

GUARD

BUCKEYE

MAGAZINE OF THE OHIO ARMY AND AIR NATIONAL GUARD
SUMMER 2009



ANNUAL TRAINING 2009:

**CAMP RAVENNA EMERGES AS
VERSATILE TRAINING SITE, OHIO
UNITS TRAIN CLOSER TO HOME**

Pages 7-9

LINEAGE LINK UP
Headquarters and Headquarters Battery,
1st Battalion,
174th Air Defense Artillery Regiment
Woodlawn



MISSION:

To provide air defense for an Army headquarters, and when assigned the corps or division headquarters and Brigade Combat Team (BCT) forces, areas or installations against cruise missiles, unmanned aerial vehicles (UAV)/unmanned combat aerial vehicles (UCAV) and rotary- and fixed-wing aircraft.

DATE & PLACE OF BIRTH:

May 1917, Cincinnati, Ohio

PARENT UNIT:

Supply Company, 1st Infantry

CAMPAIGN CREDIT:

WORLD WAR I - Ypres-Lys; Meuse-Argonne; Lorraine 1918
 WORLD WAR II - Air Offensive, Japan; Guadalcanal; Northern Solomons

AWARDS:

Meritorious Unit Commendation (Army), Streamer embroidered
PACIFIC THEATER



HQ Company, 147th Infantry
 Camp Perry, Ohio, 1934



HHC, 1st Battle Group, 147th Infantry
 Camp Grayling, Michigan, 1960



HHB, 1st Battalion, 174th ADA Regiment
 Camp Buehring, Kuwait, 2006



Supply Co. 147th Inf. 37th Div.

Camp Sherman, Ohio, 1919

GUARD BUCKEYE

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Summer 2009

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ADJUTANT GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT

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Gov. Ted Strickland

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Maj. Gen. Gregory L. Wayt

Assistant Adjutant General, Air
Maj. Gen. Harry "A.J." Feucht

Assistant Adjutant General, Army
Maj. Gen. Matthew L. Kambic

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Chief Master Sgt. Tamara Phillips

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SSGT ROBERT KOEHLER / 179TH AIRLIFT WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Three C-130 "Hercules" cargo aircraft line the runway at the Mansfield-Lahm Airport, home to the Ohio Air National Guard's 179th Airlift Wing. The unit received the 2008 Air Force Outstanding Unit Award for exceptional work from January 2007 through October 2008. Many Ohio Army and Air National Guard units, offices and individuals have made significant accomplishments over the past couple years. In their honor, many of their contributions and achievements are highlighted on pages 14-16 of this issue.

FEATURES

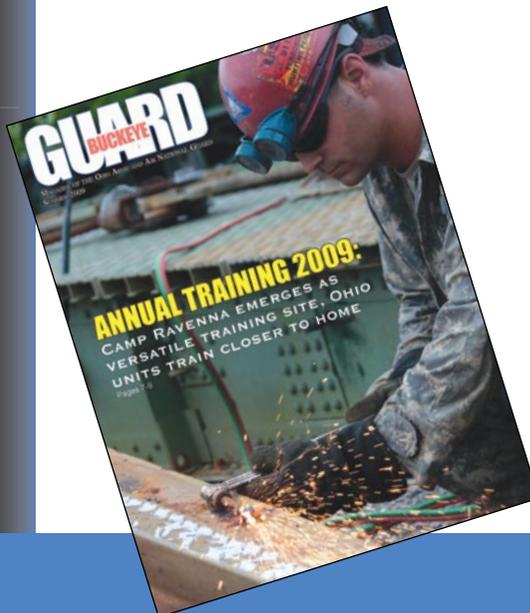
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Suicide prevention training aims to ensure every Soldier has multiple battle buddies looking out for them.

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ON THE COVER

ANNUAL TRAINING 2009: Spc. Ryan Brashears, a member of the 211th Maintenance Company, Newark, cuts a bolt with an oxyacetylene torch June 10 at the Camp Ravenna Joint Military Training Center. More Ohio National Guard units are training at the northeastern Ohio installation each year. At the height of the June rotation, about 1,000 Soldiers—mostly from the 174th Air Defense Artillery Brigade, 371st Sustainment Brigade and Joint Task Force 73—were on ground. **Photo by Spc Ryan A. Cleary / 196th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment.** See pages 7-9, and for additional articles and photos, and to watch videos on Annual Training 2009 at Camp Ravenna, go to <http://ong.ohio.gov>.



on the web @ <http://ong.ohio.gov>

Guard succeeds despite challenges

by Gov. Ted Strickland
State of Ohio Commander-in-Chief



...Today's National Guard is more active—and perhaps, more relevant—than at any time in history...the Ohio National Guard represents the best of Ohio leaders and dedicated public servants.

As Governor, I proudly serve as the commander-in-chief of the Ohio National Guard. While we all face challenges as public servants in these trying times, the Soldiers and Airmen of the Ohio National Guard maintain a selfless dedication to Ohioans.

As Ohio National Guardmembers, your responsibilities reach across the borders of our state and nation.

In fact, you have all willingly chosen to serve in the military during a time of war and economic crisis, and have placed the needs of your state and country before your own. Today's National Guard is more active—and perhaps, more relevant—than at any time in history.

Despite the increased demands on your time and energy, it makes me proud to know that the Ohio National Guard continues to fill its rosters, with current membership levels reaching more than 110 percent. These numbers are a testament to Ohioans' sense of civic duty and volunteerism.

Members of the Ohio National Guard always complete their work with efficiency and unparalleled professionalism. Whether it's their presence overseas to support peacekeeping, contingency and humanitarian operations; their work in the U.S. in times of national crises and natural disasters; or efforts in local communities to assist Ohioans in times of need, the Ohio National Guard represents the best of Ohio leaders and dedicated public servants.

Sustaining the Ohio National Guard is critically important for the safety of our state and nation. I have supported the efforts of the Ohio Congressional delegation to increase full-time staffing in the Ohio Army National Guard. My administration also advocated to the federal government to address the critical equipment shortfalls within the Ohio Army National Guard, which were caused by years of inadequate funding and commitment.

But during these difficult economic times, every facet of government has been impacted. To help realize efficiencies, our Guard has delayed improvements to facilities and equipment while maintaining their missions and critical services. We will continue working to make investments in facilities and equipment a key priority as we move forward.

We must also continue to invest in the Ohio National Guard Scholarship Program. As many of you know, I believe that a seamless education for our students is essential to the future success of our state. I will continue to support this program and others that will give all Ohioans access to quality educational opportunities.

Our Guardmembers rely on many for comfort and understanding, but I would like to acknowledge the Families and employers of our Ohio National Guard men and women in particular.

National Guard Families are humble, but their sacrifices do not go unnoticed. I have witnessed the bravery, and also the fear and pain, of spouses, parents, sisters and brothers, as loved ones embark on extended deployments. I have spent time with Gold Star Families when their loved ones have not returned home. Their strength and courage is an inspiration to us all.

I have also spent time with Guard employers, often at deployment and welcome home ceremonies. Many are just like close friends or Family members. Their willingness to lend valuable employees for days, weeks, months and sometimes years is essential to the Guard's ability to achieve success. By welcoming members back to work upon their return, employers help the National Guard attract and retain the most qualified and professional members for its organization.

I often say that our Ohio National Guard is the best Guard organization in the country. At no time in our history has our force been better educated, trained and equipped. And at no time in our history has more been expected of you. You are the best of what Ohio has to offer, and on behalf of all Ohioans, I am proud of all you do. **OG**

What is an Ohio National Guard ambassador?

The National Guard is the only military component in the United States that has both a state and a federal mission. Not only has the Ohio National Guard deployed more than 15,000 Airmen and Soldiers around the world since 9/11 in support of U.S. national security objectives, but thousands of men and women of the Ohio National Guard have also deployed around Ohio and the country supporting the governor and citizens of Ohio and other states whose lives were turned upside-down by natural disasters. Those deployments, whether for a week, a month or a year, challenge our Families, employers and neighbors. The continued readiness of the National Guard to perform both the national defense and state missions require strong and sustainable relationships with our key communities—those elements of the public who are impacted by what we do or who can influence our readiness.

The office of community outreach is working to promote sustainable relationships with the National Guard's key communities by educating them about and connecting them with the Ohio National Guard. The process of building those connections creates opportunities for influential people to become Ohio National Guard ambassadors.

Several key communities heavily influence readiness. National Guard Family Readiness Programs are charged with building strong and resilient relationships with America's military Families. The Ohio program is not only meeting that challenge, it is setting the standard for such programs across the nation.

Strong and resilient relationships with Ohio National Guard employers are also critical to readiness—our Airmen and Soldiers need to know that their opportunities for employment and advancement will not be put at risk because of their service. The Office of Community Outreach sponsors quarterly joint employer outreach events and Army Guard annual training employer events, and invites employers to call to duty and homecoming ceremonies. Our experience shows that employers, once they understand the service their employee-Guardmembers provide, are more

reaching
to communities to employers
OUT Lt. Col. Kathy Lowrey



than willing to support the Guardmember. We also hope to facilitate more employer involvement and other employment issues at reintegration activities. In order to continue expanding our relationships with employers, we are pleased to announce the addition of 1st Lt. Nicole Ashcroft as the new employer outreach coordinator.

Other significant key communities include educators, youth, minorities and females. Working with educators facilitates reaching out to youth. This is important because we want Ohio youth to learn about and consider the benefits of a career with the Ohio National Guard. Reaching out to racial and ethnic minorities and females is a proactive and long-term commitment to building a more diverse force.

Ohio National Guard ambassadors are those special people who have taken it upon themselves to be an important part of our team by connecting with us and cultivating ongoing support of each other. The newly-revised brochure "How to Become an Ohio National Guard Ambassador" provides specific examples about how to make these connections. Effective teamwork with influential ambassadors is critical to maintaining our long-term readiness and a strong operational Ohio National Guard force.

If you would like to see the brochure or provide feedback, please do not hesitate to visit <http://ong.ohio.gov> on the web or contact me at 614-336-7002. **8G**

Lt. Col. Kathy Lowrey is the director of community outreach for the Ohio National Guard

Employers spend day with Ohio National Guard, leave impressed

By Tech. Sgt. Annette R. Kornasiewicz,
180th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

PORT CLINTON—The Camp Perry Joint Training Center and the 180th Fighter Wing hosted a joint Employer Readiness event June 13, sponsored by the Ohio Adjutant General's Department, welcoming 19 employers of Ohio National Guardmembers.

The event gave the employers the opportunity to learn about the Guard mission and experience some of the things their employees do when not at their civilian jobs. The day was also an opportunity for senior Ohio National Guard leaders to thank the employers for their day-to-day sacrifices in this global environment that relies heavily on its Citizen-Soldiers and -Airmen to support worldwide missions, sometimes on very short notice.

Beginning at Camp Perry, located in Port Clinton, the employers received a briefing from Maj. Gen. Matthew L. Kambic, assistant adjutant general for Army, who outlined the Guard's role in current operations around the



PHOTO COURTESY OF 180TH FIGHTER WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Ohio National Guard Joint Employer Readiness visit participants learn about improvised explosive devices used overseas.

globe. The employers next participated in a improvised explosive device training class showing static displays of how the enemy may hide IEDs.

"The IED program was sobering and enlightening," said Tom Allen, president of Virtual Technologies Group.

The participants were flown to the 180th Fighter Wing in Toledo, where they were

treated to an MRE (Meal, Ready-to-Eat) lunch, saw a static display of an F-16 fighter jet and toured the solar energy field.

For many employers, the day was very educational as many said they were impressed with the level of professionalism of the men and women in the Guard.

"It was very enlightening as to the level of training, education and focus that the members of the Guard have," said Dan Wakeman, president and CEO of St. Luke's Hospital in Maumee.

According to Lt. Col. Kathy Lowrey, director of Community Outreach for the Ohio National Guard, and chief organizer of the event, there will be opportunities for Guardmembers to nominate their employers in the coming months for future Employer Readiness visits.

"Our goal is to foster long-term relationships with our employers, helping to nourish strong and resilient servicemembers Guard-wide," Lowrey said. "Today has been such a fabulous day for everyone in moving toward that goal." **8G**

As program takes shape, active alumni will make it a success

The Ohio National Guard Alumni Affairs Program has now been underway for more than six months. During this time I have observed a strong and growing interest on the part of many Ohio National Guard alumni to reconnect and to renew relationships in support of our Soldiers, Airmen and units. As I travel around the state, I have found many groups of alumni, both formally established and ad hoc, meeting and working in support of Ohio National Guard units and many other local charitable endeavors. It has been especially heartwarming to observe our alumni attend call to duty and welcome home ceremonies for their former units as the Ohio National Guard continues to respond with ready units when called.

The following are some of the questions I am frequently asked about the program:

Q: Can non-military civilian staff members and former staff members of the Adjutant General's Department qualify as Ohio National Guard alumni?

A: Anyone with a past or current affiliation with either the Air or Army Guard, uniformed or non-uniformed, are welcome, as are family members of these groups.

Q: What do I have to do to receive the Alumni Newsletter?

A: There are two ways; go online to the Adjutant General's web site at: <http://www.ong.ohio.gov/AlumniTest.aspx> and register for the newsletter, or contact me by email: james.chisman@us.army.mil, or by phone at 614-336-7336. All of the newsletters are also available on the Adjutant General's public web site.

Q: Will the Alumni Newsletter ever be distributed in hard copy?

A: There are no plans at present to distribute it other than electronically. However, a number of retiree/alumni groups around the state do print out copies for alumni who do not use computers or have access to electronic mail.

Q: Why is the Adjutant General's annual retiree reunion not being held at Camp Perry this year?

A: The event, which is now known as the alumni reunion, is being held at the Defense Supply Center Columbus on Sept. 19 this year. It is a one-day event targeted equally to Air and Army alumni. The thinking is that this event will be more centrally located and easier to attend than previous ones held at Camp Perry. If you have not received sign-up information, please go to the website or call 614-336-7336. This event certainly does not preclude any of the unit retiree associations from continuing to host their annual meetings at Camp Perry.

Q: What is the relationship between the Alumni Relations Program and the new Community Outreach Office?

A: The alumni relations program is contained within the community outreach function and works cooperatively with all the other elements of that program, as well as with many other areas of the Ohio National Guard.

Alumni News Update



staying connected >>><< COL (Ret.) James Chisman

Q: What do retirees and other alumni have in common?

A: All are interested in the Ohio National Guard and its success. Each of them has invested a portion of their life in it and made many close friends among Soldiers and Airmen past and present. They want to know what is going on, they want to know what is coming in the future, and in many cases, they want to have the opportunity to be of service and to support our members and Families.

Q: How can I as an individual alumnus or member of a retiree/alumni group help my former unit and/or the Ohio National Guard in general?

A: Many alumni have asked this question and we are working on a process within the Community Outreach Office to manage these requests. At this time, the best opportunity to volunteer support to the Ohio National Guard is directly through the Army Guard Family Assistance Centers and the Air Guard Wing Family Program Coordinators. For information on how to volunteer for these programs, just call 800-589-9914.

Q: Is the G-RAP (Guard Recruiting Assistance Program) still operational and can alumni qualify as Recruiting Assistants to earn up to \$2,000 for each new enlisted recruit and up to \$7,500 for select officer accessions?

A: The program is operational and alumni who are retirees of the Ohio National Guard (Army and Air) qualify. For more information, please go to the web at: <http://www.guardrecruitingassistant.com>

Many Ohio National Guard alumni groups will be hosting reunions later this year. Check the newsletter for an up-to-date listing and plan to attend the Adjutant General's Alumni Reunion and any of these other events that you can. You will renew old friendships and thoroughly enjoy yourself, while at the same time receiving important information about the current activities and accomplishments of your Guard. The Ohio National Guard is highly respected around the world today, and that is a product in part of the professionalism and commitment of the Ohio National Guard alumni. Thanks for your service. **OG**

Retired Col. James H. Chisman is a federal government contractor serving as the Ohio National Guard Alumni Affairs Coordinator. He can be reached at james.chisman@us.army.mil or by phone at 614-336-7336.

NATIONAL NEWS

Fellow adjutants general elect Wayt to be next AGAUS president

COLUMBUS—The Adjutants General Association of the United States (AGAUS) on June 4 elected Maj. Gen. Gregory L. Wayt, Ohio adjutant general, as its new president.

AGAUS represents the senior leadership of the Army and Air National Guards of the 50

states, territories (Puerto Rico, Guam and the U.S. Virgin Islands) and the District of Columbia. The National Guard has the 11th largest Army in the world and the 5th largest Air Force. It represents 38 percent of the total U.S. military force structure and more than 458,000 personnel.

"I'm honored to have been selected to represent my peers and lead this extraordi-

nary organization," Wayt said. "The National Guard is more relevant today than perhaps anytime in its history and I'm excited for the opportunity to help mold and facilitate our collective organizations and help ensure we always maintain that relevance."

Wayt recently held the position of vice-president for Army in the AGAUS. **ADJ. GEN. DEPT PUBLIC AFFAIRS**

New state educational benefits, coupled with revamped GI Bill, could pay off for Guardmembers

In July 2009, the Ohio General Assembly passed the state operating budget after months of negotiations between the House, Senate and the governor. The budget contained numerous cuts to state services and reduced the state portion of the National Guard budget by 20 percent from 2009, to about \$9.6 million, but it also contained several provisions that could benefit Guardmembers.

- The bill guarantees that members of the Ohio National Guard who live out-of-state will receive in-state tuition when they attend Ohio colleges or universities. This will allow these members to take advantage of the Governor's GI Promise initiative.

- It directs the chancellor of the Ohio Board of Regents to work with the Department of Veterans Services to develop specific veterans preference guidelines for higher education institutions. These guidelines shall ensure that the institutions' hiring practices are in accordance with the intent of Ohio's veterans preference laws.

- It ratifies the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children. The compact establishes guidelines that ensure that school age children of military Families have a smooth transition when they enroll in a new school district when their parents are relocated.

- It held the Ohio National Guard Scholarship Program budget constant from 2009 at \$14.92 million.

In 2008, Congress passed legislation that created the Post-9/11 GI Bill Program. In July, the Department of Veterans Affairs released the new implementing regulations for the program that took effect Aug. 1.

- The Post-9/11 GI Bill provides financial support for education and housing to individuals with at least 90 days of aggregate Title 10 service on or after Sept. 11, 2001,

legislative look

with johann klein



or individuals discharged with a Title 10 service-connected disability after 30 days.

- National Guardmembers and Reservists with at least 90 days of active duty Title 10 service after 9/11 qualify for benefits under Chapter 33 (the new, Post-9/11 GI Bill).

- If a Servicemember is eligible for the Post-9/11 GI Bill and one or more other education benefits (Montgomery GI Bill-Selected Reserve), that member must choose one benefit package.

- Servicemembers enrolled in the Post-9/11 GI Bill program can transfer unused educational benefits to their spouses or children starting Aug. 1, 2009.

- Monthly living stipend (not for active-duty personnel) equaling the military's basic allowance for housing for someone at the E-5 pay grade with dependents, adjusted to the cost of living in the ZIP code where the recipient (or Family member) is going to school.

- An annual stipend for books and supplies up to \$1,000.

Currently only Title 10 service makes a Servicemember eligible for Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits, although numerous veterans groups are pressing Congress to change the law to cover Title 32 service and President Obama has indicated his support for including Title 32 service.

The Department of Veterans Affairs manages the program and determines eligibility. Eligible National Guardmembers and their Families should visit www.gibill.va.gov for more information or contact Kristina Himes, the Ohio National Guard's GI Bill manager, at 614-336-7293 or kristina.himes@us.army.mil 

Johann Klein is legislative liaison for the Adjutant General's Department

TOLEDO

Command profile



CMSgt Michael Haas
180th Fighter Wing
Age: 49

Full-Time Position:

180th FW Flight Services Manager

Hometown: Wauseon

Family: wife, Sherry (retired 180th member); two sons, Jeremiah, boom operator, McConnell Air Force Base (currently deployed to Iraq), Kansas; Joshua (aspiring writer and electronics guru)

When I was younger, I wanted to:

drive a semi truck

Most recent achievement: being selected as the 180th command chief

The last good movie I saw was:

Taking Chance

The book I'm reading is:

Raising the Roof by Alice Mann

My favorite recreational activity:

riding my Harley and fishing (not at the same time, of course)

The things I treasure most: Family

(including my three wiener dogs), friends

Nobody knows I'm: dying to build and race lawn mowers for a hobby

I'm better than anyone else at:

eating dark chocolate M&Ms

I'd give anything to meet: Colin Powell

The three words that best

describe me: driven, honest, determined

If I could leave today's

Guardmembers with one piece of advice it would be: You serve in the greatest military in the world. Be proud of what you do and strive to leave it a better place for those that will follow in your footsteps. Take care of each other.

Mentoring: a responsibility to develop future National Guard leaders

The Ohio Air National Guard is at full strength in practically every, if not every Air Force specialty code. Yes, our talented recruiters have done an awesome job; our units now have numerous Airmen ready and eager to jump-start their military careers.

So, what now?! First, let's focus on the word "career." Merriam-Webster defines career as "a profession for which one trains and which is undertaken as a permanent calling." These Airmen are our future leaders and all will need career guidance, direction or mentoring, i.e., a mentor, each and every step of the way not only to greatly enhance their retention in the Ohio ANG, but to ensure their career goals can be achieved. Again, Merriam-Webster defines mentor as "a wise and trusted counselor or teacher," or "an influential senior sponsor or supporter." Now more than ever, leaders and senior leaders must step up and mentor these future leaders or "mentees."

The Air National Guard's mentoring program is available through the Air Force Portal to all Active, Guard and Reserve members authorized to login to the AF Portal at <https://www.my.af.mil/>. After you've accessed the portal, locate the Enlisted Development Plan (my EDP), it only takes a couple minutes to register and you'll be able to access from the base and from home. This is an excellent tool

for mentors to track the performance and progress of the mentee. This tool can even inform the mentee of the requirements for promotion to the next rank and the steps to achieve this.

As some of our current members approach their four- or six-year enlistment terms and as our new members, whether just returning from technical school or in a student flight, they need our leadership. You as an effective mentor can have a positive impression on our Airmen and might be the spark needed to continue their career in the finest military organization.

Let us all continue to keep the Air National Guard strong.

**CMSGT WADE L. GASTON
HUMAN RESOURCE ADVISOR
JOINT FORCE HEADQUARTERS-OHIO**

NCOs: Be the example

I remember my first duty section as an airman basic at Shaw Air Force Base, S.C. We had 17 buck (E-5) sergeants in the shop. These gentlemen were the heart and soul of the unit. I admired them for their wisdom and work ethic. They could answer all my questions and would take me out and show me how to perform the task. They inspired me to want to come to work and do my job to the best of my ability every day. Every time a noncommissioned officer told me to do something, I was excited that I was being

given a chance to excel.

I say this because some of our Airmen don't realize the significance of what they do each and every day and how it plays a critical role in fighting the current conflict. It doesn't matter if an Airman is a crew chief, gate guard or heavy-equipment operator; each Airman matters. If the Airmen running the dining facility grill think the job isn't important and serve an undercooked burger to an aircraft mechanic, then that mechanic can't prep jets for flight to put bombs on target and the terror network thrives. As NCOs, it is our duty to communicate this to our junior Airmen. It is our responsibility to lead by example and show them we are in this fight with them.

At times, we get away from the basics of being strong NCOs. We supervise through e-mail and hope our team gets the message. Whatever happened to good old face-to-face communication? Sometimes Airmen need to see that fire in our eyes to understand the significance of what we are saying.

Another failure is when we don't follow up on tasks because we are too busy. We need to know about Airmen's Families and the goals of team members. It is not as easy to lead those you know very little about.

NCOs are the heart of the Air Force body. The units go as we go. The NCO corps drives mission accomplishment, morale and the overall environment of the unit. The NCO corps fosters loyalty, mentorship and empowerment. Give our people what they need to do the job and cultivate that long term buy-in for supporting mission accomplishment.

We do a lot to take care of the Air Force team, but this can sometimes be overlooked by someone on the team who thinks it's not enough. Airmen should understand respect is earned, not given. If it is determined they do not care, then as good NCOs it is our responsibility to take charge of the situation. Once we determine they want to do the right thing, it's our duty to guide them, mentor them and ensure they have the tools to be successful Airmen. Always reward them for doing an outstanding job.

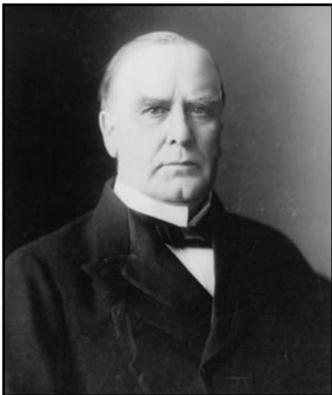
We, as NCOs, have a responsibility to show our Airmen our core values aren't just a slogan but our way of life. We have to be the example and not the "do as I say, not as I do" NCO. Our rank does bring a certain clout and we must use this extra muscle to fight for our people. On the other hand, we shouldn't be afraid to say "no", when needed, it still works.

Teach Airmen the right way to do business, and it will make life much easier for us all as we go about our mission of putting bombs on target and making the world a safer place for everyone.

**MSGT TERRY KELLY
379TH AIR EXPEDITIONARY WING
U.S. AIR FORCE**

HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHT

Celebrating the Year of the Noncommissioned Officer—



LIBRARY OF CONGRESS PHOTO

Commissary Sergeant William McKinley Jr.

William McKinley's public career opened and closed against the background of great national conflicts—the Civil War, which he joined as a private at the age of 18, and the Spanish-American War, which he ably prosecuted as commander-in-chief. During the Civil War he served most of the time in the 23rd Ohio Volunteer Infantry, where he served with distinction under Rutherford B. Hayes, later 19th president. Hayes described McKinley as "a handsome, bright, gallant boy." On one occasion, as a commissary sergeant at the battle of Antietam, he personally drove a wagon of hot rations through the thick of the fighting to his troops—a novel exploit that was widely praised. He left

military service and returned to Ohio with the rank of major. In the years that followed, he was twice governor and commander-in-chief of the Ohio National Guard. In 1897 William McKinley became the 25th president of the United States of America. For more information on The Year of the NCO visit: <http://www4.army.mil/yearofthenco/home.php>. Submitted by Staff Sgt. Joshua Mann, OHARNG Historian

EDITOR'S NOTE: The Secretary of the Army has established 2009 as "The Year of the Noncommissioned Officer." In celebration of this, the Historical Highlights for 2009 will profile significant events in Ohio's NCO history.

ANNUAL TRAINING 2009

Maintenance company Soldiers keep things rolling at Camp Ravenna



Story and photos by
Spc. Ryan Cleary
196th Mobile Public Affairs Det.

NEWTON FALLS—Three Soldiers heave the device that allows them to remove the hefty tire from one of their support trailers June 9 at the Camp Ravenna Joint Military Training Center.

Wiping away the sweat brought on from their coveralls, they roll the tire off the axle to better examine the condition of the hub and bearings.

This is just one of the many duties the 211th Maintenance Company, headquartered in Newark, Ohio, completes on a daily basis.

“We’re supporting all maintenance missions for the units of this year’s annual training,” said Chief Warrant Officer 2 Timothy Streit, a resident of Newark and construction equipment repairman supervisor with the 211th.

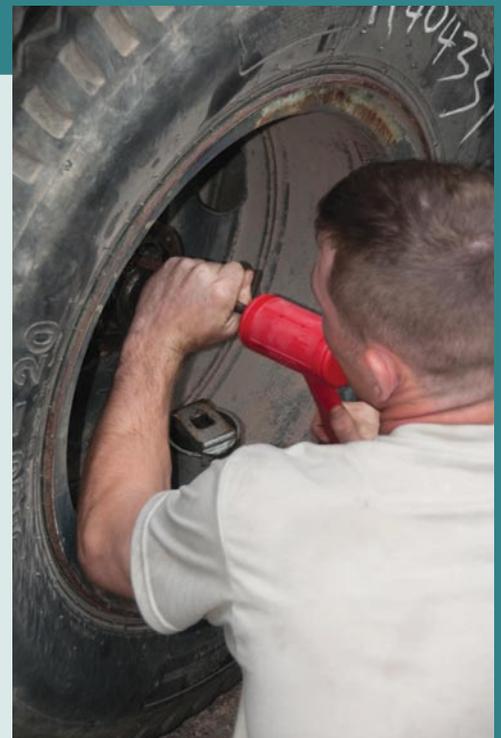
The 211th is at the top of the maintenance tree for the entire annual training operation at the CRJMTTC.

“We have a vast amount of knowledge within our unit that allows us to tackle almost any maintenance issue,” Streit said.

With more than 15 military occupational specialties within their ranks, including everything from welders to generator mechanics, they cover a lot of bases.

Aiding them in the process of maintaining the vehicles and equipment for units at annual training and back at home station, the 211th uses the Standard Army Maintenance System-Level 1 Enhanced. The SAMS-E provides units with the ability to load their vehicle and equipment deficiencies into a central system to track maintenance costs and repair schedules along with providing solid records and customer receipts.

In addition to the SAMS-E, the 211th is also taking advantage of the space afforded by the CRJMTTC. The long warehouse-type buildings accommodate the equipment of



ABOVE: SGT Tyriss Davis of the 211th Maintenance Company removes a tire from the rear axle of a support trailer June 10 at the Camp Ravenna Joint Military Training Center. **LEFT:** Spc. Ryan Brashears, cuts a bolt with an oxyacetylene torch.

the 211th quite well. This is the first year the CRJMTTC has hosted a full maintenance unit, but it hasn’t been without its challenges.

“The hardest thing that we’ve faced so far during this annual training is the wide variety of equipment that we are working on,” said Sgt. 1st Class Timothy Clark, a Newark resident and platoon sergeant for the 211th.

With the large amount of space the 211th now occupies, unit members are finding that once the frustrations of adjusting to a new site wear off, the CRJMTTC will be a better home for the 211th at annual training.

“We like it because it’s a much shorter trip (from home station), and the way we have it set up is great because we have electric in the building,” Clark said. We can even back up our trucks up to the building so that we don’t have to use ladders like we did at Grayling. It’s just safer all around for the Soldier.” **86**

CAMP RAVENNA

VIRTUAL CONVOY SIMULATORS HELP UNITS PREPARE FOR REAL-WORLD POSSIBILITIES

Story and photos by
Sgt. Sean Mathis
Joint Force Headquarters-Ohio Public Affairs

NEWTON FALLS—In the midst of engaging the enemy with a .50-caliber machine gun, Pfc. Jacob Deskins' Humvee was struck by a roadside bomb. Deskins and three other passengers were "killed" in the attack, so he took off his virtual simulation goggles and awaited the next scenario.

Deskins and the rest of Recon Platoon, 637th Chemical Company, were participating in the Virtual Convoy Operations Trainer June 10 at the Camp Ravenna Joint Military Training Center.

"It was like a big video game," Deskins said.

Sgt. 1st Class Misty Dawn Tanner, Recon Platoon sergeant, said the VCOT is a highly effective approach to preparing Soldiers for real convoy operations.

"It takes away from the monotony of everyday training... these Soldiers don't know what it's like to be shot at," Tanner said.

The VCOT facility uses computer screens that provide 360 degrees of visibility of the simulated operations theater. It was designed using maps of Baghdad, Iraq. Soldiers "drive" Humvees at four different simulator stations that operate independently of each other, with radio operators maintaining contact from the passenger seat. These Humvees are protected by a gunner with a .50-caliber machine gun that operates similarly to a real weapon.

Tanner said every Soldier should get this training because every Soldier will eventually ride in a convoy operation, regardless of military occupational specialty.

One of the VCOT operators, Staff Sgt. Nicholas Wilcher of 2nd Squadron, 107th Cavalry Regiment, said a lot of the trainees have not experienced convoy operations before. Wilcher said the VCOT provides the most realistic and innovative training to date, which prepares Soldiers for real convoy operations in the future.

"We've had first-hand experience in seeing how this training does help Soldiers; this is the stuff they're going to see in theater," Wilcher said.

Staff Sgt. Cole Derringer of Recon Platoon, who managed radio communications for his VCOT Humvee, said the simulation was a morale booster and confidence builder for Soldiers.

"It gives Soldiers a chance to see what troops are facing in Iraq and Afghanistan and experience just how crazy it can be," Derringer said. "It was an excellent training experience for Soldiers who haven't been overseas. It gives them insight into what they may see when they're deployed." **BG**



ABOVE, TOP: PV2 Mike Trujillo of Recon Platoon, 637th Chemical Company operates the virtual .50-caliber machine gun during a Virtual Convoy Operations Training Exercise at the Camp Ravenna Joint Military Training Center. **ABOVE:** SSG Nicholas Wilcher briefs Soldiers of Recon Platoon, 637th Chemical Company, on how to use the Virtual Convoy Operations Trainer. **OPPOSITE PAGE:** SPC Marcus Brown of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 371st Sustainment Brigade Special Troops Battalion, exits the Humvee Egress Assisted Trainer simulating a 90-degree rollover.

LEARN MORE:

For additional articles and photos, and to watch videos on Annual Training 2009 at Camp Ravenna Joint Military Training Center, go to <http://ong.ohio.gov>

EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES

HUMVEE ROLLOVER TRAINER TEACHES SOLDIERS HOW TO HANDLE ACCIDENTS

Story and photos by Sgt. Sean Mathis
Joint Force Headquarters-Ohio Public Affairs

NEWTON FALLS—Spc. Marcus Brown braces his hands against the roof as his modified armored Humvee rolls upside down. Disoriented, he unfastens his seatbelt, removes the combat locks on the door and exits.

Brown and other Soldiers from Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 371st Sustainment Brigade, participated in Humvee Egress Assisted Training (HEAT) simulator training at Camp Ravenna Joint Military Training Center June 10 to learn how to react to a Humvee rollover.

Staff Sgt. Paul Ours, operations noncommissioned officer with the Camp Ravenna Joint Military Training Center, said the HEAT simulator “familiarizes Soldiers with IED (improvised explosive device) strikes and unit SOPs (standing operating procedures) in the event of a rollover.”

There are only 52 HEAT simulators in the country and two of them are located at Camp Ravenna. The simulators are made out of refurbished armored Humvees that have already been used in combat theaters. Ours said he would like to see more units using the facility.

“Soldiers spend thousands and thousands of hours driving Humvees, but they’ve never experienced being in one upside-down and disoriented,” Ours said. “It gives Soldiers a simulation of what could happen in theater.”

Spc. Norma Ortiz of the 371st said the simulator is so realistic she “physically felt the pain of it.”

Ortiz said her height made escaping the vehicle a physical challenge as she climbed from the front to the back seat and out the gunner’s hatch. Despite the challenges, Ortiz said she would recommend the simulator to every Soldier.

“So when they experience a real rollover, they already know what to do,” she said. **SG**



TOP: The 371st Sustainment Brigade Signal Detachment’s Shane Miller holds up his range safety paddle to signify that the MK-19 grenade launcher range is clear. **MIDDLE:** PV2 Bruce Carr (left) and SPC Norma Ortiz of Detachment 1, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 371st Sustainment Brigade out of Newark, fire on the Firing Arms Training System’s (FATS) virtual trainer. **BOTTOM:** PFC Brian Zindorf, a chemical specialist with the Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 155th Chemical Battalion, recovers from the gas chamber.

Making History

Phillips is first woman, African-American to be state command chief



Phillips

Story by 1st Lt. Nicole Ashcroft ♦♦♦ Adj. Gen. Dept. Public Affairs

COLUMBUS—Making history is not something new for one Ohio Air National Guardmember. Chief Master Sgt. Tamara R. Phillips has made history in the past and now once again by becoming the first female and first African-American state command chief for the Ohio Air National Guard—the organization’s top enlisted position. She made history in 2005 when she became the first female chief for the Springfield-based 178th Fighter Wing.

When Phillips began her military career 22 years ago, she knew she would be setting high goals for herself. She achieved chief master sergeant, a goal she had set for years, but said she never imagined becoming the state command chief and attributes her success to positive thinking.

“I feel blessed that I was able to achieve my goal...to be command chief is icing on the cake,” Phillips said.

In her new role as the state command chief, she serves as a mentor and guide for the 5,000 Airmen in the Ohio Air National Guard. She said she believes her personnel background will be extremely beneficial because she knows what it takes to manage an Air Force career from beginning to end; something she feels will help her when assisting Airmen throughout Ohio. When she steps into her new role, she has 12 priorities and goals that she plans to achieve, including diversity development, building leaders and encouraging members to participate in programs.

Phillips’ personnel experience began with a four-year active duty tour as an Alaska National Guardmember with the 168th Air Refueling Group in Eielson Air Force Base, Alaska. When she learned of a flight headed to Ohio, she and her husband packed for a visit and laid the foundation to move back home near family. During the trip, both she and her husband found new positions in Ohio—she as a full-time reservist at Wright Patterson Air Force Base. After serving in the Reserves for a year, she made the switch to the Ohio Air National Guard when she joined the 178th Fighter Wing.

Phillips served in a number of roles at the 178th including command support staff, information manager, first sergeant, commander’s administrative assistant and most recently, force support squadron superintendent. Phillips said she has seen a major transformation in the force throughout her career.

“The biggest change is the increased professionalism,” she said.

“We are not like the active duty; we have enlisted people joining with degrees and professions outside of the Guard. It is a very professional organization.”

Although she has faced many challenges and hurdles, she said the lesson she has found most valuable is that the challenges and

hurdles do not define you; you are defined by how you react to them. She said Airmen should align themselves with mentors because those mentors will have a huge impact throughout an Airman’s career. Without the support of her mentors, their guidance and leadership, she wouldn’t be where she is today. In addition to mentors, she said family support is vital.

“Families are absolutely vital. I couldn’t have done it without their support,” Phillips said.

Phillips said the biggest piece of advice she would like to share with Airmen are the six key questions she’s used throughout her career and encouraged struggling Airmen to use in theirs. She said instead of playing the “blame game,” Airmen should ask themselves six questions when they are faced with

problems in their military careers:

- Do I come to work on time?
- Do I wear my uniform right?
- Do I treat my customers right?
- Do I treat my co-workers right?
- Do I know my job?
- Am I being the best that I can be?

“If you start with these six questions, be positive and be a good Wingman, your career will go great,” Phillips said. **AG**

**“we have enlisted
people joining with
degrees and
professions
outside of the
Guard. It is a very
professional
organization.”**

—Chief Master Sgt. Tamara R. Phillips,
state command chief



with Chief Master Sgt. Tamara R. Phillips

INTERVIEW BY
STEVE TOTH,
ADJ. GEN. DEPT
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

How would you describe your leadership philosophy?

-My philosophy is to lead to build leaders. All of the mentors that I've had throughout my career have worked with me and encouraged leadership in me. I'm going to encourage our chiefs to build that core of leadership, especially in our mid-level NCOs (noncommissioned officers). I look for the good in folks before I look for anything else. I try to pull that out of them, and accentuate the positive...you build leaders by holding people accountable, and challenging them beyond their everyday jobs.

What will be the main challenge(s) for the Ohio Air National Guard during your tenure? What is your main goal to achieve during your time as command chief?

-The one thing I want to make sure I do, is support the TAG's strategic goals and objectives. There are three that I think I can make an immediate impact on: increasing the level of training we do with our troops, diversity and Family Readiness Programs. I'd really like to see a seamless relationship between the Family Readiness Program and our chiefs—they're with our Airmen on a day-to-day basis and have the most impact on their organizations. I think it's vitally important to have our leaders, who have that influence, involved in those programs.

Would you tell us about your Family?

-Both of (my children) are in the 178th Fighter Wing (in Springfield). They are both A1Cs (airmen first class)—Jazmyn (her daughter) is a "personnelist" and Brent II (her son) is an aviation resource manager. My husband, Brent I, is a network administrator in the civilian sector.

Is there a military tradition in your Family or did you start one?

-I was born into the Army and raised in the Air Force. My father was in the Army. When my mother remarried, she remarried into the Air Force, so I grew up in the Air Force from age 5 on up. The culture of my life was the Air Force. When I was a junior in high school, we moved to Eielson Air Force Base, Alaska. When I graduated from high school, one of my mentors encouraged me to join the National Guard for the educational benefits, and I did.

Do you have any pets?

-I have a dog—Nina—she is nearly deaf and blind. She is German Shepherd and Rottweiler mix. She is spoiled (laughs).

You are 41 years old. Command Sgt. Maj. Albert Whatmough, who was recently appointed Ohio Army National Guard state command sergeant major, also is 41. Do you think that speaks to any kind of trend or direction for those in higher-ranking enlisted positions in the organization?

-It seems like it is a trend now. I think we have a much more professional organization than we used to in the old days. I think we're seeing a lot more Airmen enlisting with degrees. Actually, I think we're just starting to fall in line with Corporate America, because if you look at Corporate America, it's not uncommon to see a young face, a 41-year-old make it to a VP (vice president) position.

What advice would you give to a young Soldier or Airman enlisting in the Guard today?

-Make the best of your career, because this is a good gig. There are not too many places you can go, and work one weekend a month, get paid the way you get paid and reap the benefits of the National Guard. Take advantage of the benefits...but contribute what you have (skills), give back as well.

If you could do or be anything else other than this, what would it be?
-I would like to travel, and see the world on my own—not under any type of schedule or mandate.

Do you have a prized possession?

-The most important thing is Family. Most people think they have best kids in the world, but I know I do (laughs).

Favorite sport to play/watch, or do you have a favorite team?

-I don't have a favorite sport or team, but I usually root for the underdog.



TODD CRAMER / ADJ. GEN. DEPT. PHOTO LAB

Favorite activity outside of work?

-Working in my church. I sing in a women's ensemble at church and I love doing that.

Favorite color?

-Blue (of course).

Would you describe a perfect weekend, outside of drill?

-Spending it with my kids and husband. As long as I am with them, it doesn't matter what we are doing.

Have you seen any good movies or read any good books lately?

-I am reading a book from the Harvard Business Review, *Managing Yourself*. It gives a whole lot of insight about yourself. I can find myself in that book.

If you could be an animal, which one would you be and why?

-an eagle, because of their majestic nature, and the way they soar high above anything else, and their keen eyesight. I would want to be able to soar above all of my issues, and never dip down and get down and despair, but of course we all do that. I like the keen eyesight—I want to have a level of discernment, so that I can effectively manage myself and help others...that's actually one of my daily prayers—"help me to be sensitive to what others are feeling." We don't always achieve it, but that's kind of where I want to be.

Is there anything else you want people to know about you?

-If there's one thing that I want to be written about Tamara Phillips, it would be that I certainly didn't achieve this position with my own strength. To God be the glory. **86**

Military police units conduct riot control training to be proficient, ready for civil support mission



Story and photos by Sgt. Sean Mathis
Joint Force Headquarters-Ohio

Rain drops pelted them as they rolled through the mud, kicking and screaming. They were surrounded by a 10-foot-high fence with concertina wire that caged the rioting prisoners inside, while Soldiers and civilian Special Response Teams (SRT) stood outside in riot gear, ready to intervene.

The Soldiers, assigned to the 838th and the 323rd Military Police Companies, were conducting a Quick Reaction Force exercise with their civilian counterparts June 17 at the Grafton Correctional Institute in Grafton, Ohio.

The training exercise was a simulation of a possible scenario where gang-related violence brought on a full-scale riot throughout GCI's recreational facilities. SRTs from GCI, the Lorain Correctional Institution, the North Coast Correctional Treatment Facility and the Northeast

Pre-release Center, along with the Lorain County Sheriff's department canine unit and the 838th and 323rd Military Police Companies, all took part in the scenario. Some of the personnel played the role of rioting prisoners while the rest trained as a Quick Reaction Force (QRF) for riot-control.

"This is a great exercise, it's real-life, real-world training," said 1st Lt. Patrick Vehr, 3rd Platoon leader with the 323rd. "The better we are at this, the more effective we'll be for real-life scenarios."

The training exercise measured the military police companies' response time and efficiency—they are required to respond to emergencies within six to eight hours. The training also tested their ability to work in cooperation with local special response teams, mixing formations and working as one cohesive unit while performing riot



LEFT: Smoke grenades are used to simulate 2-chlorobenzalmalononitrile (CS) gas while a combined formation of local special response teams and Ohio National Guard Quick Reaction Force military police Soldiers move into position along the fence during a training exercise at the Grafton Correctional Institution in Grafton, Ohio. LEFT, INSET: Clad in blue shirts, Soldiers of the 838th and 323rd Military Police Companies play the role of prisoners and taunt local special response teams and QRF Soldiers that guard the fence line at Grafton Correctional Institution. ABOVE: Soldiers and prison staffers acting as prisoners charge local special response teams and QRF Soldiers.

control.

“It is important that we learn how our tactics mesh with other’s tactics,” said 1st Sgt. John Williams of the 838th.

Despite the obstacles of working with so many different units who have different ways of doing business, Maj. Stephen Michael Reynolds, GCI’s chief of security, said the exercise went better than expected. The exercise tested participants’ abilities to negotiate a peaceful resolution, develop and implement operations orders, deploy the SRTs and QRF for containment and observation, clear rooms and buildings and effectively employ their weapons and training.

“We met all five objectives and handled the situation in a timely and effective manner,” Reynolds said.

Throughout the scenario, negotiators escorted by SRT members

with riot shields attempted to peacefully resolve the scenario. Snipers lined the rooftops, observing the riot to ensure the prisoners were contained. The SRTs and QRF threw simulated tear gas and live flashbang grenades to disperse crowds and disorient rioters before they moved in.

“It was really realistic,” said Sgt. Ryan Ochmanek of the 323rd, who played a rioting prisoner during the scenario. “They really used flashbangs, they really used riot formations.”

The 838th will rotate in as the Ohio QRF in October, making the unit the first military responders, if called by the governor, during this type of state emergency.

“The National Guard is always there to help anybody,” Ochmanek said. “It’s not just overseas; we’re here to help locally as well.” **86**

The Ohio National Guard...

The Soldiers, Airmen and civilians who make up our Ohio National Guard Family have been consistently called upon to provide their talent and skills wherever they have been needed. When called, we have responded with ready units at home and abroad. Our organization's values drive us to provide superior service and results to our nation, state and communities in which we live, work and train.

The numerous awards and recognition earned have been incredible, and are reflective of the professionalism and dedication of every member of the Ohio National Guard. Winning these awards requires hard work and extra sacrifice. These efforts are nothing short of spectacular. The performance of all who are part of these awards is remarkable, and your selfless service has not gone un-noticed.

I am grateful for the awards we have received, but am most grateful for the impact we've had on the citizens of Ohio and the United States, whom we are sworn to serve and protect.

These pages highlight several individual, team, office, unit and organizational accomplishments of the past couple years. While not necessarily all-inclusive, this collection provides a thorough representation of the high level of quality, results and achievement by the members of our Ohio National Guard Family. It is a celebration of our successes—people and groups making a difference, pulling together and moving our organization forward—and sets a standard for us to aspire to, and even exceed, in the future.



Gregory L. Wayt

Gregory L. Wayt
Major General
The Adjutant General

Ohio Army National Guard

Ohio Army National Guard

Selected by the Department of the Army as the Fiscal Year 2009 Army Communities of Excellence (ACOE) Special Category Winner. The ACOE award recognizes the OHARNG's effort in improving their overall performance and capabilities.

The Fiscal Year 2009 award marks the third time Ohio has won the competition.

In addition to the award, the Ohio Army National Guard will receive \$750,000 for use toward improving the "quality of life" for the employees and Soldiers of the OHARNG.

OHARNG Recruiting and Retention Detachment

Fiscal Year 2008 was a record-setting year for the Ohio Army National Guard's Recruiting and Retention Detachment, which capped off one of its highest recruiting years ever by earning the National Guard Bureau's Director's Diamond award—the top award for achievement of all assigned recruiting and retention missions. Ohio recruiters met or exceeded NGB strength maintenance goals in six mission assignments—recruit sustainment, accessions, officer strength, retention, attrition and enlisted strength—to attain the top award.



1st Battalion, 137th Aviation Regiment

In April 2008, the 1-137th Aviation Regiment was selected as the runner up for the Supply Excellence Award, Army National Guard, Level III(A) Parent MTOE. Units were judged based on overall supply operations which included: CIF, property accountability, logistics accomplishments, innovations and CSDP.

Public Affairs

Ohio garnered several awards in the 2008 National Guard Bureau Media Contest, including first place for the Buckeye Guard (top National Guard magazine), 196th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment (local television newscast), Sgt. Steve Engle of the 196th MPAD (National Guard broadcaster of the year), Staff Sgt. Nick Pavlik (television sports report) and 2nd Lt. Kimberly D. Snow (photojournalism).

Snow also earned a second-place in the feature writing category, for "Nine is Enough?" about an Ohio National Guard Family's sacrifices in raising nine kids, four of whom they adopted from impoverished countries (see pages 6-7, Fall 2008 Buckeye Guard). The piece also won second place in the Department of the Army's Keith L. Ware Media Contest.

U.S. Property and Fiscal Office

2008 National Guard Bureau Two-Star Award for supporting National Guard Internal Review initiatives. Ohio Internal Review received its first Star Award in 1999 and has received a total of 20 Stars through 2008.



State Safety Office

Five-Year "Stellar" Safety Award

73rd Troop Command, Columbus

Combined Logistics Excellence Award

174th Air Defense Artillery Brigade, Columbus

Capt. David Haynes of Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 2nd Squadron, 107th Cavalry Regiment was one of 27 company-grade officers nationwide to receive the Gen. Douglas MacArthur Leadership Award at a May 11, 2009, ceremony at the Pentagon. The officers are selected based on their leadership performance, team-building skills, ability to influence, commitment to Army values, technical and tactical competence and understanding of their leaders, subordinates, and peers.



637th Chemical Company, Kettering

The unit recently earned the designation of best chemical company in the Army National Guard. The U.S. Army Chemical Corps' Maj. Gen. William L. Sibert Award is annually presented to the top chemical companies in each Army component—active-duty, Reserve and National Guard. The Sibert Award aims to recognize excellence in the U.S. Army Chemical Corps, instill pride and reinforce the essential elements of mission readiness, leadership, discipline and organizational excellence in a quality force.

Logistics

National Guard Bureau Award for Efficiency in maintenance (best Maintenance Shop within each state)—Field Maintenance Shop 17, Camp Perry Joint Training Center

Army Award for Maintenance Excellence (AAME)

216th Engineer Battalion, Woodlawn—Region 4, first place; NGB, runner-up
324th Military Police Company, Middletown—Region 4, runner-up; NGB, seventh place

UTES, Camp Ravenna Joint Military Training Center—Region 4, runner-up; NGB, seventh place

Phillip A. Connelly Award (Best Food Service)

2nd Battalion, 174th Air Defense Artillery Regiment—Region 4, first place

Deployment Excellence Award (DEA)

Joint Force Headquarters-Ohio. The award was created to recognize excellence in units and installations for outstanding accomplishments which meet or exceed Army deployment standards. The program is co-sponsored by the Department of the Army, Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff, G-3 Operations, the Deputy Chief of Staff, G-4 Logistics and the National Defense Industrial Association.

The DEA objectives are to recognize deploying units, installations and supporting units for deployment excellence, capture and share deployment initiatives which improve the deployment process and track Army deployment training trends.

Ohio Air National Guard

121st Air Refueling Wing, Columbus

- First Sergeant of the Year—2008, Master Sgt. Risa Jennings
- 2008 ANG Recycling Award for Team Excellence
- 2008 Ohio ANG Best Public Affairs Program (3rd year in a row)
- 2008 Ohio ANG Adjutant General's Family Readiness Program of the Year
- 2008 Honor Guard Member of the Year for Ohio, Senior Airman Robert Browning
- 2008 ANG Honor Guard Program Manager of the Year, Senior Master Sgt. Joe Onesto
- ANG Outstanding Voluntary Environmental Achievement Award Senior Master Sgts. Rex Coleman and Mark Miesse
- ANG Outstanding Environmental Employee, Ms. Janice Church
- Levitow Outstanding Airman Leadership School Graduate, Senior Airman Roxanne Hansen
- ANG Environmental Restoration Award



123rd Air Control Squadron, Blue Ash

- 2008 Air Force Outstanding Unit Award. The unit received the 2008 Air Force Outstanding Unit Award for their excellent work from April 1, 2006 through March 3, 2008.

178th Fighter Wing, Springfield

- Ohio Cross, Staff Sgt. Robert Bragg
- 2008 ANG Individual Volunteer Environmental Award, Master Sgt. Randall Barnett
- Distinguished Graduate—Academy of Military Science, 2nd Lt. Chadwick Lutz
- 2008 ANG Outstanding Fuels Management Flight Winner of Best Fuels Operation. The National Guard Bureau named the 178th Logistics Readiness Squadron Fuels Management Flight "the Best in the Air National Guard" for their field.
- FY08 Second Quarter Award Winner for Wing with Highest Average Accessions. The 178FW Recruiting Team was awarded the National Award for unit with the highest average accessions. The recruiters during that period were: Master Sgts. Pamela Daulton, Amanda Conaway and Tech. Sgt. Bukari Miles



- Top Five Recruiter in State of Ohio, Conaway
- Gold Recruiting Badge for reaching 125 percent of recruiting goal, Daulton and Conaway

179th Airlift Wing, Mansfield

- 2008 Air Force Outstanding Unit Award
- 2007 Chief Master Sgt. Ralph E. Sanborn Fire Department of the Year. This award is given to the Fire Protection Flight that achieves the highest degree of excellence in base mission support and fire protection management.
- 2007 Region Four ROM of the Year
- 2007 ANG Director's Challenge Award, Master Sgt. Michael Schaefer
- 2007 Air National Guard NCO of the Year, Master Sgt. Michael Keller
- 2007 ANG Senior NCO of the Year for Aviation Resource Management, Senior Master Sgt. Andrea Leitenberger
- 2007 Ohio ANG Family Readiness Group of the Year
- 2007 Allan P. Tappan Award
- 2007 Hippocrates Award, Medical Group
- 2008—Director's Recruiter's Challenge Award, Master Sgt. Dana Togliatti, Tech. Sgts. Jodi Welch, Josh Blakely
- 2008—1st Quarter Region 4 Most Critical Accessions Award
- 2008 Command Post Team—Outstanding Team—Unit Compliance Award
- 2008 Communications Knowledge Operations Management Team—Outstanding Team—Unit Compliance Inspection
- 2008 Contracting Squadron Acquisition Team—Outstanding Team—Unit Compliance Inspection
- 2008 Financial Analysis Team—Outstanding Team—Unit Compliance Inspection



- 2008 Information Personnel Security Team—Outstanding Team—Unit Compliance Inspection
- 2008 Knowledge Operations Management Team—Outstanding Team—Unit Compliance Inspection
- 2008 Wireless Communications Spectrum Management Team—Outstanding Team—Unit Compliance Inspection
- 2008 Vehicle Management and Operations Team—Outstanding Team—Unit Compliance Inspection
- 2008 Lockout and Tagout Team—Outstanding Team—Special Interest Item Inspection
- 2008 ANG Small Unit Mission Support Flight of the Year
- 2008 ANG "Gold Badge"/Retention Community—Master Sgt. Michael Schaefer
- 2008 ANG Small Unit Command Post of the Year
- 2008 Sgt. Dee Campbell Outstanding Aviation Resource Management Small Team of the Year
- 2008 Aviation Resource Management (ARMS) Noncommissioned Officer of the Year, Tech. Sgt. Jessica L. Adams
- Rookie Recruiter of Year for 2008, Tech. Sgt. Josh Blakely
- 2008 Adjutant General's Superior Performance Award, Blakely (56 accessions)

180th Fighter Wing, Toledo

- 2009—Ohio Cross, Master Sgt. James Raabe
- 2009—Air Education and Training Command Award at Recruiters Course, Master Sgt. Jaime Brown
- 2008 ANG Environmental Management System / Environmental, Safety, Occupational Health Management System Award
- 2008 ANG Recycling Award
- 2008 ANG Quality Award for Team Excellence
- Top ANG Recruiter in Ohio/ Recruiting Office Supervisor of the Year for Region 4 / Top non-prior Service Recruiter for ANG, Master Sgt. Michael Waddle
- Gold Produce Badge for 125 percent over assigned goals, Waddle, Master Sgt. George Plasencio and Tech. Sgt. Jason Mims
- 2008 Human Resources Advisor of the Year (Ohio), Senior Master Sgt. Lee Burgy
- 2009 9th Air Force F Intelligence NCO of the Year, Staff Sgt. Paul Dangelo
- 2008 1st Air Force Overall Annual Superior Performer, Master Sgt. Janeen Przysiecki
- 2007 Human Resources Advisor of the Year (Ohio), Chief Master Sgt. Wade Gaston
- 2009 CBRN Challenge—Bioenvironmental Engineer Officer Top Performer, Lt. Col. Bill Antoszewski



220th Engineering Installation Squadron, Zanesville

- 4th Unit Outstanding AF Unit Award in FY 08 (for period of Aug. 1, 2005 to July 31, 2007)
- 2007 Col. Charles R. Stahl Award (best unit within the 251st Combat Communications Group)
- 1st EI unit to receive a graded Air Combat Command combined with ORI/UCI, July 19-24, 2007 (both graded "excellent")

251st Combat Communications Group, Springfield

- NGAUS 2007 Outstanding Mission Support Recipient / Non-Fly Category (in conjunction w/NGB/A1)
- Air Force Outstanding Unit Award Recipient—2007
- Outstanding Unit Award—State of Ohio—Pasquale A. Gicale Recipient—2007
- 2008 Air Force Communications and Information Award—Staff Sgt. Christopher A. Brewer



269th Combat Communications Squadron, Springfield

- Ohio Mission Readiness Award - GSU
- 269th Combat Communications Squadron was awarded an overall rating of outstanding during its Operational Readiness Inspection in June. It was the only third outstanding overall among all combat communications in the past four years, and the first double outstanding rating (Phases I and II) for a combat communications squadron in the past 15 years.

Mansfield wing earns top environmental honors among reserve components

MANSFIELD—The Ohio Air National Guard's 179th Airlift Wing has been awarded the General Thomas D. White Environmental Quality Award in the reserve component category.

This distinctive award, presented in honor of former Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Thomas D. White, is designed to recognize the efforts of installations for environmental quality, restoration, pollution prevention, recycling and conservation of natural and cultural resources.

The 179th Airlift Wing (environmental office staff pictured at right) was selected from among all 88 Air National Guard wings and installations, and all Air Force Reserve installations across the country. The award covers the two-year period from October 2006 through September 2008 and is the highest honor that can be awarded to an Air Force reserve component unit for their commitment to environmental excellence.

The 179th achieved a number of noteworthy environmental advances during this two-year period that lead to their selection. The wing reduced annual hazardous waste generation by more than 2,700 pounds, reduced diesel fuel consumption by 3,000 gallons per year by converting to biodiesel products and reduced de-icing fluid usage by more than 70 percent. An aggressive installation-wide program collected more than 70,000 pounds of paper products. The new programs resulted in \$150,000 in savings for the National Guard Bureau.

"Winning this award is validation of the tremendous professionalism of the men and women of the 179th and their commitment to our environmental programs," said Col. Mark L. Stephens, the wing com-



mander. "They continue not only to achieve these goals but also set the standard for others to follow."

The 179th continues to strive toward environmental excellence with its "Green Project." The unit is the first to require the use of recycled content material for a building renovation. Moritz Concrete plant, located in Mansfield, is the contracted provider for the recycled concreted materials being utilized for the 179th Airlift Wing "Green Project" renovation (pictured above, right).

The 179th was honored recently for their national award with a commendation in the Congressional Record by U.S. Sen. Sherrod Brown. 1ST LT. NICOLE L. ASHCROFT / ADJ. GEN. DEPT. PUBLIC AFFAIRS



Ohio Army National Guard wins national award for environmental program

COLUMBUS—The National Guard Bureau recently honored the Ohio Army National Guard Environmental Program with the 2008 Army National Guard Environmental Stewardship Award. The award is presented to the organization that best demonstrates conscientious and continuous efforts to meet and exceed environmental standards and regulations.

The award is presented annually at the National Environmental Workshop to the Army National Guard state or territory that has performed best during the calendar year. The Ohio Army National Guard earned the 2008 distinction and received the award at a March 17, 2009, ceremony.

Maj. Gen. Matthew L. Kambic, Ohio's assistant adjutant general for Army, presented the award to senior staff members and the environmental office (staff pictured above) during a March 30 ceremony at the state headquarters.

"I want to give special recognition to the environmental office for helping Ohio achieve this great award," Kambic said. "Your outstanding efforts are instrumental in educating Soldiers on environmental



rules and regulations."

The National Guard Bureau Environmental Office evaluates state programs and grades each in several categories including compliance, conservation, resources and clean up. Brig. Gen. Jack Lee, director of installation management and resources for the

Ohio National Guard, said the award demonstrates a great team effort across the National Guard and would not have been possible without the cooperation of the Surface Maintenance Office, State Maintenance Office and all the Soldiers who work at the readiness centers, community centers and training areas.

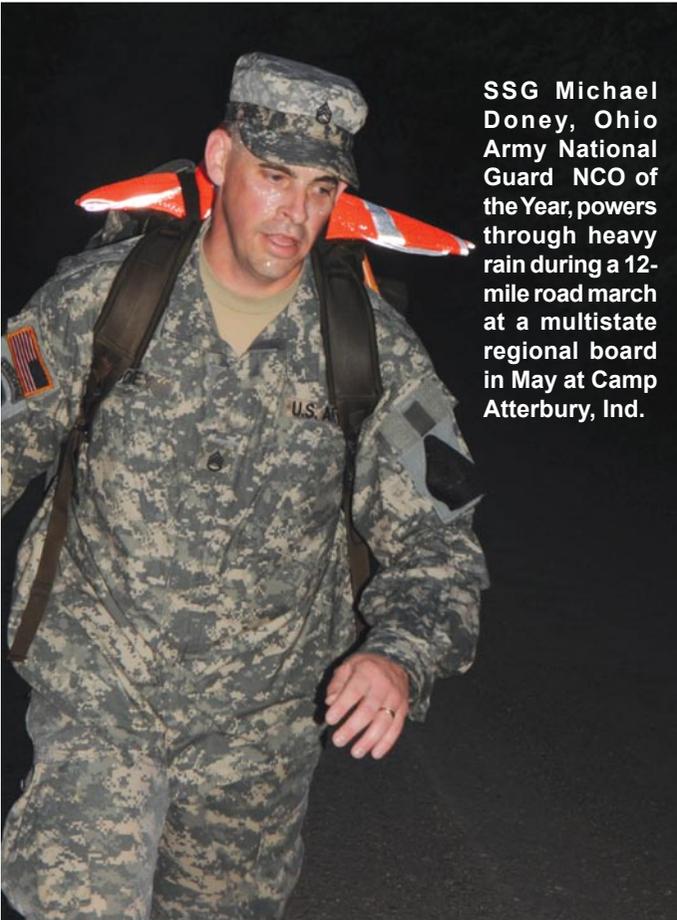
"Your hard work and dedication to sustainability and environmental stewardship will reap benefits for generations to come," Kambic said. ADJ. GEN. DEPT. PUBLIC AFFAIRS

ONG emphasizing energy conservation, renewable energy initiatives

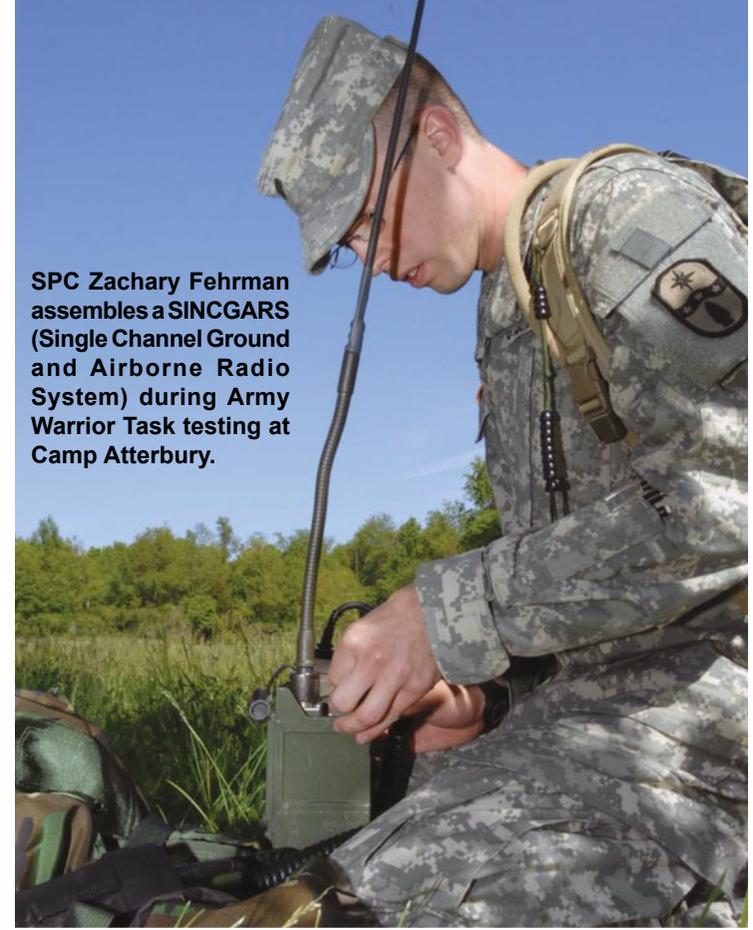
COLUMBUS—Over the past four years, the Ohio National Guard has made one of its priorities to reduce consumption of non-renewable energy resources. The National Guard has instituted conservation measures, installed energy-efficient lighting, HVAC and plumbing, and adopted behavioral changes, all aimed at reducing consumption. The leadership of the Ohio National Guard has decided that now is the time to begin to explore options to generate renewable energy to help reduce the consumption of non-renewable energy statewide. Congressional money has been used to fund solar energy cultivation at the 200th RED HORSE Squadron, located at Camp Perry Joint Training Center, and the 180th Fighter Wing in Toledo (pictured at left; for more, see page 24, Fall/Winter 2008 *Buckeye Guard*). Over a multi-phased installation, the two units will be able to generate more than a megawatt of energy through solar power. ADJ. GEN. DEPT. PUBLIC AFFAIRS



Ohio Army National Guard names top Soldier, NCO for 2008



SSG Michael Doney, Ohio Army National Guard NCO of the Year, powers through heavy rain during a 12-mile road march at a multistate regional board in May at Camp Atterbury, Ind.



SPC Zachary Fehrman assembles a SINCGARS (Single Channel Ground and Airborne Radio System) during Army Warrior Task testing at Camp Atterbury.

**Story by Steve Toth,
Ohio Adj. Gen. Dept. Public Affairs**

**Photos by Spc. William E. Henry,
Indiana National Guard Public Affairs**

COLUMBUS—They made it through their battalion and major subordinate command boards, and after an Army Physical Fitness Test, individual weapons qualification, Army Warrior Task testing, a written test and a personal appearance board, two Ohio National Guard Soldiers were at the top of their respective ranks for 2008.

Spc. Zachary Fehrman, a Dayton native and a photojournalist with the 196th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment, Columbus, won state Soldier of the Year honors while Staff Sgt. Michael Doney, a Massillon native and career counselor with the Recruiting and Retention Derachment, Columbus, earned the title of state Noncommissioned Officer of the Year following the state board April 18 at Beightler Armory in Columbus.

Fehrman credited his win with staying in shape for the physical aspects (he scored a perfect 300 on the APFT) and preparing diligently for the personal appearance board and Army Warrior Task testing.

"It's nice to have your preparation pay off," Fehrman said. My unit

did a mock board before this. My battle buddies helped me during drill and I studied quite a bit on my own outside of drill."

Doney, who recruits in Wayne County, part of the Akron-Canton region, credited his success to his prior experience as a drill sergeant on active duty, in 2000-02, and the support of his Family and chain of command.

"I had a lot of people that supported me," Doney said. "(Being a drill sergeant) gave me a good general knowledge (to be successful in the competition), and I did a lot of PT and ruck marching."

The two winners went on to compete at the Region 4, Army National Guard competition at Camp Atterbury Joint Maneuver Training Center, Ind., which included competitors from Indiana, Minnesota, Iowa, Michigan and Illinois. While neither Soldier finished on top at the regional board, they competed admirably, which is at the core of being a Soldier, according to Command Sgt. Maj. Al Whatmough, who became Ohio Army National Guard state command sergeant major this spring.

"The competitiveness is at the forefront of what makes up the enlisted force," Whatmough said. "That competitiveness promotes professionalism."

Whatmough added that he would like to conduct the state board in the fall from now on, to give the winners more time to prepare for the regional board. That will necessitate battalion and brigade boards being conducted as early as possible when the training year begins in October, he said. **AG**

TOP TROOPS ARMY & AIR 2007

The Ohio National Guardmembers on these two pages represent the best Soldiers, Airmen and noncommissioned officers for calendar years 2007-08. These 12 individuals went through numerous boards and were selected based on factors including accomplishments, education, demonstrated skills and deployments. Winners went on to regional and national competitions in their respective branches.

SOLDIER OF THE YEAR



SPC Matthew Barger
Soldier of the Year

1191st Engineer Company
Portsmouth

AIRMAN OF THE YEAR



SrA Britney Allen
Airman of the Year

251st Combat Communications Group
Springfield

NCO OF THE YEAR



SSG Michael Vondran
NCO of the Year

Battery C,
1-174th Air Defense
Artillery Regiment
Bellefontaine

NCO OF THE YEAR



SSgt Tonya Camarata
NCO of the Year

179th Airlift Wing
Mansfield

SENIOR NCO OF THE YEAR



MSgt Michael Schaefer
Senior NCO of the Year

179th Airlift Wing
Mansfield

FIRST SERGEANT OF THE YEAR



MSgt Jeffrey Mers
First Sergeant of the Year

121st Air Refueling Wing
Columbus

2008

SOLDIER OF THE YEAR



SPC Zachary Fehrman
Soldier of the Year

196th Mobile Public
Affairs Detachment
Columbus

AIRMAN OF THE YEAR



SrA Paul Dangelo
Airman of the Year

180th Fighter Wing
Toledo

NCO OF THE YEAR



SSG Michael Doney
NCO of the Year

Recruiting and
Retention Detachment
Columbus

NCO OF THE YEAR



TSgt Janeen Przyiecki
NCO of the Year

180th Fighter Wing
Toledo

SENIOR NCO OF THE YEAR



MSgt Mark Pumala
Senior NCO of the Year

179th Airlift Wing
Mansfield

FIRST SERGEANT OF THE YEAR



MSgt Chad Bacon
First Sergeant of the Year

178th Fighter Wing
Springfield

Prepare yourself for the opportunity to compete at the highest level, like these individuals. Talk to your first-line leader or supervisor about what it takes to be considered for these honors!

Climbing to new heights

Company G Soldiers in the Recruit Sustainment Program master the 15-foot climbing wall during the SPC Joshua J. O'Bannon Memorial Warrior Challenge in April at Camp Lazarus near Delaware, Ohio. (Photo by SFC Nancy McMillan, Joint Force Headquarters-Ohio Public Affairs)

Recruit Sustainment Program improves recruits chances for success at basic training

Story by Sgt. 1st Class Nancy McMillan
Joint Force Headquarters-Ohio Public Affairs

COLUMBUS—Remember basic training? Remember leaving home and going to a place that seemed foreign; where you went with other young men and women to learn new rules and a different way of life? From hair styles to clothing, eating habits to sleep routines, organization to discipline, the world as you knew it changed and at times you wondered what you had gotten into... if only you had known!

Well today, new enlistees have an opportunity to experience the first leg of military life before embarking upon the real thing. It is called the Recruit Sustainment Program (RSP), and its mission is to transform new Army National Guard recruits into Soldiers who are better prepared for the rigors of basic training.

The concept of RSP has been around for a while in a

decentralized format at various units around Ohio—often referred to as “pre-basic”—but only in the last few years have National Guard recruiting commands formally conducted a standardized program with new enlistees that include classroom instruction and hands-on training in basic Soldiering skills to help prepare them for the rigors of basic training.

Ohio is the benchmark program and was ranked first in the nation for “ship rate” in 2008. Ship rate refers to the percentage of Soldiers who actually leave home and begin basic training. On average, for every 100 enlistments into the Ohio Army National Guard, 93 ship to basic training and 90 of those enlistees graduate.

“This program is great,” said Maj. Gen. Matthew L. Kambic, Ohio’s assistant adjutant general for Army. “It’s NCOs (noncommissioned officers) building proud, strong Soldiers...it doesn’t get any better than that.”

Highlighting the Ohio RSP is the two-day Spc. Joshua J. O’Bannon Memorial Warrior Challenge (see Spring/Summer 2008 Buckeye Guard, page 17)—conducted this year on April 25 at the Ohio National Guard’s Camp Sherman Joint Training Center near Chillicothe and April 26 at Camp Lazarus, a Cub Scout facility near Delaware—a culmination of the recruits’ training over several monthly drills where they are organized into teams and can earn points by completing the Army Physical Fitness Test, individual skills test and the two-mile obstacle course.

“The obstacle course is the best part,” said Pvts. Patrick Dezendorf and Jearod Woods, from Team 3, Company D, out of Cleveland.

The teams, consisting of five Soldiers (of which at least one must be female) and coached by their recruiter, must scale a 15-foot wall, jump over logs, low crawl through mud under mesh wire, swing across a small gully on a rope, carry a fellow teammate in a litter, climb up a vertical ravine, rappel from a short cliff and balance themselves across downed trees.

“The Warrior Challenge is a great training event,” said Lt. Col. Chip Tansill, Ohio Army National Guard Recruiting and Retention Detachment commander. “Each of the teams...prepare all year for this. They strive for the bragging rights of being named the Warrior Challenge champions.”

Warriors earn one point for their teams when they score a “go” (success) during the individual skills testing on day one. They score a zero for a “no-go” (failure). Warriors completing all tasks correctly are awarded a five-point bonus. At the end of the day, all tasks are graded to determine the team/company with the most points.

On day two, the 29 teams run the obstacle course. At the finish line, each team’s time is recorded and ranked in the order from the fastest time to the slowest. Any team not completing an obstacle is penalized 15 seconds (per obstacle). After all teams have finished, the fastest team is awarded 29 points, with the second team earning 28 points, and so on.

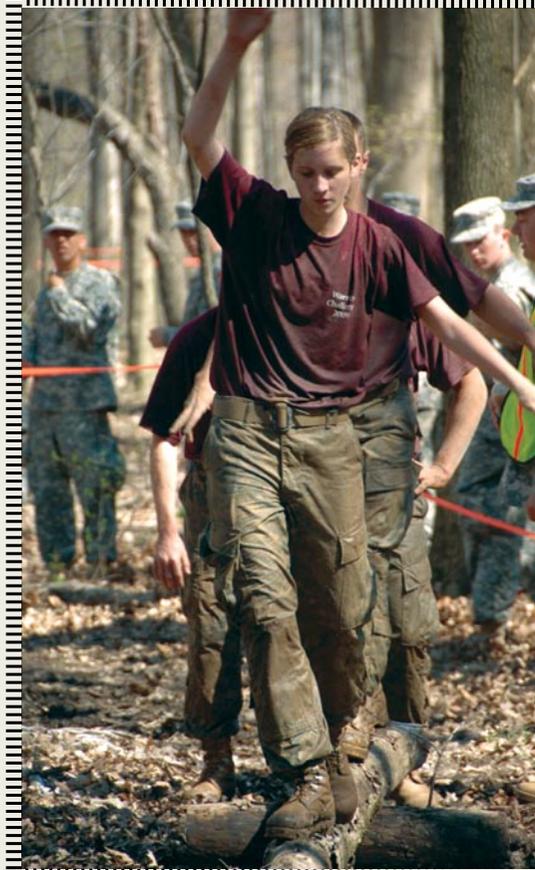
Afterward, the points for each day are added together and thus, the winning team and company emerge. Warriors march in formation during a formal pass and review ceremony, and afterward are recognized and honored with decorations and awards. Drill and ceremony is one of the many military skills the enlistees are taught by the RSP recruiters.

Team two from the Akron/Canton-based Company E took first place in the team category, under the direction of Staff Sgt. Justin Miller. The Newton Falls-based Company F, led by 1st Sgt. Rick Beadles, reigned as the overall top company with the highest cumulative point total from all teams.

“We are the defending champs,” said Sgt. 1st Class Teddy Kester, a recruiter with Company F, located at Camp Ravenna Joint Military Training Center (CRJMTC) near Newton Falls. “The kids completed some phenomenal training and I feel confident that in 10 years, when I hang up my ruck (back pack) and boots, they will be our future leaders.”

At the conclusion of the event, members of the Warrior Challenge winning company were rewarded with a flight back to CRJMTC in an Ohio Army National Guard CH-47 “Chinook” helicopter. **86**

RIGHT, FROM TOP: (1) Motivated Soldiers shout encouragement between events (Photo by SGT Sean Mathis, Joint Force Headquarters-Ohio Public Affairs); (2) A Company F Soldier crosses a damp, slippery log during the obstacle course (This and all following photos by SFC Nancy McMillan, Joint Force Headquarters-Ohio Public Affairs); (3) Soldiers of Company B help one another as they near the finish line of the obstacle course; (4) Family members of SPC Joshua J. O’Bannon, along with MAJ Jodi McFee (left) and LTC Chip Tansill (right), honor the memory of the young Soldier (see Spring/Summer 2008 Buckeye Guard, page 17) with the SPC Joshua J. O’Bannon Memorial Warrior Challenge Award, which goes to the winning team.





Helping unveil the the new 44-cent Bob Hope First Class commemorative stamp at Beightler Armory in Columbus are U.S. Rep. Pat Tiberi (from left); MG Gregory L. Wayt, Ohio adjutant general; Joshua D. Colin, district manager, Columbus District, U.S. Postal Service; Robert Milton Hope, Bob Hope's nephew; and Col Gregory Schulo, deputy chief of the joint staff for the Ohio National Guard.

Ohio National Guard helps unveil Bob Hope stamp

Story and photo by Steve Toth, Adj. Gen. Dept. Public Affairs

COLUMBUS—Over his several decades in the entertainment industry, Bob Hope sang, “Thanks for the Memories.” to several millions, including many U.S. Servicemembers stationed overseas.

On May 29—what would have been Hope’s 106th Birthday—it was everyone else’s turn to say thanks to Hope as the U.S. Postal Service unveiled the new 44-cent Bob Hope First Class commemorative stamp at events conducted that day in San Diego and at Beightler Armory in Columbus.

The two sites were chosen because Hope lived in California later in life, and in northern Ohio during his childhood.

Hope moved to the U.S. from England when he was 4 years old and lived in Cleveland. Although he never officially served in the U.S. military, he dedicated a significant part of his life to entertaining American Servicemembers stationed overseas, beginning in World War II and continuing through Operation Desert Storm, according to information provided by the U.S. Postal Service. In 1997, he became the first person recognized by Congress as an honorary veteran of the U.S. Armed Forces. He died in 2003 at age 100.

“Bob Hope was more than an entertainer, much more. It was what he did for U.S. Servicemembers that made him a legend,” said Joshua D. Colin, Columbus District manager for the U.S. Postal Service. “What better way to pay tribute to him than among the military Servicemem-

bers he so admired?”

Maj. Gen. Gregory L. Wayt, Ohio adjutant general noted that Bob Hope entertained U.S. Soldiers at the Camp Perry theater during World War II, and he also received his vaccinations there before traveling overseas to entertain Soldiers in the Pacific, including Ohio National Guard Soldiers fighting on Bougainville in the Solomon Islands.

“His nickname was GI Bob,” Wayt said. “He truly has entertained our Soldiers, and has been a part of the Ohio National Guard. It is an honor to recognize him today.

Special attendees included representatives of the U.S. Postal Service, local veterans affairs agencies and veterans service organizations, U.S. Rep. Pat Tiberi (R-Westerville) and Robert “Bob” Milton Hope, nephew of Bob Hope and vice president of the Northern Ohio USO.

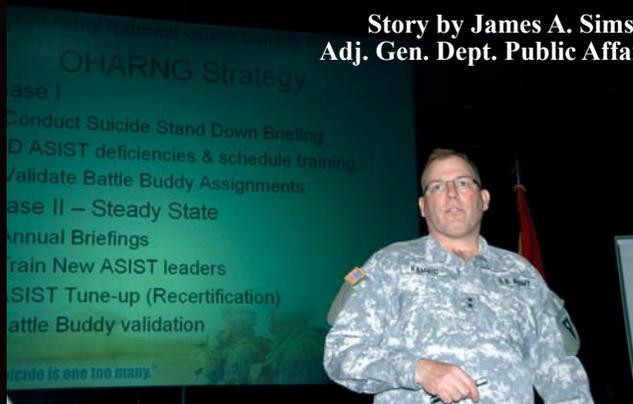
“Of all the places he’s been and people he’s ever met, his home is with the military. He loved the troops,” Hope’s nephew said. “I’m sure he’d have some great one-liner if he were around for a day like today, and I’m sure he’d probably say he really appreciated it.”

In one of Hope’s monologues, he said: “Have you seen the new commemorative the Post Office is issuing? They feature pictures of people who died of shock when they heard what a stamp will cost.”

At the unveiling, a 10-foot-tall replica of the new Bob Hope stamp was presented for the first time, revealing a painted portrait image of Hope turned to one side, sporting his classic grin. Following that was a ceremony where several cakes representing the various branches of the military, USO and Hope were cut with military sabers. **GG**

SUICIDE PREVENTION TRAINING HELPS SOLDIERS TO RECOGNIZE SIGNS OF CONCERN

Story by James A. Sims II
Adj. Gen. Dept. Public Affairs



STEVE TOTH / ADJ. GEN. DEPT. PUBLIC AFFAIRS

MG Matthew L. Kambic, Ohio assistant adjutant general for Army, conducts suicide prevention training in April with unit commanders and first sergeants so they would be prepared to train their Soldiers during the summer.

Guilt, anger, depression, traumatic stress. According to U.S. Army officials these are just a few of the reasons why the number of suicides among Soldiers is on the rise. Suicides reported by the Army have risen to the highest level since record-keeping began three decades ago.

Last year, there were 192 suicides among active-duty Soldiers and those on inactive reserve status, twice as many as in 2003, when the war began. Army officials indicate that this year's figure is likely to be even higher—from January to mid-July of this year, 129 suicides were confirmed or suspected, more than the number of American Soldiers who died in combat during the same period.

Ohio is not immune to the issues that cause Soldiers to exhibit suicidal tendencies. Since 2003, 19 Ohio National Guard Soldiers have committed suicide. Although the cause of each suicide is not always known, its effects reverberate throughout the force.

In February 2009, the Army Suicide Prevention Program (ASPP) was fielded. Although the program has been in place for eight years, a newly focused command emphasis directed critical resources for suicide awareness, intervention skills, prevention and follow-up in an effort to reduce the occurrence of suicidal behavior across the force.

The ASPP developed initiatives, created programs and training all in an effort to mitigate risk and behavior associated with suicide. Another function of the ASPP is to track demographic data on suicidal behaviors to assist Army leaders in the identification of trends.

Although the ASPP was fielded Army-wide, many of its training scenarios focused on problems that active component Soldiers faced when returning from deployment and did not specifically address the issues associated with reserve component Soldiers.

Capt. Angel Mallia, suicide prevention program manager for the Ohio National Guard, oversees the development of the initiative.

"When we reviewed the data it revealed that more than 70 percent of Ohio National Guard Soldiers who have committed suicide have never been deployed,"

Mallia said. "We knew that if our program were to be successful, we would have to tailor it to meet the unique needs of National Guard Soldiers."

Mallia remarked that Soldiers are often reluctant to ask for help because of a perceived stigma.

"One of the barriers to preventing suicide is an Army-wide culture that shames Soldiers into believing it is not OK to seek help," Mallia said. "We are working to change the climate by supporting confidentiality, reinforcing the buddy system and educating leaders."

In order to meet the Army-imposed deadline of training the entire force this year—both active-duty and reserve components—Ohio National Guard chaplains and behavioral health science professionals began working on modifying the Army's curriculum specifically for the National Guard.

"We wanted to ensure that our final product maintained the integrity and intent of the Army's program while addressing the specific needs of our Ohio Soldiers," said Chaplain (Capt.) James Sizemore, who worked on developing the curriculum.

The result: an integrated and comprehensive system of care with the goal of informing, educating and empowering the force. Ohio's training includes tools and techniques for Soldiers both at drill and in their civilian lives. Also included is a battle buddy program (a program pairing Soldiers who interact and train together while on military duty and also during the month in their civilian lives), intervention training, annual briefings and a list of additional resources.

"After reviewing the Ohio-modified training I was satisfied and pleased that we have exceeded the standard set forth by the active component," said Maj. Gen. Matthew L. Kambic, Ohio's assistant adjutant general for Army.

In early March the word was sent out to the field. Kambic and State Command Sgt. Maj. Albert Whatmough conducted a mandatory training for senior leaders in April.

"The health and safety of our Soldiers is priority one for this organization," Kambic said. "Given the critical nature of this mission, I looked each commander and first sergeant in the eye and asked them to personally train each and every one of their Soldiers."

Throughout the summer months' inactive duty and annual training periods, unit commanders and first sergeants have conducted this mandatory four-hour curriculum, which includes videos and organized discussion with troops.

"One is too many," added Kambic. "We have the tools in place and are working daily to educate the force and save lives. **AG**

24/7 Crisis Intervention and Help Line Resources

Military OneSource Crisis Line: (in the U.S.) 1-800-342-9647; (outside the U.S.), dial country access code, then 800-3429-6477
<http://www.militaryonesource.com>

The Defense Center of Excellence (DCoE) Help Line:
1-866-966-1020
<http://www.dcoe.health.mil/default.aspx>

The Army and Army National Guard have designated September as Suicide Prevention Month. This year's theme is: "Improving our Soldiers and Families: A healthy force combating high-risk behaviors." The Army is committed to a holistic approach to improve the spiritual, and behavioral health of our Soldiers, their Families and Department of Army Civilians.



TSGT ELIZABETH HOLLIKER / 180TH FIGHTER WING PA

Two 180th Fighter Wing firefighters walk away from a vehicle at an aircraft crash and recovery exercise at the Toledo Express Airport.

Toledo base firefighters conduct joint disaster exercise to hone skills

TOLEDO—Though it may have looked like the scene of a horrific airplane crash at the Toledo Express Airport on the night of April 22, it was just an exercise.

Eight members of the 180th Fighter Wing fire department participated in an aircraft crash and recovery exercise along with the Toledo Lucas County Port Authority and several other local emergency, fire and rescue crews.

The Federal Aviation Administration requires these full-scale disaster exercises every three years in order for commercial airports to maintain their certification to operate. These exercises provide an opportunity to ensure the airport emergency plan is coordinated correctly with all agencies that would respond to a real world incident.

“The airport had approximately twelve other outside agencies respond to the incident as mutual aid and assistance,” said Mike Gula, the operations manager at Toledo Express Airport. “Among the firefighters we also had EMS (emergency medical services), law enforcement, participating victims and the Lucas County communications team available at the site.”

The 180th provided one crash and one rescue truck, and a crew for each to support the drill. Their role for this simulated emergency was to assist in the initial fire attack and rescue, triage and removal of the victims. Should a military incident occur on the airport, the 180th Fire Department would also assume responsibility of incident command and control.

“The 180th’s fire department has a reciprocal fire protection agreement with the Toledo

Lucas County Port Authority outlining their role when an emergency happens on the airport,” said Master Sgt. Tim Schnitker, 180th fire chief. “These exercises give us the chance to work with the outside agencies that will respond if we have an aircraft incident of our own.”

Although the exercise is mandated only every three years, in an effort to continue to hone their skills and to continue to evaluate outside resources and agencies, the 180th and the Port Authority plan to have several tabletop exercises and smaller-scale drills during the off years. **TSGT ELIZABETH HOLLIKER / 180TH FIGHTER WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS**

Ohio’s 37th IBCT shooters sweep combat pistol championships

CHILLICOTHE—More than 75 Soldiers and Airmen competed at the Adjutant General’s Combat Pistol Championship April 19-20 at Camp Sherman.

The two-day event consisted of several matches and several opportunities for National Guardmembers to learn advanced marksmanship techniques and hone their skills with the M-9 or M-11 Beretta pistols.

Competition veteran and expert pistol shooter, Capt. Bret Gould of Headquarters, 37th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, said the marksmanship skills Soldiers and Airmen learn during the event are invaluable.

“Having members in your unit that are subject matter experts on primary marksmanship instruction is the biggest multiplier for training Soldiers,” Gould said.

Day one of the event was all individual matches, and they included an alternate pistol-qualification firing table, as well as matches that required the competitor to fire from a standing-barricade position, kneeling, crouching and prone positions.

Day two consisted of team matches where each four-member team must engage six targets together. Target assignment, engagement sequence and ammunition distribution are used by teams to maximize bonus points awarded for excessive bull’s-eyes. **SPC. SAM BEAVERS / 196TH MOBILE PUBLIC AFFAIRS DETACHMENT**

Ohio National Guard gets \$8.5 million in ARRA funds for capital projects

COLUMBUS— Ohio Gov. Ted Strickland announced in May that Ohio received \$8.5 million programmed for the Ohio National Guard in the American Recovery

and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009. The governor had previously announced the National Guard projects selected to be funded through ARRA.

“This portion of President Obama’s stimulus is specifically designed to improve the overall readiness of the Ohio National Guard while spurring Ohio’s economy,” Strickland said. “The projects selected to receive funds will help modernize National Guard facilities and reduce energy costs for the state.”

In addition to replacing failing roofs and inefficient windows, doors and plumbing systems, ARRA will fund Ohio National Guard renewable energy projects, installing solar panels at locations in Columbus, Toledo and at the Camp Ravenna Joint Military Training Center in Newton Falls. These projects will save the National Guard an estimated \$78,000 within the first year of completion, and provide energy savings of about 500,000 Kilowatt hours per year.

“Some of the 22 projects will be fully-funded through ARRA funds, while others will use federal dollars to match previously appropriated capital improvement funds, thereby stretching our capital budget,” said Maj. Gen. Gregory L. Wayt, Ohio adjutant general.

“The economic assistance that we receive for these projects will allow us to improve our infrastructure and continue to be ready to respond when called with ready units.”

ADJ. GEN. DEPT. PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Annual ONG Family Readiness Conference ‘energizes the force’

COLUMBUS—More than 900 Soldiers, Airmen and Family members descended upon the Columbus Marriott Northwest hotel April 3-5 for the 2009 Family Readiness Conference.

The conference, which swells with more attendees each year, provides an opportunity for unit Family Readiness Groups to network, focus their efforts, receive guidance, hear from senior leadership as well as learn what resources are available.

“The conference hit the mark,” said Lt. Col. Robert Bramlish, state Family Programs director. “It energized the volunteers and the force while providing ideas, guidance and support to unit FRGs.”

Attendees participated in several classes on topics including Family Wellness, Warrior 360—Ohio’s Yellow Ribbon Program, Building Strong Families as well as several others.

“Resources have exploded and improved in the last few years,” said Kent Killing-

sworth, husband of Staff Sgt. Theresa Killingsworth of Company B, 237th Support Battalion.

The weekend conference kicked off Friday evening with a Hollywood theme night designed to be a fun way for Family members and volunteers to connect with Ohio National Guard leaders. Both volunteers and military members dressed up like their favorite celebrity and the night even featured a "Hollywood Squares"-style game show.

"The highlight of Friday was the adjutant general (Maj. Gen. Gregory L. Wayt) dressed as The Boss (Bruce Springsteen)," Bramlish said. "It is great to start this way, fun and inspiration makes the rest of the weekend flow."

Saturday was highlighted by a speech by Ohio Gov. Ted Strickland. Following Strickland's address, attendees learned what resources were available and communicated ways to improve their unit FRGs.

"(The conference) has given us tools to better support our Families," Killingsworth said. "A lot of resources that aren't advertised, the FRG can tell you about."

While Bramlish feels the conference was a success, he said there is always room for improvement. One of the main ways Bramlish seeks to improve the Family Readiness Program is to build relationships with other services, "to build a military community regardless of branch," Bramlish said.

To help implement these improvements and to continue the success of the conference and the Family Readiness Program, Bramlish said he wanted to thank the Family Program Team.

"Their efforts, passion and support is what ensures our conference success each year," Bramlish said.

For more information on Family Readiness Programs or to learn how to get involved, contact your local or regional Family Assistance Center (FAC) or log on to <http://ong.ohio.gov/Family>. **SPC. SAM BEAVERS** / 196TH MOBILE PUBLIC AFFAIRS DETACHMENT

Recruiting's Northeast Region helps new unit meet strength mission

GREEN—"When called, we respond with ready units" is the Ohio Army National Guard motto.

The units and Soldiers in the state know exactly what that means as far as "when called." Many units have been called for duty to Iraq and Afghanistan as well as domestic missions for disaster relief. They also know that "when called," whether they have two months or two days notice, they

must be ready to accomplish the mission.

The second part of the motto, "we respond with ready units" is not as easy to accomplish as most people might think. For a unit to be considered "ready," they must have a full roster of properly trained Soldiers with mission-capable equipment.

This past year, the Northeast Region of the Recruiting and Retention Detachment was given the mission to bring the Stow-based 737th Support Company, 1-145th Armored Regiment, up to full personnel strength. On Oct. 1, 2008, the 737th had 47 lower-enlisted vacancies.

The unit's new readiness noncommissioned officer, Sgt. 1st Class James Redd, started in January and began communicating the company's needs to the Northeast Region recruiters. With the combined efforts of the 1-145th Armored Regiment, Redd, and the Recruiting and Retention Detachment, the 737th now has zero vacancies and the 1-145th is at full strength.

"The partnership, the R&R Detachment, and the 1-145th Armored Regiment have been invaluable in identifying and filling their vacant positions this past fiscal year. It's truly been a team effort," said Sgt. Maj. Scott Hutt, sergeant major for the northeast recruiting region.

The 2009 fiscal year strength goal for the 737th was 40 new enlistments. The Northeast Region so far this fiscal year has enlisted 75 new Soldiers, which are the most new accessions for any unit in the state. The mission was to fill all of the lower-enlisted vacancies and get them to 110 percent strength.

With the 75 new enlistments, the Northeast Region has met and exceeded their goal with 110.3 percent. **SSG MICHAEL A. HALE** / COMPANY E, RECRUITING & RETENTION DETACHMENT, UNIT PUBLIC AFFAIRS REPRESENTATIVE

Ohio Department of Public Safety named 2009 Freedom Award winner

ARLINGTON, Va.—The Department of Defense has announced that the Ohio Department of Public Safety will receive the 2009 Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award.

It is the highest recognition given by the U.S. Government to employers for their outstanding support of their employees who serve in the National Guard and Reserve.

The Ohio Department of Public Safety was selected as one of only 15 employers from across the nation to receive a 2009 Freedom Award, from a record 3,200 nominations. **DEFENSE DEPARTMENT PUBLIC AFFAIRS**



COURTESY PHOTO

Members of the Ohio National Guard Biathlon Team compete in the team patrol race during the 2007 Chief, National Guard Bureau Biathlon Championships.

Biathlon team seeking new members who can handle unique challenge

COLUMBUS—The Olympic sport of Biathlon combines cross-country skiing with rifle marksmanship. After skate-skiing a hilly loop of 2-4 kilometers, competitors try to shoot down five targets on a range.

The fastest skier or the best shot does not always win; one must excel in both events.

In existence for 25 years, the Ohio National Guard Biathlon Team competes in events in Minnesota, Vermont and the Great Lakes states. Some members even compete in summer biathlon events in Ohio and surrounding states, where athletes run and shoot.

The team is currently seeking new members. If you are a member of the National Guard, and previously competed in any endurance-type sports, the Ohio team wants you. You do not need to know how to ski already. As a member of the Ohio Biathlon Team, you will be issued race-caliber gear that includes cross-country skis, boots, bindings, poles and a .22-caliber biathlon rifle. You also get a racing suit, winter jacket and pants, hats and gloves and assorted other clothing.

For more information, contact Staff Sgt. Andi Motley at andrea.motley@us.army.mil or 614-336-6179, or Lt. Col. Thom Haidet at thomas.haidet@us.army.mil. **OHIO NATIONAL GUARD BIATHLON TEAM**



SFC NANCY MCMILLAN / JFHQ-OHIO PUBLIC AFFAIRS

MG Gregory L. Wayt (right), state adjutant general, leads the congratulations for SPC Ryan A. Kilgour, who earned the Ohio Cross for his actions that saved a woman's life following an auto accident.

Soldier earns Ohio Cross for life-saving actions following accident

ROCKBRIDGE—Maj. Gen. Gregory L. Wayt, the Ohio adjutant general, awarded the Ohio Cross to Spc. Ryan H. Kilgour during a June 6 ceremony at Camp Wyandot.

Months earlier, Kilgour, a plumber/pip-fitter with the 1194th Engineer Co (Vertical), rescued a woman while traveling to a golf tournament at Ohio University.

"My friend and I were driving along when we saw a lot of junk all over the road," said the 32-year-old boiler maker from Jackson. "We then saw smoke, pulled over and got out of the car. At the bottom of this hill was an SUV upside down on its top and on fire."

Dressed in shorts and flip-flops, Kilgour raced down the hill, while his friend called 911, and pulled a dazed woman from her burning vehicle. When the police and ambulance arrived, the two men continued on their journey.

"Ryan is a brave Soldier," Wayt said before a gathering of Kilgour's peers and Family. "He and his friend could have kept going, but they stopped, and that decision saved a life."

The Ohio Cross, awarded to any Ohio military member who distinguishes him or herself by gallantry and selfless service at the risk of his or her life, must be presented by the governor or adjutant general.

"This medal is a tremendous honor," Kilgour said. "But any one of these Soldiers would have done the same thing."
SGT. 1ST CLASS NANCY MCMILLAN / JOINT FORCE HEADQUARTERS-OHIO PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Family Readiness efforts garner honor for Waldron

MANSFIELD—Col. Willis L. Waldron, Jr., 179th Airlift Wing vice commander, was honored during the Ohio National Guard Families Readiness Conference in May with the 2008 Adjutant General's Award for Commander of the Year in Support of Families Programs.

Waldron was chosen from commanders within Ohio's four Air National Guard wings and five Army National Guard brigades.

Waldron attended countless departure and welcome home ceremonies and revamped his wing's welcome home ceremony process to ensure members maximized time with their families. He also meets with each unit member and their Families.

He established two new programs at the 179th—the Community Action Information Board (CAIB) and Integrated Delivery System (IDS). These two programs provide communication and support for military members and their families by integrating all 179th Airlift Wing helping agencies into a single team that addresses all aspects of physical, mental, emotional and spiritual well being.



Waldron

"Col. Waldron and his wife Pat have provided such tremendous support for our Families Programs," said Faline M. Rowland, 179th Families Program Coordinator. "When he retires in May, he will be sorely missed by our members and their families. His leadership and love of Families will continue as a legacy for the 179th Airlift Wing."
1ST LT NICOLE L. ASHCROFT / 179TH AIRLIFT WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Ohio military police Soldier helps with first steps for Iraqi boy

FOB CARVER, BAGHDAD, Iraq—A Soldier from the 135th Military Police Company stationed here recently helped the 5-year-old son of a local Iraqi Police officer finally take his first steps.

Staff Sgt. Scott Czerr, a military police officer with the 135th, first met Ali Kallum in Al-Huda, Iraq, while his squad was on

its way to meet a local sheik. Hamed Kallum, an Iraqi police officer, approached the troops and explained to Czerr that his 5-year-old son, Ali, was unable to walk and soon returned with the boy.

When he saw Ali's calloused knees and torn pants and observed his attempts to move about on his hands and knees, Czerr immediately drew a connection to his own son, who is afflicted with cerebral palsy. Czerr contacted his family and arranged to have a walker his son had outgrown, along with shoes, socks and wrist supports, sent to Ali.

As a child, Czerr's son could only get around by hopping or walking on his knees. This realization, along with other similarities Czerr noted, led him to believe he might be able to help. He advised Ali's father to begin simple exercises with him every day in order to strengthen his severely atrophied leg muscles. Czerr told Ali's father to help the boy walk upright every day by holding his hands, similar to the way a parent would teach a baby to walk, and to encourage him to stand and move about on his own while holding on to a couch or table.

"That family had to do their part because the muscles were really shrunken. He wouldn't have been able to walk," Czerr said.

The platoon medic, Spc. Craig Miller, of Auburn Township, Ohio, initially was skeptical of the boy's chances.

"I would never guess that first day we saw him that he would ever walk, even with a walker," Miller said.

Czerr measured the boy's feet with a pen to gauge a shoe size. Within a few weeks, Czerr had the walker, shoes, socks and wrist supports. Ali and his father were overjoyed when Czerr and his squad returned with the walker. Soldiers and community members snapped pictures as Ali, alongside his proud father, took his first steps. Hamed was overwhelmed as he watched his son laughing and walking with his peers for the first time.

"This is what it's about, people helping people," said 1st Lt. Matthew Martling, a Columbus, Ohio, native and executive officer for the 135th.

"It feels good to give the Iraqi locals gifts that will last forever, things that are more important than candy or bottles of water," said Sgt. Justin Taft, a Mentor, Ohio, native.

Czerr plans to continue to help Ali and his family and has already arranged for additional shoes and socks, as well as knee and elbow pads, to be sent from home.

"Watching, it was hard for us not to get choked up," Czerr said. "But I think it betters our relations with the Iraqi Police and the community. They are more receptive to us now."
135TH MILITARY POLICE COMPANY PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Teacher competes globally with his students, gets national honros

AKRON—At the end of the school day you can find Ohio Army National Guard Sgt. 1st Class Steven Frantz happily joking with colleagues in the main office of Roswell Kent Middle School here, where he teaches middle school science.

Frantz, a trumpet player with the 122nd Army Band in Columbus, Ohio, claims he's happy after 20 years of teaching, because he loves his job. But, he might also be so jovial because he's really good at his job. How good? Frantz is too modest to admit it, but think national championship good.

A team of four Roswell Kent female students won the 2008 Global Learning and Observations to Benefit the Environment (GLOBE) national competition, an event conducted every four years. Frantz was the teacher-coach of this team, which gained local celebrity, becoming known as the "SATELLITE Girls."

"As far as we can tell we had never had a national championship in academics or athletics come out of Akron public schools before, so it was definitely a big time event here for our community" Frantz said.

Along with the U.S. championship, the team earned the right to present their research at the GLOBE Learning Expedition in Cape Town, South Africa.

The science project, titled "This is Why I'm Hot," grew out of an observation Frantz made that snow lasts longer in his hometown of Smithville, Ohio, than it does in Akron.

Frantz learned how to take surface temperatures using an infrared thermometer at an OhioView SATELLITES GLOBE Training Workshop. When he returned to school, he taught the girls how to take the measurements themselves.

The team then went about recording surface temperatures throughout Ohio, comparing urban versus rural environments.

"Asphalt retains this heat and affects the areas around it," Frantz said. "Here in the city we have these big heat sinks. The darker the color, the more it's going to absorb heat," Frantz said.

The students worked alongside local university professors and other public schools. The findings were shared with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and even referenced in university research projects.

"They really are doing scientific work and people really are taking their work seriously and using the work that they do," Frantz said. "It definitely becomes relevant and real at that point to the kids."

The extracurricular GLOBE program, primarily funded by NASA and the National Science Foundation, continues at Roswell Kent under the supervision of Frantz.

"Science is pretty much the center of Frantz's life," said Sgt. Ty Bowers of Bucyrus, Ohio, tuba player for the 122nd. "At annual training, he'll take some time to go out into the woods and find snakes, keep them in containers and take them back to his classrooms," Bowers said.

Bowers said although middle school and the National Guard are two different worlds, Frantz manages to use his teaching experience for Army Warrior Task training, providing pointers on lesson preparation.

"He's always there to offer advice," Bowers said. "He's very dedicated, personable and easy going."

"At this point in my career the National Guard gives me a chance to provide guidance to and mentor a lot of the younger troops," Frantz said. "Especially in the band field it's important, because you're carrying on a lot of the Army's legacy through ceremonies."

According to Frantz, the National Guard has made him a better leader and teacher. He says that the structure of the military brings structure to the classroom. Apparently, the reverse holds true as well.

"It may sound funny, but he does incredibly well putting together bulletin boards that are full of information to teach and make the band aware of Equal Employment Opportunity issues. You can definitely see the teacher coming out of him in that," said 122nd Army Band Sgt. 1st Class Jim Cato of Cedarville, Ohio.

"He's a people person, Cato said. "He's a great listener and conversationalist. These are traits that have helped make him a great teacher and good unit member." **SPC. CHAD MENEGAY / 196TH MOBILE PUBLIC AFFAIRS DETACHMENT**

Guard officer candidates study Gettysburg up close on staff ride

GETTYSBURG, Pa.—As Ohio Army National Guard officer candidates of the 147th Regiment, Regional Training Institute's Officer Candidate School (OCS) walked the Battle of Gettysburg terrain April 18 in Pennsylvania, broad themes of the Civil War, such as courage, sacrifice, national unity and individual freedom, remained in the background of their minds.

At the forefront of their minds, they pondered the nine principles of war, such as



SPC CHAD MENEGAY / 196TH MOBILE PUBLIC AFFAIRS DETACHMENT

Retired LTC John Montgomery teaches Ohio Army National Guard officer candidates about the Battle of Gettysburg on a class trip to Gettysburg.

economy of force, unity of command and surprise. They discussed the personality traits of officers involved in the battle, their leadership styles and how these may have impacted the battle.

The day was a study of military history, very specific to the Battle of Gettysburg and its participants, factual and not romanticized. It was not simply a tour; it was a staff ride.

Staff rides began as horseback battlesight instruction with the Prussian Army in the 1800s and with the U.S. Army beginning in 1906 as a way to develop officers. A staff ride consists of preliminary battle study, a visit to the actual site and an opportunity to integrate the lessons from each.

OCS instructors, known as TACs (Teach, Assess, Counsel), assigned the candidates to read "The Killer Angels" by Michael Shaara, which won the 1975 Pulitzer Prize for fiction. The historical novel tells the story of the Battle of Gettysburg, primarily from the perspectives of commanders of the two armies.

TACs also assigned oral presentations on individual officers from the battle to be presented while the candidates were at Gettysburg.

"Through reading the book and doing the presentations, we got to see the different personalities of each of the officers, and how they reacted and didn't react to events and how that played a role in what happened in the battle," said Officer Candidate Brian Stillman of Canton, Ohio.

Retired Lt. Col. John J. Montgomery of Columbus, a former OCS TAC who led the staff ride, has been teaching Ohio officer candidates on the Battle of Gettysburg for the nearly 20 years they've taken the trip.

"I've probably been here 30 times," Montgomery said, "and I get excited every time I come." **SPC. CHAD MENEGAY / 196TH MOBILE PUBLIC AFFAIRS DETACHMENT**

Newest GI Bill exceeds tuition assistance, also benefits dependents

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The Post 9/11 GI Bill became a reality Aug. 1, and offers all Servicemembers with six years of service the opportunity to transfer unused Post 9/11 GI Bill benefits to their dependents.

With this new bill, what started as an enlistment incentive has grown to become a retention tool in the all volunteer force. The ability to provide for the Family by transferring benefits to spouses and children becomes a powerful retention incentive. Benefits must be transferred before separating from the military. Veterans are not eligible to transfer unused benefits.

Veterans who served after Sept. 11, 2001, could receive full tuition and fees, a new monthly living stipend, and a \$1,000-a-year books and supplies stipend. The Bill also gives Reserve and Guardmembers who have been activated for more than 90 days since 9/11 access to the Post 9/11 GI Bill benefits, paid on a pro-rated basis, depending on length of qualifying active duty service.

This Bill (Chapter 33) boasts the most comprehensive education benefits package since the original GI Bill was signed into law in 1944.

Officially known as the “Post-9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2008” by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and the Department of Defense, was signed by President Bush on June 30, 2008.

Generally, to be eligible to transfer benefits, Soldiers must have at least six years active and/or Selected Reserve service, and agree to serve four more years on active duty or in the Selected Reserves.

If a service member is already enrolled in the Montgomery GI Bill and meets the criteria for the Post 9/11 GI Bill, he or she has the option to convert the remaining MGIB benefits to the new program.

To view facts currently posted about the new Post-9/11 GI Bill, log onto Main VA Post 9/11 GI Bill site: http://www.gibill.va.gov/GI_Bill_Info/benefits.htm#CH33. **ROB MCILVAINE / FMWRP PUBLIC AFFAIRS**

National Guard joins to support Helmets to Hardhats employment program

ARLINGTON, Va.—The Army National Guard has joined the U.S. Army Reserve’s partnership with a nonprofit program that pairs Servicemembers with construction careers.

Maj. Gen. Raymond Carpenter, acting director of the Army National Guard, signed an employer partnership initiative agreement with Lt. Gen. Jack Stultz, the chief of the U.S. Army Reserve, and Darrell Roberts, executive director of Helmets to Hardhats, at a July 2 ceremony here at the Pentagon.

“The men and women of the Army National



NATIONAL GUARD BUREAU

The Post-9/11 GI Bill offers new educational benefits for Servicemembers, and in some cases, will allow dependents to utilize some benefits that have been earned by the Servicemember.

Guard and the U.S. Army Reserve are highly motivated, seasoned professionals and some of the highest caliber potential employees for private industry,” Carpenter said. “This program is good for our Soldiers, local communities and the nation.”

Soldiers have a great work ethic, leadership potential, confidence and values, Stultz said. Partnering with employers only makes sense, because “we need plumbers. We need electricians. We need brick masons. We need carpenters. We need truck drivers. We need all those kind of skills in our civilian sector, but we also need them in the military.”

The Guard and the Reserve are a force of about 570,000 Soldiers, which is “a pretty significant workforce for you out there in America,” Stultz said. “Those 570,000 live out there in your communities - they don’t live on an installation. They don’t live in Fort Bragg or Fort Hood, they live in ‘Fort Hometown America.’”

Helmets to Hardhats is a free, nonprofit program that connects National Guard, Reserve, retired and transitioning active-duty servicemembers with construction training and careers.

“Eighty percent of our Soldiers in the Army National Guard are what we call

‘traditional’ (Guardmembers who) either are going to school or they have a job or they are looking for a job,” Carpenter said. “It is absolutely critical to our organization to be able to sustain our responsibility in partnership with the Army to have employers out there who absolutely support our organization.”

Through the partnership, both National Guardmembers and Reservists will gain opportunities for construction industry employment or federally-approved apprenticeship training programs.

“This is really the first opportunity we’ve had to partner with the Army National Guard,” Stultz said. “Today, we’re taking that next leap forward.”

Helmets to Hardhats brings trade associations, employers, labor unions and the armed forces together to support Soldiers and their Families.

For more information on the program, log onto <http://helmetsto-hardhats.org>. **SSG JIM GREENHILL / NATIONAL GUARD BUREAU**

AAFES Spring/Summer Baby Book making special deliveries

DALLAS—Whether it’s a boy or a girl, twins or triplets, the arrival of the 2009 Spring/Summer Baby Book

has more than 50 pages of name brand essentials including strollers, car seats, video and sound monitors, clothing and furniture for military Families’ newest recruits. The 2009 Spring/Summer Baby Book catalog is available at all main stores and online at aafes.com, usmc-mccs.org, navy-nex.com or cg-exchange.com.

Prices in this all-services catalog are valid through Sept. 25, 2009, for any authorized exchange customer. **AAFES COMMUNICATIONS**

ONGSP APPLICATION DEADLINES

Fall term, July 1

Spring semester/Winter quarter, Nov. 1

Spring quarter, Feb. 1

Summer term, April 1

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 43235-2789, 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 (888) 400-6484.



COURTESY PHOTO

TOP LEFT: Eighteen Ohio National Guard Soldiers extend their enlistments as MG Gregory L. Wayt, Ohio adjutant general, swears them in June 12 at Camp Ravenna Joint Military Training Center. LEFT: PVT Brent Reese (second from left) of the 1484th Transportation Company is the \$7 million Soldier for the Guard Recruiting Assistance Program. With his enlistment, the Ohio National Guard has distributed that amount to Soldiers who provide recruiter referrals that materialize into new Soldiers for the organization. Also pictured are E Company Recruiting & Retention Detachment 156 Chuck Nikic; Reese's sister, Tabitha, who will receive \$2,000 after Brent ships and then completes basic training; Recruiting and Retention Detachment recruiter Sgt. 1st Class Tom Bonner; and R&R Detachment Northeast Region Sgt. Maj. Scott Hutt. ABOVE: 1LT Andrew Gupko (left) of Company D, 1-137th Aviation Regiment, meets Ohio State University football head coach Jim Tressel during a college coach tour of Iraq to visit the troops.



COURTESY PHOTO

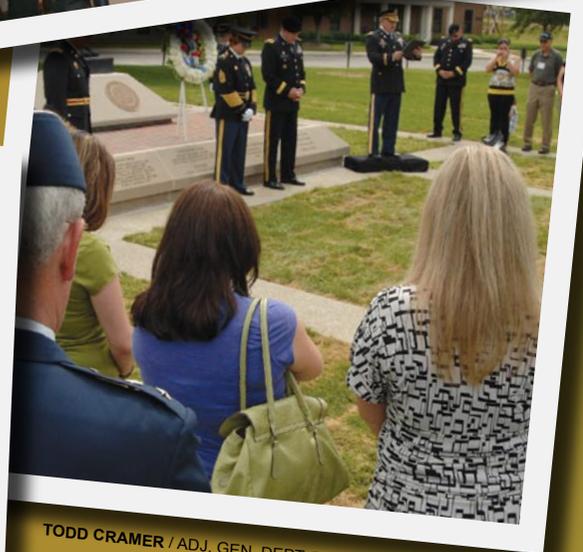
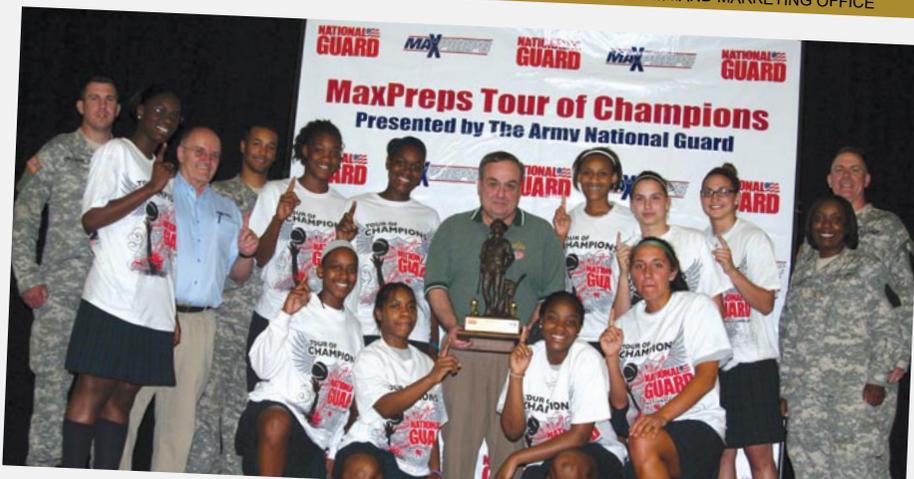
Guard Snapshots

BELOW, LEFT: Coach Pat Diulus and the Regina High School girls basketball team are proud recipients of the MaxPreps Tour of Champions trophy. The team earned the recognition for its national ranking of 23 among all girls basketball teams. Members of the OHARNG Recruiting and Retention Detachment presented the award at a spring sports assembly on April 27. RIGHT: Daniel Sunter (left), executive director of Euro-Atlantic Initiative, interviews MG Gregory L. Wayt (right), Ohio adjutant general, for a news story on Serbian television about the National Guard State Partnership Program's pairing of the Ohio National Guard and Serbian Armed Forces. BELOW, RIGHT: Ohio National Guardmembers, as well as Family members of Ohio National Guardmembers who have died fighting in the Global War on Terrorism, attend a ceremony May 22 at the Beightler minuteman monument, which honors all Ohio National Guard troops who have been killed in action throughout the organization's 220-year history.



STEVE TOTH / ADJ. GEN. DEPT. PUBLIC AFFAIRS

DIANE FARROW / RECRUITING & RETENTION COMMAND MARKETING OFFICE



TODD CRAMER / ADJ. GEN. DEPT. PHOTO LAB

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Warrior Challenge tests recruits' mettle before heading to basic training

SGT SEAN MATHIS / JOINT FORCE HEADQUARTERS-OHIO PUBLIC AFFAIRS

A team of Ohio Army National Guard Soldiers in the Recruit Sustainment Program work together to climb a steep embankment during the SPC Joshua J. O'Bannon Memorial Warrior Challenge. For more on the RSP's two-day Soldier skills competition, see pages 20-21.