

BUCKEYE **GUARD**

Spring 1999

MAINTAINING THE EDGE

A man in a green uniform is working in a workshop, grinding a metal piece. He is wearing safety glasses and is focused on his work. A large shower of bright sparks is flying from the grinding point. The background shows a window with a grid pattern.

211th Maintenance
Company deploys
to Germany for
annual training.

PAGES 13-15



Photo by Steve Toth, Adjutant General's Department Public Affairs Office.

A new pilot at the helm

Smith to guide Ohio Guard into 21st century

Maj. Gen. John H. Smith (right) addresses media at a January news conference announcing his appointment as Ohio's 79th adjutant general by Gov. Bob Taft (center). For more on Smith and the new assistant adjutants general, see pages 4-6.

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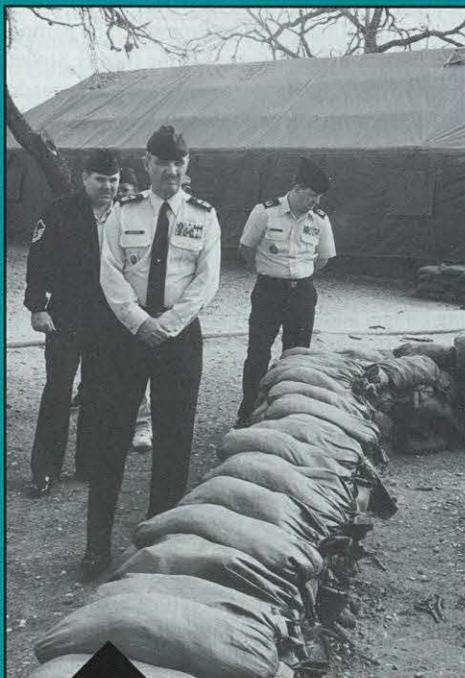
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ABOUT THE COVER: Cpl. Michael Coss operates a grinder on a fifth-wheel trailer attachment during the 211th Maintenance Company's deployment to the Equipment Maintenance Center-Europe, located in Kaiserslautern, Germany. The EMC-E is considered one of the U.S. Army's toughest proving grounds for maintenance units. *Photo by Steve Toth, Adjutant General's Department Public Affairs Office.*



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ADJUTANT GENERAL'S DEPT.

State Commander-in-Chief
Gov. Bob Taft

Adjutant General
Maj. Gen. John H. Smith

Asst. Adjutant General, Army
Brig. Gen. Ronald G. Young

Asst. Adjutant General, Air
Brig. Gen. Paul J. Sullivan

Command Sergeant Major, Army
Command Sgt. Maj. Michael O. Howley

Senior Enlisted Advisor, Air
Command Chief Master Sgt. Earl Lutz

PUBLICATION STAFF

Director, Public Affairs
Capt. Neal E. O'Brien

Deputy Director, Public Affairs
Ms. Denise Varner

Associate Editors
Mr. Steve Toth
Staff Sgt. Diane L. Farrow

Editorial Assistant
Ms. Mimi Myers

Contributors:
Army/Air National Guard Journalists
Unit Public Affairs Representatives

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

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

NATIONAL NEWS

Army announces new fraternization policy. A new Army policy on fraternization took effect March 2, giving officers and enlisted soldiers who are now dating one year to marry or end their relationship. The new "good order and discipline" policy revises Army Regulation 600-20. Besides restricting personal relationships between soldiers of different ranks, it also limits private business deals between officers and enlisted soldiers. While the policy does not prohibit transactions such as selling a car or renting a house, it does restrict the lending of money or entering into long-term business partnerships. Business relationships, which were allowed under the old policy, are exempt until March 1, 2000. In general, relationships are prohibited if they appear to involve the improper use of rank or position for personal gain, or will have an adverse impact on unit morale or the ability of a command to accomplish its mission. Relationships between reserve component members are exempt from the new policy if the relationships are primarily based on civilian acquaintanceships. Personal relations between Regular Army and reserve component soldiers are allowed as well, with the same stipulation. But, officers and enlisted soldiers cannot date if either are on active duty or Active Guard/Reserve (AGR) tours. (*Army News Service*)

NATO admits Ohio Guard partner Hungary to its ranks. Hungary became one of the newest members of NATO during accession ceremonies March 12 at the Truman Presidential Library in Independence, Mo. It marked the six-year culmination of the successful Ohio-Hungary partnership, part of the Department of Defense Military to Military Contact Program. The pairing of the Ohio National Guard and the Hungarian military was established to aid the former Soviet Bloc-nation with its transition to a functional democracy. Several military exchanges were made over the years, most recently with the ONG's *Buckeye Express* deployment in August 1998 to Hungary—see *Buckeye Guard*, Winter 1998/1999. (*excerpts from American Forces Press Service*)

Army Chief promises Guard 'seat at the table.' In a candid speech to senior Guard leadership earlier this year, Army Chief of Staff Gen. Dennis Reimer said the Army had not listened to the Guard enough in the past. Speaking in late January at the Army National Guard Senior Leaders Conference in Crystal City, Va., Reimer conceded he has "made mistakes in the past," and said the Guard would have a "seat at the table" in upcoming budget and force structure considerations. It was another step toward reconciling the strained relations between the Guard and the active Army. During a similar speech at the NGAUS general conference in September 1998, Reimer announced steps the Army was taking to incorporate the Guard into the total force. The Quadrennial Defense Review—a comprehensive review of military needs completed in 1997—should have given Guard concerns more weight, he said. The QDR recommended cutting thousands of troops from the National Guard over the next several years. Reimer promised to explore other options to full-time manning decreases in armories, as well as other concerns that were voiced. (*NGAUS Public Affairs*)

Award recognizes personnel who helped end Cold War. Beginning April 5, about 20 million former and current service members and Department of Defense civilians were able to start applying for certificates honoring them for their parts in winning the Cold War. Those qualifying for the certificates can apply via the Internet at <http://coldwar.army.mil>, e-mail at cwrs@Fairfax-emh1.army.mil or fax at (703) 275-6749. Applicants also may mail requests to: Cold War Recognition, 4035 Ridge Top Road, Suite 400, Fairfax, VA 22030. Those eligible must have served with the War, Navy or Defense departments between Sept. 2, 1945, and Dec. 26, 1991. A telephone help line—(703) 275-6279—became active April 5. (*American Forces Press Service*)

Pentagon says anthrax vaccine is safe. Pentagon officials insist the mandatory anthrax vaccine has proven to be safe. Reporters questioned the safety of the vaccine earlier this year during a Pentagon briefing after eight pilots from the Connecticut Air National Guard's 103rd Fighter Wing said they planned to resign rather than take the six-shot series. The unit, which flies A-10 Thunderbolts, is scheduled to deploy to the Gulf later this year. The anthrax vaccine is mandatory for all service members, active duty and reserve, but priority is being given to people going to Southwest Asia and Korea, Department of Defense spokesman Ken Bacon explained. Bacon reported that during exit interviews, six of the eight Connecticut pilots said anthrax was only one of many factors that entered into their decision to resign. (*American Forces Press Service*)

Rees new vice chief at NGB. Army National Guard Maj. Gen. Raymond F. Rees was selected in January as vice chief, National Guard Bureau. Rees will be responsible for assisting the chief, NGB, in management of the National Guard Bureau and in advising the Army and Air Force chiefs of staff on Guard matters. Prior to his current assignment, Rees served as the adjutant general of the Oregon National Guard. (*Department of Defense Public Affairs*)

Former soldier seeks reunion info

I was in the Ohio Army National Guard for 10 years and was in Honduras for Operation FUERTES CAMINOS from November 1988 to June 1989. I want to know if anyone knows of a reunion for that mission. I heard some time back that one was planned but have not heard anything since. Thanks for any assistance.

Craig Smith
Amelia, Ohio

Magazine not just for Ohio guardmembers

Thank you as a former Ohio Army National Guardmember for the mailing of the *Buckeye Guard* to my active duty post. I have a new address due to my recent PCS (Permanent Change of Station). I request to keep on receiving the *Buckeye Guard*.

Chaplain (Capt.) Blaine E. Smrekar
HHS, 6-37 Field Artillery

EDITOR'S NOTE: *The Buckeye Guard* is for more than just current Ohio Air and Army Guardmembers. Many former guardmembers now on active duty still receive the magazine, as do civic and government leaders, youth groups and military retirees. Anyone wanting a free subscription to the magazine can get one by writing to the address listed in the box below.

Once current guardmembers retire, they should note that they will not automatically be kept on the *Buckeye Guard* mailing list. However, a short written note or e-mail to the Adjutant General's Department Public Affairs Office requesting to be kept on the mailing list will continue the subscription until further notice. This initial request needs to be made by a retiree only once, and then again only for address changes or cancellation.

Warrant Officer site available on Intranet

The Warrant Officer Information Center web page has recently come up on-line with OH-TAGNET. Rick Stone of the Officer Personnel Branch created the web site, which was designed to provide a central location for up-to-date information to current warrant officers or those interested in becoming one.

Units and soldiers can locate this web page by going to OH-TAGNET or <http://55.86.254.230> on unit computers with on-line access, under the Military Personnel Management Office section. A valid user name and password must be used to

access OH-TAGNET.

We hope that you will find this site informative and helpful. Please relay any recommendations/suggestions on how we can improve this site for customers.

Chief Warrant Officer Russ Calvert
State Command Chief Warrant Officer

Question of the Quarter

How concerned are you about the Y2K computer problem? Will it affect government and banking?

EDITOR'S NOTE: *The Feedback page is the chance for our readership not only to respond to any posed questions, but also to share information or to sound off on any issue regarding the military or the Ohio National Guard.*

Our policy: anonymous letters won't be published, but names can be withheld upon request.

Engineers lead way in 'Feedback' responses

Several junior enlisted members of Company B, 112th Engineer Battalion, Lorain, responded to some "Question of the Quarter" forums from previous editions of the *Buckeye Guard* magazine. Some of these soldiers' responses follow:

What's the most valuable experience you've gained as a member of the Ohio Guard?

...the experience of knowing different people, doing different things, and talking to people that listen and don't mind listening to what I've got to say.

Pfc. Lewis Cozart

...experiencing teamwork, and not only learning but also living the Army values. The Guard reflects the values learned in basic training.

Pvt. Joseph M. Camera

...discipline—I have not yet been to basic training, but I have already discovered that discipline is a key role in the Ohio Guard.

Pfc. Robert A. Doran

...having the opportunities to volunteer or be mobilized to lend assistance to areas that are hit with natural disasters or need massive help.

Spc. Jonathan Huff

What factors or people led to your decision to become part of the Ohio National Guard?

The assistance with the college tuition was a major factor in my deciding to join the Guard. Also, being in the Air Force for 10 years, I really liked the military.

Spc. William C. Shorts III

My parents thought that it would be a great way to be able to go to college, and I knew I would have a sense of pride after I completed basic training.

Pfc. Jeffrey A. Hamilton

I needed educational benefits to finish college, and I always wanted to be in the military.

Spc. Stephen A. Sturgill

...a unit that was only a 15-minute drive from home, and to finish out my reserve obligation from my active duty Army enlistment.

Name withheld

I decided as a child to be in the Army. As I became an adult, I found that I wanted to be a part of it, yet not full-time.

Spc. Kenneth W. Pawlowski

Corrections

◆ The article on the summer encampment of the Civil Air Patrol (see *Buckeye Guard*, Winter 1998/1999, page 22) had incorrect information on how to contact Chaplain (Maj.) George S. Kelly. His mailing address is: PSC Box 10367/ ATTN:HC, Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio 45344-5361. His e-mail address is: cap_ch@hotmail.com.

Also, it is only IMA reserve chaplains and chaplain assistants who can earn retirement points for service with Civil Air Patrol.

◆ The photograph of the Buckeye Express deployment to Hungary that appeared on page 14 of the Winter 1998/1999 *Buckeye Guard* was not properly credited. Senior Airman Scott Gossard of the 180th Fighter Wing, Toledo, took the photo.

FAX your Letters to the Editor to DSN 346-7410 or commercial (614) 336-7410. E-mail letters to buckeye@OH-ARNG.ngb.army.mil or buckeye@tagoh.org or mail to AGOH-PA, ATTN: *Buckeye Guard*, 2825 West Dublin Granville Road, Columbus, Ohio 43235-2789. All submissions are subject to editing based on space and style considerations.



Command Focus

Maj. Gen. John H. Smith, Adjutant General

New Ohio adjutant general outlines his goals

Smith's vision will lead state's Army and Air National Guard into next millenium

First, let me tell you what an honor it is to have the opportunity to serve the men and women of the Ohio Army and Air National Guard. For more than 200 years, we have answered the call of our state and nation in times of need. It is no secret that an increased reliance has been placed on the National Guard to fulfill our National Security Strategy. To meet the challenges that go along with increases in operations tempo, we must be capable of responding when called, and we must be ready.

In order for each soldier and airman in the Ohio National Guard to be successful, and thus for our organization to be successful, everyone must know what the goals are, and how we will define success. As each soldier and airman does his or her job, you should keep these goals in mind, and consider how what you are doing will help us achieve success.

Our goals are simple, and you undoubtedly will recognize them: recruit and retain to support 100 percent of our authorized strength in personnel; stabilize the force structure in the ONG to meet the needs of the active force; and reorganize the ONG to place us in a position to participate in new and emerging missions.

Our number one priority is to recruit and retain soldiers and airmen to support 100 percent of our authorized strength in personnel. This is a daunting task, one that we have placed a tremendous amount of emphasis on over these past few years. But it must be understood that failure to achieve this goal impacts our ability to achieve goals two and three. Many factors impact our inability to recruit to 100 percent

including lack of employer support, increase in deployments for contingency operations to locations such as Bosnia and Saudi Arabia, low unemployment and lack of competitive benefits to induce personnel to enlist and/or stay in the organization.

In the first few months of his administration, Gov. Bob Taft has proposed raising the tuition grant program from 60 to 70 percent, and we are grateful for his willingness to address this issue

so early in his administration. However, we will provide information to the state legislators as they continue to determine the feasibility of raising the ONG tuition grant program to 100 percent. We continue to conduct first line leader training in the Army National Guard in an effort to educate our soldiers about the implications of not retaining personnel. We will support national efforts to increase pay and retirement benefits, and

have introduced a retention handbook to help supervisors in conducting counseling for those soldiers who are eligible to re-enlist in the Army National Guard.

We also will aggressively seek out those missions that will enable our soldiers and airmen to train and perform real-world missions around the globe. The opportunity for soldiers and airmen to participate in training like Exercise NEW HORIZONS, the rebuilding of infrastructure in Central America destroyed in Hurricane Mitch, is what many of us signed up for. The best form of retention is tough, realistic and challenging training, and I pledge my word that we will seek those opportunities for you.

The ONG has continued to realize cuts in

force structure, in part due to our inability to recruit and retain soldiers and airmen, and also due to the changing nature of our national defense needs. ***It is crucial that we stabilize the force structure (apportionment of units) in the ONG to meet the needs of the active force, giving our units and personnel a place in our National Military Strategy.***

There are many factors that affect unit force structure make-up, including the National Military Strategy, readiness of units and the ability to recruit and retain personnel. In addition, to meet the needs of the active military, and at the same time satisfy potential state requirements, it is vital to have force structure that is relevant. The department will continue to seek force structure that satisfies the dual needs of the state and nation, and focus on ensuring soldiers and airmen are trained and qualified to perform their military duties when called.

We all must remember that in order to compete for new force structure, and maintain what we have, it is vital to strengthen our personnel readiness by having trained soldiers and airmen, and units manned at 100 percent of authorized strength.

The Quadrennial Defense Review and National Defense Panel initiated by the U.S. Congress and Department of Defense recognized the need for the U.S. military to adapt to new threats to our national security. Some of those threats call for the establishment of what we now call "Homeland Defense." We must be capable of adapting to enhancements in the roles and missions of the National Guard, which means we must have the vision to ***reorganize the ONG to meet new and emerging missions.***

Homeland Defense will become one of the primary responsibilities of the Guard. Included in these new roles and missions will be response to incidents involving weapons of mass destruc-

— continued on page 6

"In order for each soldier and airman in the Ohio National Guard to be successful ... everyone must know what the goals are, and how we will define success."

Smith first Air Guardmember in state's history to be appointed adjutant general

Gov. Bob Taft named Maj. Gen. John H. Smith the 79th adjutant general of Ohio, replacing Maj. Gen. Richard C. Alexander, who retired Dec. 31 after serving 11 years in the post.

The ceremony took place Jan. 13 at the governor's office.

"I'm honored that Governor Taft has selected me to be a member of his cabinet," said Smith, a veteran of more than 37 years of military service. "I look forward to working closely with Governor Taft in his capacity as commander-in-chief of the Ohio National Guard."

Maj. Gen. Smith had been serving as the assistant adjutant general for Air since his appointment by Gov. George Voinovich in September 1996. As Ohio adjutant general, Smith will command the 15,000-member Ohio Army and Air National Guard, and is responsible for the wartime and emergency response readiness of the Ohio Guard. Smith is the first Air National Guard officer to hold the position of Ohio adjutant general.

"The Ohio National Guard performs valuable service to Ohioans and to our country," Taft said during the ceremony. "I am confident that the Guard will remain strong and ready to serve under the leadership of Adjutant General John Smith."

Smith volunteered for service in the U.S. Air Force and received his commission as a second lieutenant in 1962. He served a one-year tour of duty in Vietnam as a C-123 aircraft navigator, and was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross with one oak leaf cluster, the Air Medal and the Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm.

Taft takes office as 67th Ohio governor

Cincinnati native Robert A. Taft II began work Jan. 11 as Ohio governor after winning a statewide popular election in November.

Taft, 57, took the ceremonial oath of office and presented his inaugural address to about 2,500 people in attendance for the January festivities at the Ohio Theatre in Columbus.

As governor, Taft will oversee 23 cabinet agencies and more than 60,000 state employees, and as the state's commander-in-chief, he has the authority to dispatch the Ohio National Guard in times of state emergencies.

—Compiled by the Adj. Gen. Dept. Public Affairs Office. ■

Following service in Vietnam, Smith served in a variety of Air Force assignments, and transitioned as a pilot to fighter aircraft. He piloted the F-100, F-102 and F-4 fighters prior to joining the Iowa Air National Guard in 1974.

Smith joined the Ohio Air National Guard in 1976, and has served in several positions including director of operations for the 178th Tactical Fighter Group, Springfield; commander, 180th Tactical Fighter Group, Toledo; and commander, 121st Tactical Fighter Group, Columbus.

Following Operation DESERT STORM, Smith was handed the difficult task of

transitioning the 121st TFG and the 160th Air Refueling Group into what is now the 121st Air Refueling Wing, with headquarters located at Rickenbacker Airport, Columbus. He commanded the 121st from 1991 to 1996.

He has more than 4,000 flight hours as a rated command pilot.

Smith is a Minnesota native and 1976 graduate of the University of Minnesota, where he received a degree in

economics. He and his wife Anita reside in Westerville, and have three children: Peter, Andrew and Sarah.

Smith officially began his duties as adjutant general Jan. 18.

"I consider myself to be lucky to have the opportunity to follow General Alexander," he said. "I will continue to work on the challenges we face as an organization, and look forward to moving the Ohio Guard into the 21st century."

—Compiled by the Adj. Gen. Dept. Public Affairs Office. ■



Photo by Steve Toth, AG Dept. Public Affairs Office.

Gov. Bob Taft recites the oath of office in January as his daughter, Anna (far left) administers it. His wife, Hope, holds the family Bible once used by Taft's great-grandfather, President William Howard Taft, at his inauguration in 1909.

Command Profile



Lt. Col. Richard L. Brazeau 200th RED HORSE

Age: 52

Occupation: Commander, 200th RED HORSE Squadron, Camp Perry.

I grew up in: Toledo

When I was little I wanted to be: in the military someday.

Friends and classmates in high school thought I was: a good student-athlete, fun, loving—a trusted friend.

My favorite time of the year is: fall, at harvest time.

The one thing I treasure most is: my family.

My favorite junk food is: buttered popcorn.

My biggest pet peeve is: people who drive slower than the speed limit in the outside lane on the expressway, and then will not move to the inside lane. This forces you to have to pass them on the inside.

My favorite recreational activities are: fishing and restoring old cars.

If I could travel back in time, I would: like to have lived around the turn of the century (1890-1925) to have experienced the era of the industrial revolution.

If I won \$20 million in the lotto I would: take tomorrow afternoon off.

The older I get, the more I: can certainly appreciate the many things that I have been blessed with—my family, friends and co-workers, my job and my freedom.

When I retire, I want to: spend more time and to travel with my best friend—my wife.

If I could leave today's guardmembers with one piece of advice it would be: to always do your very best in any job you may be asked to do. Always look ahead. Look back only to reflect on your experiences and to make tomorrow better than today—FUEL YOUR FUTURE!

Adjutant general completes leadership team

By Capt. Neal E. O'Brien
Adj. Gen. Dept. Public Affairs Office

New Ohio Adjutant General Maj. Gen. John H. Smith completed his leadership team by naming his assistant adjutants general in March. Brig. Gen. Paul J. Sullivan replaces Smith as assistant adjutant general for Air and Brig. Gen. Ronald G. Young takes over as assistant adjutant general for Army from Brig. Gen. John S. Martin.

Martin, who retired in January, commanded the Ohio Army Guard for more than seven years. He also served as interim adjutant general during Gov. Nancy Hollister's term, which spanned parts of last December and January.

Smith called the selections of the assistant adjutants general the toughest he has made in his more than 30 years as a military officer.

"There were a tremendous number of qualified officers for the positions," he said. "That made the process as tough and competitive as any I have seen. I know that the Ohio Army and Air National Guard will benefit greatly from the leadership and experience General Sullivan and General Young bring to the job."

Sullivan previously served as the chief of staff for the Ohio ANG and had been responsible for providing leadership and management assistance to the state's units, in particular in the area of recruiting and retention. He directed the development of strategic planning with an emphasis on mission transformation and career management throughout the Ohio ANG.

Sullivan has had extensive and recent exposure to reengineering efforts and to the transformation and inclusion of space missions into the ANG. He is a member of the ANG Board of Directors and is the primary author of the "ANG Vision" narrative that is the basis of its



BG Ronald G. Young — Asst. AG, Army

Strategic and Long Range Planning program.

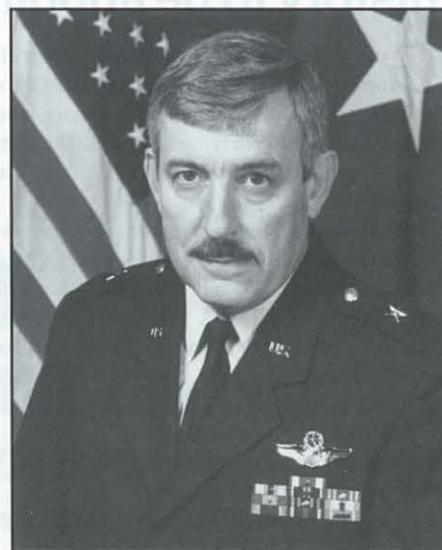
In his civilian capacity, Sullivan is the majority owner of Computer Fiscal Planning (CFP), a small software company that develops computer programs for business and cardiology.

Joining the Ohio ANG in 1978 as a pilot with the 121st Tactical Fighter Wing, Columbus, Sullivan has gone through the commissioned ranks as a unit commander prior to being assigned to Headquarters, Ohio ANG.

Sullivan resides in Lancaster with his wife, Kathy, and is the father of four children.

Young most recently served as the commander of the 16th Engineer Brigade, Columbus. Young formerly served as the 10,000-member Ohio Army Guard's chief of staff from September 1996 to November 1998, where he was responsible for the day-to-day operations.

Young brings a wealth of experience, having



Brig. Gen. Paul J. Sullivan — Asst. AG, Air

commanded at all levels in the Army Guard, including Special Forces, military police and engineers. He previously served in full-time positions at the Adjutant General's Department as federal human resources officer, and military support officer, where he planned, prepared and commanded operations to respond to state and federal emergency situations.

Young recently served as the deputy director of the Civilian Marksmanship Program, where he was responsible for the promotion of rifle practice and firearms safety. Young is the immediate past president of the Ohio National Guard Association, and currently serves on the National Guard Association of the United States Executive Council, where he represents and leads nine states for all Army issues.

Young and his wife, Renee, reside in New Lexington. ■

Command Focus *continued from page 4*

tion. As a result, the ONG is reviewing the capabilities of the organization to ensure we are able to adapt to these changes. We are in the process of forming a "rapid assessment and initial detection," or RAID, detachment that will allow us to assist state and local authorities in responding to an incident that involves weapons of mass destruction. This initial effort will give us the opportunity to begin assessing the requirements to build, train and equip the RAID detachment. The Ohio Air National Guard is poised to support the Air Force's new Expeditionary Aerospace Force concept that will allow commanders, worldwide, to tailor support packages to deploy and influence global events across the full spectrum of military operations. With

our complement of refueling, airlift, fighter aircraft and support units, we are uniquely situated to support this concept.

To support these new and emerging missions we must maximize the personnel strength, stabilize force structure and remain flexible enough to respond to the requirements involved.

Each of these three goals is mutually supporting. Success in one is dependent on our success in the other two, and vice versa. When the Department of Defense and the National Guard Bureau look across the spectrum of states to support the country's national defense needs, we must be positioned to provide ready, trained units. *Our success in meeting our goals will be defined by our ability to "respond when*

called...and be ready."

These goals are within our grasp, but they require the commitment of every soldier and airman to meet them. In my 20-plus years in the ONG, my experience has been that we rise to the occasion. I expect that once again we will do so, but I now appeal to you to keep standing. Strive to maintain the gains and successes we will undoubtedly achieve. It remains vital that we are capable of meeting personnel readiness goals, retain force structure that is relevant to the needs of the state and nation, and at the same time remain flexible to meet the vision of the military of the future. I look forward to serving you in the future, and I know that together we can accomplish great things for the ONG. ■

Citizen Spotlight

Guardmember, camp help troubled individuals reform

Story and photos by
Sgt. 1st Class Bob Mullins
HQ STARC (-)

Military basic training, or “boot camp” as it often is referred to, has never been easy. It is not designed to be.

Boot camp is where hard work and determination grow into character and strength. Individuals become team members who are always seeking self-improvement.

Richard King is always eager to see new volunteers come through the boot camp called Camp Reams.

“I have the satisfaction of seeing people wanting to make a change and then actually following through with it,” said King, a drill instructor at the camp.

However, the enlistees who come to Camp Reams are not ordinary volunteers, and Camp Reams is not an ordinary boot camp. King and the other cadre aren’t run-of-the-mill drill instructors.

Established by the Ohio Legislature in 1990, Camp Reams is a boot camp with a definite military flavor—with the camp’s enlistees being convicted criminals.

Located on the grounds of the Southeastern Correctional Institution near Lancaster, Camp Reams draws its enlistees from within the state’s corrections system.

Most of them are first-time offenders, and have committed non-violent, drug-related offenses. The inmates have volunteered to be part

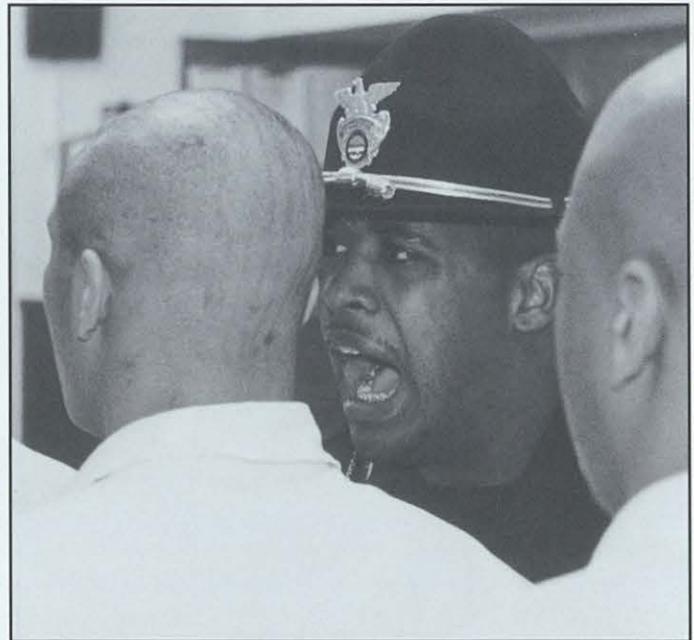
of the camp shock incarceration program for two main reasons—it offers an alternative to a lengthy prison sentence and the stigma that goes with that; and it allows the inmates to figure out who they are and what they must do to return to society and a new way of life.

A member of the Army’s 101st Airborne Division while on active duty, King currently is a specialist assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, State Area Command in Columbus.

King, a self-described “people person,” knew he wanted a civilian career where he could make an impact on people’s lives when he left active duty. The opportunity to work at Camp Reams filled the bill.

“Here at Camp Reams I feel that I am making a difference in many lives,” King said.

For 90 days, the volunteers must adhere to a rigorous schedule beginning with reveille at 5 a.m. and continuing until 10 p.m. when taps is sounded. The living arrangements, physical fitness training, chowtime, inspection of personal living areas and limited personal possessions are very reminiscent of traditional military basic training, King said. Even uniforms and appearance are inspected during drill and ceremonies. At 8 a.m., the colors are raised and work details begin. At 5 p.m., the colors are folded and self-enhancement programs are conducted. These programs include Adult Basic Education classes, completion



Camp Reams drill instructor Richard King (center), a traditional Ohio Army National Guardmember, gets up close and personal with a newly shorn enlistee at the boot camp.

of the General Educational Development (GED) course, substance abuse counseling and Alcoholics Anonymous meetings, values training and employment skills.

The regiment and the instructors are very hard on the inmates, but it all is designed to maximize the potential for the inmates to successfully return to society, King said.

Maj. Ron Burford, a retired Marine with two tours of duty in Vietnam, is the Camp Reams commander. Burford said keys for inmate success are discipline and learning to follow orders.

“This is the best thing that you will see in the rehabilitation world,” Burford said. “Here we are able to see the difference in lives when they graduate.”

Each inmate must be at least 18 years old and pass both a physical and background investigation prior to transfer from prison to the boot

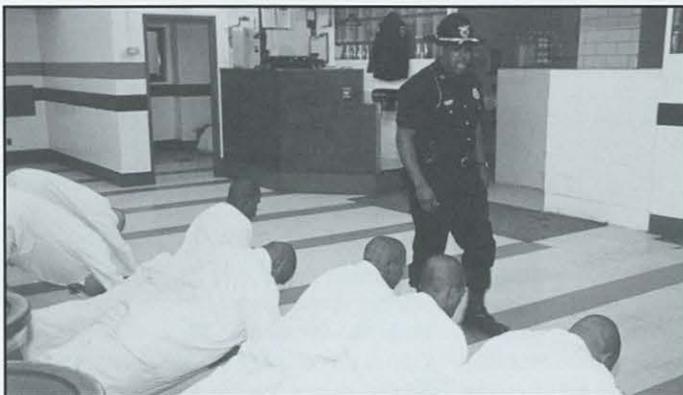
camp. Each has the right to quit at any time and return to prison if they can’t complete the program. However, once they quit the inmates never may be readmitted.

Successful graduates go to a half-way house for 60 days and after that are placed on supervised parole for the rest of their sentence.

Every inmate’s successful completion of the program provides a sense of satisfaction for King and the other cadre.

“(Former inmates) call us back constantly thanking us for getting their minds together or helping them finish their GEDs,” he said.

King, who currently is taking classes at Columbus State Community College, now is witnessing a great finish to what once was a sad beginning—one of the former inmates at Camp Reams is also one of King’s classmates at Columbus State. ■



King leads a new crop of Camp Reams enlistees through push-ups during initial indoctrination. The paramilitary boot camp draws many similarities with basic training that military service members endure.

Citizen Spotlight is a feature aimed at highlighting the civilian occupations and off-duty interests of Ohio guardmembers. Please e-mail story ideas to buckeye@OH-ARNG.ngb.army.mil or buckeye@tagoh.org, or mail to:

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

Ohio Guard salutes top airmen, soldiers

The best soldiers, airmen and noncommissioned officers in the Ohio Army and Air National Guard for the past year were chosen from among the thousands of men and women who serve in units around the Buckeye State.

In addition, there were some additions to the list of honorees this year.

For 1999, the Army Guard honored soldiers and NCOs in separate categories for Active Guard/Reserve (AGR) as well as traditional National Guard and technician personnel. Army Guard personnel were evaluated on their knowledge of military subjects, leadership, Army programs and current events. Candidates also were judged on personal appearance, military bearing, self-confidence and wear of the Army uniform.

The Air Guard selected an airman, NCO, senior NCO, first sergeant and second lieutenant. Air Guard personnel were evaluated in areas including performance, professional skill, knowledge and leadership.

Airman of the Year

Senior Airman Derrick S. McElrath, a resident of Columbus, is a food services specialist with the 121st Air Refueling Wing, Columbus.

Born in Dayton, McElrath enlisted in the Air National Guard after graduation from Walnut Ridge High School in 1990. He completed on-the-job training at Rickenbacker Air National Guard Base after attending basic training at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas.

He received his bachelor's degree in accounting from Central State University in 1995 and plans to begin graduate work at Franklin University this year.

McElrath spends much of his free time as a volunteer for the Young Heroes program, designed to mentor middle school-age children. He also is the area coordinator for the United Negro College Fund.

McElrath currently works as a branch manager for National City Bank in Pickerington. In addition, he is a member of the Pickerington Chamber of Commerce.



McElrath

McElrath initially was selected as the outstanding airman of the year by his major command, the 121st ARW.

Traditional Soldier of the Year

Spc. John J. Propelka, a resident of Broadview Heights, is a combat engineer with Company B, 112th Engineer Battalion, located in Tiffin.



Propelka

Popelka has been with the 112th Engineers since his enlistment in the Ohio Guard in 1996. Prior to his enlistment in the National Guard, Popelka served on active duty as a battalion motor pool operations NCO.

He currently attends Miami University in

(SIDPERS) section of Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, State Area Command, located in Columbus.

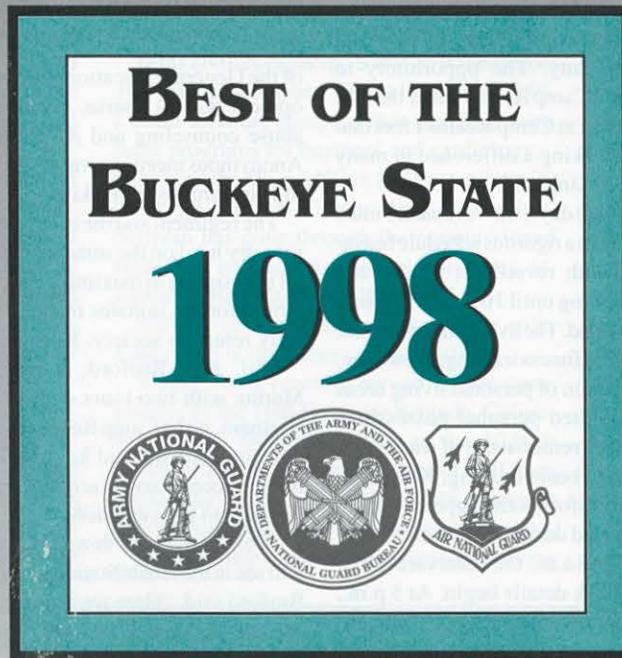
Farneth spent three years as a personnel assistant while on active duty before enlisting in the National Guard, when he was assigned to the 437th Personnel Services Company in July 1995 as a personnel actions specialist. Farneth was selected for an Active Guard/Reserve (AGR) tour with HQ STARC in 1998.



Farneth

His hobbies include camping and art. His mother, Melanie Farneth, also lives in Westerville.

Farneth previously was selected as the AGR soldier of the year for HQ STARC.



Oxford, where he is pursuing a degree in management information systems. He enjoys hiking, bicycling, white water rafting and racquetball.

Propelka's parents, Jan and Bill Snodgrass, live in Broadview Heights.

Propelka initially was selected as the soldier of the year by his major command, the 16th Engineer Brigade.

AGR Soldier of the Year

Spc. Brian R. Farneth, a resident of Westerville, is a personnel actions specialist in the Standard Installation Division Personnel System

NCO of the Year—Air Guard

Staff Sgt. Robert A. York, a lifelong resident of Toledo, is a security forces journeyman with the 180th Fighter Wing, Toledo. He enlisted in the Ohio Air National Guard in 1990.

He attended security specialist school in San Antonio and recently completed his seven-level skills training there as well. York also has completed the Air National Guard Security Police Urban Warfare School, conducted at Camp Gruber, Okla.

In 1991, York was called to active duty in support of Operation DESERT STORM and was responsible for increased security patrols and Air Force security operations. He has also served as security for the presidential staff and Air Force One. York currently serves as the 180th Security Forces Squadron's trainer, teaching martial arts and self-defense techniques to fellow members of the 180th Security Forces Squadron.

York graduated from Owens State Community College in 1995. He also received his first-degree black belt in American Kempo



York

Karate the same year. During his free time, York volunteers at the International Boxing Club, assisting the coaching staff with a kickboxing program. He also has taught Sunday school at the Bethel Baptist Church in Rossford. In his civilian occupation, York works for the Maumee City Police Department.

Traditional NCO of the Year—Army Guard

Staff Sgt. Steven R. Jessie, a resident of Norwood, is assigned as a tank commander to Company D, 1-147th Armor Battalion, located in Cincinnati. Jessie has served as a member of the 1-147th since 1989.



Jessie

Prior to his assignment with the 147th, Jessie spent seven years on active duty as a parachute rigger. Jessie was recently selected through the Select, Train, Promote, Assign (STPA) system to serve as the

assistant operations sergeant in Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1-147th Armor Battalion.

In his civilian occupation, Jessie works as an independent merchandiser. His hobbies include physical fitness and weapons. He has three grown children: Steven, Melissa and Rachel.

Jessie initially was selected as the traditional NCO of the year by his major command, the 37th Armor Brigade.

AGR NCO of the Year—Army Guard

Sgt. 1st Class Robert E. Lloyd Jr., a resident of Mount Vernon, is assigned as the assistant operations noncommissioned officer for Detachment 4 (Recruiting Command), Headquarters, State Area Command, located in Columbus. Prior to



Lloyd

his current job assignment, Lloyd worked as a National Guard recruiter from 1986 to 1996.

Lloyd has an associate's degree from the Ohio State University. He likes coaching Little League baseball and YMCA basketball. Lloyd has a wife, Cheryl; son, Robert; and daughter, Lisa.

Lloyd initially was selected as the AGR noncommissioned officer of the year for his major command, HQ STARC.

Senior NCO of the Year—Air Guard

Senior Master Sgt. Patricia Higley, a resident of Weston, is the ground safety manager for the 180th Fighter Wing, Toledo.

Born in Bellefontaine, Higley graduated from Benjamin Logan High School in Zanesfield and later attended Urbana College. Higley enlisted in the Ohio Air National Guard in 1975.

Higley was an honor graduate at Sheppard Air Force Base, Texas, where she learned to be a communications specialist. Higley served as a traditional guardmember until 1977, when she took a full-time assignment with the 180th Communications Flight. In addition, Higley earned distinguished graduate honors from Leadership School and graduated the NCO Academy in 1983.

In 1987, Higley became the 180th Fighter Wing's ground safety manager. She served as the ground safety chairman at the Air National Guard Safety Conference in both 1991 and 1998. Previously, Higley was elected to serve on the Air National Guard's Executive Safety Council.

Higley is a member of the Enlisted Association National Guard of the United States and a lifetime member of the Noncommissioned Officers Academy Graduates Association. Her military awards include the Air Force Commendation Medal.



Higley

First Sergeant of the Year—Air Guard

Master Sgt. David Parker, a lifelong resident of Lima, is the first sergeant for the 180th Fighter Wing, Toledo. He joined the Ohio Air National Guard in 1979.

Parker was assigned to the wing's electronic counter measures shop until 1995. During that time, Parker not only assisted the 180th Fighter Wing on several deployments, but also volunteered to help out Air National Guard units from Virginia and Iowa with their scheduled rotations to Incirlik, Turkey, for Operation PROVIDE COMFORT. Parker also has deployed to Turkey in the past with the 180th Fighter Wing in support of various missions.

In his civilian career, Parker works for the Lima Police Department as a juvenile detective. He is considered an authority in his profession, and has been called on occasion to testify on various matters in front of the Ohio Legislature. Parker also has formed task forces to address

and examine juvenile crime issues. He teaches police technology at the Apollo Vocational Training Facility.

Parker has received several Air Force awards, including the Air Force Commendation Medal, Air Force Outstanding Unit Award, Southwest Asia Service Medal and the Air Force Longevity Service Award.



Parker

Second Lieutenant of the Year—Air Guard

Second Lt. Troy Cramer, a lifelong resident of the Mansfield area, is the environmental manager for the 179th Airlift Wing, Mansfield. He joined the Air National Guard in 1989.

Cramer has brought national attention to the environmental programs at the 179th Airlift Wing. Through his work, hazardous waste generation was reduced by 50 percent at the unit in 1998. Cramer is credited with helping the 179th be the first Air National Guard unit to install a wastewater treatment system.

He also has focused his efforts on pollution prevention and guided the wing to 100 percent increase in pounds recycled in 1998. He established and trained a base pollution prevention team to improve the unit's ability to identify places where pollution can be reduced. Cramer's



Cramer

efforts have helped the unit move closer to achieving three of its strategic goals. His programs also have extended into community outreach programs such as unit participation in Earth Day activities. Because of Cramer's initiatives, the wing has

been recognized as a leader in environmental protection.

Cramer received his bachelor's degree in environmental science from Bowling Green State University and his master's in environmental management from Findlay University. His awards include the Air Force Achievement Medal, Outstanding Unit Award, Meritorious Service Medal and the Environmental Excellence Award.

Compiled by 1st Sgt. Tonya Minor, Headquarters, State Area Command (-), and Staff Sgt. Shannon Scherer, Headquarters, Ohio Air National Guard.

Tale of a Red-Tailed Angel

In June 1998, the Ohio National Guard named its newly built dining facility at Rickenbacker Airport, Columbus, the "Redtail Angels Dining Facility" in honor of the Tuskegee Airmen.

They were the squadron of African-American pilots during World War II who flew their P-51 Mustang fighter planes—with tailfins painted a distinctive red—on B-17 bomber escort missions, never losing a bomber they were assigned to protect.

Then known as Lockbourne Army Air Base, Rickenbacker was the post-war home of the Tuskegee Airmen, as the U.S. military remained racially segregated until President Truman ended the practice in 1948.

Columbus native Harold Emmett Sawyer, one of the famous Tuskegee Airmen who fought during the war, was further honored last June when a multipurpose conference room within the Redtail Angels Dining Facility was dedicated in his honor. Some of Sawyer's wartime era experiences are told in the following interview.

Interview by Sgt. Anthony Meldahl 237th Personnel Services Battalion

"The story of the part played by the Air Force in World War II cannot be told by the generals, the military analysts, the war correspondents, even the historians, however gifted they might be. It can only be told by the pilots, crewmen, and ground complements—the men who actually made the history and survived."

—from "The Tuskegee Airmen"
by Charles E. Francis

Q: Can you talk about your family roots here in Ohio and your life before and after the war?

Sawyer: I was born in Columbus on Nov. 10, 1920. I had two brothers. I was in the middle.

All three of us were in the service overseas in World War II. My older brother served in the Red Ball express in France. My younger brother was in the Pacific. Both of my parents were born in Columbus. My father operated a laundry and dry cleaning business. It was located on Long Street. When my two brothers and I came home from the service, all three of us joined the business for a short period of time. Then Dad sold the business. My youngest brother went with the Columbus Metropolitan Housing



Courtesy photo.

CPT Harold Sawyer receives the Distinguished Flying Cross in 1945 for his wartime exploits from COL Noel Parrish, commander at Tuskegee Army Air Field. At the time of this photo, Sawyer was a flight instructor at the Army Air Corps flight school at Tuskegee.

Authority. I too joined the Housing Authority and stayed until I retired in 1981. My oldest brother worked for the Post Office.

Q: Where did you go to college?

Sawyer: I went to Tuskegee Institute in Alabama. I enrolled there in September of 1938 and graduated in May of 1942 with a Bachelor of Science degree in agriculture.

Q: You are from Columbus. How did you decide to attend college at Tuskegee Institute?

Sawyer: My oldest brother went for a year up to Ohio State. Then he changed and went to Tuskegee Institute. And that's why I went there. All three of us brothers were in school at the same time. But the main reason was the opportunities we had down South. Back then you just couldn't get a job when you graduated from college up here—I mean, blacks couldn't. We had friends that had degrees in engineering and yet they wound up at the Neil House on High Street as a bellhop. Going to a black school in the South, you had more opportunities because you could be hired at different black schools down there.

Q: How did you get involved in flying?

Sawyer: In 1941, I was down at Tuskegee

during my junior year. That's when the federal government started offering the Civilian Pilot Training Program (CPTP). This program was designed to provide America with a reservoir of trained pilots in case war broke out. It was free except for classroom materials, and so I decided to take advantage of it. So I went ahead and enrolled and got my private pilot's license. The CPTP at Tuskegee was all-black as was later, in 1942, the Army Air Corps flight school at Tuskegee. I graduated from the Army Air Corps Advanced Flying School Class 43-D on April 29, 1943, and was commissioned as a second lieutenant and got my pilot's wings. Starting with my class, all the graduates of advanced flying school were sent to the 332nd Fighter Group. The only other black combat unit at that time, the 99th Fighter Squadron, had gone overseas just before we graduated. They were in North Africa flying P-40s.

After graduation, we went into P-40 transition training at Tuskegee Army Air Field, and it lasted a month. That Allison engine on the P-40 Tomahawk was something else. It had wicked torque and it

overheated easily. It was tough taxiing down the runway with all those other aircraft types using the same field. It got pretty crowded. That was one of the disadvantages to that field at Tuskegee. Since we were black we couldn't go anywhere else. So at one field we had basic training, advanced training and fighter transition.

After we completed transition training on the P-40 we were shipped in June 1943 up to Selfridge Army Air Field in Michigan. I was assigned to the 301st Fighter Squadron in the 332nd Fighter Group. We continued to train on the P-40. One of our pilots was an All-American football player from Syracuse. He got killed at Selfridge. He was flying a P-40 over Lake Huron and the engine went dead on him. I was there when it happened. We had a lot of guys messed up in that P-40 because they were old and ragged hand-me-downs.

Then, about October, all of a sudden they switched us over to P-39 Bell Aircobra aircraft.

We shipped out to Ramitelli, Italy, in February 1944 with the 332nd Fighter Group. Our group was assigned to the 12th Air Force and we flew the P-39 Aircobra out of Ramitelli Air Field. We were assigned harbor patrols and convoy duty. One squadron flew ground support over the Anzio beachhead, flying P-39s.

I flew 60 missions in Aircobras from Febru-



Courtesy photo.

Sawyer as a newly commissioned second lieutenant in the spring of 1943.

ary to May 1944. We used to go out and these convoys would come into the Mediterranean and Adriatic Sea. We went out to pick them up at a certain distance and keep them from being attacked by the German aircraft. One of our squadrons was stationed right outside of Naples, at Capodichino Air Field. They had contact with enemy fighters over Anzio beachhead.

In May 1944 we were assigned to the 15th Air Force and we started flying the P-47 Thunderbolt for long-range bomber escort. Then in July, we started receiving the P-51 Mustang. We flew those until the end of the war.

Q: Can you recall the first time you fought an aerial engagement with a German fighter?

Sawyer: There was a guy I knew named Lucky Lester (2nd Lt. Clarence D. Lester, 100th Fighter Squadron, three aerial victories on July 18, 1944, all Messerschmidt 109s). He shot down three German aircraft on one mission. When he got back to the field, he started thinking back and told me: "I realized that all this happened to me in just five minutes." It was the same with me. Things happen so fast. You're not watching the action like in the movies where they're up there dogfighting for 30 or 40 minutes.

Q: The first time you got an aerial victory was July 12, 1944, and it was a Folke Wulf 190A. According to official records, the 332nd Fighter Group escorted the 5th Bombardment Wing (B-17s). On that day the bombers' target was a marshalling yard in southern France. In your 1944 account you described the combat:

"The weather was so bad our group was the

only one able to get through. Near the target we were jumped by 25 enemy aircraft. After three of the enemy aircraft had attempted to attack the bombers, Lieutenant Bernie Jefferson and I followed them down. I pulled up on one of the enemy airplanes and got a burst into its tail section. Immediately the enemy plane began making split Ss while diving towards the ground. I followed the enemy until I saw him crash."

Can you add anything more to that account?

Sawyer: Sometimes you just get lucky. A lot of times you don't know where they come from. The German pilots were good for coming out of the sun. They always kept the sun to their backs. You'd look up into the sun and they'd be on you before you knew what happened. They hit my flight and their ambition was to break through the fighter escort and get to our bombers. We did everything we could to stop them.

A newspaper article tells about an aerial battle that occurred on July 25, 1944. This was an escort mission covering B-17s, which were on a bombing mission against the Goering tank works at Linz, Austria.

In the article, war correspondent John Jordan reported: "Eight of the Mustangs were pounced by Messerschmidt 109s in a viciously fanatical attack. Three Messerschmidts jumped the Columbus flyer and in a swirling, exciting battle, 1st Lt. Sawyer downed one 109 and damaged two, which probably never returned to their base. There have been reports of a revolution inside of Germany (The July 1944 bomb plot against Hitler) and the low morale of its armed forces. Sawyer commented on this saying: 'Those Jerries up there today must not have heard about it.'"

In his 1944 account of the combat Sawyer stated: "We were covering B-17s. After we linked up with the bombers each flight was assigned to cover certain portions of the bombers. Capt. Faulkner was leading the group. He was also leading a flight of four. We saw a group of MEs (Messerschmidts) and decided that as long as they didn't attack us we wouldn't leave the bombers. They came in at four o'clock to six o'clock putting them behind us with altitude. As we climbed up they came down. About 30 jumped our flight of eight. I saw smoke rings over my canopy. We got into a tight luftberry (circle). A little later I noticed one enemy aircraft coming in at three o'clock. Meanwhile, Lieutenant Leahr called in that

his guns were frozen. The enemy broke into us and immediately I started firing. I fed him a lot of rounds that damaged his ship severely and sent it into a spin. I couldn't follow him down as other enemy planes were still up there. A few minutes later, Capt. Faulkner called that the other bandits had gone. We then caught up with the bombers and continued on our mission."

Q: Where there any places where German flak (antiaircraft gunfire) was particularly bad?

Sawyer: Some of those places we flew to, especially over Romania at the Ploesti oil fields, the flak was just so thick you could see puffs of smoke around you all the time. When they hit close enough to you it would vibrate the plane. The fighters had more of a chance because they could bob and weave. The bombers couldn't do that. They were just sitting ducks for flak. I've seen bombers hit by flak a lot of times. That's

Preserving the past



Photo by Todd Cramer, AG Dept. Photo Lab.

Friends of the Tuskegee Airmen group includes (from left) OC Dean Veneziano, SSG Edwin Robinson, SGT Anthony Meldahl and Bill Melvin.

Airmen gain new 'Friends'

The group "Friends of the Tuskegee Airmen" recently has been formed to preserve the rich history of Ohio's many Tuskegee Airmen veterans who served the country during and after World War II.

The Central Ohio Chapter of the Tuskegee Airmen is one of the largest in the United States, and the chapter holds its meetings every two months at the Redtail Angels Dining Facility, located at Rickenbacker Airport in Columbus.

Sharing a common interest in World War II history, Friends of the Tuskegee Airmen members began their quest to preserve history by conducting in-depth interviews with Tuskegee Airmen veterans. The first result of their work is the interview with retired Capt. Harold E. Sawyer appearing in the *Buckeye Guard*.

The group is now conducting research for future magazine articles, slide shows, photo exhibits and museum displays. For more information, contact Sgt. Anthony Meldahl at (614) 336-7478 days or (740) 587-2382 evenings. Compiled by the Adj. Gen. Dept. Public Affairs Office.

really a heart-rending thing to see—those bombers burst into flames, knowing that guys were on board and couldn't get out. Sometimes you'd see parachutes and sometimes not. That's kind of a pitiful thing. I always admired those bomber pilots. They really caught it, especially when they were on the bomb run to the target. Once they started that bomb run they didn't veer. I don't care how heavy the flak was, they went right on through it. When we got that close to Ploesti we would pull up and stay out of that heavy flak. The bombers would stay their course and fly right into it. The German fighters themselves wouldn't go into that flak to go after the bombers. When the bombers came off the target we'd pick them up again and continue.

Q: Did you ever see any German jets?

Sawyer: Yes. On one escort mission over Germany, around November 1944, a flight of about four enemy jets came diving through our formation. They came through so fast practically all you saw was the dark exhaust trails they left behind. Those jets flew through our entire group. They didn't shoot at anybody and didn't try to hit the bombers. They just went on through. That was the only time we ever broke radio silence on a combat mission. I'm not going to tell you what they said but it was something



Photo by SSgt. Douglas Nicodemus, 121st ARW.

Harold Sawyer (right) talks with then-state Adjutant General MG Richard C. Alexander (left) at the dedication of the Redtail Angels Dining Facility in 1998.

along the lines of: "Did you see what I saw!" We never saw anything like that before and it was a total and complete surprise. Our intelligence hadn't warned us yet that we'd have any contact with this revolutionary aircraft.

Q: There is a photo of you being awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for the aerial action

you were involved in on July 25, 1944, by Col. Noel Parrish.

Where did this award ceremony take place? Can you say anything about what Col. Parrish was like?

Sawyer: That was after I returned from overseas and was back in 1945 at Tuskegee Air Field. I was assigned there as an advanced flight instructor at the school. Colonel Parrish was the commanding officer at Tuskegee Air Field. I think he was the second commander.

The first commander was relieved of command because he was really prejudiced. Colonel Parrish wasn't like his predecessor. He did everything he could do to help make things bearable for black soldiers at Tuskegee.

Colonel Parrish didn't become a brigadier general until way after the war. And that was the price he had to pay for standing up for the rights of blacks.

Everybody liked Parrish. After the war he joined the Tuskegee Airmen Association and followed us everywhere we went. He made every convention we had. His widow still goes to the conventions to this day. ■

EDITOR'S NOTE: Capt. Jim Garvey, 121st Air Refueling Wing, Columbus, assisted with this interview.

200th RED HORSE remembers WWII vets

Story by
Staff Sgt. Shannon Scherer
HQ, Ohio Air National Guard

Last year, before *Saving Private Ryan* brought World War II veterans to the forefront of American history, the Ohio Air National Guard's 200th RED HORSE Squadron already had recognized the need to honor the remarkable achievements of these men and women.

The unit began a biannual tradition in 1996 of honoring World War II veterans with medals and decorations they had never before received during their military service.

"It all started when I met a member's grandfather at a party," said Maj. Kent Cooper, unit logistics officer. "He was wearing a WWII hat, and I always like talking about the war with veterans."

Much to Cooper's surprise, Michael Hrynciw said he had never received his medals for serving in the Army Air Corps between July 1943 to December 1945. Hrynciw had been part of the second wave of the Normandy invasion and had

tried for many years to obtain his decorations without much success.

Cooper took up the cause of obtaining the medals for Hrynciw and Cooper's own father, Kenneth Cooper, who had served on the battleship USS Alabama in WWII.

"It was really a dream come true for me to honor my father and thank him for his service with the United States Navy," Cooper said.

Calling on connections at the Army Personnel Command Records Center, Cooper obtained a list of the awards and decorations to be presented. With the support of retired Lt. Col. Phillip Brooks, former 200th commander, the unit decided to present the medals during formation at the December drill.

The formation and presentation of awards received so many favorable comments that the unit's leadership decided to make it a twice-a-year event, once during the December drill, and again in the summer at the annual family day open house.

"It really shows our people the realization of what we ourselves could be called into," said Lt. Col.

Richard Brazeau, current 200th RHS commander. "If it wasn't for these folks we wouldn't have all the blessings we have today."

Since the first ceremony, four other veterans have been honored, including a former prisoner of war.

"The stories that these men tell are remarkable," Cooper said. "You see a lot of misty eyes as the medals are being pinned on."

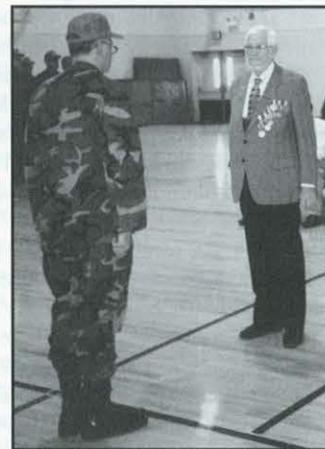
Most of the recipients have been unit members' relatives, but the service also is available to the community and veterans' organizations.

"It's good for the community to meet our members and see the full formation and the esprit de corps at our unit," Brazeau said.

Veterans' friends and family are invited to the ceremony, and the number that attends each ceremony has increased in the past few years.

A reception caps each ceremony where today's guardmembers mix with yesterday's heroes to share war stories, memories and a common bond of service before self.

"(The ceremony) brought back many memories, some good and



Courtesy photo.

200th RHS Commander Lt. Col. Richard Brazeau and World War II veteran Luther Miller stand at attention after Miller was presented with his medals and decorations.

some bad, and it made me feel very honored," wrote WWII veteran Luther Miller, who served in Africa and Europe, in a letter to Cooper. "It made me realize the time I spent in the service was not spent in vain. Thank you." ■

THE



*Newark's 211th
Maintenance Company
goes to Kaiserslautern,
Germany, to take on
challenges of EMC-E*



Ohio soldiers were housed in barracks dating back to World War I.

Spring 1999

MAINTAINING EDGE:



SGT James Daley installs a fuel pump on a Humvee (HMMWV) engine.

MAINTAINING THE EDGE

Story and photos by Steve Toth
Adj. Gen. Dept Public Affairs Office

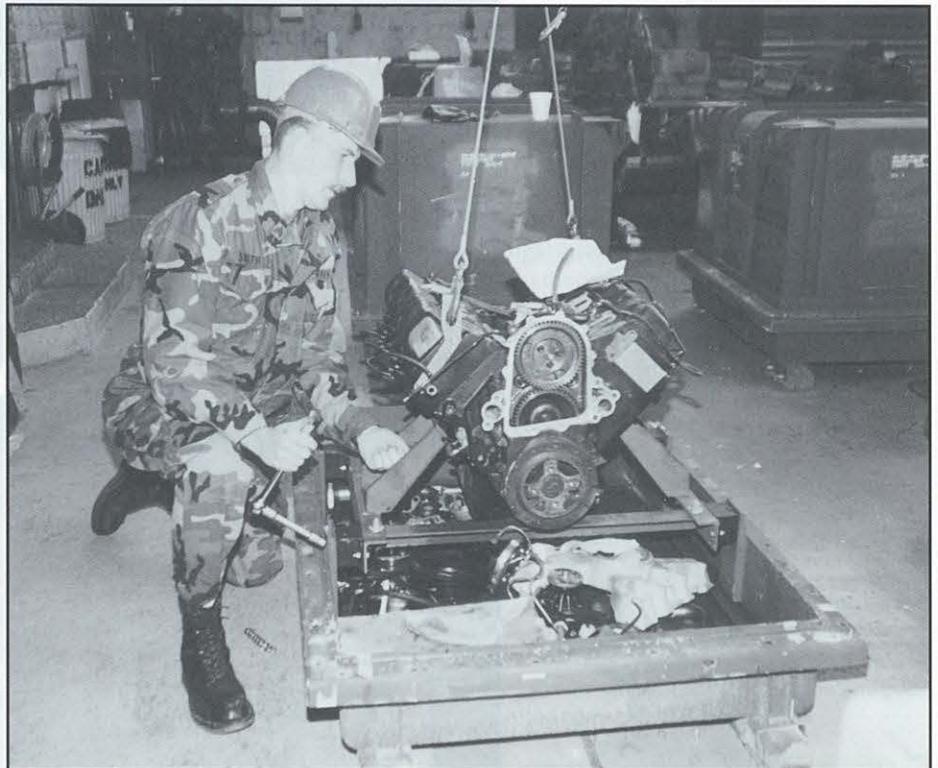
The Equipment Maintenance Center-Europe hosted 112 citizen-soldiers from the Ohio Army National Guard in November when the 211th Maintenance Company, Newark, deployed to Kaiserslautern, Germany, to conduct the unit's annual training mission Oct 31-Nov. 21.

One of 14 reserve component units that were slated to perform a rotation at EMC-E in FY99, the 211th had the opportunity to train in what is widely considered one of the most challenging training environments in the world for RC maintenance units. The units are tasked with missions to complete and function on their own within established chains-of-command, under the oversight of an EMC-E staff that is comprised of active Army and Active Guard/Reserve (AGR) soldiers, and German civilians.

"It's a critical opportunity for leaders to practice something they don't always get to practice at other (annual training) sites—they have to task organize their company. Leaders have to know their soldiers and know what they're capable of," said Maj. Christopher Taylor, EMC-E support officer.

Taylor, who is the primary evaluator of reserve component maintenance units that perform rotations at Kaiserslautern, explained that the realism of the EMC-E environment is something that units do not generally see at other training sites because other operations are much more structured and controlled. At EMC-E, the units are almost completely autonomous—they are in charge from the first day and even must develop a plan how they want to physically organize their tools and shops.

Throughout the rotation, the unit conducted general maintenance support missions in seven different shops or sections—allied trades (repair of tools and other components); technical sup-



SGT Aaron Smith bolts a finished Humvee engine into a container in preparation for sending the engine back to the field. This is the final step after repairs and testing.

ply (parts distribution); component repair (rebuilding Humvee transmissions, transfers and differentials); engine rebuild; maintenance control (statistical tracking of work production and parts orders); motor pool; and communications (repair of radios and other electronic devices).

The shops were evaluated by the EMC-E staff in areas that included technical compe-

tence, adherence to Army repair standards, safety, professionalism, leadership and communication. Unit strengths and weaknesses were identified to help the 211th better plan future training and soldiers' skill development.

Capt. David Seitz, 211th Maintenance Company commander, and the unit's soldiers readily accepted the challenges issued by the EMC-E staff. Their largest challenge may have been that the unit actually is organized as a direct maintenance company, with the mission to repair equipment by installing new or already rebuilt whole components. However, at EMC-E the unit has been tasked with a general support maintenance mission, where equipment components are torn down to their smallest parts, rebuilt, reinstalled into the equipment and checked for serviceability in a shop environment.

"The key to this mission was our ability to adapt to meet the needs of the mission," Seitz said. "Our people have the necessary mechanical ability (to perform a general support mission), and this training opportunity helps develop and increase their skills and expertise.

"Good training usually makes you leave your comfort zone. We were asked to adapt to a mission that we were not used



SGT James Boyer adjusts a hub for a five-ton truck tire in the motor pool section.



“Not only did we meet the mission, we exceeded it in many areas.”



TOP: SSG Terry Frusher inspects a camshaft before it is installed into a rebuilt Humvee engine. **LEFT:** PV2 William Morgan (left) and SPC Gregory Harden clean and repair night vision goggles in the communications section. **BELOW:** PFC Rick Lanning, working in the technical supply warehouse, determines the amount of parts needed to fill one of the repair sections' orders.

to doing. We were being evaluated on our ability to adapt with as little guidance as possible from EMC-E. It was a challenge to our leadership and soldiers and allowed us to develop confidence in our abilities.”

Evaluations of the 211th at the end of the rotation by the EMC-E staff were very favorable, and indicated a high degree of technical competency and professionalism displayed by the unit's soldiers, noncommissioned officers and officers.

“Not only did we meet the mission, we exceeded it in many areas,” Seitz said. “The EMC-E staff stated that the 211th was one of the best, if not the best, unit that has trained there.

U.S. Army Europe (USAREUR) and the reserve component units that train at Kaiserslautern mutually benefit from the way EMC-E is structured. Reserve component units are given the opportunity to deploy to Germany and train on the latest Army equipment in a real, wartime mission, according to Lt. Col. Jeffery Jenkins, EMC-E commander. USAREUR is helped with its maintenance backlog.

Over the last decade, the EMC-E structure has proven to be an ideal example of the Army's “total force” concept, in a time marked by significant downsizing of per-

sonnel and resources while demanding cost-effectiveness.

“It's buying unit readiness at a very low price,” Jenkins said. “It's good for (USAREUR) and good for the unit. It's a real picture of how effective the unit can be in performing its wartime mission...and, I think units get a real sense of pride that they're producing something that's used around the world.

“It is of some importance how the units produce, but it is more important how they take the mission and how they do it.”

The 211th's leaders eagerly took on the

responsibility of full management of the shops and trying to efficiently complete the repair missions assigned to them during the three-week period.

“(The structure at EMC-E) is a good situation. We're allowed to run our shop and be left alone. We know what we need to do and we do it,” said Staff Sgt. Timothy Hysell, motor pool noncommissioned officer-in-charge (NCOIC).

With some time off, the annual training period also allowed the unit's soldiers to experience foreign cultures. For many soldiers, it was their first time in Germany, while others with prior active service had been stationed here before. In any case, the annual training rotation at Kaiserslautern proved memorable for unit members for many reasons.

“This trip is one of the better ATs we've had,” said Spc. Thomas Sigrist, an allied trades shop worker.

Added Seitz: “I have all kinds of faith in the company. I've had the privilege to be the commander for 2 1/2 years. There's never been a case of them letting me down or not getting their mission accomplished.

“I really happy that everything we've done, it's been a good experience for all the soldiers involved.”

The 211th last trained at EMC-E in 1993. ■



Making the Grade

By Staff Sgt. Diane Farrow
HQ STARC (-)

The current program that determines who fills what enlisted slots in the Ohio Army National Guard has changed quite a bit since it was implemented in January 1996.

For STPA, or Select, Train, Promote and Assign, the name of the game is still points, but how the points are calculated and how the results translate into training opportunities has changed dramatically since its inception.

During the last three years, enlisted soldiers have received promotions and new assignments based on the publication of STPA lists. Grouped by rank, these lists evaluate soldiers in each military occupational specialty (MOS) using a point system. Ideally, as vacancies occur, the soldier at the top of the list will be offered the assignment and be promoted to the next higher grade.

"The intent is to place the best qualified soldier in a position for advancement—to give him or her the first opportunity to accept the assignment," said State Command Sgt. Maj. Michael O. Howley, Ohio's top enlisted soldier. So on an annual basis, the entire enlisted corps—everyone from specialist to master sergeant—takes a good, hard look at where they stack up against their peers.

Same as when the program began, the highest possible score is 1,000—750 administrative points and 250 points based on leader appraisals.

Administrative points are still determined by the nine areas identified in 1996 (maximum points noted in parentheses): time in grade (75), time in service (50), awards (75), weapons qualification (75), Army Physical Fitness Test, or APFT, score (75), civilian education (100), Noncommis-

sioned Officer Educational System, or NCOES, courses (100), other resident courses (100) and self-development courses (100). Some awards that originally counted for points no longer do, such as the service ribbon. And, starting this year, no points will be counted for NCOES courses unless both phases have been completed.

Another change affected calculating the leader appraisal score. Though three appraisal worksheets are still averaged for specialists, sergeants and above acquire two scores resulting from their current Noncommissioned Officer Evaluation Report (NCOER).

"The rater and senior rater evaluate the soldier, each awarding up to 250 points—totaled according to which block they mark on the NCOER (see Figure 1). These two figures are averaged with the score given by the unit first sergeant or command sergeant major, who completes an Enlisted Personnel Appraisal Worksheet, or NGB Form 4101-1-R," said Master Sgt. David DeLauter, enlisted personnel manager for the OHARNG and supervisor of the state's STPA program.

"This was done to relieve the administrative burden on units. Many complained there was no value to NCOERs if the leader appraisals were being used in the promotion process," explained DeLauter, who started managing the program in May 1997. Shortly after he began, the PSB (Personnel Services Branch) manually went through each personnel file and entered relevant information into the STPA database. Now units are given a printout of each soldier's Enlisted Promotion Point Worksheet (NGB



Photo by SFC Bob Mullins, HQ STARC (-).

SSG Sherry Gulley, HQ STARC, is promoted to sergeant first class by 1SG Tonya Minor and MAJ Thomas Haidet in March.

Form 4101-R-E), annotated with current data from the PSB at least 90 days prior to the packet's suspense date.

"This really helps both sides," DeLauter said. "It verifies what information we have, and lets the soldiers know what they need to add to PSB's records." Each soldier is responsible for submitting documentation for any changes that need to be made. And for APFT and weapons qualification scores to be updated, unit rosters must be submitted at company level no later than Sept. 20 each year.

"Before 1996, the promotion system was more subjective, based on personal opinions and relationships with unit leadership," Howley said. "With STPA, it's more analytical, based on quantitative data. This puts the promotion destiny of soldiers in their own hands.

"This is also forcing first line leaders to do a more thorough job in

terms of career development and leadership counseling," he added. "They need to be involved in determining where their soldiers are at, where they need to get and how they need to get there. As leaders, we need to help our soldiers set and realize these goals." First line leaders are now required to use the STPA leadership counseling form 4101-R as part of quarterly counseling sessions.

Promotion packets are due to the state Enlisted Personnel Office by Nov. 30 for specialists (E-4s); Dec. 31 for master sergeants and sergeants first class (E-8s and E-7s); Jan. 31 for staff sergeants (E-6s); and Feb. 28 for sergeants (E-5s). Once the completed packets are submitted and the totals validated, the STPA lists are scheduled to be published 30 days later—Jan. 1 for E-4s; Feb. 1 for E-8s and E-7s; Mar. 1 for E-6s and April 1 for E-5s. This year, however, the first two lists

"STPA works as well as the soldiers' ability to make themselves competitive. It challenges them to improve as individuals."

—CSM Michael O. Howley
State Command Sgt. Major

weren't published until March.

"We were running behind because there was a change of hardware on Jan. 1, which required about six weeks to complete. Some data was lost and needed to be input again," DeLauter explained, emphasizing that STPA lists are now available on TAGNet, the Ohio National Guard's internal website. "We're trying to update those lists about every 45 days," he said.

This does *not* mean points can change during the year, DeLauter stressed. Selections happen every day, he pointed out, so when the top five accept new assignments, No. 6 becomes No. 1. "This is just a way to keep soldiers aware of their current status."

In regard to units looking to fill a vacancy, DeLauter maintained that the STPA list is the commander's third option. "First, commanders should look at making a lateral move within the unit—moving an E-5 into another E-5 slot—what we refer to as a 'developmental assignment.'"

Next, units need to consider placing an excess, overgrade or reassigned soldier into the position, which could mean bringing a new recruit into the Ohio Guard. "In the case of placing a new enlistee into a vacant slot for E-5s or above, we have the commander sign a statement acknowledging that the unit may be eliminating a promotion opportunity for a current Ohio guardmember."

When these alternatives have been exhausted, units submit a "request for fill." DeLauter then pulls up the current applicable list, eliminates flagged individuals, and submits a list of eligible candidates to the unit. Soldiers can be flagged for failing the APFT, for not meeting weight standards or for undergoing any adverse actions—such as those brought on by a positive drug screening. They cannot be selected for promotion until the flag is removed.

Once the list is in the hands of the unit, a series of phone calls begin. "This time-consuming process is the major complaint we get these

RATED NCO'S NAME (Last, First, Middle Initial) _____ SSN _____ THRU DATE _____

PART IV (Rater) - VALUES/NCO RESPONSIBILITIES Specific Rating examples of "EXCELLENCE" or "NEEDS IMPROVEMENT" are mandatory. Specific Rating examples of "SUCCESS" are optional.

b. COMPETENCE

- Duty proficiency; MOS competency
- Technical & tactical; knowledge, skills, and abilities
- Sound judgment
- Seeking self-improvement; always learning
- Accomplishing tasks to the fullest capacity; committed to excellence

EXCELLENCE (Exceeds std) **SUCCESS (Meets std)** **NEEDS IMPROVEMENT (Same) (Much)**

20 15 5 0

c. PHYSICAL FITNESS & MILITARY BEARING

- Mental and physical toughness
- Endurance and stamina to go the distance
- Displaying confidence and enthusiasm; looks like a soldier

EXCELLENCE (Exceeds std) **SUCCESS (Meets std)** **NEEDS IMPROVEMENT (Same) (Much)**

20 15 5 0

d. LEADERSHIP

- Mission first
- Genuine concern for soldiers
- Instilling the spirit to achieve and win
- Setting the example; Be, Know, Do

EXCELLENCE (Exceeds std) **SUCCESS (Meets std)** **NEEDS IMPROVEMENT (Same) (Much)**

20 15 5 0

e. TRAINING

- Individual and team
- Mission focused; performance oriented
- Teaching soldiers how; common tasks, duty-related skills
- Sharing knowledge and experience to fight, survive and win

EXCELLENCE (Exceeds std) **SUCCESS (Meets std)** **NEEDS IMPROVEMENT (Same) (Much)**

20 15 5 0

f. RESPONSIBILITY & ACCOUNTABILITY

- Care and maintenance of equip./facilities
- Soldier and equipment safety
- Conservation of supplies and funds
- Encouraging soldiers to learn and grow
- Responsible for good, bad, right & wrong

EXCELLENCE (Exceeds std) **SUCCESS (Meets std)** **NEEDS IMPROVEMENT (Same) (Much)**

20 15 5 0

PART V - OVERALL PERFORMANCE AND POTENTIAL

a. RATER. Overall potential for promotion and/or service in positions of greater responsibility.

AMONG THE BEST FULLY CAPABLE MARGINAL

150 100 25

b. RATER. List 3 positions in which the rated NCO could best serve the Army at his/her current or next higher grade.

c. SENIOR RATER. Overall performance

100 75 50 25 0

1 2 3 4 5
Successful Fair Poor

d. SENIOR RATER. Overall potential for promotion and/or service in positions of greater responsibility.

150 100 75 50 25 0

1 2 3 4 5
Superior Fair Poor

“The rater and senior rater evaluate the soldier, each awarding up to 250 points—totaled according to which block they mark on the NCOER.”

—MSG David DeLauter
Enlisted Personnel Manager

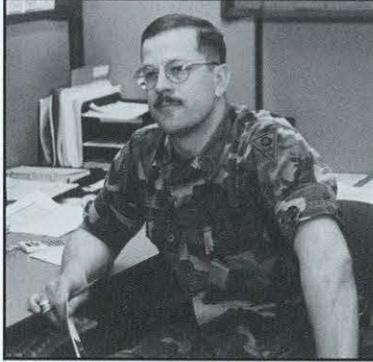


Photo by Steve Toth, AG Dept. PAO.

Now, the NCOER directly correlates to STPA points, promotion system.

Figure 1- Army Noncommissioned Officer Evaluation Report.

days," said DeLauter, who admitted that STPA wasn't welcomed with open arms when it began. He said the first and second years were riddled with complaints from units who wanted to promote from within.

Howley also indicated that opening positions statewide has had a negative effect on unit leadership development within teams and sections. "This is not so much a problem within specialty MOSs, such as aviators, scouts and Avenger crewmen—there we can grow kids within a unit. It's when admin, food service and communications personnel cross organizational lines that we run into problems.

"As NCOs, it is our job to identify those who can be future leaders," Howley asserted. "Through career counseling, it is within our power to put the right person, at the right place, at the right time. STPA is a maturing program—it's been only three years. I'm convinced

such challenges will resolve themselves over time. It just doesn't happen overnight."

"I was fourth on the list in my MOS, but because two above me were flagged and the other failed the PT test (upon assignment), I got bumped to No. 1," said Staff Sgt. Stephen Sharp, tank crewman with Troop A, 2-107th Armored Cavalry, Cincinnati. "I kept getting calls and turning them down until I got the call I really wanted—from my own unit." Soldiers stay at the top of the list until they turn down a position within 50 miles of their home of record; at that point, they are removed from the STPA list until it is published again the following year.

In addition to filling vacancies, the STPA list still serves in prioritizing training opportunities.

Beginning with the 1998 STPA lists, the training line—which identified soldiers who were eligible to attend NCOES courses based on a

minimum cutoff score—has been removed. This cutoff was the mean average of scores within each grade, regardless of MOS.

"Now, no line exists whatsoever, and we are 'toploading' schools," said DeLauter, who asserted this was the most significant change in the program. For example, when Ohio was authorized 296 seats for PLDC (Primary Leadership Development Course), the STPA list for E-4s was sorted by points, regardless of MOS, and the top 296 soldiers were scheduled for school. "Then we sort the list by MOS and manually check to ensure every No. 1 (in each MOS) was given a seat," he said, noting that even without the cross-check, 99.4 percent of the No. 1s are placed in schools based on the first sort.

Because STPA lists dictate school eligibility and applications, DeLauter started processing E-4 to E-5 promotion packets first instead of last so that the state Training Office can "trap" more PLDC slots for Ohio guardmembers. "We're hoping this will improve our utilization rate of the schools we've been authorized. Before, when E-4 packets were due in May, Training couldn't plug names in for PLDC until after June 1."

Likewise, because of the smaller number of E-7s and E-8s, who have fewer NCOES requirements to schedule, the Enlisted Personnel Office started preparing both lists at the same time. This kept March and April as list publication dates for E-6s and E-5s, respectively.

"We're anxious for the soldiers to learn the system," the state command sergeant major said, "because once that happens, I think we'll see profound, positive results." To increase awareness, the Enlisted Personnel Office recently published an information pamphlet and offers briefings to units upon request.

"STPA works as well as the soldiers' ability to make themselves competitive," Howley said. "It challenges them to improve as individuals.

"This is the most fair system I've seen in terms of empowering soldiers to get ahead." ■

GETTING BACK TO BASICS

Lackland

Story and photos by
Staff Sgt. Shannon Scherer
HQ, Ohio Air National Guard

We all know the horror stories of basic training; demon drill sergeants, tough mental and physical conditioning and the loneliness of leaving home.

For 33 Ohio Air National Guardmembers going back to basic training meant reflecting on a vivid past, but enjoying and learning about the present.

Members from all of Ohio's flying and ground units gathered together on Jan. 25 to return to Lackland Air Force Base, Texas, home of Air Force basic training. This educational deployment has been conducted every few years since the early 1990s so Ohio

members are kept up-to-date on the changes and processes happening at basic training. This year's group represented a diverse background of career fields. Recruiters and retention managers were present, along with commanders, training personnel and Ohio's assistant adjutant general for Air. Ohio is one of the few states that takes such a large number of people to Lackland because air transportation is usually easier to coordinate within the state.

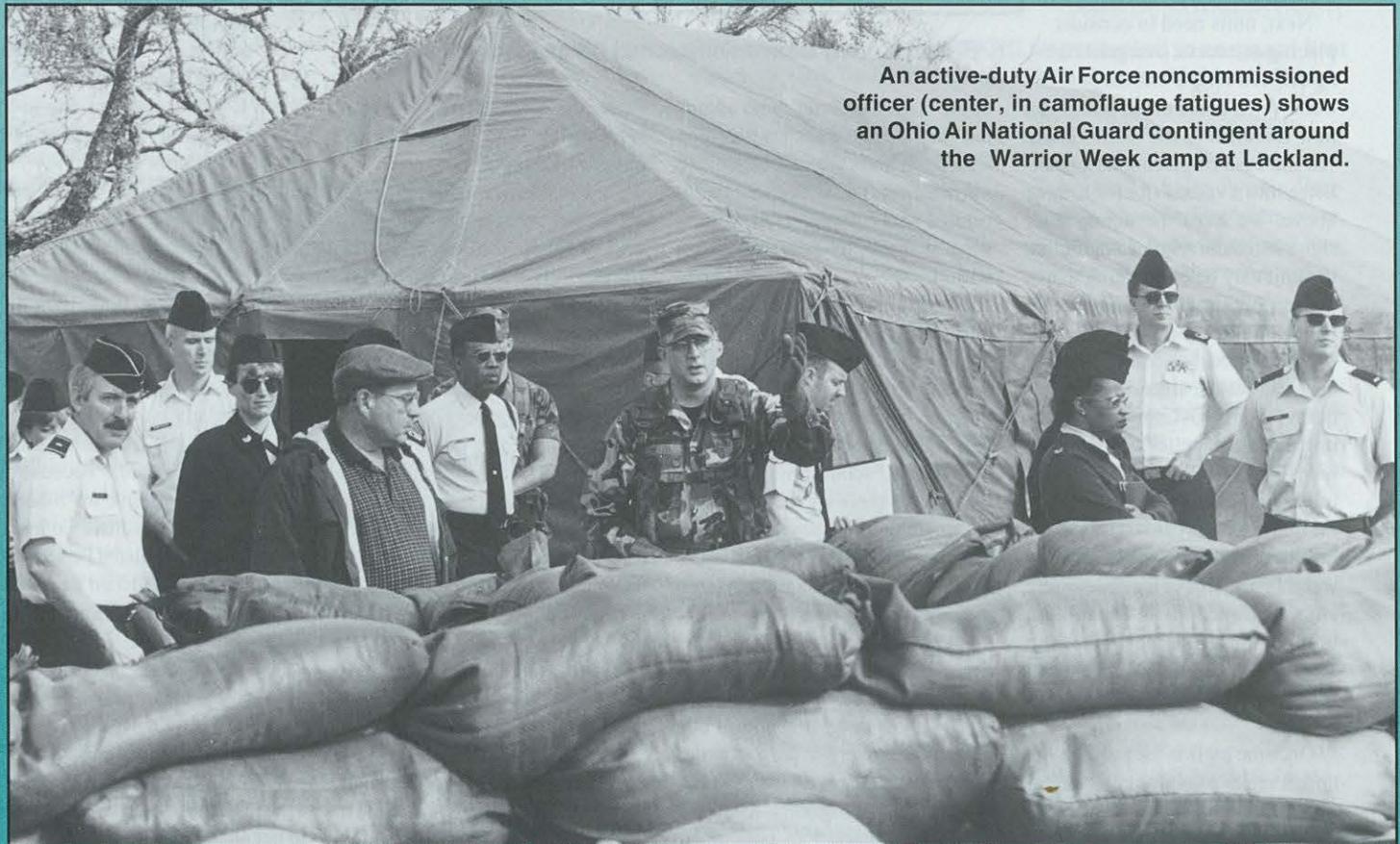
"There's a lot of support from the units for our strength management team," said Senior Master Sgt. Larry Mallett, recruiting and retention superintendent. "The state staff really saw the need for this and they made it happen."

Besides bringing the key players in force

management together to discuss issues affecting the Ohio Air National Guard, the trip also served as a way to educate everyone on the changes occurring at basic training.

The first day consisted of a tour of the obstacle course which basic trainees run twice during their six-week stay at Lackland. On this particular day no trainees were running the course, but Ohio members were able to get a feel of the intensity of the obstacles nonetheless. An interesting change is that passage of the obstacle course is no longer a requirement for graduation.

"We want all the trainees to attempt the course," said Staff Sgt. James Rabel, training instructor. "We no longer do a timed run for safety purposes, and we encourage a teamwork-type camaraderie atmosphere now, where before it was more of an individual activity."



An active-duty Air Force noncommissioned officer (center, in camoflage fatigues) shows an Ohio Air National Guard contingent around the Warrior Week camp at Lackland.

revisited

Ohio airmen keep up with changes at home of Air Force basic training

Members moved on to a tour of the new security forces training facility and learned about the electronic technical schools that are also housed at Lackland.

The next day welcomed the members to learn about another new change to Air Force basic training known as Warrior Week. Many people may recall that their basic training never afforded them the opportunity to sleep and work in field conditions—well, not anymore. After trainees spend an afternoon at the firing range, they then proceed to set up camp in a remote location from the base. Armed with modified M-16s, the trainees set up tents, don MOP gear and patrol the perimeter for 72 hours. In September 1999, this exercise will

“It’s important that we give people an updated view of the new concepts at basic training. Recruiters need to be able to paint an actual picture for the enlistee.”

SMSgt. Larry Mallett
Recruiting/Retention Superintendent

extend to one full week of training.

“We’re trying to get combat training in them,” Rabel said, “teach them how to live in field conditions.”

Guardmembers also viewed the Services technical school, which provides for an additional week of this type of training as well. During a dormitory tour, many guardmembers patrolled the buffed-

to-perfection, bed-aligned floors as if they themselves were doing an inspection. More than the awe of ever having lived in those conditions were the “remember when” stories that arose.

For lunch Ohioans were paired with short-term trainees to hear a firsthand account of basic



Brig. Gen. Paul J. Sullivan (right), assistant adjutant general for Air, talks with AB Kristen Shade, a trainee at Lackland and a member of the 179th Airlift Wing, Mansfield, about her experiences.

training. Reporting statements quickly turned into relaxed conversation as the delegation talked with the soon-to-be airmen. After lunch the group met with four Ohio National Guard trainees in various stages of training.

“It’s really hard,” said Kristen Shade, trainee from the 179th Airlift Wing. “Especially when your flight hasn’t learned to work as a team yet.”

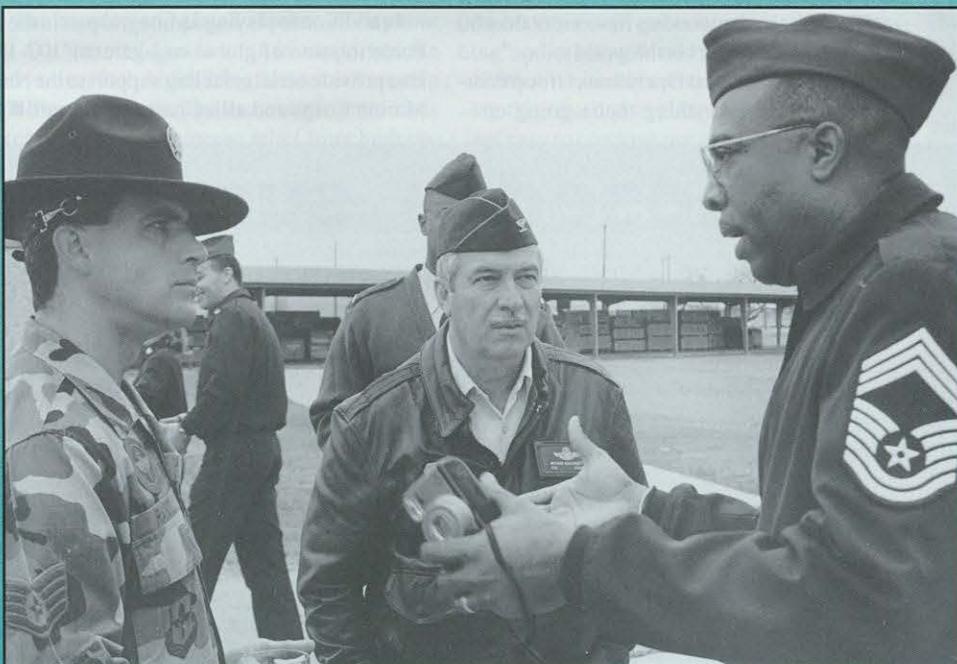
Other Ohio trainees talked to the group about their expected career fields and what they thought of such basic training additions as the field exercise and the new confidence course. For the most part, all agreed that they were ready to go home.

Overall, the week produced a lot of old memories and a lot of good information.

“It’s important that we give people an updated view of the new concepts at basic training,” Mallett said. “Recruiters need to be able to paint an actual picture for the enlistee.”

Thirty-three Ohians now know what that picture looks like...a new way of training for a new millenium. ■

LEFT: SSgt. James Rabel (left), a training instructor at Lackland, is questioned by CMSgt. James Mock (right) as Col. Myron Ashcraft, OHANG chief of staff, looks on.



Ohio Air Guard units help U.S.



Photo by Steve Toth, AG Dept. Public Affairs Office.

ABOVE: Brig. Gen. Lance Meyer, 121st ARW commander (right), talks with Jerry Revish of Columbus television station WBNS the day of the deployment. **RIGHT:** Capt. Troy Smith, a DESERT FOX volunteer from the 121st, stands by a KC-135 after returning home.



Courtesy photo by The Columbus Dispatch.

121st ARW joins in DESERT FOX fight

By Capt. Denise Varner
121st Air Refueling Wing

Two KC-135 Stratotanker refueling aircraft and two aircrews from the 121st Air Refueling Wing, Columbus, deployed Dec. 17 as part of the military build-up for Operation DESERT FOX.

"One Stratotanker was scheduled to go to Pease Air Force Base, New Hampshire, and the other to Spain, but both ended up staying at Pease," said Brig. Gen. Lance Meyer, 121st commander.

One aircrew refueled two B-1 bombers as they were headed over the Atlantic Ocean to take part in the bombings in Iraq.

All members of each aircrew—composed of a pilot, co-pilot, navigator, boom operator and two

crew chiefs—volunteered for the deployment, leaving their families less than one week before the Christmas holiday, not sure when they would be going home. The deployment was slated to last seven days, with the possibility that it could have been extended, but both crews returned Dec. 21.

In the past two years, the 121st ARW also has provided refueling support for missions to Iraq in Operations NORTHERN WATCH and SOUTHERN WATCH, and the peacekeeping mission in Bosnia, Operation JOINT GUARD.

"The reserve components have more than 60 percent of the refuelers in the world today," said Col. Ron Albers, 121st Operations Group commander. "With everything that's going on—

Bosnia, Korea, Hurricane Mitch (relief) and the Persian Gulf—there's just a real need for a lot of refueling missions, and that's why there's a need for the Guard and Reserve to help."

According to statistics provided by the Air Mobility Command, the Air National Guard and the Air Force Reserve fly 268 of the 442 Stratotankers in the command. With the reserve components managing a majority of refueling aircraft, increased operations tempo around the world calls for more support from the Air Guard and Air Reserve.

In addition to playing an integral part in the Air Force mission of global engagement, KC-135s also provide aerial refueling support to the Navy, Marine Corps and allied nations' aircraft. ■

Operation diagnosed a success

By Senior Master Sgt. Jim Katzaman
Air Force Print News

After launching hundreds of cruise missiles and dropping untold tons of bombs from allied aircraft, the Operation DESERT FOX assault against Iraqi military targets concluded Dec. 19.

President Clinton, following the advice of his national security team, told the nation that four nights of bombing sites suspected for production of weapons of mass destruction and other military and security targets had met allied goals.

Clinton said he was "terribly proud of our men and women in uniform. Once again, they have done a difficult job with skill, dedication and determination."

Secretary of Defense William S. Cohen agreed.

"All Americans should be proud of the soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines who executed Operation DESERT FOX," he said.

Joint Chiefs Chairman Gen. Henry H. Shelton noted the role played by aircrews who moved and supported forces into and around the area of operations. These included Air Force and Air National Guard crews of the U.S. Transportation Command.

These crews, Shelton said, "know how critical their contributions are to the overall operation. So do the crews of the aerial refueling aircraft, without whose support these strikes, indeed, even getting the equipment to the fight, would not have been possible.

"In fact," he said, "I think their motto should probably be 'try fighting without us.'" ■

military maintain **OPTEMPO**



Photo by Tech. Sgt. G.M. Kobashigawa, 1st Combat Communications Squadron.

Supplies are unloaded from one of the 179th Airlift Wing's C-130s in Tazar, Hungary.

179th supports JOINT FORGE

Members of the 179th Airlift Wing, Mansfield, returned last October after participating in Operation JOINT FORGE (originally known as PROVIDE PROMISE and later JOINT ENDEAVOR).

Two unit C-130 aircraft along with aircrew and support personnel participated as part of a rainbow Guard coalition that also included units from Alaska, Georgia and West Virginia as the major players during the last month of the three-month rotation. Additional units from across the United States were represented in the earlier rotations as well as individual augmentees from various units who helped fill in the gaps that the major units could not cover.

The rotation completed another 90-day tour by Air National Guard units in support of the active-duty 86th Airlift Wing, located at Ramstein Air Base, Germany. The successful rotation was exemplary of the immense relief from high operations tempo provided by reserve component units to their active-duty counterparts.

Operations occur out of a separate squadron and flight line/maintenance area at Ramstein, and personnel include everyone from pilots and air crewmembers to maintenance, life support, intelligence and transportation personnel, first sergeants and administrative specialists—everything one would find in almost any operational C-130 unit.

Missions currently continue to fly into Bosnia and other neighboring countries, including Hungary, Macedonia and the Kosovo region. These missions support the peacekeeping forces on the ground in those areas by carrying personnel into and out of the area along with supplies required for the ground forces. The mission aircraft continue to be fully equipped with active defen-

sive systems and armor while crews wear survival vests and flak jackets due to the ongoing hostilities and uncertainty in the areas.

During the rotation from mid-July to late October 1998, the Air National Guard completed 464 of 482 scheduled missions for just more than a 96 percent effectiveness rating. During those missions, 3,700 tons of cargo were transported, along with 10,832 passengers.

The 179th AW is one of many reserve units which have been supporting these missions in Eastern Europe for well over five years now.

"For those who even begin to know some of the history of the Balkans, many feel that what we are doing is fruitless and that when we leave, the countries will go back to their ethnic cleansing and warring," said Maj. Mark Lynskey, 179th AW chief of current operations. "Allowing this situation to go unchecked, however, is not easy to condone nor is it in the best interest of the U.S. or Europe."

Continuing uncertainty and volatility in the region means the 179th may be called on for future support missions, Lynskey said.

"For a unit with only eight aircraft and approximately 1,000 total personnel, filling these commitments is a major effort, especially when you consider that the unit has already been to Oman for over a month this past June and July (1998) as well as the aforementioned deployment," he said. "My hat is off to our traditional guardmembers who somehow continue to step forward selflessly to fill these commitments while working in their civilian career and juggling their family life." ■

EDITOR'S NOTE: Maj. Mark Lynskey, 179th AW, contributed information for this article.

EAF plan changes mission taskings for Air Guard units

By Capt. Denise Varner
121st Air Refueling Wing

Doing more with less has seemingly become the Air National Guard motto of the '90s. If the Expeditionary Aerospace Force concept evolves as planned, the future will find the ANG relieved of some present overtaskings, while achieving more.

The Air Force is changing the way units are tasked to support worldwide missions, said Lt. Col. Matt Musial, ANG advisor to the Air Mobility Command deputy commander for operations at Scott Air Force Base, Ill. He recently visited the 121st Air Refueling Wing, Columbus, to explain how the EAF concept may affect units.

EAF is the overall plan of the new Air Force and ANG to conduct business; there will be 10 Air Expeditionary Forces (AEFs), the actual units that will implement the EAF philosophy.

As in the past, a combination of two Guard tanker wings will cover a contingency such as Istres, France or Pisa, Italy, one as lead unit, and the other as backup. Crews and support personnel will rotate in and out for two weeks of duty on the deployment. Each of the 121st Air Refueling squadrons will be part of a separate AEF.

"It's no different than what you're doing now," Musial said. "But, we now know where each plane and each airman is at any time—all are accounted for, and each unit is pulling its fair share. The primary goal was to ensure equity."

The 10 Air Expeditionary Forces will include fighters, tactical airlift aircraft and support forces. Each AEF will be able to respond to a variety of combat and humanitarian missions. Two of them will be on alert or deployed for a 90-day cycle, two will be preparing to deploy and the others will be conducting training to remain ready.

The EAF plan is good news for airmen wanting more stability in their lives; with the EAF they'll be on call for only 90 days every 15 months.

Col. Ron Albers, 121st Operations Group commander, added, "I think the OPTEMPO (operations tempo) is going to go down, and the obligation for guardmembers to perform extra duty will also go down. A key point is that traditional guardmembers won't be tasked with more than two weeks annually unless they really want extra duty." ■

Guard units 'adopt' Columbus-area high school

Story by 2nd Lt. Kristine Varga
237th Personnel Services Battalion

The Ohio National Guard continued its proud tradition of working with the youth of the state when yet another school was "adopted" through the Adopt-A-School program by three Ohio Army Guard units at the end of last year.

Westland High School, in southwest Columbus, was officially adopted by the 237th Personnel Service Battalion and its subordinate 337th and 437th Personnel Service Detachments in a Nov. 3 ceremony at the school.

The ceremony began with the Westland High School Junior ROTC Color Guard posting the colors. Lt. Col. Luther Kennedy of the school's JROTC program then welcomed everyone to the ceremony and introduced Lt. Col. J.R. Nolen Jr., 237th PSB commander, and other representatives from the Ohio Air and Army National Guard. Nolen gave a brief overview of the Adopt-A-School program and presented the official adoption certificate to Kennedy.

The highlight of the evening was the promotion ceremony for several JROTC cadets. To make the promotion ceremony more meaningful to the cadets, the representatives of the Air and Army National Guard who were present were given the opportunity to promote the cadets. For a JROTC cadet, the promotion exemplified their commitment to excellence and also gave



Courtesy photo.

LTC J.R. Nolen (left) presents retired Lt. Col. Luther Kennedy, Westland High School Junior ROTC commander, with Westland's Adopt-A-School certificate.

them exposure to the military's rank structure.

The 237th PSB has shown great interest in becoming actively involved with Westland High School. One project that the battalion has conducted since the adoption was a food and clothing drive. After completing the drive in December, the collected items were then donated to people living in the school's community.

Another significant event was the school's participation with the 237th PSB in a 1998 Veteran's Day parade. The JROTC Color Guard carried the Adjutant General's Corps colors along with the unit guidon.

"I am pleased with the battalion's enthusiasm

toward helping the students and promoting the Guard in a positive light," Nolen said.

Some projects planned for the near future include the shadow program, where high school students can shadow guardmembers by following them around for a day during drill to learn more about what the guardmembers do; the tutor program, geared to help students pass the high school proficiency tests; taking a field trip to Gettysburg or Washington, D.C. with the JROTC cadets; and representing the National Guard at the school's career day this spring.

The Adopt-A-School program, cosponsored by the Columbus Public Schools and the Greater Columbus Chamber of Commerce, has expanded from two school-business partnerships in 1980 to more than 375 business partners today. Since 1989 the total value of goods and services provided by the school-business partners has exceeded \$3 million annually.

In 1991, the Ohio National Guard became actively involved with the program and made it policy that all units adopt a school in their respective local areas. Currently there are more than 5,000 partnership volunteers working with Columbus Public Schools. This is equivalent to more than 120,000 hours being contributed to the program. Today Adopt-A-School partnerships are reaching more students, addressing a wider range of needs and involving every sector of the Columbus community. ■

Explorer cadets' survival skills put to test

Braving subzero weather conditions, 25 Military Explorer cadets from the Stow Armory and advisors from the 1st Battalion, 107th Cavalry, Stow, and Detachment 4, Headquarters State Area Command (Recruiting), took part in the annual Klondike Derby conducted Jan. 9-10 at the Camp Manitowick Boy Scout reservation.

The group set up operations at

the camp on the Friday evening of the competition, which was marked by 20-degree temperatures and freezing rain, in preparation for the following day's activities.

Dawn on Saturday morning brought even colder temperatures for the cadets. Prior to the start of the Klondike events, the teams were treated to a hot breakfast, after which they were trained in treating

cold weather injuries and separated into buddy teams. The cadets pulled ahkio sleds packed with specific equipment to each station. The station events were comprised of winter survival, "Death Stick 2000" ice hockey, first aid, ice rescue (snow shoes, cross-country skiing, rescue sleds) and a timed Iditarod endurance event.

About half of the overall scouts in the competition spent the night in cabins, but not the Stow Explorers—they opted to stay in a general purpose (GP) medium tent with a thick straw-covered floor. The evening events included a night orienteering and compass course that ended about 9 p.m. within a warm council hall building that housed a live youth band and all the nachos and cheese and hot chocolate one could put away.

The Explorer cadets went home Sunday with the knowledge of how to survive in a winter environment.

Many cadets and advisors said they are looking forward to next year's Klondike Derby.

"The Klondike Derby went very well," said Sgt. 1st Class David L. Adams, a Military Explorer group advisor and strength maintenance NCO for Detachment 4, Headquarters, State Area Command. "It taught the Explorers leadership, winter survival and teamwork. It also showed the community that the National Guard is involved with its youth."

In addition to the unit's advisors, Service Battery, 1-134th Field Artillery (155SP), Medina, provided personnel and equipment support for the Stow Explorers participation at the Klondike Derby. ■

EDITOR'S NOTE: Sgt. 1st Class David L. Adams, Detachment 4, HQ STARC, contributed information for this article.



Courtesy photo.

Military Explorer cadets from the Stow Armory post compete in one of the events at the annual Klondike Derby, which tested them on a variety of skills including winter survival and first aid.

Ohio National Guard recognized for vital youth programming

The Ohio National Guard received one of the Ohio Department of Education's premiere awards for the organization's efforts to enrich the lives of the state's young people.

The ONG was the recipient of the 1998 Asset Builder Award, presented by the Department of Education's Safe, Drug-Free Schools Program Office. The award was presented in December at the Ohio Prevention and Education Conference.

Since its inception in 1997, the Asset Builder Award is presented to an individual or organization that exemplifies a positive approach to youth development by investing wisely in Ohio's youth, increasing their exposure to positive, constructive activities, and instilling values and skills that will guide them throughout life.

According to Mike Magnusson, consultant to the Safe, Drug-Free Schools Program, the members of the Ohio National Guard have served and continue to serve Ohio's youth as positive role models through many initiatives including the Red Ribbon Week celebration, Teen Education and Motivation (TEAM) camps and the Higher Ground character education program. *Compiled by the Adj. Gen. Dept. Public Affairs Office.*

'Drug Czar' office pays visit to Youngstown

The Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP), also known as the office of the "Drug Czar," recently visited Youngstown at the request of the city mayor's office. The Ohio National Guard Counterdrug Task Force hosted the visit along with the Youngstown Police Department and Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA).

The visit was in keeping with ONDCP practice of assisting communities particularly hard hit by drugs. The Justice Department's Operation Weed and Seed program and the enterprise zone/community empowerment initiatives seek to eliminate drug dealers from an area; create economic opportunities to prevent their return; and address the root causes of social problems, including drug use and drug-related crime.

The immense decline of the steel industry in Youngstown has created the perfect environment for crime and drugs to flourish since little economic development has taken place to offset the loss. What has increased, unfortunately, is the rate of drug-related homicides.

According to Youngstown Mayor George McKelvey, last year alone there were 55 homicides (the population of Youngstown is 85,000).

The murder rate has gone up every year and the mayor said he expects the homicide rate to increase in 1999.

Another factor facing Youngstown is the infiltration of various drug-involved groups from Jamaica and the Dominican Republic. These groups are normally based out of Detroit but have recently expanded their operations into the Youngstown area. These groups tend to specialize in trafficking marijuana but also have no qualms about other criminal activities such as credit card scams, telephone fraud and mail fraud.

What can the Counterdrug Task Force do in a situation like this? The task force tries to synchronize efforts with agencies that are already established. The Counterdrug Task Force has been supporting the DEA in Youngstown with full-time analytical support for the last few months, and this support must continue for eradication efforts to be successful.

As ONDCP and the Youngstown mayor's office further develop a strategy, the Ohio National Guard will stand ready to support this strategy. To make it work, though, will take teamwork, communication and most of all, time. The situation in Youngstown did not occur overnight and, while serious, it is unfortunately not unique. Other communities in Ohio face similar problems. The Counterdrug Task Force will continue to support those communities facing the scourge of drugs and drug-related violence. *Submitted by Maj. Robert Baylor, Adj. Gen. Dept. Military Support Branch.*

Friend to Guard receives OHCOM

Luceille Fleming, director of the Ohio Department of Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services, was awarded the Ohio Commendation Medal on Dec. 31 from Maj. Gen. Richard C. Alexander for her meritorious service to the state of Ohio and the Ohio National Guard.

It was Alexander's last day of service as state adjutant general.



Courtesy photo.

Luceille Fleming (right), director of the Ohio Department of Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services, receives the Ohio Commendation Medal from MG Richard C. Alexander for her and her department's work with the Ohio National Guard in combating drug and alcohol abuse.

The Ohio Commendation Medal is customarily presented to a military service member who distinguishes himself or herself while serving in a military capacity through meritorious achievement. Although it is infrequent, civilians who perform in an outstanding manner, in conjunction with military personnel or military operations, may be given the award at the discretion of the adjutant general.

Other civilians who have received the award include Ohio First Lady Hope Taft and U.S. Sen. Mike DeWine.

"The Ohio Commendation Medal awarded to Director Fleming is rarely presented to civilians and demonstrates the magnitude of our appreciation for her efforts to eliminate substance abuse in Ohio," Alexander said. "Director Fleming is deserving of the honor and prestige that come with receiving this medal, which is presented in the military tradition for performance above and beyond the call of duty."

The Ohio Department of Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services and the Ohio Adjutant General's Department historically have worked together on many alcohol and other drug prevention and awareness events, including Red Ribbon Week celebration, Governor's Juvenile Crime Summit, Ohio Prevention and Education Conference (OPEC) and Parents Resource Institute for Drug Education (PRIDE) World Drug Conference.

Fleming has led Ohio's alcohol and other drug treatment and prevention efforts since the department's inception in 1989. *Submitted by the ODADAS Public Information Office.*



Courtesy photo.

MSgt. Randall Johnson (left) and TSgt. Mark Heacock, both of the 179th Airlift Wing, prepare the Mart EQ-1 Wastewater Treatment System.

179th AW finds new way to reduce waste

The 179th Airlift Wing, Mansfield, recently served as a test site for the installation of a wastewater treatment system to treat C-130 engine compressor wash water and aqueous based parts washer water. This treatment system conserves water and significantly reduces a unit's hazardous waste generation. The 179th AW joined forces with the Mart Corporation and Advanced Chemical to develop this unique treatment process over the past few years.

In 1993, it was discovered that C-130 engine compressor wash water was testing high in cadmium, which was coming from the cadmium plated compressor blades within the turbine engines. Guard units around the nation were then faced with the problem of managing this contaminated wash water, from collection through final disposal.

Originally this wastewater treatment system was designed for treating dirty water generated from the aqueous based parts washers that so many ANG bases have switched to. With a little modification and reengineering, the Mansfield unit was able to develop a "mini-wastewater treatment system" to eliminate engine wash water and aqueous based parts washer water from the unit's hazardous waste generation.

To date, the Mansfield unit has seen a more than 50 percent reduction in their hazardous waste generation.

ANG units have the potential to experience huge cost savings with the wastewater treatment system, but more important, they will be reducing or nearly eliminating the quantity and toxicity of waste that is generated. *Submitted by 2nd Lt. Troy Cramer, 179th AW.*

ONG departs for Central America

A forward command element of the Ohio National Guard, at the forefront of President Clinton's plans for support of Central America, departed from Rickenbacker Army National Guard Enclave the morning of March 13 en route to Honduras.

The Ohio National Guard will have command over 20,000 troops from 34 states who will rotate through the region over a seven-month period as part of Exercise NEW HORIZONS, the U.S. relief effort to restore and repair the infrastructure of Central American countries that were devastated by Hurricane Mitch last October.

The troops, primarily from the reserve components of the Army, Air Force, Navy and Marines, will operate out of Nicaragua, Honduras and Guatemala. They will perform their annual training in two-week increments over the course of the deployment.

The Ohio Army National Guard's 216th Engineer Battalion, headquartered in Hamilton, will have command of relief operations being undertaken in Nicaragua. Named "Task Force Buckeye," the engineer contingent was scheduled to deploy to Nicaragua sometime in mid-May or early June.

"The Ohio National Guard has a history of providing contingency support all over the world. Ohioans should be proud that our National Guard will be engaged once again in providing humanitarian assistance to the Central America region," said Gov. Bob Taft, commander-in-chief of the Ohio National Guard.

Brig. Gen. James E. Caldwell, deputy commander of the OHARNG State Area Command, led a contingent of 50 ONG personnel who set up a headquarters for NEW HORIZONS, the U.S. relief exercise effort based out of Soto Cano Airbase in Honduras. Caldwell is overseeing four separate relief operations in Nicaragua, El Salvador and Guatemala that include road and bridge repair, water well drilling and school and medical clinic construction.

"This effort is the key to shoring up the countries hit hardest by Hurricane Mitch. We will provide the command oversight and logistical support necessary for the mission's success," Caldwell said.

Hurricane Mitch killed more than 9,000 people in Central America, left thousands missing and displaced more than three million Cen-

tral Americans. Hurricane Mitch destroyed the region's crops, roads and water wells, and caused nearly \$10 billion in damage as well. *Submitted by Capt. Neal E. O'Brien, Adj. Gen. Dept. Public Affairs Office.*

EDITOR'S NOTE: *On the back cover of the Buckeye Guard, Sgt. John DaLoia of the 1485th Transportation Company, Dover, holding his son Justin, is interviewed by Columbus television media prior to the initial deployment of Ohio National Guardmembers to Honduras in March to support Exercise NEW HORIZONS.*

Guard acquires land at Ravenna arsenal

The Ohio Army National Guard signed a "memorandum of agreement" with the U.S. Army Industrial Operations Command (IOC), the Army Material Command and the National Guard Bureau that eventually will lead to the transfer of about 16,000 acres at the Ravenna Army Ammunition Plant to the Ohio National Guard.

A ceremony was held between National Guard and Army officials Dec. 29 to mark the transfer of the arsenal, about 30 miles east of Cleveland.

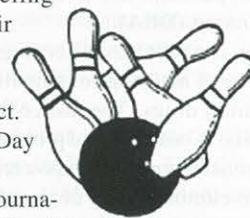
The ONG already has been using portions of Ravenna for training and recently has built one new barrack to house 240 soldiers. The Ravenna Training and Logistics Site, located within the boundaries of the arsenal, eventually will serve as a major training area for the Ohio National Guard. *Compiled by the Adj. Gen. Dept. Public Affairs Office.*

ANG bowling regional tourney set for October

The 1999 Northeast Regional Air National Guard Bowling Tournament, hosted by the 101st Air Refueling Wing, Maine Air National Guard, Bangor, Maine, will take place Oct. 8-10 (Columbus Day weekend).

The bowling tournament is open to all active and retired Air National Guardmembers, and civilians employed by the Air National Guard. Spouses of retired and active members, and of ANG civilian employees, also may enter.

For more information, contact your unit representative or Keith Coe, DFAS Columbus, at (614) 869-7123. *Compiled by the Adj. Gen. Dept. Public Affairs Office.*



Zanesville unit hosts national conference

For the second year in a row the 220th Engineering Installation Squadron, Zanesville, was the site of a national EIS conference.

Sixty-three people representing 19 Air National Guard engineering installation units met last October to discuss issues vital to the engineering installation mission.

This year's conference focused on the loss of personnel and wartime equipment. Also featured were topics important to upcoming exercises and inspections presented by inspector generals from the National Guard Bureau.

With the downsizing of the active duty engineering installation units, the Guard will be accepting more responsibility in the total force mission. However, budget cutbacks still required conference attendees to make a plan to reduce their full-time forces by 38 percent and their vehicle forces by 30 percent.

"We're keeping what's necessary for wartime," said Maj. Jeff Lewis, 220th detachment commander. "But it's still hard to make the cuts." *Submitted by Staff Sgt. Shannon Scherer, HQ OHANG.*

37th Division vets to hold annual reunion

The 37th Division Veterans Association will hold its 81st annual reunion Sept. 3-5 at the Belmont Avenue Ramada Inn in Youngstown.

For more information, write co-chairman Edgar Davis at 4268 Patricia Avenue, Youngstown, Ohio 44511; or co-chairman James McGinnis at 3821 Frederick St., Youngstown, Ohio 44515. Interested individuals also may write the 37th Division Veterans Association at 65 S. Front St., Room 432, Columbus, Ohio 43215; or phone (614) 228-3788. *Submitted by Nick Scarpa, 37th Division Veterans Assn.*

Military analysts sought

The Adjutant General's Department Public Affairs Office currently is looking for retired military officers in the rank of colonel or above who are war college graduates to serve as military analysts for local media (all throughout Ohio) during times of crisis or deployments. Typically, when Ohio Army and Air National Guard units deploy for military operations such as Operation DESERT FOX, local media look for military personnel to offer "expertise" on military tactics, weapons systems and defense department policy. Often, the media wants opinions and speculation on issues which ac-

tively serving military soldiers and airmen should not offer.

In order to assist the media in facilitating an accurate portrayal of military operations, readiness and weapons systems, the office hopes to compile a database of retired officers from which the media can utilize when military forces deploy for a contingency.

Retired officers interested should send a copy of their military resume, to include daytime and evening phone numbers, and e-mail addresses if applicable, to the Adjutant General's Department, Public Affairs Office, 2825 West Dublin Granville Road, Columbus, Ohio 43235-2789. *Submitted by Capt. Neal E. O'Brien, Adj. Gen. Dept. Public Affairs Office.*

Buckeye Guard gets national accolades

The Ohio National Guard took top honors in the 1998 National Guard Bureau Media Contest conducted Jan. 29 in Washington D.C. The **Buckeye Guard** was named one of the best publications in the entire National Guard, winning first place in the magazine category.

It marks a return to the top for the magazine, which previously had finished first in the NGB contest from 1992 to 1995.

The **Buckeye Guard** magazine was then forwarded to the Department of the Army's Keith L. Ware journalism competition, conducted March 1-2 in Alexandria, Va., where the magazine tied for third in its category. The magazine was first in 1994 and second in 1995.

"The success of the magazine in the past year would not have been possible without the support of several Army and Air National Guard journalists and photographers in the field, and unit public affairs representatives (UPARs)," said Capt. Neal E. O'Brien, director of public affairs for the Ohio Adjutant General's Department. *Compiled by the Adj. Gen. Dept. Public Affairs Office.*

Air Guard receives environmental honors

The Ohio Air National Guard fared well at the 1999 National Guard Bureau Environmental Conference, Feb. 22-26 in Gulfport, Miss.

Representatives of the 121st Air Refueling Wing, Columbus, accepted the environmental quality award for the best or most improved program in the country. The 180th Fighter Wing, Toledo, received both the overall recy-



Courtesy photo.

Members of the 179th Airlift Wing, Mansfield, received several awards at the 1999 National Guard Bureau Environmental Conference.

cling award and the recycling award for individual/team excellence. The environmental quality award for individual/team excellence went to the 179th Airlift Wing, Mansfield, for the unit's 1998 Earth Day project.

Individual awards were presented to the 179th AW's Master Sgt. Mark Carey, who got a certificate of appreciation for voluntary achievement. Master Sgt. Barbara Lederman, 180th FW, was recognized with the bioenvironmental engineer technician award. *Submitted by Staff Sgt. Shannon Scherer, HQ, OHANG.*

178th FW birds head south for winter

Snowbirds became showbirds under Arizona skies as F-16s and about 130 members of the 178th Fighter Wing, Springfield, participated in Operation SNOWBIRD Jan. 30-Feb. 12 at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base in Tucson.

Four passenger-filled C-130s departed Springfield during the morning of the Jan. 30 and landed in Arizona six hours later under sunny 70-degree skies.

The two weeks in the desert provided a unique opportunity for heavy training during the winter months when inclement weather can make flying hours tough to come by in Ohio.

"In addition to the obvious benefits of better flying weather, the airspace in our main working areas and the Goldwater Range Complex allows for complex tactical scenarios, live weapons delivery and great air-to-air training," said Lt. Col. Jeffrey T. Williams, detachment commander. "The aircraft load-out provides our crew chiefs and weapons loaders the opportunity to practice working with realistic combat loads on the aircraft." *Submitted by Tech. Sgt. Mike Myers, 178th FW.*

Venerable 'top' has seen much during tenure in Ohio Guard

In the spring of 1957, Dwight D. Eisenhower was just beginning his second term as president. Gasoline was 18 cents a gallon. Elvis Presley was introducing the world to rock 'n' roll and young Cincinnati native Barry Galvin decided to join the Army.

Galvin was 17 and watching many friends around him leaving for the military, so he decided that he wasn't to be left behind. "I heard that it was the fun thing to do," he quipped.

Galvin was sworn into the Ohio Army National Guard at 11:30 p.m. March 25, 1957, electing to enter a home station recruiting company so he could finish high school. Interestingly, Galvin was unaware that at midnight that day a new federal law would go into effect



Galvin ...1957

making basic training mandatory. He avoided that requirement with minutes to spare, but Galvin still worked hard for his unit. After graduation and in the ensuing months, more than 20 members of Galvin's high school class would be sworn into his platoon.

Guard funding was severely cut during the late 1950s. Galvin's first uniform was a hand-me-down with three patches sewn on the back of the fatigue shirt to cover holes. Brown boots and shoes complemented the uniform.

"We were not issued field jackets or sleeping bags. We were told that they were not available and were issued two wool blankets instead," Galvin said. "On one of my early summer camps (later known as annual training) we arrived in Grayling, Mich., to find four inches of snow on the ground. There were no buildings and we were sleeping in tents. It was tough but we made it through."

Essential equipment and training materials also were hard to come by in those days. "There were not enough rifles, so many of the soldiers learned the manual of arms with broom sticks," he said. Galvin still has the hand-drawn, colored maps that he prepared for his first students in a map reading course because even the simplest of training aids were not available either. "Regardless of the handicaps incurred due to lack of funding, morale was always high," he recalled.

During his first summer camp in Breckenridge, Ky., as a private first class in Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 147th Infantry Regiment, Galvin decided that he wanted to become a first sergeant. "I remember telling my first sergeant that some day I would have his job." Galvin's take-home pay for those two weeks was \$36. Regular drill pay was paid quarterly.

When Galvin was promoted to sergeant, he had to learn cadence and march troops. This requirement was met in a unique way when he was attending the University of Cincinnati.

"UC had a new Bear Kittens (female) drill team," Galvin said. "They needed to know how to march and I needed the practice so we all learned our necessary skills."



Galvin ...today

During the early 1960s and through the Vietnam era, the Guard began receiving better uniforms and equipment and in 1967, training standards began to be upgraded. Galvin went to Fort Benning, Ga., for a six-week course on the ENTAC (wire-guided French missile system). He later served in several other positions including mortar sergeant for nine years, infantry platoon sergeant for five years, battalion S3 sergeant, battalion S2 sergeant and brigade intelligence sergeant.

It was in 1978 that Galvin's long term goal was realized. He was assigned as first sergeant of the unit that he had joined 21 years earlier. "In this position I was able to communicate, guide and direct the lives of soldiers," he said.

In 1987, after Operation ARTIC WARRIOR in Adak, Alaska, Galvin transferred to the 73rd Infantry Brigade Headquarters in Columbus, and was there until the brigade disbanded. His next stop was armor school at Gowan Field, Idaho, and then was reassigned to Headquarters Company, 134th Field Artillery, Columbus. Eventually Galvin got the opportunity to be a first sergeant again, this time for C Battery, 134th Field Artillery, serving for two years.

Forty-two years have come and gone since Galvin joined the Ohio Army National Guard. After transitioning from summer camps to annual training, and watching the National Guard become an equal partner in America's fighting forces, Galvin changed with it and is still calling formations. He is currently the first sergeant for the Headquarters Company, 371st Corps Support Group, Kettering.

"It has been a wonderful experience," he said. "I only wish I could spend another 20 years with the troops." Submitted by Sgt. 1st Class Bob Mullins, HQ STARC (-).

Department employees honored for generosity

Adjutant General's Department employees were honored Feb 5, for their contributions to help the 1998 Combined Federal and Combined Charitable campaigns.

The **Gold Honor Award**, given to agencies with per capita giving levels of \$75 or more, was presented to the employees of Beightler Armory and the Army National Guard at Rickenbacker.

The Air National Guard employees at Rickenbacker ANG Base received the **Gold and Glass Award** for having the most significant increase in overall campaign performance from the previous year.

Some individual donors were recognized as well. Spc. Brian Lehigh and Lou Ann Wehling pledged 3 percent of their salaries to the campaigns, while Lt. Col. Deborah Ashenhurst and Lt. Col. Duncan Aukland committed 2 percent of their annual income. All are full-time employees of Beightler Armory except for Ashenhurst, who is a full-time Army Guard employee at Rickenbacker Army Enclave.

Overall, nearly 48 percent of Adjutant General's Department employees contributed to the campaigns. Compiled by the Adj. Gen. Dept. Public Affairs Office.



Photo by Todd Cramer, AG Dept. Photo Lab.

Adj. Gen. Maj. Gen. John Smith accepts a plaque of appreciation from Judy Dixon of the United Way, for the generosity displayed by Adj. Gen. Dept. employees during the 1998 Combined Federal and Combined Charitable campaigns.

Smith receives first Order of Musket award

Ohio's Air National Guard enlisted members gathered on Feb. 26 to present the highest honor bestowed by the enlisted force to Maj. Gen. John Smith, state adjutant general. The first Order of the Musket was awarded to Smith during an evening of tradition and camaraderie as more than 180 guardmembers from across Ohio joined in the celebration.

Part of Ohio's kick-off for the Air National Guard's Year of the Enlisted celebration, the dining-in was held at the Redtail Angels Dining Facility at Rickenbacker Airport, Columbus.

The Order of the Musket, established in 1992, is patterned after the Air Force's Order of the Sword. The Order of the Musket is a means of recognizing and honoring individuals, both military and civilian, for conspicuous and significant contributions to the welfare and prestige of the enlisted corps of the Ohio ANG.

Smith was nominated and selected during his term as Ohio's assistant adjutant general for Air. His outstanding accomplishments included putting more emphasis on the family while commander of the 180th Fighter Wing, Toledo, and for creating an ethics forum to address issues of diversity while commander of the 121st Air Refueling Wing, Columbus.

An honor guard from the 179th Airlift Wing, Mansfield, presented the colors and the flute ensemble of the 555th Air Force Band, Toledo, provided music during the dinner.

Staff Sgt. Peter Smith, the general's own son, served as duty sergeant for the awards program. The official Order of the Musket proclamation was presented to the general along with a replica of the first Minuteman Musket. Smith's wife, Anita, also was honored with a framed poem entitled "The Military Wife."

During his acceptance speech, Maj. Gen. Smith was noticeably moved by the recognition as he thanked the audience.

"You are the masters," Smith said. "I wouldn't be here if it was not for the efforts of our enlisted. Thank you." *Submitted by Staff Sgt. Shannon Scherer, HQ OHANG.*

ONG fields team at biathlon competition

The 1999 Chief, National Guard Bureau Biathlon Championships saw another contingent from Ohio represent the state's Army and Air Guard Feb. 6-14 on the wintery slopes at two locations—the Ethan Allen Nordic Center in Jericho, Vt., and at Lake Placid, N.Y.

Participating in the 10-kilometer men's sprint

competition were Capt. Larry Henry, Staff Sgt. Rick Githens and Spc. Aaron Rourke, all of Company B, 2-19th Special Forces Group, Chagrin Falls; Tech Sgt. Greg Rudl of the 121st Air Refueling Wing, Columbus; and Maj. Thomas Haidet and Maj. Christian Klinefelter of Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, State Area Command, Columbus. Githens was the top Ohio placer in the competition, finishing 67th.

The team of Rudl, Haidet, Henry and Githens finished 11th in the 4-by-7.5-km relay.

Representing the Buckeye State in the 7.5-km women's sprint competition were Master Sgt. Donna Rakes, HHD STARC; and Sgt. 1st Class Andrea Mahr, Detachment 4, HQ STARC (Recruiting). *Compiled by the Adj. Gen. Dept. Public Affairs Office.*

Former TAG serving as NGAUS director

Fifty-six thousand National Guard officers now rely on the recently retired head of the Ohio National Guard to manage their association's daily activities in the nation's capital. Maj. Gen.



Alexander

Richard C. Alexander replaced retired Maj. Gen. Edward J. Philbin in January as executive director of the National Guard Association of the United States (NGAUS).

Philbin began serving in the position in June 1995. The NGAUS Executive

Council, the association's 28-member governing body, selected Alexander in June 1998 from a pool of distinguished applicants after Philbin announced his intention to step down at the end of last year.

As executive director, Alexander, a former association president, will manage the daily operations of the NGAUS and its 25-member Washington staff. He is the fifth NGAUS executive director since the position was created in 1974 and the first African-American to hold the post. *Submitted by NGAUS Public Affairs.*



Photo by Steve Toth, AG Dept. Public Affairs Office.

Neoma Lucas (center) displays the Saint Joan D'Arc medallion and certificate presented by the United States Armor Association for her work as a family support group coordinator. With her are CSM Mike Howley (left), state command sergeant major, and her husband, CSM James Lucas, Camp Perry command sergeant major.

Lucas recognized for family support work

Neoma Lucas was the latest in a line of distinguished women to receive the Saint Joan D'Arc Medallion.

The award originated in 1994 and is presented by the United States Armor Association to honor women who volunteer their time and contribute significantly to the morale, spirit and welfare of armor or cavalry units and communities.

Lucas was honored for her work as a family support group coordinator for the Camp Perry Training Site and the former 107th Armored Cavalry Regiment. She is the wife of Command Sgt. Maj. James Lucas of Detachment 2, Headquarters, State Area Command (Camp Perry).

The Saint Joan D'Arc Medallion award consists of a certificate and a silver medallion suspended from a yellow ribbon. The 37th Armor Brigade awards these medallions in the name of the Armor Association to women each year who contribute to the betterment of the 37th Armor Brigade units and communities.

Other recipients of the award include:

1996—Barbara Carter, 37th Armor Brigade (first Saint Joan D'Arc ever awarded in Ohio).

1997—Jackie M. Chaney and Lisa Hartmen, 1-147th Armor Battalion; and Diana Whatmough, 1-107th Armor Battalion.

1998—Carol Jackson, 37th Armor Brigade.

1999—Cindi Perez, 1-107th Armor Battalion.

Submitted by Brig. Gen. David Hartley, 38th Infantry Division.

Reserve commissary visits doubled

Congress voted last fall to double the number of visits reservists, National Guard and gray-area retirees may make to the commissary, from 12 to 24.

But to take advantage of the increase, reserve members still need the Commissary Privilege Card to get in the door. Guard and Reserve units issue the cards to their members.

The expanded commissary benefit is also available to reserve component retirees who are not yet 60 years old, but will be eligible for retired pay when they hit that magic number. The commissary privilege also applies to family members of current and retired reserve component personnel.

"Service in the National Guard and Reserve is now more challenging and more difficult than ever before," said Charles L. Cragin, acting assistant secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs. "Doubling the commissary access for reservists and their families helps to level the playing field and improve their quality of life."

According to Col. James Scott, Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs, "many reservists feel it's a significant entitlement.

"The problem is lack of awareness—the reservists don't always know about the benefit or take advantage of it."

For 1999, the services indicate they will issue two 12-visit cards. Next year, the card will be revised to contain 24 blocks.

To shop the commissary, reservists or immediate family need a valid identification card and a current Commissary Privilege Card that entitles them to 24 shopping days. Cards, which are usually obtained from the Reserve/Guard unit administrator, are stamped or initialed at each store visit. During active duty, Reserve and Guard personnel can visit the commissary as many times as they wish and do not have to get their card initialed.

Gray-area reserve retirees (younger than 60) usually get their cards by mail, but "judging from some of the phone calls I've gotten, it's not automatic," said Lt. Col. Terry Jones, Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs.

Scott said retirees who want to get "into the system" and obtain a card by mail should contact their regional personnel support team.

Reservists needing a card should contact their unit administrator or call:

◆ Army Reserve, 1-800-325-1869

◆ Navy Reserve, 1-800-535-2699, extension 5500 or (504) 678-5500

◆ Marine Corps Reserve, (703) 784-9317

◆ Air Force Reserve, 1-800-525-0102, extension 227.

Guardmembers on state active duty for federally declared disaster operations (and their family members) are allowed to use commissary stores during the period of their active service. Required documentation is a military order stating that the guardmember is serving in support of a federally declared disaster. (*Air Force Print News*)

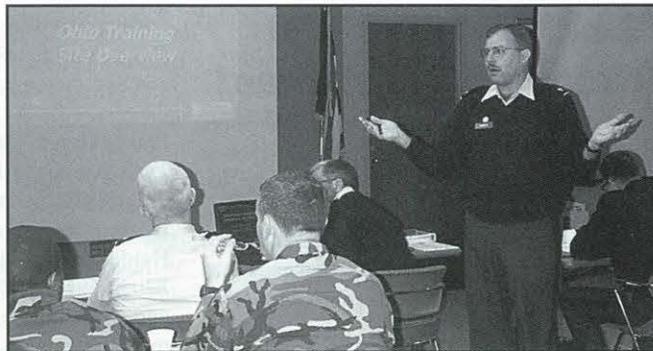


Photo by Steve Toth, AG Dept. Public Affairs Office.

COL Matt Kambic, the Plans, Operations and Training officer for the Ohio Army National Guard, explains the force structure of the state's units to Army ROTC cadre from around Ohio. The Ohio Army Guard hosted a conference in February aimed at fostering better training and recruiting relationships with ROTC battalions at universities around the state.

Ohio Army Guard, ROTC work together

The Ohio Army National Guard held a conference recently for several ROTC cadre from colleges and universities around Ohio to better inform them about the variety of Guard units, training sites and programs such as the Simultaneous Membership Program (SMP) that can be of great benefit to both entities.

Conducted Feb. 24 in Columbus, the conference afforded Army Guard leaders the opportunity to highlight technologies such as the distance learning network, where students can take self-paced, computer-based courses in various subjects. Also discussed was the possibility of ROTC units training in the Fort

Ohio system—which is comprised of Camp Perry, Camp Sherman, Tarlton and Ravenna Training and Logistics Site.

The SMP is where a soldier can be a member of the Army Guard and in ROTC at the same time, while receiving pay and benefits from both organizations. Combined benefits include all or part of a student's college tuition paid through various programs, books and supplies allowance, monthly stipend, and Guard drill pay as an E-5 while in the program. Cadets serve in a Guard unit and attend drills while in school, and receive commissions as second lieutenants after completing ROTC and graduating college.

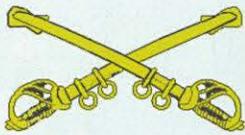
For more information, call 1-888-OH-GUARD. (*Adj. Gen. Dept. Public Affairs Office*)

Reserve Pay for 4 Drill Periods

YEARS OF SERVICE

Grade	<2	2	3	4	6	8	10	12	14	16	18	20	22	24	26
O-10	1045.16	1081.92	1081.92	1081.92	1081.92	1123.44	1123.44	1185.68	1185.68	1270.52	1270.52	1355.60	1355.60	1355.60	1440.00
O-9	926.28	950.56	970.80	970.80	970.80	995.48	995.48	1036.92	1036.92	1123.44	1123.44	1185.68	1185.68	1185.68	1270.52
O-8	838.96	864.16	884.60	884.60	884.60	950.56	950.56	995.48	995.48	1036.92	1081.92	1123.44	1151.16	1151.16	1151.16
O-7	697.12	744.52	744.52	744.52	777.92	777.92	823.00	823.00	864.16	950.56	1015.96	1015.96	1015.96	1015.96	1015.96
O-6	516.68	567.64	604.88	604.88	604.88	604.88	604.88	604.88	625.44	724.32	761.28	777.92	823.00	850.80	892.56
O-5	413.28	485.24	518.80	518.80	518.80	518.80	534.40	563.24	601.00	646.00	682.96	703.72	728.32	728.32	728.32
O-4	348.32	424.16	452.44	452.44	460.84	481.16	514.04	542.92	567.64	592.64	608.88	608.88	608.88	608.88	608.88
O-3	323.68	361.88	386.92	428.08	448.60	464.64	489.84	514.04	526.60	526.60	526.60	526.60	526.60	526.60	526.60
O-2	282.28	308.28	370.36	382.84	390.72	390.72	390.72	390.72	390.72	390.72	390.72	390.72	390.72	390.72	390.72
O-1	245.08	255.08	308.28	308.28	308.28	308.28	308.28	308.28	308.28	308.28	308.28	308.28	308.28	308.28	308.28
O-3E	0.00	0.00	0.00	428.08	448.60	464.64	489.84	514.04	534.40	534.40	534.40	534.40	534.40	534.40	534.40
O-2E	0.00	0.00	0.00	382.84	390.72	403.12	424.16	440.40	452.44	452.44	452.44	452.44	452.44	452.44	452.44
O-1E	0.00	0.00	0.00	308.28	329.32	341.44	353.84	366.12	382.84	382.84	382.84	382.84	382.84	382.84	382.84
W-5	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	562.84	584.12	601.04	626.36
W-4	329.76	353.84	353.84	361.88	378.40	395.04	411.64	440.40	460.84	477.94	489.84	505.60	522.52	538.80	563.24
W-3	299.72	325.12	325.12	329.32	336.16	357.56	378.40	390.72	403.12	415.20	428.08	444.76	460.84	460.84	477.04
W-2	262.52	284.04	284.04	292.28	308.28	325.12	337.48	349.84	361.88	374.60	386.92	399.08	415.20	415.20	415.20
W-1	218.72	250.76	250.76	271.72	284.04	296.20	308.28	320.96	333.16	345.56	357.56	370.36	370.36	370.36	370.36
E-9	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	383.64	392.28	401.12	410.40	419.60	427.68	450.12	467.64	493.96
E-8	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	321.68	331.00	339.64	348.48	357.72	365.84	374.84	396.88	414.52	441.42
E-7	224.64	242.52	251.40	260.28	269.16	277.72	286.60	295.56	308.88	317.68	326.48	330.72	352.96	370.52	396.88
E-6	193.24	210.64	219.40	228.72	237.32	245.88	254.88	268.00	276.44	285.36	289.68	289.68	289.68	289.68	289.68
E-5	169.56	184.56	193.52	201.96	215.24	224.04	232.84	241.48	245.88	245.88	245.88	245.88	245.88	245.88	245.88
E-4	158.12	167.04	176.88	190.48	198.04	198.04	198.04	198.04	198.04	198.04	198.04	198.04	198.04	198.04	198.04
E-3	149.04	157.20	163.44	169.96	169.96	169.96	169.96	169.96	169.96	169.96	169.96	169.96	169.96	169.96	169.96
E-2	143.44	143.44	143.44	143.44	143.44	143.44	143.44	143.44	143.44	143.44	143.44	143.44	143.44	143.44	143.44
E-154	127.92	127.92	127.92	127.92	127.92	127.92	127.92	127.92	127.92	127.92	127.92	127.92	127.92	127.92	127.92
E-1<4	118.36	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

WYATT EARP '99



Scouts of Bravo Troop, 2-107th CAV engage in a little friendly competition

Story and photos by Steve Toth
Adj. Gen. Dept. Public Affairs Office

At one time or another, American Wild West icon Wyatt Earp rode shotgun the stagecoach lines, was a buffalo hunter and Indian fighter in addition to what he is best known for—serving as a U.S. marshal.

Similarly, U.S. Army Cavalry scouts always have been known to be versatile soldiers. Having a long tradition of being the “eyes and ears” of an armor battalion, cavalry scouts are highly trained in reconnaissance and survivability skills. Their key missions are to locate the enemy, determine his disposition and report appropriate information back to the battalion.

To survive, even with the finest tanks in the world, an armor battalion must know what it is facing. Scouts must maintain proficiency in their assigned skills in order for the entire battalion to be ready. Therefore, cavalry units test their soldiers on a regular basis with the Scout Crew Competency Test (SCCT).

Troop B, 2-107th Cavalry, Lebanon, nicknamed “The Black Knights,” has taken the required testing of its cavalry scouts’ skills one step



PFC Gordon Cairns (left) begins assembling an M-60 machine gun while SPC Ben Brown runs to gather more weapons parts.

further with its annual Wyatt Earp Competition. Conceived by Maj. Mark Slavik, former Bravo Troop commander, the competition is a way to motivate the troopers completing their annual SCCT.

“It’s a real team effort—like a Top Gun competition for a tank crew,” said Capt. Lance Armbruster, current Bravo Troop commander.

The troop’s scouts are divided into three section teams, consisting of about seven to 10 soldiers each, who compete against each other in a wide spectrum of events. This year’s competition, conducted mainly during the unit’s two-day drill on Feb. 20-21, included a tactical exercise to recon an obstacle, drill and ceremonies, call for artillery fire exercise and a written test on scout platoon standard operating procedures (SOPs).

Results from the unit’s Army Physical Fitness Test (APFT) taken in January also would factor into the competition, as would each section’s knowledge of weapons systems. In one of the more spirited events, each section was timed on how quickly its members could pull together and assemble an M-9 pistol, M-16 rifle, M-60 machine gun, .50-caliber machine gun and TOW missile system. The hook was that the parts of all five weapons were mixed together and spread out on the floor—so the scouts not only had to know how to re-assemble the weapons but which parts went with which weapon.

“You’ve got to know how to put the parts together, and also have to recognize if there’s a part missing,” said Sgt. Stephen Hargraves, scout instructor and one of the unit noncommissioned officers who administered the competition.

Army ROTC cadets from Wright State University near Dayton also helped run the events. Through the years, the unit has had several WSU cadets enroll in the Guard through the Simulta-



ABOVE: SSG Mark Federle, second section team leader, uses red tape to mark the location of concertina wire that his scout team has discovered during the tactical phase of the Wyatt Earp competition. LEFT: CPL Adam Martin awaits instructions before planning his next move during a call for artillery fire exercise.

neous Membership Program, Armbruster said.

The final event of the Wyatt Earp competition, held on the Sunday of drill, was a 12-kilometer road march with full rucksacks. The event also would serve as a tiebreaker if necessary—and it was. After the road march, the second section, led by Staff Sgt. Mark Federle, and the third section, led by Sgt. Jeff Aldrich, tied with 625 points each. The second section was crowned champion by virtue of winning the timed road march. The first section, headed by Staff Sgt. Eric Payton, finished with 550 points.

Other members of the winning second section team were Sgt. Steve Dean, Spcs. Harry Sober, Todd Christenson and Ben Brown, and Pfc. Gordon Cairns.

Many soldiers said they look forward to the competition each year, as it allows the winners some bragging rights.

“It’s a great way to keep a good, healthy rivalry between sections and to maintain the operational readiness of a unit,” Sober said.

Armbruster said the unit leadership revises the competition somewhat each year to maintain a degree of difficulty and to correspond with the scouts as they develop their skills.

“We try to refine it and change it, and make it more challenging each year,” Armbruster said. “We also do a Leadership Reaction Course during the year too. It forces (the cavalry troopers) to work together and solve problems.

“The idea behind this type of training is that we work on building unit cohesiveness during the year and becoming more proficient at our jobs.” ■

Honduras on the Horizon

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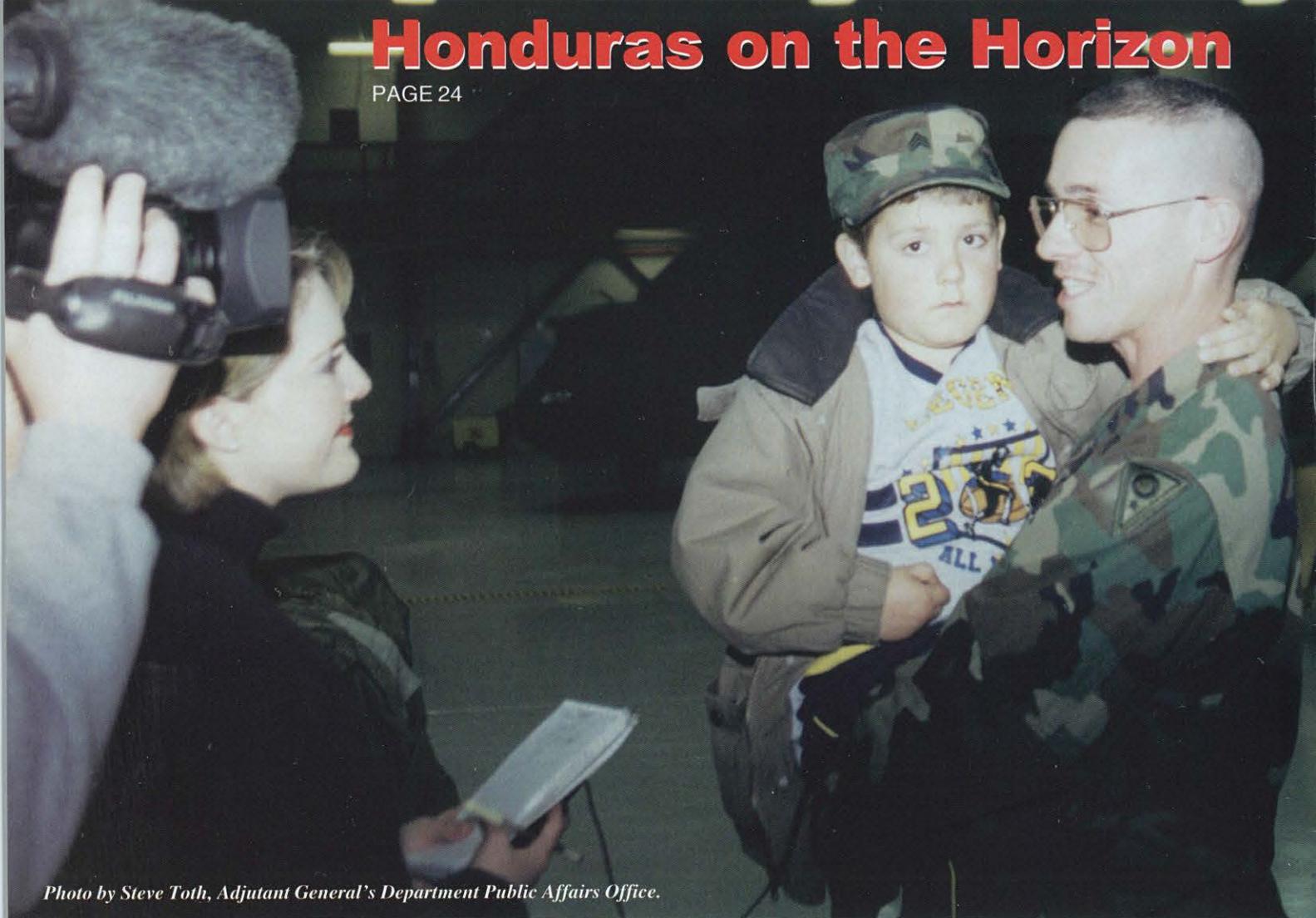


Photo by Steve Toth, Adjutant General's Department Public Affairs Office.

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