



Ohio Adjutant General's Department

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For Immediate Release

Camp Ravenna to be renamed after former U.S. president, Ohio National Guard general officer

COLUMBUS, Ohio — Camp Ravenna Joint Military Training Center will be officially renamed Camp James A. Garfield during a ceremony at 10 a.m. Thursday, Oct. 18, 2018. Once used as a U.S. Army ammunition manufacturing plant, the installation is undergoing \$37 million in upgrades to become a world-class training destination for military units as well as civilian law enforcement and first responders.

One of the Ohio Army National Guard's three joint military training centers, Camp Ravenna will be renamed to Camp Garfield to honor the legacy of the 20th U.S. president and Ohio National Guard major general, along with the commitment and sacrifice of his family to the state of Ohio and the nation.

"The renaming represents a historic point in the history of this location," said Maj. Gen. John C. Harris Jr., Ohio assistant adjutant general for Army. "Camp James Garfield is a state-of-the-art training facility that allows the Ohio National Guard to train in live, virtual and gaming scenarios and achieve the highest levels of readiness in the most efficient way possible."

Garfield received his commission in 1861 after the onset of the Civil War. He had been serving in the Ohio Senate helping to appropriate funds to build the Ohio volunteer forces that would be known in the 20th century as the Ohio National Guard. Within two years of joining the military he was promoted to the rank of major general and elected to the U.S. House of Representatives, where he served nine terms, and would go on to be elected president of the United States in 1880.

The legacy of Garfield's military service in Ohio was carried on by three generations of his descendants who all served in the Ohio National Guard. Garfield's great-grandson fought in Europe during World War II, when Camp Ravenna, known then as the Ravenna Army Ammunition Plant, was manufacturing ammunition for use by American troops overseas. The plant operated through WWII, the Korean War and Vietnam Conflict. The Ohio National Guard has used the 21,000-acre installation located in Portage and Trumbull counties as a joint military training center since 2013.

Representing a long legacy of service to the Ohio National Guard, state of Ohio and the nation, James A. Garfield was the name selected to represent the modern joint military training center that will build the next generation of military forces in a state-of-the-art site, with enhancements to address the modern tactics and warfare training of today.

“The use of new high-tech ranges combined with realistic simulators allows us to optimize our training on warrior skills as well as hone our ability to respond to domestic disasters when our citizens need us,” Harris said. “These capabilities will bring first responders, ROTC detachments, sister services, and Guard units from neighboring states here to train. The only limit to the potential of this training site will be our creativity.”

A 7-year-long construction project is slated to be finished in 2022, with modern upgrades such as a multipurpose machine gun range, combat pistol qualification course, automated record fire range, solar cover training areas, new barracks, four multipurpose training buildings and a new engagement skills trainer simulation building. A complete overview of the renovations and projects will be reviewed during the ceremony.

The Ohio National Guard, with more than 16,000 personnel, responds with ready units and personnel when called for federal, state and community missions and is an operational reserve of the U.S. Army and U.S. Air Force.

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NEWSROOM NOTE: Please submit names of media members planning to attend the renaming ceremony and their contact information by 4 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 17, 2018, to Stephanie Beougher, public information officer, at 614-336-7369 or stephanie.k.beougher.nfg@mail.mil.

On the day of the event, media should plan to arrive by no later than 9:30 a.m. to allow sufficient time to get through security and to be escorted to the event location. Please have a valid driver's license or media credentials. Media should enter through the installation main gate, located at 8451 state Route 5, Ravenna, Ohio 44266.

For current information and stories on the Ohio National Guard:

The Buckeye Guard digital magazine and newscast—
<http://ong.ohio.gov/BuckeyeGuard.html>

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