ANGELS OF MERCY

Realism impacts training for 145th MASH

Pages 11-13
To all the Members of the
Adjutant General's Department

Season's greetings to you and your loved ones. The holidays are a time of great joy and comfort as family and friends are united in a common spirit. People the world over share many blessings because of the unselfish attitude of you, the volunteer soldier.

As we look back over this year, we recognize that your contributions to state and nation were many. Ohio Guard members have stepped up their efforts to provide vital community services, while continuing to serve other countries in humanitarian relief efforts. You also have been asked to accommodate many changes in the structure of the Guard. For your cooperation in this process, you are commended — change is often necessary to keep pace with peace.

You are America's Guard, defenders of freedom. Never forget that your continued service strengthens the state of Ohio and our country, and ensures peace in the world for those who seek it. The nation still looks to you to serve as a vivid symbol of willingness to defend the values we hold dear.

From the Offices of the Governor and the Adjutant General, may God grant you and your families every blessing in the new year. Happy holidays to all of you.

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

Richard C. Alexander
Major General
Adjutant General
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About the Cover: Sgt. Tom Hoskins, 145th MASH, takes the radial pulse of a patient with a simulated leg injury. Photo by Sgt. Joseph Levack, 145th MASH.
80,000 Additional Military Jobs Open to Women. Since Oct. 1, women can compete for 80,000 additional military positions, bringing to nearly 260,000 the number of jobs opened to service women since April 1993. Women now may be assigned to Army brigade-level combat units, as well as air defense artillery staff positions, selected engineer specialties and fixed-wing aviation positions. In the Army, women may hold 67 percent of the jobs, with 91 percent of career fields now open. By comparison, over 99 percent of Air Force career fields and jobs are open to women. (AFIS)

Back pay withheld from National Guard. Nearly a thousand Army National Guard members, owed benefits from as far back as 1993, had to wait until this fall to get their money. The problem, a computer glitch. The Pentagon is investigating how a change-over in computer systems led to a year-long delay in payments to some 900 Army National Guard members and more than 7,000 vendors nationwide. While no theft or fraud is suspected, the glitch led to between $90 million and $100 million in delayed payments, according to Maj. Toivo Nei, spokesman for the National Guard Bureau in Washington. The Guard plans to make good on the payments during fiscal year 1995. The payments owed to National Guard members involve extras such as enlistment or re-enlistment bonuses and student loan repayments, as opposed to pay. (AP)

Coins fund memorials. The U.S. Mint recently began minting three commemorative silver dollars honoring America’s military women, veterans of the Vietnam conflict and prisoners of war. The cost of each silver dollar includes a $10 surcharge, with proceeds from all sales used to underwrite repairs to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C., the creation of a national POW museum and the establishment of a memorial to the nation’s military women. In accordance with the authorizing legislation, only 500,000 of each silver dollar will be produced and no coins will be minted after April 30, 1995. The three-coin set goes for $91, and individual coins range from $32 to $35. For more information on the new coins, call 1-800-777-VETS or write to: Customer Service Center, U.S. Mint, 10001 Aerospace Road, Lanham, MD 20706. (U.S. Mint PAO)

DoD, VA offers help in tracking service awards. People leave the military without receiving all their awards and medals for many reasons. Now, former service members or the families of deceased veterans can check on awards through the National Personnel Records Center. The service member’s name and signature is needed, and, if the request concerns a deceased veteran, the center requires the signature of the next-of-kin. Personnel specialists also need branch of service, approximate dates of service and either a Social Security number or service number, whichever is appropriate. In addition, said VA officials, the request must include an address, telephone number, date and place of birth, and if applicable, a VA claim number. Also include a copy of the service member’s separation document with the request. Send requests to — Army veterans: Commander, U.S. Army Reserve Personnel Center, Attn: DARPA-PAs-EAW, 9700 Page Blvd. St. Louis, MO 63122-5100 and Air Force or Army Air Corps veterans: National Personnel Records Center, Military Personnel Records, Attn: Air Force Liaison Office, 9700 Page Blvd. St. Louis, MO 63122-5100. More information is available at local veterans organizations and military personnel offices. (AFIS)
Teen’s memory honored

On July 9-14, I was honored to participate as a staff member for the first female Ohio Air and Army National Guard TEAM (Teen Education And Motivation) program. The mission of TEAM was to “assist high-risk youth to develop self-esteem and discipline while learning to make the right decisions about drugs, alcohol and sexuality.”

The significance of my involvement became apparent when I learned that one of our students was a victim of a brutal murder. I’d like to take this opportunity to honor the memory of Ms. Abby Worrell.

I spent some time with Abby during a community service project and found her to be friendly, open and very bright. When I look at my copy of the group photo, I see her bright smile and feel a sense of loss. What a waste of such a young, vibrant life. I can’t help but ask myself what I could have done or said to make a difference in her life.

Written goals and mission statements abound in the military. The first line of the National Guard Human Goals is “Our nation was founded on the principle that the individual has infinite dignity and worth.” A portion of the Ohio Air National Guard mission statement says that our state role is to “Protect life and property, and to preserve peace, order and public safety.” Our community role is to “participate in local, state and national programs that add value to America.” Are these but mere words?

As “preservers of peace,” we are available to protect this nation and others such as Haiti, Bosnia and Kuwait. But what can we do to preserve this peace for the youth of our communities? As guardsmen, I feel we need to use the human skills we have acquired to make a difference in the lives of young people we meet. Adopt-A-School, TEAM, drug prevention programs and other school-related activities are just a few ways we can get involved in this very serious issue.

Capt. Sheree L. Gilmore
220th EIS, Zanesville, Ohio

Editorial raises rankles

In reference to the Summer 1994 issue of the Buckeye Guard, the articles written about the women in the military and the Guard were very good, and then out of left field comes the commentary by Sgt. Lori King. Based on her charts and research as published, I am disappointed that an NCO harbors “bra burning” thoughts in today’s military.

She interviewed some of the women officers for the magazine — did she not listen to what they had to say? You are the one who makes a choice of what you do in the military. You volunteered to join. Make it what you want. It all boils down to choice — “the individual’s choice!” Not to mention you must work for the opportunity to lead soldiers.

Male and female alike join for the college benefits and a part-time job. It is only later that they make their choices as to where their careers in the military will go.

It’s a damn shame that most of the magazine was dedicated to females and ended up with an article as such. It sounds like Sgt. King is using the guise of “Year of the Woman” for a podium to get something only because of gender.

There are a lot of men who support you females in the military, and articles such as this will sure destroy that support. I have served with two woman company commanders and one female squad leader. I have been to NCO schools with a few that did their jobs as well all — in a team environment with gender never a factor.

Be sure you as females who want to carry more rank on your shoulders too can carry the responsibility that goes with the rank. If you want equality in rank and pay, you must earn it as do your male counterparts.

Anonymous

FA units take note!

Having served with the 1/136th Field Artillery for most of my Guard career, I’m greatly disappointed because I’m not seeing any coverage of the field artillery in the Buckeye Guard. I’m sure these units are active and can contribute to the writing of your magazine. In your Fall 1994 issue, there were some subjects that could have been replaced with National Guard units which were not mentioned. In particular, I’m talking about articles “Labor of Love,” “Buffalo Soldiers” and “Scout Jamboree.”

1st Sgt. William D. Hart (Ret.)
Bonita Springs, Fla.

EDITOR'S NOTE: You are right that the field artillery is alive and well here in Ohio. The 1-134th FA Battalion is currently at 90 percent strength, with approximately 580 soldiers assigned.

You are also right that the organization would be a welcome contributor to the Buckeye Guard, as are all units. However, since the magazine is run by a full-time staff of one, the Buckeye Guard cannot accept submissions from units in other states.

Attention TET-68 veterans

I have written six books and am presently writing another book on the defense of Saigon, Bien Hoa, Long Binh and Tan Son Nhat during the 1968 Tet Offensive.

Units involved included: the 199th LIB; the 11th ACR; A/1-4 Cav (1st Division); B/4-39th Infantry, 2-47th Mech Infantry, 5-60th Mech Infantry and 3-5th Cav (9th Division); 2-27th Infantry and 3-4th Cav (25th Division); C/1-502D Infantry and 2-506th Infantry (101st ABN Division); the 716th and 720th Military Police Battalions; the 377th USASAF Police Squadron; and MACV, USARV and IF FFV Headquarters detachments.

If you served with any of these units during Tet-68, please contact me so we can arrange an interview for the book. Write to Keith William Nolan, 220 Kingsville Court, Webster Groves, Missouri 63119 or call (314) 645-1867.

FAX your Letters to the Editor to DSN 273-3820 or commercial (614) 766-3820. Mail letters to AGOH-PA, ATTN: Buckeye Guard, 2823 W. Dublin-Granville Road, Columbus, Ohio 43235-2789. All submissions are subject to editing based on space and style considerations.
Change renders opportunity for success

By Brig. Gen. John S. Martin
Assistant Adjutant General for Army

As we begin fiscal year 1995, great opportunity for success awaits the Ohio Army National Guard. Those who grab the opportunity and strive to take advantage of it will do well. Those who sit back and wait for someone to do something for them will find themselves waiting at the airport after the airplane has departed. Don’t wait! Now is the time. Take action to enhance your career opportunities in the Ohio Army National Guard.

Let’s review what is scheduled to occur in the near future relative to Ohio Army National Guard force structure. Figure 1 displays those units that will be deactivated or added to the Ohio Army National Guard between now and the end of fiscal year 1997. Several things become clear:

- The Ohio Army National Guard becomes a key member of the 38th Infantry Division with the 37th Armor Brigade, 2/107th Divisional Cavalry Squadron, 3/138th Assault Battalion and a separate artillery battery. Since our units form a significant part of the 38th Division, our training and daily working relationships with Indiana, Michigan and the 38th Division Headquarters will become more frequent and interdependent.

- The Ohio Army National Guard aviation program will be reduced by approximately 40 percent of assigned aircraft.

- The Ohio Army National Guard MTOE medical force structure will be dramatically downsized. A portion of our current medical force structure, and the highly capable and skilled soldiers of this force, will be retained in a TDA Medical-Dental Detachment that will provide for the institutional medical requirements of the Ohio Army National Guard.

- The engineer force will trade a group headquarters and one combat engineer battalion to Louisiana in exchange for a combat heavy engineer battalion. This will return to Ohio much of the engineer equipment (bulldozers, dump trucks) necessary to perform our state emergency mission which was taken away as our combat battalions transitioned to a mechanized engineer force. Additionally, the combat heavy battalion brings heavy earthmoving equipment, which is a new capability that was not available in the combat battalion.

Changing force structure creates new opportunities for assignments and MOS skill training. If you are looking for a new challenge or a new opportunity, keep your eye on what’s going on with force structure in the Ohio Army National Guard. You might be able to find a position that is just what you have been looking for.

As of mid-October, there is sufficient funding to continue to conduct normal IDT and AT training. Also, funding for required schools (MOSQ, NCOES, etc.) exists. If you need a school, apply now — don’t wait until all the funding is gone.

Total Quality Management (TQM) continues to quietly infiltrate the Ohio Army National Guard, and the many benefits are starting to be seen. In a predictable, methodical way, the processes we use to conduct daily business are being reviewed and modified where necessary to improve both efficiency and quality. Most of the full-time force has received the four-day overview TQM training course, and the training continues. A strategic plan has been developed and approved to transport TQM into each unit in the Ohio Army National Guard. This plan was structured by our six-member total quality advisory team. If you haven’t heard about TQM in your unit, ask your commander to see the Ohio Army National Guard Quality Master Plan. It’s available for your review.

We continue to receive the benefits of having in the Ohio Army National Guard a great engineer force — the 16th Engineer Brigade. Over the past three years, the engineer soldiers of the brigade have accomplished great things in terms of improving our training sites in Ohio. The Ravevna Army Training Area can now fully support tank gunnery crew drill through a Table IV MILES scale target gunnery course. Thanks in large part to our engineers, Camp Perry, within the next year, will have an automated M-16 range, an automated machine gun range and an automated pistol range.

The Ohio Army National Guard is fortunate to have a large military construction program underway. Figure 2 gives a few examples. Without question, these new facilities are an investment in the future of the Ohio Army National Guard and will help our organization improve its readiness posture. Our military construction program is a commitment to a strong Ohio Army National Guard.

As the Ohio Army National Guard continues

Buckeye Guard

UPDATE: Ohio Army National Guard

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As the Ohio Army National Guard continues

Buckeye Guard
to undergo revision, we
must work together to
manage this change effi-
ciently and effectively.
Change is not bad — in
fact, much of the change
we are or will be going
through will result in a
better organization. We
will be better able to ac-
complish our state and fed-
eral mission. But, there are
several key underlying
considerations that we
must pay close attention
to as we deal with change:

• All soldiers must be
qualified for the job we expect them to
accomplish. MOSQ and NCOES require-
ments must be first priority. All else in the way
of training starts from that basis, and only after
MOSQ and NCOES are achieved.

• Assigned strength must be maintained.
Every member of every unit must strive to
ensure that their unit is 100 percent of its
assigned strength. Units are in jeopardy of not
being around tomorrow if
they can’t maintain
strength today.

• Every unit member
must pull his or her own
weight. Everyone must
contribute to the success
of the unit and, therefore,
share in the success of the
unit. We can’t allow only
a few individuals to carry
the load. Everyone in the
unit must contribute. To
do this, each unit member
must be qualified to do
their assigned job.

I ask that we keep our eye on the objective as
we continue down the road to the future. And
that objective is well-trained and ready sol-
diers and units. No matter what units are
assigned to the Ohio Army National Guard, the
most important factor is that the soldiers in
those units be qualified and trained. That
requirement is a constant. Let’s make sure we
get that job done right.

THE CHANGING OF THE GUARD

Air National Guard:

Col. William Howland was named Air
National Guard Executive Staff Support Of-
er (ESSO) on July 1, 1994. He replaces
Col. Jon McMahon, who retired.

Army National Guard:

Col. David T. Hartley was appointed As-
sistant Adjutant General for Training on Nov.
LaPrise, who retired.

Lt. Col. Thomas P. Luceynski was selected
Commander of the 37th Armor Brigade on Nov.
1, 1994; he replaces Col. David Hartley.

Col. James Caldwell was appointed Army
National Guard Chief of Staff on Oct. 5, 1994.
He replaces Col. Joseph Bimler, who retired.

Col. Edward A. Ferguson was assigned
Commander of Troop Command on Oct. 5,
1994; he replaces Col. James Caldwell.

Col. Ronald G. Young was selected Com-
mandant of the Ohio Military Academy on

Lt. Col. Gregory Wayt was named Direc-
tor of Plans, Operations and Training on Aug.
30, 1994. He replaces Col. Robert Bruce, who
retired.

Lt. Col. Craig T. Ceneskie was appointed
Commander of 1/137th Aviation (AVIM) on
Nov. 1, 1994; he replaces Lt. Col. Ken Robinson
who transferred to HQ STARC.

Lt. Col. Jack E. Lee was named Commander
of the 1/148th Infantry Battalion (Mech.) on
Nov. 1, 1994; he replaces Lt. Col. Edward Lang
III who was reassigned to HQ STARC.

Lt. Col. David W. Boyer was assigned Com-
mander of the 612th Engineer Battalion on Nov.
1, 1994; he replaces Maj. David Winkelman
who transferred to HHC, 416th Engineer Group.

Maj. Matthew Kambie was selected Com-
mander of the 1/134th Field Artillery on Nov.
1, 1994; he replaces Lt. Col. Dennis Kraft who
was reassigned to HQ STARC.

Maj. Stephen C. Ulrich was appointed Com-
mmander of the 145th Mobile Army Surgical
Hospital on Nov. 1, 1994; he replaces Lt.
Col. Arthur Sippo who transferred to HHC,
112th Medical Brigade.

Figure 2 - Construction projects,
planned or currently underway.

Command Profile

Col. Edward Ferguson
73rd Troop Command

Age: 52
Occupation: Director of Man-
agement Systems & Processes,
The Reynolds and Reynolds Co.
Life has taught me: To be flexible.
If I could have just one day all to
myself, I would: Spend it read-
ing to enrich my life.
The one film I would like to
have starred in is: Glory.
When no one's looking I: Play
solitaire on my computer.
When I was little I wanted to
be: The first African-American
Naval Admiral.
The worst advice I ever received
was: I could not achieve all I
dreamed.
The best advice I ever received
was: Join the Army National Guard.
If I could dine with anyone, past
or present, I would invite: Gen.
Colin Powell.
The best moment in my life hap-
pened when I: Married my wife,
Cynthia.
My favorite book: Life of Ben-
jamin O. Davis, Sr.
My favorite movie: Patton.
If I could leave today’s
guardmembers with one piece
of advice it would be: Mission
first, people always.
Soldiers from 1/107th Armor head to tank gunnery ranges at Camp Grayling.

Providing battle focus for Ohio soldiers

Story and photos by Pfc. Rick McGivern
196th Public Affairs Detachment

Traditionally, annual training can prove to be a difficult test of any soldier’s ability to adapt to a new environment. But, as the first group of guardsmen to train at Camp Grayling after an Illinois National Guard artillery shell damaged a Michigan home, soldiers of the Ohio Guard put themselves under added pressure to conduct error-free training during this year’s AT.

This, coupled with the fact that Ohio was facing one of its largest combined annual training operations in many years, meant soldiers faced more challenges than usual when they headed to “summer camp” last July.

More than 1,200 vehicles, 46 aircraft and 3,600 troops converged on Camp Grayling to enhance the soldiering skills of five major elements of the Ohio Army National Guard:

- the 37th Armored Brigade
- the 112th Medical Brigade
- the 371st Corps Support Group
- the Ohio Military Academy
- Troop Command

The 37th Armored Brigade focused on improving their skills as tank crewmen, infantry soldiers and artillery gunners. Among the training tasks for the 37th was the school for M-113 Armored Personnel Carriers (APC). Since the .50 caliber machine gun is typically mounted on this vehicle, soldiers were trained on its operation and maintenance.

“They have to know how to load and unload the weapon and how to fix jams,” explained Sgt. Doug Heaster, Det. 1 HHC, 1/148 Infantry Battalion. “Adjusting head-space and timing also teaches the soldier to control the speed of the weapon firing,” he said.

Lanes training, graded exercises which run soldiers through a series of specific tasks, was implemented for the first time for a large segment of the state’s Army Guard. The ar-

Future cavalry scouts train on mounted .50 caliber machine guns.
mored brigade used it as a means to train infantry squads and platoons, while the Ohio Military Academy used this technique to qualify soldiers as cavalry scouts (19D). After attending four drill weekends of general instruction, OMA students spent their annual training applying what they learned to complete Phase II of their MOS qualification.

Perfecting proper dismount procedures from an APC and removing a barbed wire obstacle were some of the tasks tested.

"The troops performed a hasty dismount, provided security and breached the obstacle," said Cadet Mark Lastoria, who supervised the training for squads from D Co., 1/148th Infantry Battalion. "They were evaluated on probing for and destroying mines, breaching the wire, moving tactically and securing the area."

Maintaining the ability to fight means relying on service support units to provide for the needs of the troops. According to Sgt. 1st Class Ed Stoker, assistant operations sergeant for the 371st Corps Support Group, units were better able to concentrate on mission accomplishment since the 371st offered a variety of services throughout the two weeks.

While the 237th Forward Support Battalion responded to the fuel needs of the 37th Armor Brigade, Stoker said the 371st met the fuel demands of the remaining units at Camp Grayling, which included the motor movements to and from Michigan. "Our transportation units also hauled personnel and equipment up to Grayling and provided for any troop movement needed during the two weeks," he said.

The 371st not only transported soldiers out to the training sites and weapons ranges, its units were responsible for running the ranges as well. Though loading and dispensing ammunition, providing safety officers and broadcasting instruction from the tower wasn't their assigned military professions, Stoker said units were assigned these duties "so that soldiers training on the ranges could focus on just that, range fire, and not the logistics of the situation."

Military police companies provided support for all the missions and movements at Grayling — which included serving as gate guards, supplying personnel to handle road checks and responding to any calls about disturbances at the training site. Maintenance units provided direct and general support as required, and the 637th Support Company provided field laundry services and shower facilities.

Master Sgt. Leonard Stayton of HQ STARC made sure members of the 371st maintained their basic soldier skills while providing this support. "We've been in MOPP gear for over an hour, practicing for an NBC attack," said Stayton during a morning NBC drill performed at one of the shower points.

The 112th Medical Brigade was also on hand, providing medical support for all of the units. Evaluating the capabilities of ambulance companies and the 145th MASH (Mobile Army Surgical Hospital), the brigade took advantage of AT94 to practice emergency procedures that would be used if casualties were encountered from a combat situation.

While the command and control of the entire operation fell under the responsibility of 73rd Troop Command, its commander, Col. James E. Caldwell, looked at the success or failure of AT94 as his personal responsibility. "This was the major training effort of the year," Caldwell said. "We had it all here — warriors, healers, suppliers and fixers."

And, in light of the previous training incident, the colonel was happy to report no significant property damage or serious injuries occurred during the two-week period — indicating that training progressed as planned.

Calling the two weeks an "unqualified success," Caldwell was particularly pleased with the Army Guard's introduction to lanes training. "The units did an exceptional job. Even Gen. D'Araujo, then-acting chief of the National Guard Bureau, said it was some of the best (training) he'd ever seen."
Army Guard Director speaks to Ohio soldiers
By Sgt. 1st Class Robert L. Jennings • • • 196th Public Affairs Detachment

Let's talk about the future of the National Guard — where are we headed?

The bad news: Turbulence has hit the National Guard hard, especially Ohio. The good news: It postures us for the 21st century. I know soldiers are confused, but we can look to the short future (five years) which puts us in a good position. We will be smaller, better equipped and have better balance. Ohio has one of the better mixes of combat and combat support units.

The Guard will also see more and more involvement in community action programs. There seems to be a natural adaptation for the Guard to be involved in community responses. Hurricanes Andrew, Iniki and the Iowa floods are examples of how the Guard can quickly respond to emergency situations and be successful. And Ohio is an example of the success the Guard is having in youth and counterdrug programs.

What should we tell soldiers to do during this transition?

My answer to that is what should leaders be doing? How can they make the turbulence transparent and focus on improving individual qualifications? Make sure soldiers are doing what we hired them to do. Make the transition enthusiastically. And that’s exactly what I see Ohio doing. Units of the 112th Medical Brigade are a perfect example of what I’m talking about. These units are training soldiers individually and collectively. They are performing their primary missions of providing medical support in the field. The troops look good and are enthusiastic.

What are the differences between today’s soldiers and those of the past?

Today’s soldiers are obviously more educated. That’s why we must not bore them with meaningless training. Leaders better understand this if we are going to keep the highly-trained E-5s that we’ve invested thousands of dollars in. You must understand the situations they are in. Money is not the answer. We have great incentive programs to entice the soldiers. But what will really make a difference is if we make that soldier feel good about the training in his unit and its leadership.

What can we do to keep these well-trained soldiers?

Take care of your soldiers. One of the units I visited in the field had a sign up that read: “Training for Retention.” I must admit I’d not seen that phrase before. What is meant, I was told, is the “feel-see-touch” approach to retention — let them see, feel and touch the equipment. Quality and meaningful training should be our focus. We want to keep the good soldiers.

We lose $40,000 on each soldier that leaves us — and that’s just training dollars spent.

How does the Ohio Guard compare to other states?

It has a good reputation. My last visit to Ohio was in 1986. I was impressed then with the 73rd Infantry Brigade and other elements. Now, even though Ohio has been hit hard by the turbulence, soldiers are enthusiastic, they work hard and leaders are taking care of people. While visiting the artillery range, I saw soldiers training to “put steel on target.” I asked if they were happy with the results of their training. “We are off seconds from where we want to be, and in artillery, seconds mean a lot,” they said. “But right now we are focusing on procedures, not speed.” I was impressed with that answer because that’s exactly what we should be doing — focused, safe, quality and meaningful training.

Maj. Gen. John R. (Jack) D’Araujo, Jr. (pronounced Da-Rouge), is the director of the Army National Guard at the National Guard Bureau in Washington, D.C. As director, he formulates, develops and coordinates all programs, policies and plans affecting the Army National Guard and its more than 410,000 citizen-soldiers. His military career began when he enlisted in the Hawaii Army National Guard in 1960. D’Araujo was commissioned a second lieutenant in the Hawaii Army National Guard on June 28, 1963.
Chaplain William Henson, 145th MASH, comforts a wounded soldier during an emergency medical simulation at Camp Grayling, Mich.

Angels of Mercy

Story by Spc. Rhonda L. McGhee
Photos by Sgt. Joseph C. Levack
145th Mobile Army Surgical Hospital

It was a relatively quiet afternoon in northern Michigan, when suddenly painful cries of injured soldiers could be heard for miles throughout the wilderness. A five-ton truck had crashed into a tree. Fifteen soldiers had been thrown from the truck, and their suffering ranged from broken limbs or head injuries to chest or abdominal wounds.

There was blood all over, and a few of the patients had been overcome with fear. They were running around crazily, screaming for help. Finally the ambulance company arrived to perform initial treatment and transport the patients to the 145th Mobile Army Surgical Hospital (MASH).

Fortunately, the whole situation was nothing to panic about. The accident was fake, part of an extensive emergency medical simulation. The simulation was used as a training technique for the 112th Medical Brigade's annual training at Camp Grayling, Mich.

"When the ambulance pulled up to the MASH, I felt a bit nervous, as I always do during an emergency, but I also felt confident. I know how well we pull together as a team," said Staff Sgt. James Lohr, acting chief ward master for the MASH.

"I was amazed at the hush that fell over the hospital just before the patients were brought in — everyone was concentrating.
on the task ahead of them.

All 400 troops from Ohio’s medical brigade took the emergency medical simulation very seriously.

“I don't work in the medical field in the civilian world,” said Pfc. Anita Ballash, a medic in the MASH, “so I couldn't believe how intense everyone was. I knew it was all pretend, but the patients' injuries looked so real, and the doctors and nurses were so serious. It made me proud to be a member of a team that can save lives.”

After the ambulance team evacuated the mock casualties to the 145th MASH, several doctors and nurses triaged the patients. This process separates the patients into those who need care within five minutes (immediate), those who are stabilized but still need treatment (delayed) and those who need more care than the MASH can give and a fatality is probable (expectant).

Patients who needed care first were moved into the emergency room (ER). There, the medics recorded the patient’s name, rank, social security number, unit, blood type and allergies. Medics took vital signs every 10 minutes — blood pressure, pulse, respirations, temperature — and applied sterile dressings to wounds. They started intravenous fluids, established an airway or ordered lab work and X-rays.

“I think ER medics have one of the most demanding jobs, because we are the patient’s first line to help,” said Pfc. Jack Marsh, a medic with the 145th MASH. “They (patients) are probably the most scared when they get to us, and it’s our job to keep them calm and reassured, while keeping ourselves calm and getting our work done quickly.”

After patients received treatment in the emergency room, they were moved to either Pre-op or ICU. In Pre-op, the nurses prepared the patients for surgery, cutting away clothing or cleansing wounds. Patients stayed in the Intensive Care Unit, or ICU, when they needed constant care or if they had to be evacuated to another hospital.

The operating room (OR) proved to be the most tense area of the hospital, just as it would in any civilian setting. The ambulance company, the triage team, the medics, the doctors and the Pre-op nurses all had prepared the patient for this final step — where the head surgeon and OR techs worked their magic.

Behind the scenes within the hospital, the patient administration section, or PAD, kept records of each patient’s progress and
handled the patients' personal affects. The PAD also applied for grave registration to bury the dead soldiers. The CMS, or central medical supply, sterilized the instruments for surgery by using autoclaves. CMS also supplied the hospital with all the equipment necessary to function in a field environment.

But no aspect of this exercise would have been possible without some members of the MASH who are often overlooked. Who kept the hospital's vehicles running smoothly and fixed the generators if they broke down? The mechanics. Who provided good food to keep the soldiers nourished? The mess section. Who administered the sacrament of the sick at the sides of dying patients? The chaplain. The chaplain also helped injured soldiers find a comfortable place with their God. It was this peace that helped keep them calm for the duration of their stay at the MASH.

At the end of the two weeks, Lt. Col. Arthur Sippo, hospital commander for the 145th MASH, said he felt this year's training was very successful. So, just like old episodes of the M*A*S*H television series, the 112th Medical Brigade's emergency medical simulation concluded with its share of joy and pain, and left those involved with a sense of confidence in the Ohio Guard's role as "guardians of life."

The making of M*A*S*H

While even the word MASH brings to mind the crazy gang from the 4077th that kept television viewers laughing for years, many people do not realize there is a Mobile Army Surgical Hospital in Ohio. The 145th MASH, based at Camp Perry in Port Clinton, is a modern version of the old TV program — just with different characters.

The 145th Mobile Army Surgical Hospital was established in December 1988 to offer emergency, surgical and intensive care support for wounded troops in a field environment. The MASH, growing steadily since its inception, is now over 150 members strong.

Since M*A*S*H reruns depicted life during the Korean War, the general public may be surprised at how technology has improved the working environment for medical professionals living in the field.

Do you remember seeing the sweat rolling off Col. Potter and Hawkeye as they operated on patients in a tent? The 145th MASH does not have that problem: its operating room is air conditioned and the entire hospital has the capacity for climate control.

But MASH personnel do work up their share of sweat while setting up the hospital. Called a Deployable Medical System (DEPMEDS), the hospital is a complex comprised of tents and portable buildings where the patients are treated. The tents, called temper tents, and the buildings, called iso shelters, are connected by short hallways, which are called vestibules.

Allowing the hospital to be completely mobile, all of the equipment can be compacted into customized storage sheds and loaded on a dolly that's approximately 50 times larger than the type used to move a standard refrigerator. Before assembly, most of the bundles of canvas and metal framing are very heavy — 300 pounds or more.

The framework must be assembled one section at a time, starting at one end and working toward the other. This ensures the system's integrity. The lining and canvas are attached while the framework is on the ground. Finally, the tent is raised, one side at a time. Then the soldiers install the flooring, lights and electrical outlets inside the tent.

The Mobile Army Surgical Hospital is ready to receive patients once cots are assembled, life support systems are set up, and shelves are stocked with medical equipment.

Completion of the hospital normally takes MASH personnel about 10 to 20 hours of work, depending on the size of the hospital. "It's a lot of hard work," said Spc. Lori Johnson, a licensed practical nurse in the MASH, "but when we get our first round of patients, we realize it's worth it." Submitted by Spc. Rhonda McGhee, 145th MASH.
Support critical to AT success

Story by SPC Tina Holbern
Photos by SFC Gerald Heck
237th Forward Support Bn.

While spending its first full-scale annual training at Camp Grayling, Mich., the 37th Armored Brigade counted on soldiers from the 237th Forward Support Battalion (FSB) to ease many day-to-day activities for the brigade.

Just as its name implies, the 237th’s primary mission is to provide support to the brigade and all its subordinate units. Primary support missions include ration delivery, refueling, maintenance and medical support.

While most soldiers complained about the heat and humidity during the two weeks of “summer camp,” the only complaint heard from Spc. Michael Sokolski from Company A, 237th FSB, was, “I forgot my gloves!” Daily, he worked in the coolers and freezers at the troop issue point, pulling food orders for all units feeding their soldiers in the field.

While soldiers from Sokolski’s Springfield unit worked to get rations to the field, 1st Sgt. Jeffery Smith ensured the preparation and quality of food was excellent, all while adding his own special dimension to the chow line.

Insisting on tactical posture, Smith used the chow line to disseminate information, validate driver’s licenses, check vehicle dispatches and, most popular, to quiz soldiers on common task subjects such as daily challenge and password. Those who failed to receive a “GO” at his station chose between going to the end of the line or “dropping” for 10 push-ups.

“I feel soldiers always like to have a challenge, so I try to make the training ‘battle-focused’ and interesting,” Smith said.

Keeping things battle-focused and interesting wasn’t very difficult for Company A’s refueling section, which was tasked with camouflaging a 5,000 gallon tanker with every move in the field.

“Have you ever tried to hide an elephant?” joked Spc. Stefanie Maltzberger, who, by the end of the two weeks, was able to accomplish this task to standard for all vehicles assigned.

This annual training period marked a “first” for the battalion’s Bravo Company — providing maintenance support to armored vehicles. Maintenance teams deployed to the collection points to conduct repairs on vehicles. One team leader, Staff Sgt. Brett Washburn, said the new mission was an exceptional challenge for the abilities of the tank support team. “There was a tremendous demand on our time and talents, but everyone pulled together to provide first rate support to the 148th tank battalion.”

Another first, the Readiness Group from Fort Benjamin Harrison, Ind., evaluated Charlie Company during medical lanes training.

Medics in teams of two were given a warning order followed by a fragmentary order, which included grid coordinates of casualty location and medical evacuation procedures. Arriving at the scene, the senior person sorted casualties according to severity of injuries, ranging from third degree burns to sucking chest wounds. After treatment, patients were prepared for ground evacuation. Depending on the scenario, the medics encountered additional casualties on route to the ambulance exchange point.

At the end of the scenario, the medics were debriefed and given an after action review. Some teams received additional training and were allowed to challenge the course again. The exercise not only raised the confidence levels of individual medics, but also emphasized that teamwork is crucial to success in the military and survival on the battlefield.

Aside from the handling daily tasks such as authenticating messages, maintaining communications with other signal sections, and logging and routing messages, the 237th FSB communications section participated in a brigade/battalion simulation exercise. This required a smooth and continuous flow of FM and wire communication to all the staff sections engaged in the exercise.

Since the 237th was at 50 percent strength due to schooling requirements, its commander, Lt. Col. John R. Fenimore, said deploying the battalion to annual training was a monumental challenge. “I am very proud to command these soldiers who responded so admirably to this difficult annual training period. I felt these soldiers displayed a positive attitude, high morale and professionalism in all assigned missions.”

Buckeye Guard
SSG Chris Bell, 684th Med. Co., registers patients for immunizations at a Columbus clinic.

HEALING HANDS
GuardCare program treats Ohio’s medically underserved

Story by Sgt. Diane Farrow
HQ STARC (Det. 1-5)

One-year-old Heather, eyes wide with fear, clutches her mother and lets out a scream as the needle pierces her thigh. Across the table, another mother comforts her young son, rocking him back and forth, murmuring “It’s all right, you’ll be OK.”

A familiar scene to many parents, this immunization clinic was quite different than most. One of the nurses giving shots was dressed in camouflage and combat boots.

Capt. Sally Moward, a registered nurse with the 121st Air Refueling Wing Medical Squadron, is just one member of the Ohio National Guard to take part in “Operation GuardCare,” a pilot program authorized by Congress which uses National Guard personnel in medically underserved communities. The National Guard in 18 other states are also participating in this program.

“Historically, our medical personnel have provided a variety of services in countries like Jamaica, Guatemala and Honduras,” said Maj. Charles Stockton, medical regulating officer for the Army Guard’s 112th Medical Brigade. “People always ask why we can’t help out here in the states. It’s been only since last year that the federal law was changed to allow National Guard forces to provide health care to U.S. citizens.

“The key is we can only supplement or enhance services that already exist. We’re not out there to replace or compete with local health practitioners,” Stockton said. The 112th, which is responsible for coordinating both Air and Army Guard medical support, only sends guardmembers to locations defined as “medically underserved” by the Ohio Department of Health.

According to their studies, only 52 percent of children under 2 years old are fully immunized in the state of Ohio, and the rates among poor, inner-city children and Ohio’s Appalachian region are even worse. As a result, Ohio guardmembers primarily have been supporting free immunization clinics set up in Franklin, Perry and Lawrence Counties.

“I’m very comfortable doing this,” said Moward, who spent part of her September drill administering second dose MMR (Mumps, Measles, Rubella) shots to children from cen-
Col. Elmer Horman, Ohio ANG state surgeon, checks for ear infection.

The emphasis of the program has been placed on basic childhood immunizations, last August the Guard expanded the treatment of one clinic to include overall wellness assessments for children and adults.

GuardCare in brief

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Though the ability to set up operations in unfamiliar environments is inherent to the National Guard mission, other challenges also existed.
“Most of the children couldn’t speak English, and that made it hard to reassure them that we weren’t going to hurt them,” said Staff Sgt. Susan Brown, a licensed practical nurse for the 145th MASH. “We didn’t even know if they had ever been to a doctor before.”

“Some were in good health, some were in need of dental care,” said Lt. Col. Michael Hablitzel, a dentist with the 145th MASH. He and Col. Claude Beitler, a dentist with the 2007th Medical Detachment, spent the day charting work that needed to be done on more than 30 patients.

Though Beitler admitted that without X-ray equipment and opportunity for follow-up, full-scale dental treatment wasn’t feasible, Hablitzel maintained that the clinic dispelled any fears felt by the youngsters. “The children left with their first dental experience a friendly one.”

Villarreal also noted that the Guard donated some hygiene supplies and over-the-counter drugs, diagnosed illnesses and wrote prescriptions for patients. “It was beautiful,” she said. “The dollar value of their services alone was about $11,000. But, because of the way things were set up, this was an ideal situation that’s otherwise not available — regardless of the price.

“We’re very optimistic about receiving additional services, even earlier in the next program period, which runs June through October,” Villarreal added.

According to Stockton, members of the 112th Medical Brigade are also sharing in that enthusiasm as they head into training year 1995. “Operation GuardCare helped put us back in the ‘Ohioans serving Ohio mode’ — which is the epitome of the citizen-soldier.”

“It feels good to help people in your own backyard,” agreed Spc. Lori Purny, member of the 145th MASH. “I’d do it again in a minute.”
Saber success comes early

178th Fighter Group rated best Reserve Forces F-16 unit at 1994 U.S. Air Force 'LONGSHOT' competition

Story by Capt. John C. DeNezza
178th Fighter Group

While the dictionary defines the word longshot as "an entry that seems to have little chance of winning," Ohio's 178th Fighter Group, Springfield, describes the term as a chance to showcase its skills with the F-16 Fighting Falcon.

The Springfield unit was rated as the best Reserve Forces F-16 unit during the 1994 United States Air Force "LONGSHOT" competition held last June at Nellis Air Force Base in Nevada. This competition tests the ability of all components of the Air Force to plan and execute a wartime tasking order.

The 178th also placed a strong second out of all the F-16 units represented, which included active duty.

"I knew we were sending a good team out to Nellis," said Lt. Col. Ralph P. Anderson, 178th operations group commander. "We covered the whole spectrum of experience levels." With only majors and below allowed to compete, Maj. Bryan Wright, a Desert Storm veteran, led the pack with his experience on the F-16, A-7 and F-117 Stealth Fighter. Majors Craig Wallace and Cliff Davis, both F-16 instructor pilots, and Capt. John DeNezza made the team complete. All are members of Springfield's 162nd Fighter Squadron whose call sign is the "Saber," recalling the image of a black cat from the original unit patch.

The stage was set as fighters, bombers and tankers came from all across the United States to form six "packages" at the Nevada air base. A mission commander was selected for each package to assure that all players arrived on time and ready for battle. Though the mission commander contacted each unit to plan target destruction and unit survivability, there was never a face-to-face meeting of the members of the packages.

Springfield's pilots completed over a week's worth of planning, target study and briefings to prepare for what amounted to a single sortie. Unlike typical training flights, this sortie lasted almost six hours, had three air refuelings and a multitude of "bad guys" trying to keep the Sabers and other fighter-bombers from their targets.

Headed to Nellis, the Sabers picked up another 12 fighter aircraft along the way. These included four F-15Cs from Langley AFB, four F-16s from Peoria ANGB and four F-111s from Cannon AFB. Two KC-135 Stratotankers joined the mission to refuel the fighters in-flight. Near the Nellis ranges, two B-52s from Minot AFB arrived to complete the package.

While the good guys pressed to drop bombs, the enemy aircraft—which included Marine F-18s—tried to keep the fighters from their targets. For their performance as a package, the team finished third.

"It takes a tremendous effort by both the pilots and maintenance crews to achieve the success we saw at LONGSHOT," said Col. R.P. Meyer, commander of the Springfield unit. "We may not have all the advanced avionics that other fighter units might have, but the bottom line is that we put bombs on target, on time. That's the name of the game in our business, and we succeeded."

Col. R.P. Meyer, Commander 178th Fighter Group

While LONGSHOT demonstrated that units could take off from anywhere in the nation, meet at a designated location, put weapons on target, on time and survive together as a team, the pilots from Springfield proved that the 178th Fighter Group is a viable asset to that team. The unit, which received its first F-16 in spring 1993, finished its last week of conversion from the A-7 to the F-16 the same week as the competition.

"We became fully 'combat ready' in the F-16 on July 1, 1994," noted Lt. Col. Thomas W. Pape, commander of the 162nd Fighter Squadron. "Our outstanding showing at LONGSHOT definitely shows that we are there."
Aug. 20 marked the second annual "Community Service Day" Echo Company, 1/148th Infantry, sponsored for the city of Urbana. For their efforts, members of the anti-tank company earned the continuing respect and support of the local community. 

Back in April, Urbana's City Administrator John Kane approached Company Commander Capt. David Reeves for help with a project. The Champaign County Airport was given a grant for improvements, and one of the improvements was to put a fresh coat of paint on the main hangar. After the success of last year's community work, Reeves agreed to have members do what they could.

In order to accomplish the task, Ohio Department of Transportation's (ODOT) District 7 Director Jerald Eink was asked for assistance. A "bucket truck" and its operator, Jon Knopp, was requested so that the upper portions of the hangar could be reached.

During August drill, at 9 a.m. Saturday morning, a team of guardsmen headed to the airport with 50 gallons of paint, rollers, paint sprayers and ODOT's bucket truck. "This hangar has needed paint for a long time," said Sgt. George Carr, who was in charge of the paint detail. "And I'm glad the unit gets the chance to do a project that will stand out." Only the side of the hangar that faces State Route 68 was painted by the members, but by 4 p.m., two coats were applied, making a visible difference to passersby.

While the hangar got a fresh coat of paint outside the city limits, the downtown area was also revitalized as a second group of unit members picked up trash, pulled weeds and swept sidewalks.

Soldiers who stayed behind at the armory welcomed the public in for an open house. An M901 Improved Tow Vehicle was on display, with Spc. Steve Klotz standing by to answer any questions. On display inside the armory was an exhibit of personal weapons, including a flintlock .50 caliber rifle which was made in 1810.

The same weekend, Echo Company also sponsored an aluminum can drive to benefit the Shriner Children Hospitals, which treat handicapped kids and burn victims. Similar to the can drive held last year, 2 1/2-ton trucks were stationed at collection points in three different counties — Madison, Clark and Champaign.

Having collected over 500 pounds of cans by the end of the day, the Urbana soldiers were rewarded with the knowledge that they topped last year's total and that, as noted by Shriner Johnny Packer, "the kids will be the ones to benefit from their efforts."
On Aug. 1, 1943, Lt. Col. Addison Baker, a member of the Ohio National Guard, flew into history. On this date, he led his command, the 93rd Heavy Bombardment Group, on a daring low-level attack against enemy oil refineries at Ploesti, Rumania.

Approaching the target, his aircraft was hit by a large caliber anti-aircraft shell, seriously damaging it and setting it on fire. Ignoring the fact he was flying over terrain suitable for safe landing, he refused to jeopardize the mission by breaking the lead formation and continued to lead his group to the target.

"Colonel Baker did not leave the formation to land in the flat fields in front of us, but, showing a brand of courage that I have never seen before or since, continued to lead us the last two or three miles to the target," wrote Capt. Raymond Walker, assistant operations officer of the 93rd, who was flying on Baker's right wing. In an affidavit sent to the War Department, Walker said, "The fire in Colonel Baker's ship became progressively more intense. He did not swerve, but continued on until we dropped our bombs."

Capt. Carl Barthel, group navigator, was flying in the deputy lead ship, Flying Circus. He saw Baker's aircraft, Hell's Wench, as it intercepted enemy fire.

"When first hit, Lt. Col. Baker made the most heroic decision that any man has been called upon to make," Barthel said. "He chose to lead his force into the target even though he knew that such action would result in certain destruction. He also knew the alternative was a comparatively safe landing in the fields.

"Such action and decision shows exceptional devotion to duty, far and above the call of duty, or carrying out of orders. Such courage and decision is more than is asked of any man, but was necessary for the attack to be a success."
After leading the squadron to the target, *Hell's Wench* crashed in flames. Baker and his entire crew were killed.

According to Lt. Col. George Brown, the 93rd's deputy force commander, because that attack was made on a different heading than the crews had been briefed, "The formation would have broken up at the critical point on the bomb run" had Baker not continued flying to the target.

For his "gallant leadership and intrepidity" Lt. Col. Addison Baker posthumously was awarded the Medal of Honor.

Even though Baker was a member of the Ohio National Guard, the state of Ohio had not formally recognized his Medal of Honor until this past summer. On Aug. 21, a new building was dedicated in Baker's honor at the Toledo Air National Guard Base. Baker, when activated for service in World War II, was a member of the 112th Observation Squadron, from which the 112th Fighter Squadron in Toledo is descended.

The Baker Building, a multi-purpose facility which houses the medical training facility, dining hall and band assembly area, was designed as the focal element for the future base entrance and as a base activity center in which assemblies can be held. The building received an Award of Excellence in masonry design from the Masonry Institute of Northwest Ohio.

The dedication ceremony also served as a reunion for veterans of the 93rd Bomb Group and the 8th Air Force.

The keynote speaker was retired Brig. Gen. John Brooks III, himself a decorated WWII flyer and, at one time, Baker's adjutant.

"We have talked a lot about Addison Baker flying an airplane, but we haven't said anything about him as a man," Brooks said. "He was super! There is no field commander that I have ever met that was any better than Ad Baker. He was an inspiration to all of us."

Brooks also had supportive words for the National Guard. "I had a hand in allocating the aircraft left over from the war to the National Guard, and I picked a lot of the best airplanes — the B-51s and B-26s — to give to the Guard. Members of Congress said, 'they're civilian pilots, they can't fly these airplanes.' I said, 'They've been flying them in the war, and they're going to fly them now.'"

"They have justified my faith in them all through the years," Brooks asserted.

Special guests at the dedication included State Senators Linda Furney and Ben Gaeth, State Representative Sally Perz, Lucas County Commissioner William Copeland and Maumee Mayor Steve Pauken.

"The appearance of the elected officials reflects the importance they feel for the role of the National Guard — not only in aiding our state in emergencies, but also in securing our country from the forces of any aggressors," said Don Edwards, Toledo television news anchor who was master of ceremonies and himself a veteran of the Army Air Forces.

The plan for the attack against the Ploesti oil refineries called for the 93rd to strike the Concordia Vega refinery. To avoid German defenses, the attackers were to fly and bomb at very low altitude — 50 feet. Baker elected to fly the lead flagship with Maj. John "Jerk" Jerstad as his co-pilot.

On the morning of the attack, Baker stood in the briefing tent looking at the faces of his comrades. He realized that many of them had completed the required number of missions to go stateside, but had chosen to fly with him on this mission.

"We're going on one of the biggest jobs of the war," he said. "If we hit it good, we might cut six months off the war."

According to Air Force accounts, one of the navigators asked, "What if you and Jerk don't make the target?"

Baker replied, "Nothing like that will happen. I'm going to take you to this one if my plane falls apart." Clearly, Baker's idea was to take the bombs exactly to their destination; coming back was secondary.
555th Air Guard Band tours Panama

Story and photo by
Tech. Sgt. Lee A. Trompeter
555th Air Force Band

While many of us dream about spending the summer lounging in the tropics, one group of Buckeye guardsmen was able to do just that — at least for one weekend — thanks to their military commitment.

Scuba diving, sight-seeing, and fishing and shopping excursions were worked into the weekend training schedule for members of the 555th Air Force Band who performed their two-week annual training in the republics of Panama and Honduras last July. The band was based at Fort Clayton, which is located on the Pacific Ocean side of the Isthmus of Panama, overlooking the Miraflorres Locks.

Out of the 12 Air National Guard bands in the United States, the "Triple Nickel" was the first to work in cooperation with an active duty Army band that is stationed overseas. The 79th Army Band, commanded by Chief Warrant Officer John S. Fraser, is permanently based at Fort Clayton, Panama, and supports the U.S. Southern Command's International Community Relations mission in Central and South America.

Fraser was pleased that the band from the Buckeye state could pick up the slack for many of his band members who were away on leave. "It was a pleasure to work with the Air National Guard band," he said. "They are hard-working and really deserve congratulations for a very successful training exercise."

Performances included several change-of-command ceremonies at Fort Clayton, Rodman Naval Station and Fort Amador — all located in Panama. A portion of the marching band deployed to Soto Cano Air Base in Honduras for the Joint Task Force Bravo change-of-command ceremony. Two concerts were held at Howard Air Base and Fort Davis as well.

A special event was sponsored by the Association De Aldeas Infantiles #808, which is an international orphanage. The children were delighted by the sounds of the wind ensemble, under the direction of Master Sgt. Stephen F. Lappert. Members of the ensemble were taken on a tour of the village, and several "pen pal" relationships were initiated.

Currently under the command of Maj. Robert L. Krichbaum, the 555th is comprised of a concert band, jazz band, protocol combo, marching band and small instrument ensemble. The Toledo-based unit has deployed to Germany and Spain in the past, but this was the first overseas tour in over 20 years. The 40-member band dates back to World War 1.

New EOC/JDF up and running

Ohio's ability to respond to emergencies took a huge step forward with the recent opening and dedication of the state's new Emergency Operations Center (EOC) and Joint Dispatch Facility (JDF). The facility was officially opened by Governor George V. Voinovich in a ribbon cutting ceremony on Oct. 27.

Voinovich was joined by James Lee Witt, director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, Maj. Gen. Richard C. Alexander, Ohio's adjutant general; and a host of federal, state and local officials in dedicating the building to the people of Ohio.

The EOC/JDF houses the Emergency Management Agency (EMA), District 6 Headquarters of the Ohio State Highway Patrol and elements of the Ohio Departments of Transportation and Natural Resources.

The $13.5 million facility serves as the state's nerve center during disasters and emergencies. In his remarks at the ribbon-cutting ceremony, Alexander noted that, "By utilizing current and emerging technologies, we will be able to access wider ranges of information, process it faster than ever before and provide it to decision-makers tasked with saving lives during an emergency."

The new joint facility offers advantages that will improve the effectiveness, efficiency and coordination of the state's response to disasters and emergencies. Advanced technologies such as satellite communications and fiber optics allow personnel to gather and process information faster and more accurately, making critical information available to state staff on real-time basis. Secure, encrypted voice communications between on-site personnel and the state EOC is now possible by using the STU-III Secure Voice Telephone System.

Because the new EOC was designed to accommodate more than 50 work stations, it has the space to bring together all the agencies involved in an emergency, ensuring and maximizing coordinated response. Submitted by Nancy Dragani, EMA Public Affairs.
Ohio engineers first in 'The Box'
16th Engineer Brigade soldiers deploy to largest armor maneuver area in western Europe

An Army Guard unit from St. Mary's, Ohio, had the proud distinction of being the first reserve component engineer company to provide support to active duty armor and infantry units at the Combat Maneuver Training Center (CMTC) in Hohenfels, Germany.

Last June, Company A, 612th Engineers, spent 15 days at the center, which serves as a major training area in western Europe. CMTC, or "The Box," is a MILES training site about the size of Camp Grayling, Mich., which is monitored by video and managed under strict control. According to Staff Sgt. Herstie Griffis, "Video tapes serve as training aids for leaders to view and critique their operations."

The engineers accomplished mission essential task training in support of the Good (1st Armor Division), the Bad (resident OPFOR, namely 1st Battalion, 4th Infantry Division) and the Ugly (CMTC — the largest armor maneuver training area in western Europe).

"[The operation] was tremendously big! We dug in fighting positions for tanks and cleared barriers," said 1st Sgt. Randy Averesch. "And the interaction with active Army was something we've never done on this scale."

"I was able to operate heavy equipment our unit doesn't have," said Spc. Jeff Griffis of the unit's assault and obstacle platoon. Soldiers trained on road graders, 20-ton dump trucks and front-end loaders.

While many of the missions were conducted in "The Box," other jobs were devoted to support the Directorate of Engineering and Housing by maintaining Hohenfels' structures and streets on post. Supply Technician Staff Sgt. Rick Springer explained that this was the first time Alpha Company's maintenance teams worked directly with active duty units in Europe.

"The overseas deployment offered a new understanding and perspective regarding joint operations between active duty and reserve component forces," Springer said. "Within the logistics area, we are now better acquainted with some of the difficulties that may arise between the two forces."

Averesch agreed, adding that maintenance missions on post afforded Company A's combat engineers the opportunity to cross-train and gain valuable experience in other areas. Some of the training included working as utility engineers in electrical construction and repaving with asphalt or concrete — opportunities for the experienced to teach and for others to learn "hands-on."

Alpha Company's Sgt. Danny J. Brackney and Sgt. Donald L. Bowman were given special recognition by the 282nd Base Support Battalion's command sergeant major. They were awarded the Coin of Excellence for their job performance, which exceeded expectations.

As a result of the hard work by all 410 soldiers who participated, from both the 612th and 112th Engineer Battalions, Hohenfels requested that the Ohio engineers return in 1995.

Submitted by Capt. Dean Ervin, Sr. and Spc. James Thompson, Co. A, 612 Engineer Battalion, and Capt. Scott Evans, 16th Engineer Brigade.

ROTC offers financial support, leadership training

There is an excellent opportunity for you to gain financial assistance and leadership experience while obtaining your college degree. It is called Army Reserve Officer Training Corps, or Army ROTC. This program is available at over 16 college campuses and cross-enrolled schools throughout the state of Ohio. It is available to soldiers, airmen and civilian personnel who qualify to enter.

Army ROTC is a program that combines military and academic experience into a commission as a second lieutenant in the Army, Army Reserve or Army National Guard. There are various forms of financial assistance. Selectees are eligible for two, three and four-year scholarships that offer 100 percent of tuition at most Ohio colleges. In addition, a $450 book allowance each year and $150 per month subsistence allowance, both tax free, are given to the ROTC cadet.

For soldiers and airmen who wish to remain in the reserve components, there are "guaranteed reserve forces" contracts available. In addition, reservists may qualify for the Simultaneous Membership Program (SMP). The SMP allows the soldier to drill as a guardmember with his/her unit in a leadership position and become commissioned in the Reserve, National Guard or the active Army.

Members of the Army and Air National Guard have an advantage because their basic training and experience may qualify them into the junior year of ROTC. One must be fully enrolled into ROTC by the start of their junior year; therefore, if your are entering your junior year, inquire now regarding these benefits!

Army ROTC is an opportunity to put your military skills, experience and motivation to work while earning your college degree. It offers various leadership and adventure opportunities to include Airborne School, Ranger Challenge Competition, Air Assault School, Mountain Warfare Training and various other travel and training opportunities.

For more information, call assistant professors of military science, Maj. Michael Bish (Ohio University) at (614) 593-1919; Maj. Doug Bailey (Ohio State University) at (614) 292-7682; Maj. Dave Deckard (Akron University) at (216) 972-7454; or Capt. Jeanne Landoll at (614) 889-7276.

Submitted by Capt. Jeanne Landoll, Officer Procurement, Ohio Army National Guard.
The National Guard Bureau has named Ohio as one of four states selected to participate in a congressionally sponsored pilot program called “Guard America” during federal fiscal year 1995.

Guard America is a Drug Demand Reduction initiative aimed at involving parents in the fight against drug abuse among America’s youth. Lt. Col. Gary Nichols, chief of the NGB Drug Demand Reduction Division, and Mr. William Oliver, executive director of PRIDE (Parents Resource Institute for Drug Education), presented the program to Ohio’s adjutant general and his staff in November. PRIDE has formed an affiliation with NGB to execute the pilot program.

Guard America proposes to give parents the tools to deal with their children and the pressures they encounter growing up in the ’90s. “Children of today face many issues we as parents can’t relate to or know how to deal with,” Oliver said. “Additionally, there are many prevention programs aimed at young people, like DARE, that are quickly undone by actions within the home...actions such as drug use, violence and abuse,” he added. “We have training courses for so many things, but relatively few deal with how to be effective parents,” Oliver noted.

According to Oliver, the National Guard was chosen to participate in the pilot program for specific reasons.

“The sheer size of the National Guard and its geographic dispersion across the United States are key factors in making this program work,” Oliver said. “The Guard is a natural for this initiative. They have the demand reduction mission, urban and rural representation, facilities, role models, leadership positions within our communities, and it’s an adult-centered organization with instant credibility.”

The objective of the program is to protect children from any societal threat by strengthening the adults who surround them. Guard America utilizes a curriculum called “Parent-to-Parent” to carry out this objective. Parent-to-Parent calls for trained facilitators from the National Guard, eight one-hour interactive video sessions, audio tapes and workbooks as a basis for instruction.

“Guard America will be executed through the ‘train the trainer’ philosophy,” Nichols said. “NGB will send Ohio’s state program coordinator and two master facilitators for training in Atlanta. Those key personnel will train an additional 14 facilitators to take the program to the field. Our objective in the first year of this program is to have 500 Ohio National Guard families receive Guard America training,” the colonel emphasized.

Both Oliver and Nichols were confident that once exposed to the Guard America program, the desired community penetration would begin with the National Guard.

They asserted that once a guardsman is exposed to and believes in the Guard America concept, he or she will want to export the program to their immediate spheres of influence. These spheres of influence include their immediate and extended families; their National Guard unit; their employers, friends and co-workers; and their neighborhood churches, schools, and community organizations.

“Guard America will serve as a vital link in the drug demand reduction equation,” said Maj. Gen. Richard Alexander, the adjutant general. “We are actively engaged with supply reduction through our counterdrug support program to law enforcement and demand reduction through Adopt-A-School, KiDSAFE and other programs aimed at our youth,” the general said. “Educating parents and training them to effectively deal with their children and the problems of drug abuse adds strong reinforcement to our other programs.”

National Guard units will receive more information about Guard America as the program develops in Ohio. Individuals interested in serving as facilitators/trainers for Guard America are encouraged to contact the State Public Affairs Office at (614) 889-7000.
DRUG DEMAND REDUCTION UPDATE

200th says 'No horsing around at OYAP retreat'

Nearly 20 teens spent part of their summer vacation at Camp Perry, where they learned street smarts alone doesn't guarantee survival.

On the weekend of July 15-17, the 200th RED HORSE Squadron hosted a retreat for the Ohio Youth Advocate Program (OYAP) at Camp Perry. It was attended by 18 youth, ages 12 to 15, and seven advocate adults.

The OYAP's mission is working with the juvenile court system to help place "at risk" youth in foster homes.

"Many of the young people have lived a very hard life already," said Staff Sgt. Dwight Damschroder, who helped coordinate the weekend's activities. "These kids have brothers and sisters living not only in different homes, but also different towns. Some of them don't even know where their siblings are placed."

"Although they are kids, they have had to be adult in many ways," Damschroder said. "Sometimes it's hard for them to come to grips with things that have happened or are currently happening in their lives." The staff sergeant noted that many of the kids came from very abusive homes and are in the program for protection from their parents. "They're not sure who they can trust, but they want someone who will be there."

"One of the goals of this retreat was to build teamwork," Staff Sgt. Richard Lehmann added. "The retreat focused on activities that made them rely on others. The goal was to help them feel more comfortable about trusting other people, rather than always doing things themselves."

The activities — ball games, building pyramids, running an obstacle course — were orchestrated so that everyone had to participate to win.

The two sergeants also made sure the kids got a dose of life in the military. While Damschroder gave them a tour of Camp Perry and filled them in on the mission and past deployments of the 200th, Lehmann taught them a little about cooking and explained how teamwork rewarded the unit's food services section with three Hennessey Awards. Submitted by Staff Sgt. Dwight Damschroder, 200th RED HORSE Squadron.

TEAM program gives teens a new outlook, second chance

"You can go to jail for 150 days or to the Ohio National Guard TEAM program for a week." That was the order from one judge to a teenager who had a habit of finding his way into trouble. The youth chose the National Guard.

For the second year in a row, members of Ohio's Air and Army National Guard joined the City of Newark in organizing and implementing the TEAM (Teens Education And Motivation) program at Rickenbacker Air National Guard Base in Columbus.

The mission of TEAM is to assist high-risk high school youth in developing self-esteem and discipline while learning to make the right decision about drugs, alcohol and sexuality. The program consists of academic and practical lessons designed to challenge and educate teens who are in a critical period in their lives.

This year differed from last in that 1994 offered the TEAM challenge to teenage girls for the first time. Both increments, boys and girls, lasted six days — two days longer than last year. Military and civilian instructors guided the youth through room inspections, physical conditioning, leadership training, land navigation and problem solving.

Capt. Jon McIntosh, who helped coordinate the program, admitted that not every teen had what it took to get through the six days of demanding activity. One left after the first day.

Yet the program has proven to impact the career choices of a those who did succeed. For instance, a graduate from last year's program has since joined the Marine Corps and three others joined the Civil Air Patrol at Rickenbacker. Submitted by Capt. Ronda Anderson and Capt. Kim Minor, 121st ARW.

Sugar Queen learns to trust others during confidence course

"This was the first conference of its kind," Jenkinson said. "We wanted a chance to work with our advisors over a longer period of time, and the facilities at Camp Perry made that possible." Ordinarily, SADD meets on a regional basis, for one day at a time.

The conferences broke out into two groups — advisors concentrated on a new training manual, while students selected from 15 different workshops. Joint sessions were also held for participants to listen to various guest speakers.

The event was co-sponsored by the Cleveland AAA and other local businesses in the Port Clinton community.

for Students Against Driving Drunk (SADD) on Oct. 2-4. SADD, sponsored by the Ohio Department of Public Safety, welcomed more than 300 participants, including students, teachers and other support staff.

According to Kim Jenkinson, SADD coordinator for the Public Safety Office, a handful of Army guardsmen supplied some "elbow grease" on Saturday, Oct. 1, helping SADD staffers set up for the three-day conference.

"You can go to jail for 150 days or to the Ohio National Guard TEAM program for a week." That was the order from one judge to a teenager who had a habit of finding his way into trouble. The youth chose the National Guard.

Winter 1994/95
Members from the Army team each contributed $10 to play the game against their blue-suited counterparts in an effort to support the Special Children's Christmas Party. The money will help cover Christmas gift expenses for the children, who have severe to moderate handicaps or are developmentally disabled. The Adjutant General's Department at Beightler Armory in Columbus has sponsored the annual party for the past 26 years.

The Air Guard sold advertising in a program handed out at the game. Their share of the donations went to the Ohio Veterans Children's Home in Xenia, where orphans aged 6-18 reside.

Those interested in competing next year can contact Staff Sgt. Thompson at (614) 889-7006.

**Ohio wins public affairs awards from NGAUS**

The National Guard Association of the United States presented the Buckeye state with several awards for its public affairs efforts during 1993.

The Adjutant General of Ohio Annual Report, Fiscal Year 1993, won first place for a print product that highlighted a National Guard activity or program, while the "Believe in Me" Drug Demand Reduction slide presentation won an honorable mention as a video product in the same category.

The series of articles about the Lucasville prison riot printed in the Summer 1993 issue of the Buckeye Guard won second place for a program created in response to an emergency that highlighted National Guard involvement.

**Army, Air prove equals in 'Field of Dreams'**

With the Army Guard pitted against the Air, the first Adjutant General's Charity Baseball Challenge ended in an 11-11 tie, raising more than $200 for Central Ohio charities.

On Sept. 18, the soldiers and the airmen battled it out at Clowson Field in Columbus for three and a half hours.

In the bottom of the eighth inning, the Air team was ahead 7-5 when the Army fought back with a six-run rally. The Air Guard countered with four runs to tie the game.

"A tiebreaker couldn't be played since a soccer team had an overlapping field reserved for practice," said Army Staff Sgt. Gary Thompson, who coordinated the event.

**Engineers suspend Domestic Action Program**

Since mid-September, the Ohio Army National Guard has had to turn down requests for engineer support to disadvantaged communities. Force reductions and unit modernization as dictated by the U.S. Army has radically affected the ability of the 16th Engineer Brigade to meet such needs.

Though the program is vital in enhancing community relations and providing hands-on engineer training, the adjutant general has determined the engineer forces cannot successfully modernize while maintaining a full slate of domestic action projects. "All projects currently in progress will be honored to the best of our ability," Maj. Gen. Richard C. Alexander said. "Once the force has been stabilized and an assessment completed, a date for the resumption of this program will be published."

The suspension of domestic action projects is expected to remain in effect until late 1995 or early 1996.

**Retiring soon?**

If you are retiring soon, and wish to continue receiving the Buckeye Guard, a written request must be sent to the State Public Affairs Office; addresses are not automatically transferred from the SIDPERS mailing list to the retiree mailing list. Send your request to:

State Public Affairs Office
2825 W. Dublin Granville Rd.
Columbus, Ohio 43235-2789
ATTN: Retiree Mailing List

**History helps reactivate Willoughby Guard unit**

When the 372nd Maintenance Company's flag was raised on June 25, it symbolized more than just a resurrection of a bygone National Guard company.

The Willoughby unit was retired last year, a victim of the Department of Defense's downsizing efforts. But after uncovering historical documents earlier this year, Guard officials moved to reactivate the 372nd, which dates back to the Civil War.

For civilians, the reorganization amounts to little more than taking down one flag and raising another. But for National Guard soldiers — especially those in the 372nd — who are bound by tradition and history, the reactivation is a tribute to the past.

"This will help morale," said Maj. Harold Summerville, the 372nd company commander. "Over the past few years it seems everyone has been turning in units or joining other units."

The company has been reorganized several times through the years, changing from a cavalry and infantry unit to anti-aircraft and engineers, to its current status as a mechanical repair maintenance division.

"Now we repair everything from .45s (machine guns) to tanks — almost everything," said Sgt. Amy Matty.

Today, there are 290 soldiers in the 372nd — 110 stationed at the headquarters in Willoughby, and the rest are assigned to units in Medina and Ashtabula. Reprinted, in part, from the Lake County Plain Dealer.

**Attention bowlers!**

The 17th Annual Ohio National Guard Enlisted Association's State Bowling Tournament will be held at AMOS Lanes in Columbus on March 26-27. Participants are limited to members or employees of the Ohio Air and Army National Guard, retirees, ONGEA Association and Auxiliary members, and members of the Officers' Wives' Club. Dependents are not authorized to participate. To reserve your slot or to get additional information, contact Keith Coe at DSN 869-0512, commercial (614) 693-0512 or nights at (614) 862-3730; or call Margaret Burke at DSN 950-4319 or commercial (614) 492-4319. Submitted by Keith Coe, ONGEA
Oregon hosts EANGUS national conference

EANGUS members from across the country got a taste of the wild west thanks to the Oregonians who hosted the Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States National Conference. Mixing the right amount of business and pleasure, the August conference welcomed both Association and Auxiliary members to the city of Portland.

Ohio’s Auxiliary was awarded a fifth place plaque for its newsletter, while the Area II newsletter, which covers nine states, received the first place award for the second year in a row. Nancy McDowell, who has a hand in both publications, was presented the “Pen is Mightier than the Musket” award by EANGUS President Bob Dempsey. This honor is earned by Auxiliary members who significantly contribute to the legislative work done by the organization.

Three Auxiliary members from Ohio were elected into office during the conference, including Lois Wesley for Auxiliary Secretary, Joanie Foster for Area II Air Director, and Nancy McDowell was re-elected for Area II Army Director.

Each year, the EANGUS Auxiliary awards five $500 scholarships, and, this year, Ohio came home with three. Jesse R. Stowe of Camden, Karen M. St. Clair of Cambridge and Jileen M. Coy of Maumee were all proud recipients of the scholarships.

Auxiliary and Association members did regroup for a solemn tribute to members who have passed on over the last year, including the loss of Ohio Auxiliary life member, Sally Jones.


North Canton open house honors 37th Division vets

Soldiers from North Canton, Ohio, welcomed members of the community to view their tactical equipment and aviation assets during an open house on Sept. 10.

The “total armory” function included weapon and vehicle displays, face painting for kids and infantry squad assault demonstrations. But the highlight of the day’s events was the dedication of an M-42 tank, commonly known as the “walker bull-dog.” The tank, which sits at the entrance of the armory/flight facility, was dedicated to members of the 37th Division.

Bob Steffey, Stark County chapter president of the veteran’s group, was on hand to accept the accolades from the local guardsmen. Assistant Adjutant General for Army Brig. Gen. Steve Martin and 37th Armor Brigade Commander Col. David Hartley presided over the ceremony. The armor brigade traces its lineage back to the famed “Buckeye Brigade.”

The M-42 was first brought into commission in June 1942 and was used to some extent by American forces during the Korean Conflict. The tank is currently in service in only three countries.

Service Battery soldiers assist at accident scene

Well-trained soldiers are reactive, selfless, brave and committed to their community. On April 23, 1994, four members of Service Battery, 1st Battalion of the 134th Field Artillery demonstrated these qualities with distinction.

Chief Warrant Officer Harold Zickefoose, Master Sgt. William Sowik, Staff Sgt. Lewis Lattea and SPC Alan Stiles were on their way to Piqua, Ohio, to perform maintenance on C Battery’s M-109 Howitzers, when they observed a car swerve off the road, strike a culvert and flip over.

In response, the troops acted immediately and professionally. Zickefoose directed Stiles to a nearby farmhouse to phone 911. Sowik entered the inverted vehicle through the broken rear window and tried to calm the victim while applying a dressing to a head wound which was bleeding profusely. Meanwhile, Zickefoose and Lattea attempted to open the vehicle’s doors for better access.

Soon emergency vehicles arrived from the Medina Life Support Team and the Medina Fire Department. The troops aided the rescue workers, providing tools to help remove the vehicle’s windshield and pry open the door. These four soldiers remained at the accident scene until the rescue teams had the situation under control.

E.W. Sulzner, manager of the Medina Life Support Team, was one of the first rescue workers on the scene. “Their quick action and willingness to help in a difficult emergency was exemplary,” Sulzner said of the troops. “I personally commend these men for their citizenship and personal commitment to preserve the life of a stranger.”

The patient was transported by helicopter to the Medina County Hospital where he was listed in critical condition for several days. The patient has since recovered. Submitted by SPC Marley C. Starkey, Service Battery, 1st Battalion, 134th Field Artillery.

From left to right, heroes SPC Alan Stiles, SSG Lewis Lattea and MSG William Sowik pose for a photo.

Photo by SPC Marley Starkey, 134th FA.

COL David Hartley and BG John S. Martin pose for a photo in front of the M-42 tank that was dedicated to members of the 37th Division.

Photo by SPC Tim Hardgrove, HQ STARC.

Winter 1994/95
MAJ Christine Cook, commander of 137th Supply and Service Battalion, poses with Debra R. Bowland, administrator of Ohio Bureau of Employment Services, after being inducted into the Ohio Women's Hall of Fame.

Cook inducted into Ohio Women's Hall of Fame

On Oct. 4, Ohio Army National Guard Maj. Christine Cook was inducted into the Ohio Women’s Hall of Fame. Cook is one of 15 Ohio women selected from 230 nominees.

“Her extraordinary accomplishments in the field of military service have set her apart as especially deserving of this recognition,” said Ohio Governor George V. Voinovich.

Last March, Cook became the first woman in the Ohio Guard to be assigned as a battalion commander, taking over the 137th Supply and Service Battalion in Toledo, Ohio. She also chairs the Governor’s Advisory Committee on Women Veterans, which researches and addresses problems experienced by women veterans. Additionally, during Operations Desert Shield/Desert Storm, Cook headed the family assistance program for all military services in Ohio, providing support to 21,000 military members and their families around the state.

“I am humbled by this award,” Cook said, “but I think it demonstrates that women can excel in the military and be recognized for their achievements.”

The award was established in 1978 by the Women’s Division of the Ohio Bureau of Employment Services. It is given for outstanding contributions to the growth and progress of the state, nation and the world. Submitted by Staff Sgt. Bob Mullins, HQ STARC (-Det. 1-5).

Eagon, Koreckis honored

Retired guardsmen Brig. Gen. Herbert B. Eagon and Col. Paul H. Koreckis were recently inducted in the U.S. Army Officer Candidate School Hall of Fame in Fort Benning, Ga.

Both Eagon, former commander of the 73rd Infantry Brigade (Separate), and Koreckis, former director of Personnel and Administration, Ohio Army National Guard, graduated from the Infantry OCS in 1960. The retirees were two of 91 past graduates inducted on Sept. 9.

Induction into the 36-year-old Hall of Fame is the highest honor that OCS can bestow upon its graduates.

VIPS visit Guard unit during annual training

Tiffin City Administrator Howard Magers always knew there was a National Guard unit in his town, but to him, it always a bit of a mystery.

On Monday, Aug. 1, Magers, along with the safety service director of Fostoria Charles Macias; Fostoria Mayor Barbara Marley; and attorney Francis Marley all visited the 385th Medical Company (Ambulance) at Camp Grayling, Mich., during the unit’s two-week annual training.

These civic leaders all got the chance to see, first-hand, how the unit provides field medical support to other Ohio National Guard troops during training. Magers, Macias, Marley and Marley all stayed in the barracks and ate mess hall food just like the soldiers, but the tour of the various training sites made the biggest impression. For Macias, the field medical equipment was especially interesting. “We went to the (145th) MASH facilities, and I was impressed with the medical capabilities in the field.”

The civic leaders also received a tour of the Troop Medical Clinic, the Physical Exam Station, and several firing ranges, including those for M-1 tanks, .50 caliber machine guns and the air range — where Cobra helicopters and F-16 fighter jets practice using their firepower.

The 385th is an ambulance company which provides medical support for the various ranges and for all different types of training. In a state of emergency, the unit can also give support to the civilian population.

“I still remember the blizzard of ’78,” said Magers, “and how nice it was to have that kind of an asset.” The unit was also activated to assist during the Lucasville prison riot in April 1993, and, most recently, to help civilian authorities during the Southern Ohio snow emergency last January.

Now that he’s aware of the local military community, Magers said he would “fight tooth and nail” to keep the Tiffin armory running if defense budget cuts threatened to close it down. Submitted by 1st Lt. Aria Ali-U-Dini and Sgt. Susan Grover, 385th Med. Co.

121st ARW men’s softball team dominates national tourney

For the second consecutive year, the 121st Air Refueling Wing claimed a national title at the Annual Air National Guard Softball Tournament, this year held at Battle Creek, Mich., Aug. 10-13. While the women’s team brought home a national title last year, the “over 35” men’s team had the honor this year. The team last won this division in 1988.

The “old guys” pretty much dominated their division by outscoring their opponents with a combined 61-12 count in the five games played before the rain-soaked event was called on Saturday evening with only two games left in each division.

“It was a shame we couldn’t finish the
tournament after getting this far," said Master Sgt. Don Bateson, team coach.

"Solid defense and pitching, combined with hot bats led to yet another title for the Rickenbacker men. This is the 7th national title for the team — including four in a row from 1970-73 and so many 2nd, 3rd and 4th place finishes that there is no room for all the trophies," said Coach Bateson.

Two other 121st ARW teams placed well in what was the 29th tournament of its kind. The men’s open team took 7th place out of 57 teams, and the defending champion women’s team brought home a 4th place trophy, keeping up their tradition of success. The women have brought home a trophy every year they entered the tournament, including three 4th place and a 3rd place to go with last year’s national title.

Submitted by MSgt. Don Batesman, 121st ARW.

Boom operator earns 10,000 hours flight time

The chief boom operator for the 121st Air Refueling Wing recently met a milestone that many airmen never achieve — even upon retirement.

Chief Master Sgt. Thomas F. Foster was recently honored for accomplishing more than 10,000 hours of accident-free military flight time. This equates to flying 40 hours a week for five consecutive years.


Sergeant seen 'Tripping the light fantastic'

For many guardsmen, staying fit for military duty often means weight lifting, aerobics classes or running a few times a week. But the exercise routine for one soldier in the 372nd Maintenance Company consists of wearing a tux and putting on dancing shoes.

For the last eight years, Sgt. Lewis L. Thomas has taken up ballroom dancing as an extracurricular sport. "My dancing really helps me prepare for the APFT (Army Physical Fitness Test)," said Thomas, a communications sergeant for the Willoughby unit.

What started as hobby turned into a great outlet for the sergeant’s competitive nature.

He and his partner represented the Mid-Ohio Chapter of the United States Amateur Ballroom Dancers Association at the Heartland Regional Dance Fest held in Indianapolis on Sept. 11. They were one of three couples chosen by the association to present a show routine — they chose a theater arts fox trot.

"Theater arts is a style that combines standard ballroom techniques with techniques of jazz and ballet — to include drops and lifts," Thomas said. He is looking forward to November, when he will compete in the Fred Astaire National Championships held on Paradise Island in the Bahamas.

Adjutant General Richard C. Alexander congratulates Maj. Gen. Thomas W. Powers on his promotion to that rank. Ohio’s Air National Guard Chief of Staff was promoted to major general on Sept. 23, 1994.

1995 Family Assistance Youth Camp seeks campers, volunteers

The Ohio National Guard Family Program Office is taking names already for those interested in the 1995 Youth Camp, scheduled for June 18-24 at Camp Perry. Boys and girls ages 8-12 who are dependents of current or retired members of the Ohio Army or Air National Guard are eligible to attend as campers. Volunteer staff and junior counselors (age 15-17) are also in demand. To sign up or to get more information, call the Adjutant General’s Family Program Office at (614) 889-7192 or 1-800-589-9914.

Winter 1994/95
New benefit program set for Ohio Army, Air Guard

Effective Oct. 1, 1994, the Ohio National Guard Officer and Enlisted Associations are adding a new benefit program in an effort to enhance membership and increase participation in the existing State Supported Life Insurance programs (SSLI).

A $500 immediate death benefit life insurance policy will be provided at no cost to all active Army and Air National Guard members. The cost for this addition will be absorbed by each organization from existing funds. SSLI coverage for spouses and dependents is also available under this program.

This program will provide for 24-hour coverage, payable regardless of cause of death, and will remain in effect for all active National Guard members. Conversion or retention of portions of the coverage is possible upon departure from the Guard.

Participation is voluntary. To take advantage of or decline this opportunity, all guardmembers must attend a briefing, complete a basic application and designate a beneficiary. Representatives from both associations will be contacting various organizations to provide information regarding the programs. Call 1-800-642-6642 for additional information.

TROA offers educational assistance to dependents

For the 1994-95 school year, 800 students received $2,000 interest-free loans from The Retired Officers Association (TROA) Educational Assistance Program.

The students were selected on their scholastic ability, participation in extracurricular and community activities, as well as financial need. From the 800 students receiving loans, 160 received special $500 grants in addition to the loans. All who were awarded loans were automatically considered for grants.

The loans, totaling $1.6 million this school year, are awarded to unmarried undergraduate students, under the age of 24, who are dependent children of active, reserve and retired service personnel and their surviving spouses. Students can obtain up to $10,000 of interest-free support for five years of undergraduate study; loan repayment is after graduation.

Since this program was initiated, some 4,300 students have received interest-free loans, totaling more than $14.9 million.

TROA Educational Assistance applications for the 1995-96 school year should be requested by Feb. 15, 1995, and the completed application must be postmarked on or before March 1, 1995. For applications and more information call 1-800-243-TROA (8762) Ext. 169 or write:

TROA Educational Assistance Program Administrator (O9D)
201 N. Washington St.
Alexandria, Va. 22314-2539.

Retired flag unveiled

Due to popular demand, the Army and Air Force Exchange Service is now offering the new U.S. Army, retired, flag by special order. Customers who want to order a flag should see a customer service sales associate at their nearest AAFES exchange to fill out a special order request. The flags cost $43, plus shipping and handling.

The new flag was designed by the Army’s Institute of Heraldry. It is green with a yellow border and has the Army seal in the center. The words “Still Serving” appear above the seal, with “United States Army Retired” below. (AAFES PAO)

Cleveland Guard Exchange open to Guardmembers

Military service privilege you to shop at the U.S. Coast Guard Otto Graham Exchange in Cleveland. It offers an extensive selection of merchandise with the values you’re accustomed to — from name-brand electronics, men’s and women’s apparel and shoes to jewelry, gifts, military items and more. It recently has expanded its 800 phone service for uniform ordering to handle special orders of almost any manufacturer.

This 800 service is available to active duty personnel, reserve and retired. To use the service, call 1-800-242-9157. A customer service representative will take the information about the item. Having the make, model number and manufacturer helps speed the process. Within 72 hours, the representative will get back to the customer with the information. There is also a no-hassle return policy. For more information contact: U.S. Coast Guard Otto Graham Exchange, 13920 West Parkway, Cleveland, Ohio 44135-4300 or call (216) 671-3500.

Buckeye Guard
Combat scenario in sight for M-16 qualification in Ohio

Story and photos by Capt. Jim Day • • • 612th Engineer Battalion

Pop-up targets and simulated enemy fire will soon make qualifying on the M-16 more challenging for soldiers in the Ohio National Guard.

Construction of the Modified Record Fire Range (MRFR) has reached the half-way mark at Camp Perry Training Site (CPTS), Port Clinton, Ohio. The facility, designed to bring “state-of-the-art” weapons qualification to the National Guard and Reserve units throughout Ohio, is expected to be completed Oct. 1, 1995. With two of the older marksmanship sites targeted for the upgrade, construction began at the Viale and Young ranges in September 1993.

First Lt. William Gieze, CPTS Facility Engineer, has overseen planning and construction of the facility since its inception. The facility will include a 16-lane, computer-controlled-and-scored modified record fire range.

“At once completed,” Gieze said, “a commander will be able to send his or her company through a platoon at a time. At the end of each firing order, a computer printout will report each and every soldier’s score.”

Rather than shooting at sized targets on a piece of paper sitting 25 meters out, plastic silhouettes will appear and disappear in timed intervals at varying distances, from 25 to 300 meters out. “And with the lighting system we’ve installed, even night fire will be more realistic,” Gieze said. “Units have had to travel to ranges at Camp Atterbury, Ind., Fort Knox, Ky., or Camp Grayling, Mich., and to get this type of training. Now they’ll be able to do it right here in Ohio.”

Construction of the MRFR has included pouring 144 concrete coffins to house the pop-up target circuitry and mechanisms. It also included installation of 10,900 meters of drainage line. Construction of the drainage field was designed to lower the natural water table below the depth of the target mechanisms and fox holes. This required the excavation and removal of 20,000 tons of soil.

The entire drainage system is tied into a 20-foot-deep by 6-foot-wide stormwater lift station. The lift station pumps collected stormwater from the range, lifting it to a storm sewer for discharge into Lake Erie. Constructed solely by Ohio National Guard and Reserve units during annual training and weekend drills (see “roll call”), the facility will be operational all year round. It will include a heated range control tower, heated latrines and a partially enclosed general instruction building. A cinder block ammunition breakdown and distribution building is currently under construction.

ROLL CALL
Ohio National Guard and other reserve units responsible for the construction of Camp Perry’s new Modified Record Fire Range.

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USNR
NMCB 26 Det. 1226
Guardmembers salute national Red Ribbon Celebration last October.