



JUNE 3-9, 2024



THROUGH THE LENS

JUNE 1992: Security police from the 160th Air Refueling Group conduct ground defense training at Rickenbacker Air National Guard Base in Columbus, Ohio during their June unit training assembly.



WEEK IN REVIEW

M JUNE 3, 1861: The Battle of Philippi — also known mockingly as “The Philippi Races” — took place in and around Philippi, Va. and was the first organized land action of the Civil War. The 14th and 16th Ohio Volunteer Infantry took part and have the honor of being the first Ohio regiments to unfurl their colors in battle.

JUNE 3, 1921: The 1191st Engineer Company is organized in Portsmouth as Battery C, 135th Field Artillery.

Th JUNE 6, 1944: The 112th Combat Engineer Battalion lands on Omaha Beach in support of the 1st and 29th Infantry Divisions during Operation Neptune, the Allied invasion of Normandy, France.

F JUNE 7, 1944: The 987th Field Artillery Battalion lands on Gold Beach in support of the British 50th Division during Operation Neptune.

Su JUNE 9, 1966: The 178th Communications Flight is federally recognized in Springfield.



HALL OF VALOR

**MAJOR
WILLIAM A. RICHARDS**

**HEADQUARTERS,
112TH ENGINEER COMBAT BATTALION**

**JUNE 6, 1944
NORMANDY, FRANCE**



CITATION: The President of the United States of America, authorized by Act of Congress July 9, 1918, takes pleasure in presenting the Distinguished Service Cross (Posthumously) to Major William A. Richards, for extraordinary heroism in action against the enemy while serving as commanding officer of the 112th Engineer Combat Battalion on 6 June 1944, in France. Major Richards landed on the coast of France with the initial assault waves under heavy enemy artillery, machine gun and rifle fire. He immediately effected the removal of barbed wire by directing the operations of a tank dozer, preceding it on foot under heavy small arms fire. After removing this obstacle, he personally reconnoitered inland to find the exact position of an enemy gun which was harassing troops and equipment at the entrance of one of the beach exits. After locating this gun, he made his way back to the beach and reported its location. He then proceeded to organize the units of his battalion for aggressive action against the enemy on the cliffs. Though wounded, Major Richards again proceeded to a beach exit to direct the efforts of the mine clearing and obstacle removing parties. While organizing these parties, he was killed by enemy fire. The courage and devotion to duty exhibited by Major Richards reflects great credit on himself and is in keeping with the highest traditions of the Armed Forces.



POC: SFC Joshua Mann, 614-336-7311 or joshua.d.mann.mil@army.mil

Follow the Ohio National Guard Heritage Center @  