination and therein lies the difficulty in the way the barriers are set up.”

The rugged landscape made it impractical to use heavy equipment to position the barricades Digiacoimo said, making airborne delivery the only option. This put a strain on his pilots, but also provided an exquisitely test of their training and preparation. “(It the barrier) has to be positioned precisely,” he said. “The reason we’re out here is because ground people can’t access this area because of the terrain and how rough it is. It’s too dangerous for ground crews to try to jockey the barrier as it comes down. The aircraft has to place it in a precise manner. That’s where it takes a lot of skill.”

The work is so demanding that only modest stints in the aircraft were possible for the flyers Digiacoimo said. “We have to take a lot of pilots,” he explained. “About two hours of such an intensive flight is about all they can take before we need to rest them.”

The project came about when Digiacoimo received a phone call from Joint Task Force North, a Defense Department agency that acts as a facilitator for homeland security and drug interdiction support efforts. The organization doesn’t have any forces of its own, but specializes in finding military units interested in participating in homeland security support missions.

The task force makes things happen by footing the bill for all mission related costs, except for the costs of materials needed for the project. These are provided by the requesting government entity.

Company G members were eager to take on the project because it represented a strong training opportunity. “This is an air movement operation,” Digiacoimo said. “That’s one of our mission essential tasks. Refueling is another one of our mission essential tasks. What this allows us to do is try all our mission essential tasks along with mobilizing and deployment which is our third. They are perfectly dovetailed.”

The memory shares a three-and-a-half mile border with Mexico and much of the approach from America’s southern neighbor is across hot, flat desert. Once near the memorial, though, the terrain becomes challenging. Near the park edge the ground lifts and is marked by small ridges and washes. Still, an aggressive driver in a sport utility vehicle could often find a way over the ridges and through the washes.

The solution to the problem has been to place several types of barricades in strategic locations to bar access to the park by vehicles. These barricades ranged from vertical posts, to post and horizontal bar combinations, to the “D-Day” style Normandy beach “X-bar” obstacles that the Ohio Guard unit placed in the current operation.

HELP FROM ABOVE:HELP FROM ABOVE:HELP FROM ABOVE:HELP FROM ABOVE:HELP FROM ABOVE:

Story and photo by Dan Simon
Fort Huachuca Public Affairs

Story by Maj. Ed Mikula
Joint Force Headquarters-Ohio

Airport open house showcases Army, Air Guard capabilities

C amp Grayling, Mich., wasn’t the only training site for high-speed joint military operations this past July. Members of various Ohio Army and Air National Guard units descended upon the Ohio State University Airport in northwest Columbus in support of their biennial open house last July.

The Airport Open House proved to be a great venue for Soldiers and Airmen to interact with the public while demonstrating their skills and displaying their unique equipment. While there were more than 40 aircraft on display, the most popular exhibit on display seemed to be the Ohio Army National Guard’s “Herc-93,” a C-130 from the 179th Airlift Wing located in Mansfield.

The Open House began with the Don Scott Trot—a 5-kilometer race on the airport’s runway. The OSU Airport closed the runways so 394 race participants could participate in a charitable run-walk in support of Angel Flight-Mid Atlantic.

Once the 5-kilometer run-walk concluded and the runways opened, the aerial demonstrations began with the 1-137th Aviation Battalion and B Company, 2-19th Special Forces Group, both headquartered at Rickenbacker Airport, Columbus. The 173rd transported a squad of Green Berets into the airport’s infield to simulate a quick insertion rescue mission to recover a wounded com-

LEFT: Visitors to the OSU Airport Open House get up close to the Ohio National Guard’s UH-1 Huey helicopter (foreground) and the C-130 Hercules cargo aircraft.

ABOVE: SFC John Beltran (left) of Company B, 2-19th Special Forces Group, answers questions about the Green Berets and the equipment they use.
Guard chief addresses EANGUS Conference

ORLANDO, Fla.—Among the many presentations during the 2005 National Conference of the Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States (EANGUS), Chief, National Guard Bureau (right) presents SMSgt Shelly Brunn of the 180th Fighter Wing with a Chief’s Coin during the 2005 National EANGUS Conference. LTG H Steven Blum, chief, National Guard Bureau (left) presents...
Army R&R praises top performers in 2005

The Recruiting and Retention Battalion recently recognized those who made an impact on the force’s success during Federal Forces ’05. At the command’s annual Dining Out, Nov. 5 at the Westin Great Southern Hotel in Columbus, many individuals and units were recognized:

Chief’s 54 Award, Sgt. 1st Class Vincent J. Coleman; Chief’s 54 Award Runner Up, Sgt. 1st Class Jacob K. Kandel; R&R Command Sergeant Major Award, Sgt. 1st Class David J. Rohrbough; Regional Production Awards, Kandel and Sgt. Sonny L. Hernandez; Top R&R Area Team Award, Team Canton; Rookie of the Year Award, Kandel; R&D Production Sergeant Major’s Award, Team Rohrbough; High School Recruiting Excellence Award, Staff Sgt. James D. Florence; Minority Recruiting Award, Staff Sgt. John A. Patterson; Superior Performance Non- Prior Service Recruiting Award, Coleman and Staff Sgt. Scott A. Super; Superior Performance Female Recruiting Award, Scott; Top Producer College Markets Recruiting Award, Kandel; MEP’s Guidance Counselor of the Year Award, Staff Sgt. 1st Class Scott S. Berge, and Wrote Letterman Club, Coleman.

Also recognized at the Dining Out were the top five “You Can Challenge” winners; unit members who provided leads that resulted in enlistments during the reporting period: Sgt. 1st Class Jason D. Litz, 838th Military Police Company; Sgt. 1st Class Manuel S. Perez, 88th Military Police Company; Sgt. Phillips, 3rd Support Brigade, Battery, 2-174th Air Defense Artillery Battalion; Sgt. Scotty D. Henson, Company B, 2-174th ADA Battalion; and Staff Sgt. Gregory E. Kandel Company F, 1-134th Field Artillery Battalion.

At the Fall Commanders Call at Camp Perry, units and battalions that provided the most enlistments under the “You Can Challenge” were recognized: First Quarter FAME, Honor Company, 1-107th Armor Battalion (four enlistments); Honor Battalion, 1-148th Infantry; Second Quarter FAME, 2-174th ADA Battalion, 1-174th Cavalry Squadron (tie-five enlistments each); Second Quarter FY05, Company Honor, 1-137th Aviation Battalion and Company D, 1-148th Infantry Battalion (tie-six enlistments each); Honor Battalion, 1-148th Infantry (five enlistments); First Quarter FY05, Honor Company, 437th Military Police Company (five enlistments); Honor Battalion, 437th Military Police Battalion (eight enlistments); and Fourth Quarter-FY05, Honor Company, 838th Military Police Company (nine enlistments), Honor Battalion, 437th Military Police Battalion (nine enlistments).

Top honors for FY05 went to the following: Honor Company of the Year, 838th Military Police Company (20 enlistments); and Honor Battalion of the Year, 437th Military Police Battalion (26 enlistments). For information on the FY06 “You Can Challenge” program and incentives, go to https://ohio.gunter.af.mil/army/military/ and click on the “statistics” link. You must enter your Army Knowledge Online (AKO) login and password when prompted.

FIELD FIGHTER WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Car wash benefits Soldier wounded serving in Iraq

An Ohio National Guard Soldier injured in Iraq received some unexpected help from the Toledo-area community—in the form of a car wash, so he could return home to be with his family.

Staff Sgt. Tim Drake was seriously injured in the fall of 2004 while serving in Iraq when a car bomb exploded near his patrol. Since then, he has been recovering in rehabilitation facilities state wide. In order for Drake to be home with his family, their house needs an extensive renovation before they can move in. The family, their house needs an extensive renovation before they can move in. Drake, wounded serving in Iraq received some unexpected help from the Toledo-area community—in the form of a car wash, so he could return home to be with his family. Their house needs an extensive renovation before they can move in.

Some communities held “welcome home” parties, while others threw parades to honor the return of troops who were stationed in Iraq. Most local troops and their families hold on tight to the pictures taken from the parties and parades held in their honor. The pictures are often stashed away in albums where they are viewed on occasion by family members or friends but, as years pass by, the pictures no longer serve as a permanent source to remind all members of the family of those who stepped up to re- construct the United States, spending extensive periods on foreign soil in a time of violence.

About 40 Soldiers of the 512th Engineer Battalion headquarters, located in Cincinnati, received the Meritorious Unit Commendation, one of the Army’s highest unit awards, for their service during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Twenty-six Ohio Army National Guard units from across the state deployed to Iraq from February 2004 to February 2005, the battalion headquarters commanded a diverse group of engineer units, spanning the active Army and Reserve Army, the Army National Guard, the active and Reserve Marine Corps as well as the active Air Force. The headquarters planned and supervised numerous critical engineer missions, many of which were conducted under hostile fire from anti-Iraqi forces. The 512th’s engineers worked tirelessly on an array of projects that improved the quality of life for both American servicemembers and Iraqi citizens.

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Washington Township trustees Ron Rudd, Tom Dix and Richard Pullard came up with an idea that will continue to re-construct all of the sacrifices made by the Soldiers of the Ohio Army National Guard’s 216th Engineer Battalion, including those in nearby Detachment 1, Headquarters Support Company, located in Felicity. On Oct. 8, Washington Township trustees in Clermont County (located in south- western Ohio) held a ceremony to rename a 16-mile stretch of state Route 756 “the Ohio Army National Guard 216th Engineering Battalion Memorial Highway.”

“This is certainly a fitting tribute to the men and women of the 216th Engineer Bat- talion,” said Brig. Gen. Matthew Kambic, Ohio assistant adjutant for Army. “I will tell you that it is a proud moment anytime the citizens that we serve reach out to pay trib- ute and honor to the men and women for serving our nation and their state today. There is no finer example of that service than the 216th Engineer Battalion. They’ve all been here in times of need, high water, deep snow and when the nation called for service in Iraq. They’ve been a part of your community and today you honor them with this recognition.”

Class ‘makes a difference’ in local Columbus community

Ohio Army National Guard members “made a difference” by helping to build a home for an underprivileged family last July.

The 121st at Air Refueling Wing’s first Airman Leadership Class located at Ricken- backer Air National Guard Base and consisting of 13 students and their four guests, joined more than 100,000 Ohio volunteers and more than 3 million volunteers nationwide as part of “Make A Difference Day.” Master Sgt. Brian Schaefer, a 121st Airman Leadership School instructor who accompanied the group, said the students pro- vided 76 total hours of construction work.

Make A Difference Day is the largest na- tional day of volunteering. Through its out- reach, the campaign touched the lives of about 25 million people in 2004.

This is the first time the Ohio Air National Guard has participated in Make A Difference Day, but Lt. Col. Kathy Lowery, 121st Air Refueling Wing community affairs manager, said she hopes the wing will be able to participate again next year. She encouraged other Ohio National Guard units to become involved as well. Ohio has led the nation the past four years in total service projects; 745 projects were con- ducted in 2004.

The national Make A Difference Day, founded by USA Weekend magazine in 1990, supports communities through activities as food drives, neighborhood and en- vironmental cleanup, health screenings, rec- ognition of veterans, and clothing collection and distribution. SRA DAVID CONRAD / 121ST AIR REFUELING WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Ohio Army National Guard leaders and Washington Township trustees unveil a renaming a 16-mile span of state Route 756 to the “Ohio Army National Guard 216th Engineering Battalion Memorial Highway.”
Country music artist Darryl Worley recently recognized Worley's strong support of the U.S. military.

Too tall to fly, Worley makes good second career choice

When country music star Darryl Worley graduated from a western Tennessee high school, he walked straight into an Air Force recruiter's office and proclaimed he was there to enlist to learn to fly fighter jets.

The Air Force let him down by telling him that at 6 feet 7 inches, he was too tall to fly. Worley never forgot that pain, but he did not carry a grudge. After the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, Worley again went to a military recruiter and asked what he could do to help. This time, the military did not let him down. Military officials told Worley to keep doing what he was doing—by performing in front of people and explaining to them what the military could do for them—so long as he was willing to get the training and stay the course.

Each military member got the opportunity to talk with Worley before the concert, and then they all were treated to seats directly in front of the stage.

“We wanted to stand before Darryl and tell him that his words do mean a great deal to us,” Senior Master Sgt. Dunham said. “You don’t have to be a country music fan to appreciate the message he is sending regarding our mission in the War on Terrorism.”

While the meeting with Worley was a private occasion, the musician made it public when, just before singing “Have You Forgotten,” he pulled the plaque out on stage and read the inscription to the audience.

“I haven’t won any CMA (Country Music Association) Awards yet,” Worley said as he held the plaque up. “But, when I do, they will hang under this plaque. This is much more important and valuable to me.”

That proclamation was greeted by a standing ovation and cheers of support from the crowd of several thousand people.

179TH AERIAL WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

OHARGN Soldier assists in OSU Ranger Challenge win

Army ROTC Cadet Brandon Cheney, also a member of Company A, 1-418th Infantry Battalion, Xenia, Ohio, a member of the winning Ohio State University Ranger Challenge team that finished tops in a recent competition at Fort Knox, Ky., involving 19 universities from across Ohio and Kentucky.

The 18-hour competition covered eight events—the Army Physical Fitness Test, basic rifle marksmanship, construction and execution of a one-roped bridge, patrolling, obstacle course, road march, forced march and a 10-kilometer (6.2 mile) forced road march. LTC TODD D. MILLER / OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY ROTC

Brothers in wings: C-130 loadmasters serve together

Operation Enduring Freedom activities bring together loadmasters in arms, but at Kargush-Khanabad Air Base, Uzbekistan—or K-2 as it is commonly called—two real-life brothers worked together as “brothers in wings.”

Senior Master Sgts. Walter and David Leightenberger, both C-130 Hercules loadmasters with the 774th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron who deployed from the Ohio Air National Guard’s 179th Airlift Wing in Mansfield, Ohio, had quite a lot in common.

Each military member got the opportunity to talk with Worley before the concert, and then they all were treated to seats directly in front of the stage.

“We wanted to stand before Darryl and tell him that his words do mean a great deal to us,” Senior Master Sgt. Dunham said. “You don’t have to be a country music fan to appreciate the message he is sending regarding our mission in the War on Terrorism.”

While the meeting with Worley was a private occasion, the musician made it public when, just before singing “Have You Forgotten,” he pulled the plaque out on stage and read the inscription to the audience.

“I haven’t won any CMA (Country Music Association) Awards yet,” Worley said as he held the plaque up. “But, when I do, they will hang under this plaque. This is much more important and valuable to me.”

That proclamation was greeted by a standing ovation and cheers of support from the crowd of several thousand people.

W. Leightenberger

178th Security Forces Airman take top honors

The Security Forces Squadron came out on top with two Air National Guard Security Forces competition, with members receiving national awards.

Senior Airman Walter Elliott was named Air National Guard SF Airman of the Year, as well as SF Airman of the Year for the entire Air Force. Elliott distinguished himself in various roles, from navigator to loadmaster and Noncommissioned Officer of the Year.

Senior Airman Karen Elliott was named Air National Guard SF Officer of the Year, as well as SF Officer of the Year for the entire Air Force. Elliott also distinguished herself in various roles, from navigator to loadmaster and Noncommissioned Officer of the Year.

Worley's eyes teared up as he was presented a plaque thanking him for his dedication and support of the troops and keeping the Global War on Terrorism fresh in the minds of Americans. “You didn’t have to do this,” he said with a heavy Tennessee drawl. “I never expected anything like this when I was told you were coming to talk with me. I am deeply honored and will wear this shirt proudly.”

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**Federal, state survivor benefits see increase**

Legislators in both Columbus and Washington, D.C., last summer increased benefits for family members of service personnel who die while serving on active duty.

As reported in the Spring/Summer 2005 edition of the Buckeye Guard, Congress passed the Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act (HR 1268), which increased the one-time military death gratuity payment from $12,500 to $20,000. The increase in benefits was effective retroactive to Oct. 7, 2001. In addition, it raised the Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance (SGLI) benefit from $250,000 to $400,000 as of Sept. 1, 2005.

At the same time, the Ohio Legislature focused on the same issues in the biennial budget bill (HB 66). The new law raised the state death gratuity from $20,000 to $100,000. Previously, the Ohio law only covered guardsmen serving on State Active Duty. The new law expands coverage to include duty under Title 10 and operational Title 32.

The new law also requires the adjutant general to reimburse members for the cost of the SGLI premium while they are in an active-duty status. If an Ohio National Guardmember serves under federal or state active duty for part of any month, the adjutant general must reimburse the entire SGLI premium for that month.

An additional federal insurance benefit came online on Dec. 1, 2005. A $100,000 traumatic injury payment was added to the SGLI coverage. The traumatic injury coverage costs an additional $1 per month, and was applicable retrospectively to all existing SGLI policies beginning with December pay.

For more information, call (614) 336-7000. JOHANN KLEIN / AGOH LEGISLATIVE LEADON

**Historical trip top prize in NGB student essay contest**

The National Guard Bureau is sponsoring the "Lewis and Clark Youth Recognition Trip," which began Nov. 12 and will end Feb. 28. Submissions are due by Dec. 15, 2005, and will end Feb. 28. Submissions focusing on the "Lewis and Clark Youth Recognition Trip," must be 1,000-1,500 word essays discussing the Lewis and Clark journey and must be submitted by Nov. 12 and will end Feb. 28. Submissions will be evaluated on the basis of originality, creativity, and relevance to the theme. The grand prize is an all-expense-paid journey to North Dakota to follow the Lewis and Clark trail, experience Indian cultures of yesterday and discover military history. The trip will take place Aug. 13-18, 2006.

For information, visit www.lycouty.com or contact Lt. Col. Julie Blake at (614) 336-6000, extension 7672. OAHRNG RECRUITING COMMAND MARKETING

**Scholarships now available for children of military families**

The Defense Commissary Agency and the Fisher House Foundation have teamed up again to offer educational scholarships to children of military families and retirees.

The Scholarships for Military Children Program is marking its sixth year. DEA spokes-

man Kevin Robinson said the goal is, to provide at least one $1,500 scholarship for each of DEA's 268 commissaries worldwide. Authorized applicants include unmarried children under age 21 of active-duty, Guard or Reserve, or military retiree families, Robinson said. Applicants may also range up to 23 years in age if they are enrolled in school.

The application period for this year's DEAC-Fisher House scholarship program began Nov. 1 and closes Feb. 22. Robinson said. Application forms for the program are available at commissaries worldwide and for download via the Internet at www.commissaries.com or www.militaryscholar.org.

Robinson said applicants are required to write and submit an essay on why they admire a great past or present military leader. More than one scholarship per family may be awarded. Robinson said. In 2004-05, 500 scholarships were awarded.

The Fisher House Foundation administers the Scholarships for Military Children Program, which is funded by manufacturers and suppliers of groceries and services in the commissary system. JERRY G. GILMORE / AMERICAN FORCES PRESS SERVICE

**Ongsp Application Deadlines**

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It is the responsibility of each individual student/guardmember to hand deliver or mail a completed application to the Ohio National Guard Scholarship Program Office, located at the Adjutant General's Department, 2825 West Dublin Granville Road, Columbus, Ohio 43219-2789, by the deadlines listed above. This must be done prior to each term a student attends school. You may also renew your application online at www.ongsp.org. For more information, call (614) 336-7032 or toll-free (800) 400-6484.

**Guard Snapshots**

RIGHT: Two Clyde High school seniors, PVZ Andrea Sherman (second from left) and PZV Cory Wetzel (third from left), transferred to the Ohio Army National Guard after their Reserve unit, the 705th Transportation Company of Mansfield, was deactivated as a result of Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC). Tiffnoon Recruiters SSG Kevin Hollembacher (left) and SSG Brian Clum found the Soldiers a new home with Bravo Company, 612th Engineer Battalion.

LEFT: MG Gregory L. Woyt (left), Ohio adjutant general, and retired Brig Gen Stephen M. Koper (right), National Guard Association United States president, present U.S. Rep. Dave Hobson with the NGAUS MG Charles Dick Medal of Merit, for a lifetime of legislative service to the National Guard. RIGHT: Showing recognition during the Army Engineer Association Regimental Conference are the 216th Engineer Battalion's LTC J. Robert Vojta (left), who won the Grizzly Award as the most outstanding engineer leader in the National Guard; and SGT Raymond Baso, who won the Sturgis Award as the top engineer NCO in the Army.