

GUARD

BUCKEYE

MAGAZINE OF THE OHIO ARMY AND AIR NATIONAL GUARD
FALL 2009/WINTER 2010



OMLT teams complement healthy partnership with Hungary Pages 8-9

LINEAGE LINK UP

684th Medical Company

Columbus



MISSION:

To provide echelon I and II combat health support to units located in the area of operations of the area support medical company

DATE & PLACE OF BIRTH:

14 May 1921, Westerville, Ohio

PARENT UNIT:

134th Ambulance Company

CAMPAIGN CREDIT:

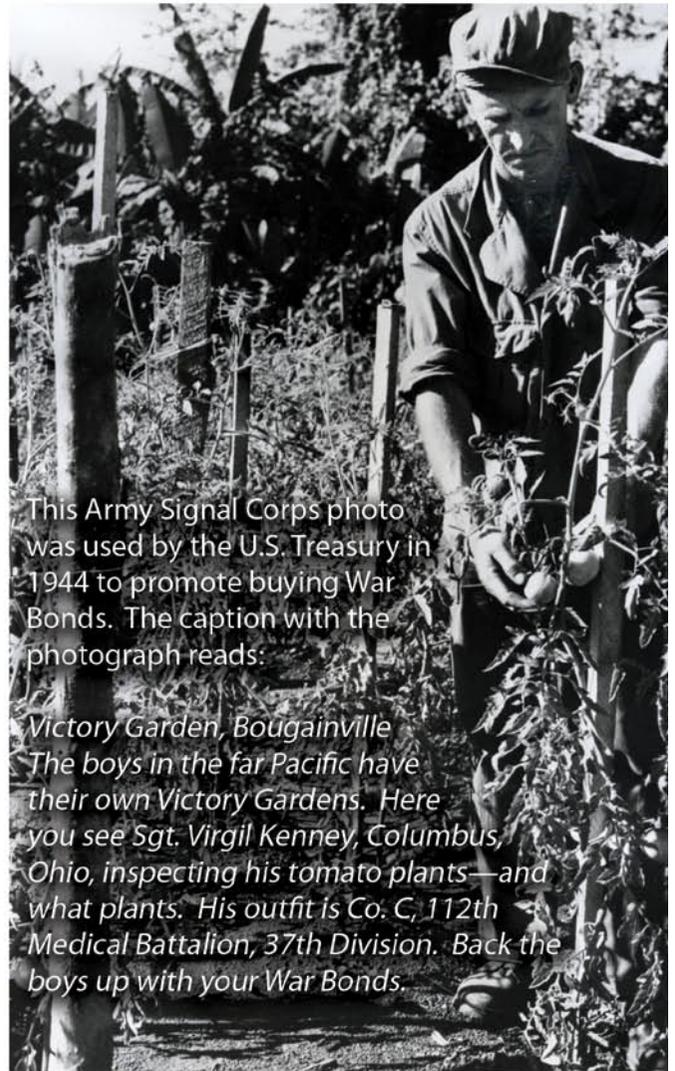
WORLD WAR II - Northern Solomons;
Luzon (with arrowhead)

AWARDS:

Meritorious Unit Commendation
(Army), Streamer embroidered
BOUGAINVILLE

Meritorious Unit Commendation
(Army), Streamer embroidered
PACIFIC THEATER

Meritorious Unit Commendation
(Army), Streamer embroidered IRAQ
2004



This Army Signal Corps photo was used by the U.S. Treasury in 1944 to promote buying War Bonds. The caption with the photograph reads:

*Victory Garden, Bougainville
The boys in the far Pacific have their own Victory Gardens. Here you see Sgt. Virgil Kenney, Columbus, Ohio, inspecting his tomato plants—and what plants. His outfit is Co. C, 112th Medical Battalion, 37th Division. Back the boys up with your War Bonds.*



Clearing Company, 112th Medical Battalion, 1958.



Company C, 118th Medical Battalion, 2004.



Company B, 112th Medical Battalion, 1965.

GUARD

BUCKEYE

Volume 32, No. 3

roll call

Fall 2009/Winter 2010

The *Buckeye Guard* is an authorized publication for members of the Department of Defense. Contents of the *Buckeye Guard* are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, the Departments of the Army and Air Force, or the Adjutant General of Ohio. The *Buckeye Guard* is published quarterly under the supervision of the Public Affairs Office, Ohio Adjutant General's Department, 2825 W. Dublin Granville Road, Columbus, Ohio 43235-2789. The editorial content of this publication is the responsibility of the Adjutant General of Ohio's Director, Government and Public Affairs. Direct communication is authorized to the Editor, phone: (614) 336-7003; fax: (614) 336-7410; or send e-mail to buckeye@tagoh.gov. The *Buckeye Guard* is distributed free to members of the Ohio Army and Air National Guard and to other interested persons at their request. 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. Circulation is 20,750. Deadlines are:

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

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Gov. Ted Strickland

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

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

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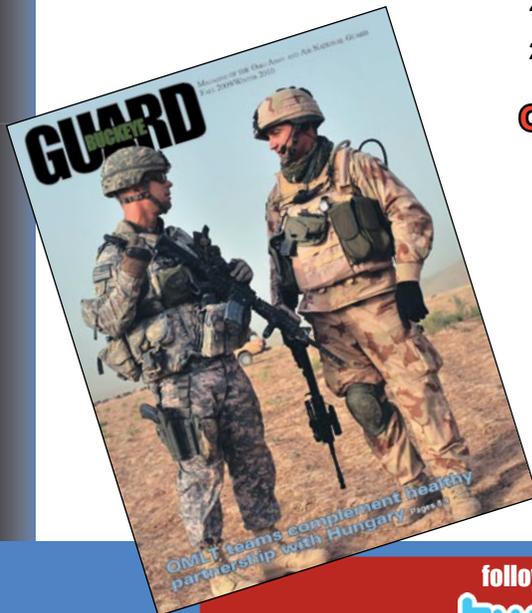
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SPC SAM BEAVERS / 196TH MOBILE PUBLIC AFFAIRS DET.

CPT Theresa Swank, of the Ohio Army National Guard Medical Detachment, listens to the lungs of a baby in Joateca, El Salvador as a part of a U.S. Army Medical Readiness Training Exercise. The exercise, which provided medical care to more than 7,000 people, was carried out in partnership with the El Salvadoran government at four locations during a 10-day period. For more, see pages 12-13.



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ON THE COVER

PARTNERS HELPING STABILIZE AFGHANISTAN: Maj. James Eriksen, commander of Operational Mentor and Liaison Team (OMLT) 9.1, talks with a Hungarian army counterpart while on duty in Afghanistan. Already familiar through the National Guard Bureau State Partnership Program, the Ohio National Guard and Republic of Hungary are teaming up as part of NATO's contribution toward the development of the Afghan National Army. Ohio and Hungary will field OMLT rotations through 2010, and are two of 27 nations that have contributed or have pledged to contribute troops to OMLT program, according to NATO. There are currently about 60 OMLTs operating in all five regions of Afghanistan. For more, see pages 8-9. *Photo courtesy of the 174th Air Defense Artillery Brigade.*



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A sturdy stool must have 3 even legs

by Maj. Gen. Gregory L. Wayt
The Adjutant General

I often talk about the three-legged stool—the Soldier/Airman, our Families and our employers. All legs of this stool must be in balance to maintain our readiness as an operational force. Wrapped around this three-legged stool is our community that provides us great support in all of our missions, both at home and abroad.

The accomplishments of our units, Soldiers and Airmen have been nothing short of remarkable. As we have transformed over the past eight years from a strategic reserve to an operational force, so have our Families and employers. This transformation however, requires our Families and employers to serve side-by-side with each of us. Our Family and employer programs are essential to maintain our relevance as an operational force.

Today, the National Guard and Reserve provide operational capabilities and strategic depth to meet the U.S. defense requirements across the full spectrum of conflict. And, as you know, National Guard forces play a key role with our governors in protecting the homeland and providing assistance to civil authorities. As I speak with civic leaders about the National Guard, I continually highlight many of the facts listed below and I provide these as you may want to use some of these in your conversations.

- The total Army (active, Reserve and National Guard) is comprised of 51 percent reserve components. The Army National Guard is comprised of 358,000 Soldiers, and the Ohio Army National Guard is comprised of 11,400 members.
- The total Air Force (active, Reserve and National Guard) is comprised of 19 percent reserve components, 107,000 Airmen, 5,400 Ohio Air National Guardmembers and provides 32 percent of the fighter force, 48 percent of the refueling capability and 38 percent of the transport capability.
- The Army National Guard provides 55,000 Soldiers per year for federal mobilization.
- More than 18,000 members of the Ohio National Guard have served in federal service, in 36 countries, since 9/11.
- On average, 17 governors call on their National Guard daily.
- Ninety percent of the Ohio National Guard force has remained at home at any given time and available for homeland defense missions.

Family Readiness is a priority program for me and the senior leadership of the Ohio National Guard. Our ability to support and assist our members and their Families is paramount to sustaining our readiness and capability to respond when called by the governor or president. Our ability to sustain as an operational force is dependent on support from our Families. During my recent visit to Iraq, each commander and command sergeant major/first sergeant informed me that their Family Readiness Groups were strong and that issues were resolved by our Family Readiness Group Leaders and/or Family Assistance Centers, allowing their Soldiers to focus on the mission. Our Family Readiness Program has matured and is recognized as the best program within the National Guard. We have great community support and volunteers that support our Family programs, which have dramatically changed over the last eight years.

We have trained more than 350 commanders, Family military liaisons, and Family Readiness Group leader team members since 2005. Our weekend annual Family Readiness training conference attracts almost 900 participants. Ten Family Assistance Centers are staffed with full-time trained providers who will assist any Ohio military Family member or troop. Two licensed counselors are available for individual Family or Servicemember counseling needs. A



As we have transformed over the past eight years from a strategic reserve to an operational force, so have our Families and employers

staffed youth program provides eight annual youth and Family camps, as well as resiliency programs, during mobilizations. This year's youth camps served more than 450 youth. Eight free annual marriage enrichment seminar retreats served more than 500 couples in the last four years.

Equally important is sustaining the support of our employers as an operational force. There are, moreover, 4,000 employers employing Ohio National Guardmembers today who are on our team. Strong employer support is important for job security and to recruit and retain high quality men and women. Many employers have offered sustained support over the past eight years during our high optempo and have even gone beyond what is legally required. Building strong employer support has begun with our Employer Outreach program.

We host at least five employer events per year and have hosted more than 350 employers to date. We usually sponsor the event during weekends and visit training locations throughout Ohio. We also invite your employers to Call to Duty and Welcome Home ceremonies, plus they receive a memorandum and certificate of appreciation from Gov. Ted Strickland during your deployment. The purpose of the program is to communicate, educate and exchange information with your employers. During these events we explain the roles and missions of the Ohio National Guard today, pre-mob and post-mob requirements, reintegration and Family programs, and we invite employers to support you during deployments and to attend ceremonies and reintegration with you. We also allow your employers to learn about and operate equipment and weapon systems, plus they normally fly by helicopter between sites. We even provide a free MRE (Meal, Ready-to-Eat) lunch! Your employers are a key partner in the national security of our country. This program has been remarkable and feedback from your employers has been positive. I invite you to nominate your employer to participate.

Today, much more is being asked of the Ohio National Guard than any other time in our history. The commitment today is much different than just a few short years ago. This is a different commitment that involves our Soldiers/Airmen, Families and employers. While our roles are not new, the degree to which the Department of Defense has relied upon the National Guard and the performance of the National Guard are unprecedented. I thank each Soldier/Airman, Family and employer for your commitment as it has been remarkable and an inspiration. Our Families and employers are the bedrock of our readiness. I am proud to serve with each of you. **SG**



Bountiful year for National Guard employer visits

Since March 2009, about 320 employers have participated in Ohio National Guard employer events throughout the state, ranging from the six joint employer events hosted by Community Outreach, a civic leader flight at the 179th Airlift Wing, the National Guard Bureau's Business and Industry Days event and many more.

After each event, employers completed event surveys and expressed enjoyment in their participation and highlighted why they found it to be a valuable investment of time. They regularly comment on the high levels of professionalism and training Servicemembers receive and say that they gain a much better understanding and appreciation of their employee's military service. Employers also highlight the value of having their Servicemember participate with them and interaction with the adjutant general or assistant adjutants general throughout the day. Many offer additional support and want to stay involved as Ohio National Guard Ambassadors.

A few significant program improvements will occur this next year. First, we will be doubling the attendance capacity at the joint employer events, seeking about 30 Army and 20 Air employers at each event. Next, we will focus on regional attendance of employers and Servicemembers in hopes of minimizing employer travel time and fostering local connections for readiness centers and wings. Last, we will streamline the organization, execution, and evaluation of these important events.

Regularly including employers in deployment events is another key employer relationship building strategy initiated in the last six months. On behalf of the adjutant general, employers are invited to Call to Duty and Welcome Home ceremonies. In the near future, employers will also be invited to the 30-day Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program and

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



Hometown Heroes ceremonies.

Another resource offered by the Community Outreach Office to help build relationships between Airmen and Soldiers and their employers are the Patriot Employer certificates. These certificates are mailed out to employers of deployed Airmen and Soldiers who are deployed for 30 consecutive days or more. The certificates are signed by Gov. Ted Strickland and Maj. Gen. Gregory L. Wayt, and are accompanied by a letter from the adjutant general. This certificate is different from the Employer Support of Guard and Reserve (ESGR) Patriot Award, and we encourage commands to continue emphasizing the need for Servicemembers to nominate their employers for ESGR Patriot Awards.

Thanks to many Ohio National Guard Airmen and Soldiers, working in the Outreach Office the past few months has been amazing! The outreach staff and I are honored to work alongside you and serve you. Thank you for supporting these important outreach initiatives. We welcome your input as we develop this program together. I can be reached at kathy.lowrey@us.army.mil or (614) 336-7002. **86**

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

Boss lift takes employers from office to field



SSG Graham Waid (right) of Battery B, 1-134th Field Artillery Regiment, shows a group of employers how to fire a howitzer cannon on a target.

Story and photo by Spc. Sam Beavers
196th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

CAMP GRAYLING, Mich.—Flying just above the treetops in a CH-47 “Chinook” cargo helicopter Aug. 24 was just one way several employers had the opportunity to see what being a Citizen-Soldier is about during the Employer Boss Lift event here.

The Employer Boss Lift takes Ohio National Guard and Army Reserve employers, who are nominated by their Servicemember-employees, to training sites where they can observe and participate in hands-on military training.

Many employers had the opportunity to fire howitzer cannons with Soldiers of Battery B, 1st Battalion, 134th Field Artillery Regiment.

“It was awesome,” said Ray Schaublin of the Toledo Correctional Institute. “You really feel it in your chest.”

The goal of the event is to foster long-term supportive relationships with employers, said Lt. Col. Kathy Lowrey, director of community outreach.

Lowrey said the Employer Boss Lift achieves this goal by “educating employers about our people and our mission, and by creating an opportunity to see first hand the great job our Soldiers do.”

For some employers, that is exactly what

happened.

“Today brought it home to me that these are everyday people; they could be my neighbor, they could be my son,” said Roger Clark, a Centerburg School Board member who is also with America’s Body Company, a distributor and producer of truck bodies and equipment.

The day kicked off with an introduction to the Ohio National Guard and Army Reserve by Maj. Gen. Matthew L. Kambic, Ohio’s assistant adjutant general for Army. Kambic explained the National Guard’s federal, state and community missions. He also said the Army National Guard and Army Reserve account for nearly half of the total number of U.S. Soldiers.

“I didn’t realize how much of the total forces the National Guard and the Reserve make up,” said Chad Pettit of Brilligent Solutions.

After Kambic’s presentation, employers had the chance to observe and participate in several training opportunities. They flew in a C-130 cargo plane and a Chinook, fired howitzers and watched the rounds impact, and exploded a makeshift bridge with plastic explosives.

“I send my fellow workers here (to Camp Grayling for annual training), and it is nice to see how we support you,” Schaublin said. **86**

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

On Saturday, Sept. 19, 2009, more than 120 retirees and other alumni of the Ohio National Guard participated in the first ONG Alumni Reunion held at the Defense Supply Center Columbus. This event was held in Central Ohio to provide a convenient location that would encourage both Army and Air alumni attendance.

Primary goals for the reunion were to connect alumni with the Ohio National Guard by informing them about current/future ONG operations and military construction and to provide information to alumni desiring to serve as ONG Ambassadors. We also sought a high Air National Guard attendance and ended up with the highest participation by Air National Guard alumni of any reunion held within our history. Lastly, and equally important, was renewing alumni acquaintances and friendships.

Attendees received updates on the latest Army and Air National Guard activities and saw hands-on use of some of the equipment used today. They also received briefings on the latest Veterans Affairs and TRICARE information. Alumni were very appreciative of Maj. Gen. Gregory L. Wayt, Ohio adjutant general, Maj. Gen. Harry "A.J." Feucht Jr., assistant adjutant general for Air, and Maj. Gen. Matthew L. Kambic, assistant adjutant general for Army, for taking the time to attend the event and engage in a wide-ranging discussion forum with them.

Judging by the information received on the evaluations, we will be planning an even bigger and better event in the Columbus area this year. If you were unable to attend, you can review all the reunion presentations online at: http://www.ong.ohio.gov/2009_alumni_reunion_briefings_index.html.

A large number of attending alumni expressed interest in serving as

Alumni News Update



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

an ONG Ambassador, a new program initiative of the Community Outreach Office that was outlined in the last edition of the *Buckeye Guard*. If you would like to serve as an ONG Ambassador and help communicate the role your Ohio National Guard plays in protecting our national interests and serving the citizens of Ohio, please contact me directly. We also encourage alumni to contact their regional Family Assistance Coordinator or wing Family Program Coordinator as a rapid means of offering assistance. You can reach our Family Programs Office at 1-800-589-9914, or online at www.ong.ohio.gov/family.

As we have developed the ONG Alumni Affairs Program, there have been some questions about the relationship of the ONG alumni outreach with local and unit-specific retiree/alumni associations. Our goal is to work with these unit and wing groups, share information and provide mutual support. In addition to participating in the ONG Alumni Program, we highly encourage alumni to join their former unit or wing retiree/alumni group. **86**

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

Veterans reconnect with the National Guard

Story and photo by Sgt. Sean Mathis
JFHQ-Ohio Public Affairs

COLUMBUS—Veterans of the Ohio National Guard gathered Sept. 19 at the Defense Supply Center Columbus to attend the 2009 Alumni Reunion and receive current information on veterans benefits and the condition of the National Guard.

"We stand on your shoulders," said Maj. Gen. Gregory L. Wayt, Ohio adjutant general, to the auditorium of ONG veterans.

Retired Col. Jim Chisman, ONG alumni affairs coordinator, said the reunion is an outreach effort by the adjutant general to reconnect with retirees and other alumni.

"As a recently retired person, I noticed that I immediately fell off the earth in terms of information and knowing what's going on," Chisman said. "The adjutant general wants to



SSG Brian Hettinger of the Support Company, 216th Engineer Battalion, explains the uses of Army construction equipment to retirees MG Miles Durfey and SMSgt. Darwin Bruce at the 2009 Ohio National Guard Alumni Reunion in September.

make sure that retired Guardmembers are in the loop and in a position to give back to the Ohio National Guard."

The alumni reunion informed veterans of new programs and changes in benefits such as disability compensation, employment services, home loan programs, education,

TRICARE and other benefits. The reunion also gave veterans detailed instructions on how they can receive further information by using the Veterans Affairs website (www.va.org) or by calling the Veterans Affairs Benefits hotline (1-800-827-1000).

"I've worried from time to time, 'what if something happened to me, what would my wife do,'" retired Capt. Allen Fredericks charged. "Of course I told her, 'call the Guard, they'll help you.'"

The alumni reunion also provided veterans with an opportunity to reacquaint themselves with old friends and a familiar military culture.

"If you're in a unit and you retire from that unit, why can't you still be a part of the unit as a retiree?" Chisman said. "A lot of these retirees want to do that and we want to encourage that."

"Our goal is that many of these retirees and alumni will become Ambassadors for the Guard," Chisman said. **86**

Those entitled to stop-loss payment should file for it as soon as possible

Ohio National Guard members, retirees and veterans who think they may be eligible for retroactive stop-loss pay have until Oct.

21, 2010 to apply for the special \$500 per month entitlement authorized by Congress earlier this year. The Department of the Army estimates that as many as 140,000 current and former Soldiers may qualify.

Effective Oct. 21, 2009, the Army began compensating Soldiers for each month, or portion of a month, they were retained on active duty beyond their contracted separation or voluntary retirement date. Payments are retroactive to Sept. 11, 2001, and cover involuntary service performed through Sept. 30, 2009.

However, Soldiers who have received regular stop-loss pay for service performed after Oct. 1, 2008 will be compensated only if they were in stop-loss status before that date. The retroactive compensation will be paid in a lump sum for the months served in stop-loss status. Soldiers will not receive regular stop-loss pay and retroactive stop-loss pay for the same period. The Defense Finance and Accounting Service will determine the applicable tax exclusion for retroactive pay that was earned in a combat zone, according to Army officials.

The Army has liberally applied the policy to its active and reserve components since 9/11, with restrictions initially imposed on Soldiers in priority specialties and, since 2003, on entire units.

To qualify, Soldiers, retirees, veterans or their survivors must file a claim with the Army no later than Oct. 21, 2010. Claims can be submitted electronically at www.stoplosspay.army.mil. For current Ohio National Guard members, contact your unit for assistance. Former members may contact retiredrecordsoh@ng.army.mil or call Jeanette Coughenour at (614) 336-7038.

National Defense Authorization Act contains provisions for Guardmembers

In October, President Obama signed the Fiscal Year 2010 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), the first defense authorization bill of his administration. The bill

legislative look

with Johann Klein



included several provisions that affect members of the National Guard. Among its many provisions, the bill:

- Allows members of the Retired

Reserve qualified for non-regular retirement at age 60, that are not age 60, to qualify for TRICARE Standard.

- Increases from 90 to 180 days the amount of time a reserve component member is eligible for TRICARE coverage prior to mobilization.

- Increases from 60 percent to 75 percent the amount of funding the Department of Defense can provide to a National Guard Youth Challenge program.

- Enhances the dental care provided to members of the reserve components on active duty for more than 30 days in support of a contingency operation.

- Allows members of the reserve components returning from mobilization and deployment to remain on active duty while under evaluation for physical or mental disability that could result in separation or retirement or placement on temporary disability retired list or inactive status list.

- Requires the Secretary of Defense to submit an extensive report on duties, requirements, current and future demands, and recommended limits of Army National Guard non-dual status technicians, not later than 180 days after enactment.

- Provides an additional representative from the National Guard to the Department of Defense Military Family Readiness Council.

- Establishes within the Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program, a program to provide for members of the National Guard, Reserve and their Families, community healing and suicide prevention.

- Requires a report from the Secretary of Defense on the various reintegration programs administered by the National Guard. **SG**

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

LETTERING

Command profile



CSM Bill Myers

371st Sustainment Brigade

Age: 57

Full-Time position: automotive mechanic for the U.S. Postal Service

Hometown: Mansfield

Family: wife of 23 years, Teresa; daughter, Robin; sons, Bill and Bob; grandchildren, Brian, Elizabeth, Rylynn and one more on the way, Evelyn Grace

When I was younger, I wanted to: be an Ohio State Trooper

Most recent achievement: enrolled in Hocking College

The last good movie I saw was: *Gran Torino* with Clint Eastwood

The book I'm reading is: *The Wild Blue* by Stephen Ambrose

My favorite recreational activity: riding motorcycles with my wife

The one thing I treasure most: my parents and the way I was raised

Heroes: my great-great grandfather, Oliver Nay, member of the 6th West Virginia Cavalry and POW at Andersonville Prisoner of War Camp during the Civil War

Nobody knows I'm: a huge animal lover

I'd give anything to meet: Jay Leno to talk and see his car and motorcycle collection

My biggest pet peeve is: leaders who have the philosophy of "Do as I say, not as I do"

The three words/phrases that best describe me: loyal, honest, open-minded

If I could leave today's Guardmembers with one piece of advice it would be: Remember, whether you're in uniform or out, that you represent our great organization, and by word or deed your actions will impact the way all of us are perceived. At the end of the day, all we really have is each other, so set a good example and most of all, "take care of Soldiers."

Retired, past 2-174th ADA members conduct reunion in McConnellsville

The 2nd Battalion, 174th Air Defense Artillery Regiment Retired & Past Members Association, Ohio Army National Guard, held its second annual reunion Sept. 20 at the Clarence E. Miller Armory in McConnellsville. About 170 retired and former troops and their Family members of the 2-174th ADA and its attached units, the 210th ARCAT and the 997th Ordnance Company, returned to the unit's armory for the reunion. They came from across Ohio, surrounding states and as far away as Alabama and Virginia. Six former battalion commanders attended, as well as current 174th ADA brigade commander, Brig. Gen. Rufus Smith, and current 2nd Battalion, 174th ADA commander, Lt. Col. Jeffery Schultz.

Gen. Smith spoke about the importance of the unit and its long history of dedicated Soldiers and their tireless efforts in supporting our communities and national defense.

Lt. Col. Schultz gave an overview of the unit and its mission in today's total Army. He also shared the vision and mission of the battalion

for the future.

Retired Maj. Gen. David Hartley, a former 2-174th ADA commander (1984-1988), spoke to the attendees, sharing from his many years of leadership and experience within the battalion and the Ohio Army



BG Rufus Smith (from left), current 174th Air Defense Artillery Brigade commander, COL (Ret.) Mike Bish, BG (Ret.) Robin Timmons, COL (Ret.) David Sealock, COL (Ret.) James Schweikert, MG (Ret.) David Hartley, LTC Jeffery Schultz, current 2nd Battalion, 174th ADA commander, and COL (Ret.) James Wilder pose for a photo at the ADA reunion.

National Guard. He also talked of the dedication, loyalty and contributions the Soldiers of the 2-174th ADA have made to our communities, state and country.

Retired Col. Jim Chisman, alumni affairs coordinator for the Ohio National Guard, spoke about the Alumni Affairs Office and its mission in support of the Ohio National Guard and its former members.

A pot luck meal was served with a variety of delicious treats and

dishes. The battalion provided equipment and weapons systems displays. Other displays included the historical flag display, provided by the Recruiting and Retention Command. Blood pressure and pulse checks were made available by the unit medics on hand. A large assortment of information

and handouts were provided on TRICARE health benefits, Space-A-Flights and Veterans Affairs benefits, plus information from the Alumni Affairs Office. The 174th ADA Brigade Association representative was present and most supportive of the ADA community and its Soldiers.

The reunion is about as close to an old fashioned family reunion as you can get. It is very relaxed and laid back. The main goal is to provide place and time for retired and past members of the battalion to visit and reminisce together about days gone by and to relive experiences from their service to our country. Many of these folks hadn't seen each other for many years. There was great joy in their laughter and in the smiles as they met and shared with each other.

"I look forward to this day all year long. I wouldn't miss it for the world," said retired Col. James Schweikert, a battalion commander from 1970 to 1973. "It just gives you a warm feeling in your heart and almost goose bumps just to be here and see these folks."

The next reunion is scheduled for 1 p.m. Sept. 19, 2010. For more information about the 2-174th ADA Retired & Past Members Association or the reunion, contact Bob Kirkwood, president, at kirkrb77@att.net or 740-697-0303.

**SGM (RET.) ROGER BURNETT
2-174TH AIR DEFENSE ARTILLERY REGT.**

NATIONAL NEWS

HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHT



LIBRARY OF CONGRESS PHOTO

Celebrating the Year of the Noncommissioned Officer—

Color Sergeant Henry "Hank" Gowdy

When Henry "Hank" Gowdy enlisted into the Ohio National Guard in July 1917, he became the first major league baseball player to enlist for World War I. Gowdy, a catcher for the Boston Braves when he won the 1914 World Series MVP award, served as the color sergeant for the 166th Infantry Regiment during the war. COL Benson Hough, commander of the 166th, was quoted as saying that Gowdy "carried the flag and...he was one of them who heaved gas bombs at the enemy...he was fantastic!" When the United States entered World War II, Gowdy enlisted again at the age of 53 and served as the chief athletic officer at Fort Benning, Ga. The

baseball field at Fort Benning bears his name. In the photo at left, Hank Gowdy, in military uniform, stands with New York Giants manager John McGraw on Oct. 10, 1917 in New York. Gowdy and the 166th would set sail for France just eight days later. For more information on The Year of the NCO visit: <http://www4.army.mil/yearofthenco/home.php>. Submitted by Staff Sgt. Joshua Mann, OHARNG Historian

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

DoD orders enough H1N1 vaccine for all National Guardmembers

ARLINGTON, Va.—The Department of Defense has acquired enough doses of the H1N1 flu vaccine to immunize all 460,000 members of the National Guard, officials announced recently.

DoD has acquired 2.7 million doses of the H1N1 vaccine, which may be allocated to active duty members, Reservists, Guardmembers, DoD civilians and essential contractors, according to a DoD memorandum.

Despite this announcement, Guardmembers are encouraged to get the vaccine through the "most expedient route," said Lt. Col. Dawn Barrowman, chief of occupational health for the Army National Guard. This includes registered H1N1 providers. If a Soldier does receive a H1N1 vaccine from another source, he is strongly encouraged to provide the documentation to his unit's medical readiness NCO, Barrowman said. This will enable the Army Guard to track the number of Soldiers who have received the vaccine. The vaccine is mandatory for uniformed personnel, according to a DoD memo. **LT COL ELLEN KRENKE / NATIONAL GUARD BUREAU PUBLIC AFFAIRS**



SSG Brent Baxter (right), of the Ohio Army National Guard Medical Detachment, gives MG Matthew L. Kambic, assistant adjutant general for Army, his seasonal flu shot Sept. 25 at Beightler Armory in Columbus. The National Guard Bureau recommends all Guardmembers get vaccinated as soon as it becomes available unless otherwise advised by a healthcare provider.

Nothing to sneeze at:

It's critical for Guardmembers, Family members to vaccinate for seasonal, H1N1 influenza viruses

Story and photo by Spc. Sam Beavers
196th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

COLUMBUS—Flu season is here and it brings with it what the World Health Organization is calling a global pandemic. “We always have seasonal flu, but this year, for the first time in several decades, we have a pandemic,” said Bret Atkins, public information officer for the Ohio Department of Health.

The pandemic influenza strain, known as H1N1 for its protein makeup, was first detected in April 2009. In July 2009, the World Health Organization declared the virus a pandemic, meaning widespread human illness, according to the Ohio Department of Health website, www.odh.ohio.gov.

The National Guard Bureau has urged Guardmembers to get the H1N1 vaccination as soon as it becomes available, unless otherwise advised by a healthcare provider.

Atkins said people need to take this flu threat seriously because this is a novel virus, which means no one has immunity from it, and it affects different groups of people than the traditional seasonal flu does.

The seasonal flu usually most severely affects the very young and the very old; however, the H1N1 virus has been severely affecting young adults and the very young, Atkins said.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has listed five priority groups for getting the vaccine and Ohio National Guardmembers may fall into one or more of the categories. People in the priority groups run the highest risk of catching the illness and of suffering severe effects.

The priority groups include: pregnant women, household contacts and caregivers for children younger than six months old, healthcare and emergency medical services personnel, and all people from 6 months to 24 years old, and persons aged 25 through 64 who have health conditions associated with a higher risk of medical complica-

tions, according to the CDC's website www.cdc.gov.

“Nineteen through twenty-four-year-olds have tended to show greater sickness with this strain,” Atkins said.

While waiting for the H1N1 vaccine to become available, NGB and ODH recommend getting a seasonal flu shot because while it will not protect you against H1N1, it will protect you against the seasonal flu that is also in peak season during this time of year.

“Also, you won't have to worry about getting two shots at once,” Atkins said.

Aside from getting vaccinated as soon as possible, ODH recommends several other ways to avoid catching and spreading the flu, including covering your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze and washing your hands often with soap and water, especially after you cough or sneeze or use the restroom and before eating. If you are not near soap and water, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer. And they suggest staying away from sick people.

Guardmembers are encouraged to think about the impact that their illness may have on the work force and consider staying home until they are fever-free for 24 hours. Guardmembers are also advised to seek medical care if symptoms continue or get worse, according to www.ng.mil.

According to the CDC, the symptoms of H1N1 are like those of the seasonal flu and can include fever, cough, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, body aches, headache, chills and fatigue and may include diarrhea and vomiting. They recommend seeking emergency care if you experience difficulty breathing, shortness of breath, bluish skin color, pain or pressure in the chest or abdomen, sudden dizziness, confusion or severe or persistent vomiting.

According to a Jan. 8 memorandum from Gen. Craig McKinley, chief, National Guard Bureau, all uniformed Army and Air National Guardmembers are to be vaccinated by April 30. **AG**

Ohio's OMLT teams complement healthy partnership with Hungary



1SG David Gill (left) confers with his Hungarian counterpart at an observation post in Afghanistan during the first Operational Mentor and Liaison Team rotation.

COURTESY PHOTO

Troops endure challenges for rewarding, successful mission

Story by Spc. Sam Beavers
196th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Making a strong partnership even stronger is exactly what Ohio National Guard and Hungarian troops have done over the past year, as they came together as one group and deployed to Afghanistan as an Operational Mentor and Liaison Team.

OMLTs are multinational teams that train and deploy together to Afghanistan to train and mentor Afghanistan National Army (ANA) soldiers. The Ohio National Guard and Hungary have partnered to form four of these teams already and more are planned.

"This is a key NATO mission, with Hungary in the lead and the Ohio National Guard supporting it, to train and operate with the Afghan National Army," said Brig. Gen. Rufus Smith, commander of the 174th Air Defense Artillery Brigade, the main brigade supporting the OMLT.

The joint Ohio-Hungarian mission is a continuation of a relationship formed in 1993 between the Ohio National Guard and the Republic of Hungary as part of the National Guard Bureau's State Partnership Program.

"This unique joint mission marks an important milestone in our partnership with Hungary," said Maj. Gen. Gregory L. Wayt, Ohio adjutant general.

The teams consist of combat Soldiers as well as support Soldiers from several Ohio Army National Guard units.

"This is a very unique mission," Smith said. "It brings together Soldiers from several units and allows them to develop leadership skills. It is also an opportunity to work with another country's soldiers and build long-term relationships."

Before deploying to Afghanistan, the first OMLT rotation—commonly known as OMLT 9.1—traveled to Hungary to train with their counterparts. The team spent 5 ½ months in Hungary training on individual and collective tasks such as combat life-saver training, weapons training, squad movement tactics and basic cultural training, said Lt. Col. James Eriksen, OMLT 9.1 U.S. commander.

Eriksen described the training environment in Hungary as flexible and "learn as they go," but said both nations follow the same training doctrine.

"Taking into account how new they (Hungarian Armed Forces) are to Western military philosophy, they have come a tremendous distance," Eriksen said.

In addition to warrior-task training, the Soldiers received classes on effective teaching methods.

"No class can teach what you end up learning," said Capt. Robert Paley, a member of the Recruiting and Retention Battalion who deployed with OMLT 9.1. "Until you get boots-on-ground, it's only academic."

Before learning how to teach ANA Soldiers, however, the team had to learn to communicate with each other.

"Language was certainly an issue," Eriksen said. "We got classes in both Hungarian and English."

Spc. Steven Bishop, of the 145th Infantry Regiment, described the language challenge as a rude awakening because small joint teams would conduct patrols during training and the Hungarian soldiers would instinctively communicate actions in Hungarian and leave their Ohio counterparts confused.

“They would take off running and we would still be there,” Bishop said. “We realized this would be bad in a real-life situation.”

Bishop said most of the Hungarian team did understand English and communication became less of a challenge once teams were established and they began to build rapport. Paley added that hand signals became a lot more important.

Following training in Hungary, the multinational team deployed to Afghanistan with the mission of training an ANA kandak (battalion) to conduct operations. The Ohio-Hungarian team received the ANA soldiers just after they completed their basic training. The team began by teaching convoy security, rifle marksmanship and tactics, Paley said.

“We taught them basic warrior tasks, such as how to work as a small team,” said Sgt. Maj. Carl Duch, of the 145th Infantry Regiment. The team soon focused on teaching small unit operations and base defense, such as how to rotate troops through so there is constant security, Duch said.

“They were very receptive to training,” Eriksen said.

To help ANA soldiers understand the training concepts more thoroughly, Bishop said the team would teach in the classroom first before getting hands-on in the field. This method of training is known to U.S. Soldiers as the crawl, walk, run method, Bishop said.

The ANA troops learned quickly, but no team member said the mission was without challenges.

“It was rewarding and challenging, but the challenges were numerous,” Eriksen said. “Many soldiers had never driven vehicles.”

In the short 2½ months, OMLT 9.1 was able to train the kandak into a combat-ready unit, Eriksen said.

OMLT members agreed the ANA soldiers were ready to learn and appreciative of the training.

“The kandak leadership thanked us for leaving our Families and sacrificing our lives to help them,” Paley said. “That made us understand they wanted us there. That made the frustrations worthwhile.”

Soon the Afghan troops were on patrols, and with the beginning of combat operations came more challenges but also successes. One challenge was getting the ANA to go through planning procedures before embarking on a mission.

“It was a struggle because when they got a mission they wanted to do it now,” Duch said.

The OMLTs do not just function as trainers for the ANA soldiers. They also embed with the ANA and conduct operations together. While 9.1 was in Afghanistan, the team fought in three significant battles and the ANA showed great development over the course of these battles, according to Duch.

The first battle was a reconnaissance mission during which the team got ambushed. No lives were lost and Duch said Ohio Soldiers were the reason why.

“The ANA did not respond properly to contact,” Duch said.

The second battle had the team on the attack and lasted more than four hours according to Duch. The third battle also consisted of the ANA on the attack and Duch said they did a great job responding to

contact.

“When we got into combat they knew what to do,” Bishop said. “The first time we got ambushed it was a shock to them. It wasn’t exactly like training, but nothing is when people are shooting at you.”

The best training for the ANA, Paley said, was training by example and watching how the OMLT infantry troops conducted themselves in the face of the enemy.

“They did their job superbly and I think inspired the ANA,” Paley said.

Eriksen wholeheartedly agreed.

“Every Soldier performed his duty unflinching. They are a tre-



COURTESY PHOTO



CAPT NICOLE ASHCROFT / 179TH AIRLIFT WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

ABOVE: 1LT Benjamin Mackley (center) discusses the mission at hand with Afghan National Army forces. During the OMLT 9.1 homecoming ceremony Aug. 15, 2009, in Solnok, Hungary, MG Gregory L. Wayt (left), Ohio adjutant general, presents CPT Robert H. Paley with an award for his hard work and dedication during the deployment.

mendous credit to the Ohio National Guard,” Eriksen said.

Even though there were challenges, OMLT leadership felt team 9.1 had a successful mission.

“We were able to conduct a mission with Hungarians that we had never met before, and there were no U.S. casualties. That’s a success in itself,” Duch said.

OMLT 9.1, consisting of about 60 Ohio and Hungarian soldiers, trained and certified to a combat-ready rating, more than 500 ANA soldiers.

“I think it sends a positive message to Afghanistan and to the world when you have Ohio and another country’s army, train another country’s army. It’s about one team coming together,” Smith said. **86**

CERF'S UP:

Ohio National Guard's Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and high-yield Explosive Enhanced Response Force trains worldwide



Ohio, Israeli forces share knowledge, experiences

Story and photos by
Spc. Zachary R. Fehrman
196th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

TEL AVIV, Israel—U.S. Navy warships set anchor in the Mediterranean Sea on the coast of Israel as Israeli Defense Forces, joined by more than 1,000 U.S. Servicemembers, prepared for a simulated missile attack against the capital city.

Joint training exercise Juniper Cobra 10, a biennial event between the two nations, is designed to improve combined Israeli-U.S. missile defense operations, and this year the Ohio National Guard has a new role.

Nine Soldiers from the Ohio National Guard's Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and high-yield Explosive (CBRNE) Enhanced Response Force (CERF) joined about 1,000 Soldiers from the 357th Air & Missile Defense Detachment out of Kaiserslautern, Germany, and U.S. European Command.

Prior to this year's exercise, National Guard involvement had been limited to the staff level, but the Ohio CERF has made a name for itself. Since its inception 4½ years ago, it has become the top-rated unit of its kind in the U.S., said Sgt. 1st Class David Nickerson, the non-commissioned officer-in-charge of the mission.

"This is the first time the National Guard has had involvement on the ground, their involvement has been limited to the staff level and only one or two people," said Maj. Kevin Meislin, National Guard Bureau operations officer. "This is the first year the National Guard (had) boots on the ground for operations."

The Ohioans observed and participated in training with the Israeli Home Front Command (HFC) Search and Rescue School, Unit Training Branch. The HFC

is similar to the National Guard in structure and mission. It is comprised mainly of reservists and serves the people of Israel through disaster relief,

nuclear, biological and chemical (NBC) operations, search and rescue, and supports the Israeli Defense Force, which conducts all combat operations.

Only three other state National Guards have done any type of exchange or training with the Israelis, the majority of which have been conducted in the U.S.

"Any exchange is important," Meislin said. "The CERF is very important to the

"This is everyday real life to them."

—SFC David Nickerson,
noncommissioned officer-in-charge,
Ohio CERF

ABOVE, LEFT: A soldier from the Israeli Home Front Command's 945th Nuclear, Biological and Chemical Battalion, Dan District, discusses hot and cold zone procedures with Ohio Army National Guard SFC David Nickerson (right) during a decontamination demonstration. ABOVE, RIGHT: LT Miriam Yasi Pur (left), officer-in-charge of the Search and Rescue School, gives a facility tour to Ohio Soldiers including CPT Bret Gould (second from right) and SGT Heather Faehnle.

HFC because they are exact counterparts. They are just really into saving lives no matter where it is, and so are we, so it's a good fit."

The CERF team was actively engaged during the Israeli classes and demonstrations, Nickerson said.

"There is a lot of respect on both sides. It's been a really positive experience," Nickerson said.

The initial training included HFC displays of troop and vehicle decontamination lines and both U.S. and Israeli NBC detection equipment and procedures. All of the tasks, both U.S. and Israeli methods, was performed by the joint force during the exercise.

"This is everyday real life to them," Nickerson said. "So if we can provide fresh ideas to assist them, that is what we want to do." **BG**

Validation exercise affirms special team's readiness



Story by Sgt. Brad Staggs
and Spc. David Bonnell
Muscatatuck Urban Training Center
Public Affairs

BUTLERVILLE, Ind.—Victims of the chemical attack were traumatized as they were brought together in one area... the ones lucky enough to have lived through the attack, that is. The Soldiers and Airmen who were helping them were dressed in yellow chemical protection suits and trying to calm the survivors. They could see the dead bodies of their friends from where they were.

It's the kind of disaster people don't like to think about, but the Ohio Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and high-yield Explosive (CBRNE) Enhanced Response Force, or CERF, trains to respond to everyday. For a week in August, the CERF was at the Muscatatuck Urban Training Center to do just that.

"Muscatatuck is an absolutely perfect setting for what we do," said Lt. Col. Scott Smith, CERF commander. "Our men and women can pull a victim from the rubble and have to bring them straight to decon without having

to pause to reset the exercise."

The CERF is made up of chemical, engineering and medical personnel from various Ohio Army and Air National Guard units. In all, more than 600 personnel were at Muscatatuck to train.

The task for the CERF was to set up a decontamination station in less than 90 minutes, so search and rescue teams could bring victims to the decontamination station to treat them. It was a task the team completed with 22 minutes to spare.

U.S. Army North officials said they were impressed with the CERF and validated the unit's performance. The Soldiers and Airmen who participated in the exercise were impressed as well.

"There is really realistic stuff here," Pvt.



SGT BRAD STAGGS / MUTC PUBLIC AFFAIRS

ABOVE: Ohio National Guard Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and high-yield Explosive (CBRNE) Enhanced Response Force (CERF) team runs a mock victim through the decontamination line during a training exercise at Muscatatuck Urban Training Center in Butlerville, Ind. **LEFT:** Team members carry a mock chemical attack victim to an aid station.

Michael Cooper said. "Especially on the rubble piles. I've never seen so many victims brought to us at one time, they were just outstanding. It's stuff you would see in real life."

Real people posing as "victims" were placed inside vehicles and under piles of debris to create a realistic training situation for the Soldiers and Airmen.

Air Force Staff Sgt. Kristen Bandey said that working in the training environment made the trip from Ohio worth the drive. "It's a lot of hard work, but in the end, it's really rewarding." **OG**

A 'humbling' experience



SPC Mariel Berio, of the 684th Medical Company, hands out toothbrushes and toothpaste to several parents and children this past summer in Corinto, El Salvador, as a part of a 10-day U.S. Army Medical Readiness Training Exercise.

Ohio National Guard medical team brings health care to El Salvador

Story and photos by Spc. Sam Beavers
196th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

DEPT. OF MORAZAN, EL SALVADOR—The crowd around Spc. Mariel Berio, of the 684th Medical Company, has become a mob. You'd think the Spanish-speaking, patient administrative specialist was giving away MP3 players rather than toothbrushes and toothpaste. Excited and joyous children clamor "pasta, pasta, pasta dientes" (toothpaste).

Berio tries to keep up with the demand and furiously distributes the box of dental care products, but soon the demand is too great and the day's supply is exhausted. "Regresan mañana (Come back tomorrow)," is all she is able to tell the ones that were too late.

Berio is with a group of 35 Ohio National Guard medics and support Soldiers who treated more than 7,000 patients as part of a U.S. Army Medical Readiness Training Exercise (MEDRETE) this past summer in the mountainous regions of Morazán, El Salvador.

The MEDRETE is a medical humanitarian and civic assistance exercise conducted in partnership with the government of El Salvador and U.S. Southern Command. The purpose of the exercise is to provide realistic training for the Soldiers and free medical care for the host nation, said the officer in charge of the mission, Col. Brett Call, of the Ohio National Guard Medical Detachment.

"This (was) a flawless mission," Call said. "Everyone worked hard, was helpful, and we treated a lot of people."

The MEDRETE team visited four different locations during the two-week exercise. The team worked out of local schools in the towns of Corinto, Joateca, Rancho Quemado and Torola.

"I loved my job down here, and it was emotional at times," said Sgt. Michael McConnell, of the Ohio National Guard Medical Detachment, who served as an optometry specialist and paired several hundred people with glasses. "Many people couldn't see anything, and now objects are clear."

One man, Alejandro Nolasco, of Torola, told McConnell through a translator that he has not been able to see for seven years, but now, after being fitted for a pair of glasses, he can see well. He also thanked McConnell for being attentive and for caring.

"This is an experience I'll take home with me. It makes me look at patient care in a different light," McConnell said. "I appreciate things in the United States more now."

The treatment services offered included preventive medicine, general medicine, optometry and dentistry.

The path to receive the various treatments was a journey for many residents. It started with getting to the school, which many people did by foot. Once there was room inside, the El Salvadoran guards would open the gates to let a group in. Next was registration, followed by a class on preventive medicine taught by El Salvadoran Ministry of Health officials. Then the patients would be routed, with the help of translators, to the vitals station and then on to their treatment station of choice, where they often would wait again to be seen.

"Some of them have walked three hours for a bag of Tylenol," said Capt. Toni Hall, with the Ohio National Guard Medical Detachment.

After being seen by the doctors, dentists or an optometry specialist, patients would then be routed to the pharmacy where they could pick up their prescriptions, all of which was provided at no cost to the residents.

Even though the process was long at times, the people were very appreciative.

“This activity has brought health to me and my children,” said Eva Angelina Arguata of Torola, through translator Capt. Oscar Montiel, an artillery officer in the El Salvadoran Army.

Capt. Oscar Armado Portillo Hernandez, commander of the El Salvadoran Policía Militar (military police), said many people have told him how appreciative they are.

“They keep asking me, ‘when do you come back?’” Portillo Hernandez said.

The MEDRETE mission was not only a great training opportunity, but a chance to broaden horizons by living and working in a foreign culture, many Ohio Soldiers said. One of the biggest challenges team members faced was communicating with patients, most of whom spoke Spanish only. The team was able to meet this challenge, however, with the help of several El Salvadoran military translators, all of whom spoke excellent English.

“They (El Salvadoran military personnel) were instrumental in getting the job done,” Call said. “We couldn’t have done it without them.”

In addition to the national military translators, several U.S. Peace Corps members volunteered their time and assisted the MEDRETE team with translation.

Eventually, through several hundred repeated exposures, most of the team was able to learn some Spanish words including “gripe,” “toz” and “dolor”—flu, cough and pain, respectively.

Also playing an instrumental role in mission success was the El Salvadoran Policía Militar, who accompanied the MEDRETE team everywhere they went and made sure the mission went smoothly.

“It has been a pleasure working together,” Portillo Hernandez said. “I hope that in the future, we can continue working together.”

He continued to say the exercise was a great benefit to the people and that it has done a lot to improve relations.

Sgt. 1st Class Francisco Roman, of the Ohio National Guard Medical Detachment, agreed.

“Being here creates better relations between us and them because they can actually see us and talk to us, as opposed to what they hear,” Roman said. “This is not the America they see on TV.”

The dental mission was headed by dentists Cols. Tom Holtmann and Michael D. Hablitzel, in partnership with El Salvadoran dentists. They treated more than 1,000 patients and pulled more than 1,000 teeth.

According to Hablitzel, there were two aspects of the dental mission—prevention and treatment. Prevention included preventive dental lectures, as well as the distribution of dental floss, toothbrushes and toothpaste. The treatment phase centered primarily on immediate and long-lasting pain and infection relief through tooth extractions.

“Their dental needs are extreme,” Holtmann said. “What we are able to do is just the tip of the iceberg. I wish we could spend more time with these patients.”

An Army Reserve veterinary team from California completed a successful veterinary mission during the exercise. The veterinary team vaccinated and treated more than 1,300 animals.

“It is rewarding to be able to help in El Salvador and to be able to help someone who wouldn’t otherwise be able to get that help,” said Capt. Stephen Whipple, a veterinarian with the 109th Medical Detachment.

By the time the closing ceremony arrived and operations began to cease, “humbling” became the most commonly used word among the medical team as the stories and lives of more than 7,000 patients sunk in.

“This experience brings you back to what you really need,” Call said. “I think every American should come here and see what daily life is like.” **OG**



ABOVE, TOP: CPT Trent Timmons, of Company C, 237th Support Battalion, checks the ears of a young girl in Joateca. **ABOVE:** SPC Patricia Stofiel, of the Ohio Army National Guard Medical Detachment, takes the blood pressure and pulse of a young boy in Corinto. **LEFT:** COL Tom Holtmann (right) and SGT Stephanie Shelton, of the Ohio Army National Guard Medical Detachment, stitch a man’s mouth in Rancho Quemado.

Focus on...State Partnership

Ohio National Guard engineers help refurbish school buildings throughout Serbia

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

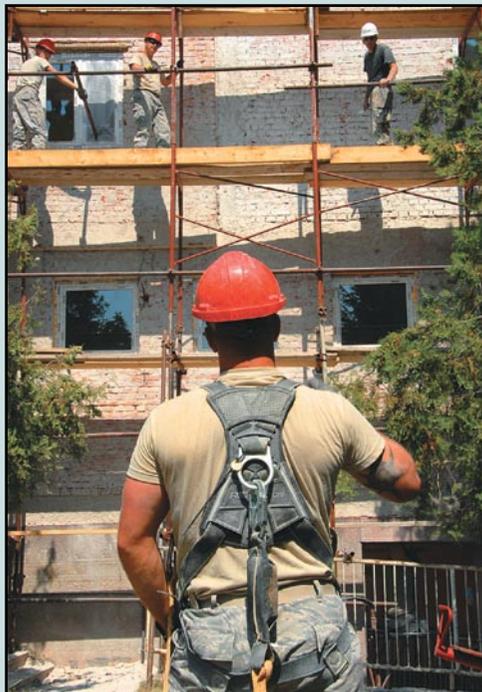
PROKUPLJE, Serbia—Ohio National Guard Soldiers and Airmen, along with members of the Serbian Armed Forces, remodeled schools throughout Serbia from Aug. 15 until school started in early September.

The Ohio Army National Guard's 1194th Engineer Company and the Ohio Air National Guard's 200th RED HORSE (Rapid Engineer Deployable Heavy Operational Repair Squadron Engineers) helped to refurbish schools in Sokobanja, Lapovo, and Prokuplje as part of the National Guard Bureau State Partnership Program. The program supports the U.S. European Command's military-to-military exchange program designed to facilitate familiarization with the operations of the U.S. Armed Forces. Ohio's partnership with Serbia began in September 2006.

"We are totally self-sustaining and world-wide deployable," said Staff Sgt. Brock Mowry of the 200th. "We're here to teach them our techniques and learn their techniques and build international relationships."

The RED HORSE is worked in conjunction with the Serbian Armed Forces on adding insulation and improving the facade of the Neven elementary school in Prokuplje.

"We're refinishing the school and installing a thermal barrier, increasing energy efficiency by eighty percent," Mowry said.



The troops removed a stucco finish from the school's outside wall, then applied a primer to provide a solid base from which to apply a layer of mortar. On top of the first mortar layer, a layer of Styrofoam insulation is applied, then another layer of mortar and finally a stucco finish.

Pavlovic Dusanka, the Neven elementary school principal, said the school had problems with the facade, windows, roof and drains. The school houses 850 children from the city of Prokuplje and the surrounding villages who are divided amongst three buildings.

SSgt Brock Mowry (foreground) of the 200th RED HORSE Squadron supervises the safety of the scaffolding during the remodeling of the Neven elementary school last August in Prokuplje, Serbia.

"I'm very happy with the partnership with America. By this project, the school is widely publicized and it is an honor," Dusanka said.

While the work on the outside walls at all three schools was completed by the U.S. military engineers, private civilian contractors will repair other areas of the school. During an initial analysis in April 2009, the projected funding for the Lapovo High School project was \$200,000 while \$50,000 was projected for Sokobanja's Mitropolit Mihailo primary school.

In Lapovo, the building's facade and paint was the priority for the 1194th Engineer Company, but the additional task of repairing the clay tile roof was delegated to a contractor. Though the logistics of repairing the school can be difficult, the logistics of taking care of the Soldiers working on them was easier than predicted as Serbian civilians welcomed the U.S. Soldiers and Airmen with open arms. Locals brought gifts of food and drink—primarily watermelon and Turkish coffee.

The Serbian Armed Forces welcomed the U.S. military members as well, trading patches and introducing them to key Serbian phrases.

"We're not just building a kindergarten, we're making friendships, friends I'll have my whole life," said Petar Vesovic, a translator for the engineers working in Prokuplje. "All the children that go here will know that Serbians and Americans are friends now." **AG**



LEFT: Serbian Minister of Defense Dragan Sutanovac (left) and MG Gregory L. Wayt, Ohio adjutant general, arrive at Rickenbacker Air National Guard Base Dec. 2 during a visit through the National Guard Bureau's State Partnership Program. *Photo by 2LT Kimberly Snow, Adj. Gen. Dept. Public Affairs.* **ABOVE:** Hungarian, Serbian and U.S. Army noncommissioned officers graduate from Class 09-002 of the Basic Noncommissioned Officers Course (BNCOC) Aug. 11 at the 147th Regiment (Regional Training Institute) at Rickenbacker. *Photo by SGT Sarah Isaacs, 196th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment.* **RIGHT:** Members of the 121st Civil Engineering Squadron, Columbus, refurbish a bathroom in a World War II-era barracks in Ujdorogd, Hungary. *Courtesy photo.*

Program

LEARN MORE:

For additional articles, photos and videos on Ohio's partnership with Serbia and Hungary, go to <http://ong.ohio.gov>



Ohio National Guard and Serbian troops pose for a group photo with Dragan Bogdanovic (second from left), a local man who helped teach the American troops Serbian construction methods.

Serbians, Americans demonstrate power of teamwork, community

Story and photos by
Capt. Nicole Ashcroft
Adj. Gen. Dept. Public Affairs

SOKOBANJA, Serbia—Amid the rolling hills of this rural Serbian town, nine U.S. troops discovered the tremendous value of having a small, tight-knit community to provide support and assistance. These troops deployed to Serbia in support of a humanitarian assistance project via the National Guard Bureau State Partnership Program. The Ohio National Guard and Serbian military, partnered since 2006, worked together to renovate a local elementary school, Mitropolit Mihailo.

The support they received goes beyond the daily warm greetings, Turkish coffee, fruit and smiles—the locals also showed up to provide assistance in renovating the elementary school. They did not do it for

pay, they did it for their community. They did it to ensure their children have a structurally sound schoolhouse that provides them with an environment they can learn in for years to come.

Many of the locals come and go daily, but one local community member, Dragan Bogdanovic, arrived on site from the beginning and worked beside the troops from dawn to dusk every day since.

Bogdanovic's many years of experience were a tremendous help to the Ohio National Guard Soldiers renovating the schoolhouse because the Serbian method to rebuild exterior walls was completely different than American methods. Bogdanovic was instrumental in bridging this gap by taking the time to train the troops on how it is done.

"So far it is going excellent. Everybody is working together and we are very happy," Bogdanovic said at the time. "Yes, I have been teaching them, but they are such good people that you (want) to teach them."

In addition to rebuilding the exterior walls, Ohio and Serbian troops replaced the water drainage system and ceiling, recovered floors with wood laminate, insulated the ceiling and basement and repainted the interior and exterior. The troops received additional assistance from Bogdanovic's two grandsons, Nemanja and Nenad, who he has been raising since his son's unexpected death four years ago.

"They (my grandsons) are also helping here. They are going to school here and they're also helping here," he said. "One of the (lessons) you have to get from the school is to help in general."

The work of the Ohio National Guard and Serbian troops and contractors, along with locals like Bogdanovic, ensured a smooth construction process that will provide the children of Soko Banja with a environment in which they can focus on their studies.

"I am really grateful to work here and they (Ohio National Guard troops) are wonderful people to work with," Bogdanovich said. **AG**

President Tadic visits Ohio

Story and photo by Spc. Sam Beavers
196th Mobile Public Affairs Det.

CLEVELAND—The president of the Republic of Serbia arrived in downtown Cleveland Sept. 20 to further develop the nation's ongoing relationship with Ohio that began in 2006 with the National Guard Bureau State Partnership Program.

"The partnership with the Ohio National Guard is an important part of our partnership with the United States," President Boris Tadic said.

Tadic and Serbian Foreign Minister Vuk Jeremic headed the Serbian delegation at the 64th session of the U.N. General Assembly in New York this week, but also scheduled this stop in Ohio to meet with Ohio Gov. Ted Strickland, leaders from Ohio's business community and the National Guard.

In three years of partnership there have been more than 80 exchanges between Serbia and Ohio and Maj. Gen. Gregory L. Wayt, Ohio adjutant general, said he had no plans of slowing down.

"Cooperation has never been better," Wayt said. "It is very important that we continue missions with Serbian Soldiers."

Ohio National Guard Soldiers and Airmen enjoy interacting not only with Serbian Soldiers, but also Serbian citizens, and welcome more opportunities to conduct training missions together said Maj. Gen.



Ohio Gov. Ted Strickland (from left) meets with Maj. Gen. Gregory L. Wayt, Ohio adjutant general, and Serbian President Boris Tadic Sept. 21 at the Union Club in Cleveland.

Matthew L. Kambic, Ohio assistant adjutant general for Army.

"The state partnership program not only fosters familiarization and the sharing of best practices that benefit both military organizations," said Maj. Gen. Harry "A.J." Feucht, Ohio assistant adjutant general for Air. "It also establishes a foundation upon which broader cooperation between the partners can be built."

"Meetings like those that occurred here today between the president and the governor and the business community, exploring new avenues of cooperation in education and business, are evidence of the broadening of Ohio's relationship with Serbia," Wayt said. "This partnership is the crown jewel, which means that it is setting the example for all state partnerships." **AG**

AT A GLANCE: OHIO'S STATE PARTNERS SERBIA AND HUNGARY



Preventing sexual assault

Educating the force in identifying, avoiding risky behavior, situations

Story by Steve Toth

Adj. Gen. Dept. Public Affairs

It is current policy and also a long-standing, unwritten rule—one always looks out for their battle buddy or wingman. Most Servicemembers understand that the obligation to be a good battle buddy or wingman extends beyond the traditional battlefield or when one is in a military duty status. Often, a battle buddy or wingman is needed most during off-duty hours or during the month in between training periods.

According to the Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network (RAINN), a person is sexually assaulted every two minutes on average in the United States. The Defense Department is calling on Servicemembers to take care of each other and commit to preventing sexual harassment and sexual assault, helping to foster a culture that does not tolerate or engage in such behavior. The Department of Defense Sexual Assault Response Policy was established to curtail inappropriate behavior within the ranks.

“Sexual assault is a crime that will not be tolerated in the Ohio National Guard,” said Maj. Gen. Gregory L. Wayt, Ohio adjutant general. “We must look upon each other as ‘brothers and sisters in-arms’ and treat each other with the same dignity and respect as our own Family members.”

The goal of the Ohio National Guard Sexual Assault Prevention and Response (SAPR) Program is to eliminate sexual assault through education and the promotion of values that teach Servicemembers to respect and safeguard one another, according to an Ohio National Guard policy memorandum.

“Commanders are responsible for the climate within their commands,” Wayt said. “When sexually derogatory remarks or sexual harassment are tolerated, that sets the conditions for sexual assaults to occur.”

Sexual Assault Response Coordinators (SARCs) and unit Victim Advocates (VAs) are vital to the education and response within Ohio Army and Air National Guard units. All SARCs and VAs are required to attend a 40-hour block of training to become certified and then attend annual refresher training. Each Air National Guard wing will have a trained SARC and at a minimum, two trained VAs. The Army National Guard will have a Deployable SARC (DSARC) at the brigade level and one trained VA at every unit, appointed by the battalion commander or higher.

Capt. Angel Mallia is the Joint Force Headquarters SARC, managing and overseeing the Ohio National Guard SAPR program. Mallia said she views her main role as educating the force about what constitutes sexual assault and sexual harassment, and what Servicemembers can do to stay out of trouble or to avoid being a potential victim.

Mallia said most often when people hear the words “sexual assault” they think of rape, but it also includes the wide range of unwanted sexual contacts that people may experience such as child sexual abuse, incest, exhibitionism, voyeurism, fondling and sexual harassment—which is defined as any unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature. Sexual harassment often manifests itself in subtle ways, such as sexually suggestive comments, unwanted touching,

risqué jokes or blatant demand for sexual contact, according to the State of Washington’s Office of Crime Victims Advocacy. In most cases, these actions take place within work or educational settings where both the offender and the victim are required to be in close contact.

“We educate people that most rapes aren’t like the “stranger” rapes you see on TV,” Mallia said, where a stranger might jump out of the bushes to rape a woman walking home from work late at night. Most rapes are acquaintance rapes (date rapes), and many are alcohol-facilitated, she said.

Another key role of the JFHQ SARC is to act as the single point of contact for all reports of sexual assault cases within the Ohio National Guard. While sexual assaults can be initially reported to unit VAs, leaders or any fellow Soldier or Airman, Mallia’s office must be contacted immediately so the victim can be cared for and resources aligned properly.

While not overly prevalent within the Ohio National Guard, Mallia said there have been cases of sexual assault among the force.

“We have had cases—the majority of our cases have been inappropriate touching,” Mallia said. “But we have had about five actual rapes involving Ohio National Guardmembers (since 2005). Many stem out of training at military schools and AIT (Advanced Individual Training), and many involve the use of alcohol. And it can happen to males, especially during mobilizations and involving TCNs (Third Country

“We must look upon each other as ‘brothers and sisters in-arms’ and treat each other with the same dignity and respect as our own Family members.”

—Maj. Gen. Gregory L. Wayt
Ohio Adjutant General

Nationals).”

Sgt. 1st Class William Wilkinson, currently with the Ohio Army National Guard Recruiting and Retention Battalion, served as a medical operations noncommissioned officer and DSARC with the 285th Medical Company when the unit was deployed to Iraq in 2006. Wilkinson said VAs must be discreet, respectful and be able to provide support and care for a victim during the very vulnerable and confusing period after a sexual assault occurs, when it is sometimes very difficult for the victim to come forward and report the incident in the first place.

“The facts are that if you work as a good VA and ensure confidentiality, the Soldiers...will come find you, and will be more likely to report any sexual assault, Wilkinson said. “One of the most important roles a VA may have to do is to just be there for victims to talk to, and stay with the victims throughout the process.”

Initial awareness training, annual training and pre- and post-mobilization training on SAPR are mandatory for all National Guardmembers. New recruits now receive SAPR training while in the Recruit Sustainment Program (Army) or Student Flight Program (Air). Trained SARCs or VAs in each unit conduct the training.

“That’s why we made it a requirement for a victim advocate at every unit, because that person is going to work to ensure the training happens,” Mallia said. “April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month—it’s a perfect month to conduct the NGB Bystander Intervention training.”

“VAs are there to respond (to cases of sexual assault), but their primary goal is education and prevention,” Mallia said. “If you educate and emphasize prevention, you should have fewer cases to respond to, because we’re going to stop people from crossing that line that they might have crossed before.”

More information can be found at www.sapr.mil (the Defense Department-sponsored website), on OH-TAGNET (Ohio National Guard Intranet site) or by calling Mallia at 1-877-751-5628 (24 hour-a-day availability in emergencies) or (614) 336-7159. **SG**



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY 1LT JON JOHNSON /JFHQ-OHIO PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Each Ohio National Guard liaison officer carries this multifunctional communications platform, capable of satellite, cellular and radio communication during an emergency.

TOOLS OF THE TRADE:

State-of-the art communication tools help liaison officers work with civil responders

Story by Capt. Michelle Smith
JFHQ-Ohio Public Affairs

In the middle of months of planning for a joint emergency operations exercise, the H1N1 spring flu pandemic began and preparation ended: the Ohio National Guard supported our state partners in a real-world emergency. The exercise was canceled, because the plan was validated during the crisis.

It is this type of planning, particularly by the Ohio National Guard Liaison Officer (LNO) program, that assures we are ready to respond during a disaster or emergency, said Maj. Joe Gabriel, who has served the ONG as a domestic operations officer for the past several years.

“Ohio’s LNO program has been recognized as one of the best practices in the nation,” Gabriel said. “We are the benchmark.”

The LNO program provides Ohio National Guard liaisons to support and interact with authorities and organizations across the scope of homeland defense and civil support

scenarios and situations.

Whether the crisis involves a civil disturbance, a natural disaster or a situation similar to the H1N1 flu pandemic, the Ohio National Guard LNO program provides its state partners with a consistent National Guard presence during both emergency operations and normal operating conditions.

Retired Col. Bob Labadie works as a contractor for the National Guard Bureau’s Strategic Plans and Policies Agency. His assignment allows him to view LNO programs across the nation. Training, equipping and manning are decided by each state, Labadie said.

“Ohio is proactive, and the Ohio National Guard shows a serious commitment to being as ready as possible with a program that is dedicated, permanent, tested and validated,” Labadie said.

Ohio’s liaison officer program is regionally based and

sourced. Each of Ohio’s 88 counties is assigned two liaison officers. The LNOs are drawn from both the Army and the Air National Guard and are fully integrated into the Ohio National Guard joint domestic response operations. They are assigned to the counties based on the proximity of their base or readiness center.

This provides consistent support to county emergency management agencies and increases the level of ONG participation in response planning and exercises.

“During a disaster, we already have a well-established relationship which allows for more fluid movement and action,” said Vikki Bunting, field liaison for the Ohio Emergency Management Agency.

In addition to the County LNO program, the Ohio National Guard developed a senior LNO cell, consisting of eight Guard Emergency Liaison Offi-

cers (GELO). Each GELO partners with one of the Ohio Emergency Management Agency’s (OEMA) Field Liaison Districts (FLD). That removes frustration, Bunting said, as each county EMA director knows exactly who to call.

Maj. Keven Clouse has served as the defacto officer-in-charge of the GELO program since its inception, and works as a field liaison representative for the Ohio Emergency Management Agency. “I am tuned in to what both agencies are doing in the field, and that adds situational awareness to both,” Clouse said.

“The GELO program provides a consistent face of the Ohio National Guard in each region and the counties within that region,” Clouse said. “There is a more consistent relationship with the agencies before an emergency, and that helps during an emergency.”

Added Labadie: “Exchanging business cards over a smoking crater is too late.”

Once local and state agencies have exhausted their capabilities, the ONG may be called to respond by an official proclamation from Ohio’s governor, directing support and assistance. Typically, Guard Emergency Liaison Officers are the first to coordinate Ohio National Guard assets with local agencies.

The GELO is equipped with a multifunctional communications platform, capable of satellite, cellular and radio communication. The equipment allows the GELO to provide the adjutant general with an immediate on-the-ground assessment, allowing the ONG to work with the OEMA and respond with appropriate resources.

“Ohio is unique because it has designated LNOs at the strategic, operational and tactical level,” Labadie said. “The Ohio National Guard has a dedicated liaison force, and the training program is extraordinary.”

Each year, the Ohio National Guard conducts a liaison officer workshop, providing the LNO with the necessary tools to represent the Ohio National Guard during joint training events and real-world emergencies. The training reinforces the standardized emergency response and language used across the nation set forth by the National Response Framework, as prescribed by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). **86**

PRELUDE TO THE DREAM



Tony Stewart, two-time NASCAR Sprint Cup Series champion, poses for a photo with Ohio Army National Guard Soldiers Sept. 9 between heats at the 2009 Gillette Young Guns Prelude to the Dream at Eldora Speedway in New Weston.

CHARIOTS OF FIRE:

OHIO NATIONAL GUARD PARTNERS WITH NASCAR TO HELP VETERANS

Story and photos by Staff Sgt. Randall P. Carey
196th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

NEW WESTON—Mud sprayed across the dirt track, engines roared and more than 23,000 fans in attendance roared even louder as Tony Stewart slid into first place during the 2009 Gillette Young Guns Prelude to the Dream Sept. 9 at Eldora Speedway in Darke County.

Stewart persevered as others crashed or fell far behind. He hung on to the lead through the 30th and final lap of the feature heat to win the race.

Stewart, two-time NASCAR Sprint Cup Series champion and perennial NASCAR Sprint Cup points leader, owns Eldora Speedway and has hosted the Prelude to the Dream charity race annually since 2005.

The proceeds of past races have gone to benefit a variety of charities and children's organizations, but the 2009 event will support several programs to help veterans—the Wounded Warrior Project, Intrepid Fallen Heroes Fund, Operation Homefront and Fisher House, said Brett Froid, chief operating officer of Tony Stewart Racing Enterprises.

Because of the military theme of the charitable efforts, the Stewart team called on the Ohio Army National Guard to assist with the race, said Staff Sgt. Tony L. Baker, recruiting and retention noncommissioned officer with the Greenville recruiting office.

Soldiers of 2nd Squadron, 107th Cavalry Regiment pro-

vided support for the event including 12 Humvees and 27 Soldiers to take the race drivers on an introductory lap before the race, said Sgt. 1st Class Chris Carlisle.

"It really raises the awareness of patriotism," said Baker, whose own family was helped by the Wounded Warrior Project when his brother was wounded in Iraq. "It shows an inner desire to help the overall cause."

"It's important what we do today, but it's also important to recognize the past and those that got us where we are today," said Ryan Newman, driver of the U.S. Army car and winner of the 2008 Daytona 500, the most prestigious race on the NASCAR schedule each year.

Working with the military has brought a larger level of pride to his organization, Stewart said. The Soldiers he's met have had a positive influence.

"People think we're tough because we can drive a car 200 miles per hour," he said. "We're not tough. Every Soldier in Walter Reed is tougher."

Stewart had only one simple message he wanted to send to Soldiers.

"Thank You," he said. **RG**



At the helm of the No. 14 car, Stewart rounds a turn during the 2009 Gillette Young Guns Prelude to the Dream at Eldora Speedway.

INDY 200



Some Ohio National Guardmembers and others got the opportunity to take to the track and ride in an Indy car over the weekend.

OHIO NATIONAL GUARD BIG PART OF INDY 200 WEEKEND

Story and photos by Staff Sgt. Robert J. Koehler
179th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

LEXINGTON—It was an exciting weekend in August for the Ohio National Guard as the Indy Racing League rolled into Lexington for the Honda Indy 200. The Panther Racing Team, sponsored by the National Guard, accommodated about 50 members of the Ohio Air and Army National Guard, including civilian guests for the race and pre-race events.

The four-day event included autograph sessions with National Guard Indy car driver Dan Wheldon, lunches and souvenirs. Throughout the weekend, the Panther Racing Team and the Ohio National Guard shared a genuine camaraderie.

Panther Racing Team Owner John Barnes spoke with the guests and delivered a solemn recollection of his past experience with a Hometown Hero as he thanked Buckeye Hometown Hero honoree, Spc. Zachary Fehrman—the 2009 Ohio Army National Guard Soldier of the Year—for his service. Barnes also presented Fehrman with a framed picture signed by Wheldon and a model of the National Guard Indy car in appreciation for his service to the country and Ohio.

Maj. Gen. Gregory L. Wayt, Ohio adjutant general, said the weekend was a great team building event as Barnes guided the Ohio National Guardmembers through the paddock area on the way to the pre-race ceremony. They stopped by the National Guard car meeting room, where discussions of race strategy and fuel conservation filled the air in the tight quarters.

Wayt, along with Maj. Gen. Harry “A.J.” Feucht, Jr., Ohio assistant adjutant general for Air, and the crew listened intently as the crew talked about fuel mixtures and pit stops and how they are key elements to winning a race. The entourage headed to the pit area and stopped at the garage briefly to offer a few last words of encouragement and thanks to driver Dan Wheldon before Wayt and Fehrman stepped onto the opening ceremony stage to meet the drivers of the Indy 200. **86**



A realistic Indy car simulator gives an Ohio National Guard Airman the opportunity to test his driving skills.

AROUND THE OHIO AIR NATIONAL GUARD



179th Airlift Wing prepares for its future

Story by
Capt. Nicole L. Ashcroft
Adj. Gen. Dept.
Public Affairs

MANSFIELD—Amid the sandy desert grounds of Iraq, 64 members of the 179th Airlift Wing, Mansfield, worked with members of the 25th Combat Aviation Brigade in a ground-breaking concept of operations test between the Army and the Air Force. The troops from the 179th were assigned to the 25th Nov. 5 when they began the assignment and continued through late December, returning home in time for Christmas.

In preparation for the arrival of C-27J “Spartan” medium airlift aircraft, the 179th answered the call from Air Mobility Command for a unit to participate in this test to watch and document how an Air Force squadron integrates with Army command and control and scheduling processes. This type of mission has not been done since Vietnam. At that time, it was only done for the purpose of transferring C-7 Caribous to the Air Force from the Army—having Air Force units remain attached while deployed is a new concept. It is a new and bold concept that members of the 179th and 25th embraced and worked diligently toward ensuring its success.

The 179th has special capabilities that greatly assisted the 25th in completing their mission. As a “slick” (non-special operations) unit, they’re qualified in airdrop/airland and adverse weather aerial delivery and certified in flying with night vision goggles. This enabled the 25th to haul more cargo

A C-27J “Spartan” taxis on the ramp at Redstone Arsenal, Ala., during flight testing in early 2009. The Air Force plans to add about 40 C-27Js to its inventory, which will be operated by the Air National Guard.



U.S. AIR FORCE PHOTO

and personnel, relieving the stress on the general support helicopters (UH-60 “Black Hawks” and CH-47 “Chinooks”). In most instances, the 179th can execute direct support plus time-sensitive and critical missions with more robust and quicker delivery.

Both the Air Force and the Army have their unique tactics, techniques and procedures. This study is focused on learning how to combine the two in order to forge a blend that will make the two services successful in future missions. This is particularly important as the C-27 Spartans are scheduled to begin arriving at 179th in the fall of 2010.

In addition, in preparation for the new mission, a group of pilots and loadmasters began training on the C-27J Spartan in December at Robins Air Force Base, Ga. **AG**

Firefighters exhibit courage under fire

By 1st Lt. Erika Wonn,
121st Air Refueling Wing
Public Affairs

BAGHDAD, Iraq—Two Ohio Air National Guard firefighters were recently credited with saving 10 civilian homes and countless lives and property when they jumped into action while volunteering in an off-base area outside of Baghdad International Airport, Iraq.

Senior Master Sgt. Judson Shull, from the Mansfield-based 179th Airlift Wing, and Airman 1st Class Robert Bissett, from the Columbus-based 121st Air Refueling Wing, Ohio Air National Guard, were deployed to Sather Air Base at Baghdad International Airport, where they provide air field fire protection. The firemen were off duty, volunteering to educate Iraqi Boy and Girl Scouts about fire prevention and safety Aug. 29 when a fire broke out in a nearby Iraqi housing facility.

“You could see plumes of smoke billowing from the houses,” said Bissett, a Pataskala, Ohio, native. “We jumped in our truck with no gear and rushed to the fire.”

When the pair arrived at the scene, two homes in a 12-unit housing development were in flames. Shull, a Belleville, Ohio, native, rushed to the back of the complex while Bissett went

around front. When they were satisfied all of the residents had been cleared to safety, the two waited for the Iraqi fire department to arrive. When they arrived, Shull went inside with the firemen to assist and provide guidance while Bissett grabbed an ax to ventilate rooms and help search for hot spots. After the fire was under control, the two firemen stepped back while the Iraqi firemen completed their overhaul procedures.

“It’s our duty to act. We happened to be in the right place at the right time,” Bissett said. “We were just glad we could help.”

The two Airmen were credited by Iraqi officials with keeping the fire from spreading throughout the housing complex, which could have destroyed 10 more Iraqi homes, and may have had worse consequences.

“Fortunately, there were no major injuries or lives lost, and we did manage to save the family van although it suffered fire damage,” Shull said.

Ironically, the Airmen were giving classes in fire safety at an Iraqi Scout meeting nearby when the fire broke out in the civilian housing complex. Frequently, firefighters from deployed units volunteer to spend some of their spare free time educating Iraqi citizens about fire risks and prevention to protect their families and communities.

“Little is known to most of these families we talk to about fire,” Bissett said. “It’s just not as well taught as it is in America.”

Shull is an Explorer Post Scout leader back in Ohio.



COURTESY PHOTO

Ohio Air National Guardmembers A1C Robert Bissett (left) and SMSgt Judson Schull take a break after helping to contain an Iraqi house fire near their base in Baghdad, Iraq. After noticing a plume of black smoke, the pair raced to the scene, aiding and relieving the overwhelmed Iraqi firefighters and are credited with preventing injury to the Iraqi firefighters and residents as well as reducing property damage.

“The Iraqi Scouts pay serious attention during these classes, for tragically, some of them know friends or relatives who have died in fires,” Shull said.

The sergeant said the Scouts are much like the ones he teaches in his hometown—young and eager to learn. He said smoke detectors and batteries, which are commonplace in America, are desperately needed in Iraq.

Both Airmen received certificates and

coins from the 447th Expeditionary Airlift Wing commander, Col. James P. Savoy. They also were invited to visit the Ohio Senate when they returned from Iraq.

“It’s been very rewarding meeting and working alongside fellow firefighters from all over the U.S. and Iraq,” Shull said. “I am proud to say that I would walk into a fire alongside any firefighter here with pure confidence that we have each other’s back.” **AG**

EIS hones skills at Joint Patriot ‘09

ALPENA, Mich.—About 1,000 Air National Guard, 900 Army Guard, and 100 troops from foreign nations participated and implemented planning, engineering and logistics support for large-scale operations in support of the Joint Patriot ‘09 exercise.

The units at Alpena Combat Readiness Training Center tailored their part of the exercise to accommodate real-world jobs into their yearly training requirements. The 220th Engineering Installation Squadron, Zanesville, removed unused cabling clogging the ducts throughout the Alpena CRTC. They also mapped and located the communications system components and entered the information into GeoBase software. While completing this real-world work, the unit practiced for chemical, nuclear and biological warfare.

“The job tasks we performed were all things we have done, or will have to do, in a deployed environment at one time or another,” said Staff Sgt. Zachary Tyo of the 220th EIS wire section.

Another highlight of the exercise for 220th members was the opportunity to upgrade the gunnery communications infrastructure at Camp Grayling Joint Maneuver Training Center. They watched as blasting air strikes from A-10 and F-16 fighter jets hit targets on the ground close to where they were working in the tower.

“It was neat to see our equipment in action while the Navy was training with the Air Force to call in air strikes on targets at the range and an incredible opportunity to see the action up close,” said Staff Sgt. Corey Chapman, team chief of radio installation. **MSGT TAMMY BAILEY AND 1LT DOUGLAS PLYMALE / 220TH ENGINEERING INSTALLATION SQUADRON** **AG**



CAPT GARY ENO / CIVIL AIR PATROL

SSgt Shawn Lewis installs Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) radio equipment at Camp Grayling Joint Maneuver Training Center in northern Michigan.

LEADING THE WAY HOME

OHIO PATRIOT GUARD RIDES TO HONOR SERVICEMEMBERS, FAMILIES



2LT KIMBERLY SNOW / ADJ. GEN. DEPT. PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Ohio Patriot Guard Riders State CPT Bob Woods escorts a bus carrying members of Company B, 2nd Battalion, 19th Special Forces Group to the Soldiers' Welcome Home ceremony July 28 at the Groveport Recreation Center.

Story by Spc. Sam Beavers
196th Mobile Public Affairs Det.

COLUMBUS—They are quiet when they can be and loud when they must be. They are the Ohio Patriot Guard Riders and they have been providing support to Ohio Servicemembers for more than four years.

The Ohio PGR is comprised mainly of veterans on motorcycles and they have one basic goal.

“We do whatever we can do to honor Servicemembers, past and present,” said Master Sgt. Ed Engel, PGR District 7 captain and member of the 445th Airlift Squadron, U.S. Air Force Reserve.

The group accomplishes this goal by riding

in three types of missions: Welcome Home ceremonies, Call to Duty ceremonies and funerals for Servicemembers and veterans.

Riders have two basic objectives during these missions, to show sincere respect for Servicemembers and their Families and to protect Servicemembers and Families from protesters, said State Capt. Bob Woods.

“We hope we can, through our display of patriotism and genuine concern, leave a lasting impression of pride and a feeling of ease on the Servicemembers and their Families,” Woods said.

The Ohio Patriot Guard Riders formed soon after August of 2005 in response to a national outcry over protesters at Service-

members' funerals, according to the Ohio PGR website, www.ohiopgr.org. A group of American Legion motorcycle riders in Kansas responded by arriving with large American flags to shield Family members from protesters. After the successful Kansas mission, a nationwide campaign began and states developed their own Patriot Guard Riders to handle protesters and to honor military members.

“As a Vietnam veteran, we never got this kind of support,” Woods said. “I’m not going to let that happen to my fellow warriors.”

Ohio National Guard Soldiers and Airmen have seen the PGR in action and have enjoyed their support.

“To have that type of reception is a really awesome feeling,” said Sgt. Maj. Andy Duch, who



ABOVE: Ohio Patriot Guard Riders escort a bus carrying Operational Mentor and Liaison Team 9.1 to the Soldiers' Welcome Home ceremony. *Photo by SPC Sam Beavers, 196th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment.* **RIGHT:** CPT Joseph Dickerson of Company B, 2nd Battalion, 19th Special Forces Group, shakes hands with a PGR member July 28 during the unit's Welcome Home ceremony at the Groveport Recreation Center following a yearlong deployment in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. *Photo by 2LT Kimberly Snow, Adj. Gen. Dept. Public Affairs.*



recently returned home from deployment with Operational Mentor and Liaison Team 9.1.

The PGR escorted the bus carrying OMLT 9.1 from Grove City to their Welcome Home ceremony in Reynoldsburg.

"That was really cool to know that they took time out of their schedule to honor us," said Capt. Robert Paley, who also recently returned from deployment with OMLT 9.1.

Woods has also seen another side of this process. His nephew, an Army Green Beret assigned to 20th Special Forces Group, recently died while fighting in Afghanistan and Woods rode in his funeral procession. Woods said the Patriot Guard helped his nephew's immediate family cope with their loss.

Woods said he was honored to ride in that mis-

sion as he is in all funeral missions.

"You take a little piece of yourself and your heart and you give it to the Families because that's what they deserve," Woods said.

Engel said the Families deserve honoring as much as the Servicemembers do.

"We thank Family members because they have a mission too when loved ones are deployed," he said. "We want Families to know that they are not alone, that we are there to support them."

Woods and Engel both said Family members are mostly happy that the Patriot Guard Riders are at their loved ones event.

"You just see a grin on their face when they see the Patriot Guard," Engel said. "They are happy that someone is there supporting the troops."

Woods admitted that most riders are veterans, but said you do not have to be a veteran to join the Ohio PGR.

"The only requirement is that you honor and respect our military," Woods said.

Interested riders also do not need to drive a motorcycle, and Woods does not want to hear that as an excuse for not participating.

"Use a car or a bicycle, I don't care how you get there, as long as you show up because you want to," Woods said. **OG**



WAYNE COOK / FORT DIX PUBLIC AFFAIRS

SGT Travis Tucker (left), a team leader with the 585th Military Police Company, relays information to the rear as PFC Jason Sidle (kneeling) and PFC Erick Ferriman, provide cover fire during a simulated training exercise at the contingency operations location at Fort Dix, N.J.

Ohio MP Company heads to Iraq

FORT DIX, N.J.—After a celebratory sendoff in Marysville, Ohio, the Soldiers of the 585th Military Police Company spent the next five weeks training at Fort Dix for their Police Transition Team mission in Iraq.

More than 160 Soldiers from the Buckeye state arrived on the installation with one thing in their sights—get the training necessary for their deployment and get the mission under way.

Capt. Kevin Harrold, the company commander, said the unit reorganized as an MP company three years ago. This is the unit's first deployment, although more than 25 percent of the assigned Soldiers have deployed at least once to Iraq or Afghanistan.

There is plenty of experience among the troops as many of them are first responders in their civilian lives.

“Spc. Steven Fagan was sworn in as a member of his hometown fire department in Mifflin Township, Gahanna, Ohio, two days ago via the phone,” Harrold said. “Many of our Soldiers chose to put their college education on hold so they could deploy with the company.”

Harrold is a career Soldier with more than 17 years in the Army. A prior enlisted military police officer, he said one of the highlights of his career thus far was when he served as a patrol supervisor and squad leader at Fort Hood, Texas—the world's largest military installation.

“I believe my enlisted service gives me a clearer and deeper understanding of the unit, its mission and our Soldiers,” Harrold said.

“We have an excellent group of Soldiers and leaders in the company. I'm very proud

of them all.”

The 585th underwent rigorous training while at Fort Dix, which included convoy operations, weapons familiarization and qualification, language orientation and interaction with Iraqi police and village leaders.

Pfc. Jacob Parker, whose grandfather is a retired Army colonel, has a profound love for his profession as a law enforcement officer. He believes that training the Iraqi police is an opportunity to help the

nation become more independent.

“Personally, I like law enforcement and the training that accompanies the job,” Parker said. “So far this is right up my alley. I'm excited to deploy. I believe we have been trained well and are prepared for our mission and we will be successful.”

WAYNE COOK / FORT DIX PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Rickenbacker KC-135 tanker crews compete in different kind of 'RODEO'

McCHORD AIR FORCE BASE, Wash.—The 121st Air Refueling Wing competed this summer in RODEO 2009 here and finished less than a point from first place against 11 other KC-135 tanker aircraft teams.

RODEO is the Air Force's premier competition for Air Mobility Command organizations and their Airmen. More than 100 teams and 2,500 people competed from the Air Force, Air National Guard and Reserve, as well as seven international teams. Fourteen allied nations observed the competition.

“We did better than anyone else in our primary mission of getting the gas to the right place on time,” said Maj. Lance Kollstedt, 121st RODEO team commander.

The 121st, led by Capt. Nick Hupp, 1st Lt. Jason Morgan and Tech. Sgt. William Gilbert, won best air refueling and placed second overall as a tanker aircrew team. The team prepared and trained for more than four months.

“The hard work and dedication of all RODEO members went above and beyond, something each member will remember for a long time,” said maintenance team chief

Tech. Sgt. Steve Rood.

The maintenance team finished in sixth place in the tanker category. The four-member security forces team, led by Tech. Sgt. Troy Taylor, competed in three events showcasing combat weapons, combat tactics and a combat endurance course. They trained 50 hours a week for a month and had a motto of continue doing what others won't. Their motto paid off for the team with a second place finish amongst all tanker teams and fifth overall against 28 other security forces teams.

“I wouldn't change a thing. We trained hard, we worked hard, and we did well as an organization,” Taylor said. **CAPT. KAREN O'NEILL / 121 AIR REFUELING WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS**

Ceremony honors Springfield wing's 'Hometown Heroes' who have deployed

SPRINGFIELD—The Air National Guard honored about 50 Airmen assigned to the 178th Fighter Wing, Ohio Air National Guard, and their Families, at a Hometown Heroes Salute (*see page 10, Spring 2009 Buckeye Guard*) Sept. 12 at the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1031.

The event was attended by dignitaries including Rep. Steve Austria of Ohio's 7th District, Rep. Robert Hackett of Ohio's 10th District, Springfield Mayor Warren Copeland and Col. Mike Roberts, wing commander.

“We're very proud of the men and women in the 178th. They do an outstanding job,” Austria said. “It's important that we as a community recognize their sacrifice. Yesterday we remembered the victims of 9/11. Today, the men and women of the 178th are the heroes.”

The wing Hometown Heroes received an encased letter of appreciation and commemorative coin from Maj. Gen. Harry M. Wyatt, Air National Guard director, and Chief Master Sgt. Richard Smith, former command chief for the Air National Guard.

The Hometown Heroes Salute also honored the Families, communities and employers. Spouses received a Hometown Heroes Salute engraved pen and pencil set and their children received a set of personalized dog tags. The Hometown Heroes also received a special medallion of appreciation for each to present to a center of influence in their community. **SRA AMY ADDUCCHIO / 178TH FIGHTER WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS**

Camp Ravenna receives upgrades during detachments' annual training

NEWTON FALLS—Annual Training for Soldiers of the 291st and 292nd Engineer Detachments was a historical event. It marked the first time that Ohio Army National Guard engineers placed asphalt with a paver.

Their mission was to repair and resurface a one mile section of George Road on the west side of Camp Ravenna Joint Military Training Center.

You could feel the excitement and enthusiasm as the Soldiers prepared the road for repairs.

The process included three steps: first, the potholes were cleaned out and excess asphalt removed. Second, the potholes were filled to grade. Third, a two-inch thick matt was placed. Due to the size of the road, two passes were made to cover the 19 feet required. Team members rotated between raking, shoveling, operating asphalt rollers and the paving machine.

The asphalt coming out of the trucks can be up to 350 degrees Fahrenheit when it hits the paver, so safety was of utmost importance. Due to the diligence of everyone involved, 800 tons of asphalt was placed without incidence or injury. It was a team building event and morale was high.

Not even the unforgiving job of cleaning the paver could lessen the morale of these Soldiers. Not only did they receive valuable on the job training, the post received an opportunity to repave the main entry of the west side that receives a large volume of traffic every day. **WO1 FRANCIS J. AMATO / 290TH ENGINEER DETACHMENT**

Local career day opens eyes to potential National Guard occupations

HAMILTION—The Southwest Ohio Construction Career Day, held Sept. 23-24, was an opportunity for organizations and businesses to improve the image of the construction industry in the eyes of high school students.

The construction career day is a hands-on event with the intent on focusing and exciting young people about construction and getting them to consider construction as a career choice.

This event was a perfect opportunity for the 216th Engineer Battalion to showcase opportunities within its organization. The 216th Soldiers, along with recruiters from Company A, demonstrated to more than 2,300 students the construction capabilities of the 216th and its support functions and explained the benefits of being a part of the Ohio Army National Guard.

Under close supervision, students were given the opportunity to experience first hand what it's like to operate bobcats, dozers, measure and cut lumber, run electrical conduit, bend metal piping and ride in some of the Ohio Army National Guard's finest equipment. The students visited various exhibits to hear about furthering their education, potential careers and gain general industry knowledge.

This is the second consecutive year that the units of the 216th Engineer Battalion have participated in the event.

Other companies, colleges and organizations also offered information and opportunities to those in attendance. **CPT DION GOINS / 216TH ENGINEER BATTALION**

Sherwin-Williams volunteers help spruce up recruiters' offices

WALBRIDGE—Soldiers with I Company, Recruiting and Retention Battalion, located at the Walbridge Armory, welcomed volunteers from Sherwin-Williams Dec. 19 to paint three offices here.

Four employees from Sherwin-Williams' Breen Technology Center in Cleveland brought 56 gallons of paint, several boxes of other various supplies to aid in the task and a world full of charitable holiday cheer.

"The National Guard comes running every time anyone else needs help," said Scott Wolf, a senior programmer with Sherwin-Williams. "It's our turn to help out when they need something."

It's unfortunate that there isn't a greater effort by the community to help the National Guard, said Wolf. "People should do more."

It means a lot to be able to help out with a gift like this around the holidays, he said.

The value of this effort by Sherwin-Williams is "priceless," said Sgt. 1st Class Kevin Hollenbacher, team leader with I Company. The renovation will facilitate an enhanced image of the guard to potential recruits during their first exposure to the military. Moreover, I Company was able to maintain their training schedule as a result of the extent of the volunteers' assistance.

Sherwin-Williams was initially planning only to donate the paint for the project. However, Wolf recognized that military Families incur equal, and often greater, obligations during the holidays, and proposed the idea of donating the time to do the painting as well, he said.

And there was no shortage of support.

Programmer Chris Bean, lab technician Windy Gosselin and senior scientist Rich Tomko made the trip along with Wolf; although more Sherwin-Williams employees expressed interest in helping. One is so dedicated enough to offer his assistance to the Ohio National Guard that he has already committed to making a trip to Walbridge in the spring.

The job may seem to be an extravagant effort to some, but with such emphatic corporate support, it is much easier, Wolf said.

When the idea for the task was presented to corporate, they unloaded supplies in support of the event, Bean said. The depth of Sherwin-Williams' desire to help National Guard Soldiers and Families runs much deeper than material support. It rests in the



SSG RANDALL CAREY / 196TH MOBILE PUBLIC AFFAIRS DET.

The enlisted leadership of I Company, Recruiting and Retention Battalion present an award to volunteers from Sherwin-Williams Oct. 19 in recognition of their volunteer effort to paint three offices for I Company at the Walbridge Armory.

spirit of the volunteers as well.

The right question to ask, Tomko said, is what more can we do to help? What do Soldiers need?

This holiday season, with such encompassing and enthusiastic generosity, Sherwin-Williams was truly helping, and painting smiles on faces of the Ohio National Guard. **SSG RANDALL P. CAREY / 196TH MOBILE PUBLIC AFFAIRS DETACHMENT**

Ohio National Guard engineers help provide route clearance training in Iraq

BAGHDAD, Iraq—Iraqi Police from the 1st Mechanized Brigade attended a three-day class in November on route clearance and improvised explosive device recognition at the Task Force Iron Claw Academy here.

Taught by Soldiers of the 101st Engineer Battalion and the Ohio National Guard's 16th Engineer Brigade on Victory Base Complex, the course covered the main components of IEDs, including signs to indicate a possible IED and simulated IED lanes.

IP officer Maj. Abbas Ali said he was impressed with the hands-on training and felt the portion of the class covering placement and concealment to be the most helpful.

"We now have another way to detect dangerous IEDs. This training helps us help our people and U.S. forces to avoid terrible incidents around Baghdad," he said.

On the last day of class, the IPs tested their knowledge during a simulated IED lane. Stopping to investigate anything suspicious, the IPs were able to detect every simulated IED that had been hidden by the instructors.

At the graduation ceremony, Col. Tris Cooper of the 16th urged the IPs to share their newfound knowledge with their fellow IPs.

"Knowledge is power, but only if it is shared," Cooper said. **SSG APRIL MOTA / 101ST ENGINEER BATTALION, 16TH ENGINEER BRIGADE**



SMSGT JOE STAHL / 178TH FIGHTER WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Capt Aaron "Scat" Wildman (from left) walks former Ohio State University quarterback Craig Krenznel and his father Al Krenznel through his preflight checks prior to Craig's F-16 fighter jet familiarization flight Sep. 11 at the 178th Fighter Wing.

Ohio State Football National Championship hero flies in F-16

SPRINGFIELD—Former Ohio State University quarterback Craig Krenznel received an F-16 familiarization flight Sept. 11 at the 178th Fighter Wing.

This flight fulfilled a childhood dream of Krenznel's to fly in an Air Force fighter aircraft.

"When I was a kid growing up, all I ever wanted to do was to be a fighter pilot," said Krenznel.

The day of his flight began with a flight physical and egress training in life support. His flight followed, which lasted for approximately one hour.

After his vertical takeoff, Krenznel enjoyed the view on a clear day.

Krenznel spent the remainder of the day signing autographs and OSU memorabilia as well as socializing with the Springfield Airmen.

Krenznel and the 2002 Ohio State football team defeated Miami (Fla.) University, Fla., in a double-overtime national championship game. **SMSGT JOSEPH STAHL / 178TH FIGHTER WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS**

OHARNG has new general officer

COLUMBUS—The Ohio Army National Guard recently added a new general officer to its ranks.

Col. Robert C. Clouse Jr., became the organization's first deputy assistant adjutant general for Army during a Dec. 8 ceremony at the Robert S. Beightler Armory in Columbus. A group of more than 150 Ohio National Guardmembers, friends and Family gathered to celebrate Clouse's appointment and promotion to brigadier

general, an event that increased the number of general officers in the Ohio Army National Guard to six.

Clouse was pinned by his wife, Diana, and father, Robert, 91, a retired colonel who also re-administered his son's oath of office. The senior Clouse, then a lieutenant colonel, administered his son's oath of enlistment when he entered the

regular Army in 1970 at 17 years old. When Clouse Jr., received his commission through the ROTC program at Kent State University in 1976, his father, by then a colonel, traveled to the northeast Ohio school to administer his oath of office.

"This is truly a historic day," said Maj. Gen. Gregory L. Wayt, Ohio adjutant general. "Bob's dad administered his first oath, then again when he was commissioned and will also administer his oath today as he becomes a general officer. I think it sets the right tone for this achievement."

As the outgoing construction facilities management officer for the Ohio Army National Guard, Clouse was responsible for managing more than \$300 million in construction projects during the 2009 federal fiscal year, by far the most in Ohio National Guard history, Wayt said.

In his new position, Clouse will work closely with Maj. Gen. Matthew L. Kambic, Ohio's assistant adjutant general for Army. He will focus on training site strategy and development, medical readiness and regional training institute site development.

He acknowledged the many people who have supported him in his life and career, especially his Family.

"This is a special moment for my Family and me," he said. "However, my wife Diana remains the general of our household." **OHIO ADJUTANT GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT PUBLIC AFFAIRS**



Clouse

Mobilization doesn't mean having to be apart for some Family members

FORT MCCOY, Wis.—Every Soldier who has deployed knows that one of the hardest parts of the deployment is saying goodbye to loved ones for the time they will be away. Several Soldiers of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 16th Engineer Brigade, have figured out a strategy to get around this challenge. Twelve of the brigade's Soldiers are actually deploying with their spouse.

"You get to bring your Family with you and you don't get homesick as much," said Sgt. 1st Class Stacey Spellman, a construction operations sergeant for the brigade who is deploying with her husband, Sgt. 1st Class Stacey Spellman. Richard Spellman, Jr. "There's also less stress (worrying) about back home."

She was looking forward to this deployment particularly because, while she has deployed before, her husband has not and she looks forward to being with him for his first deployment.

"I can't even go to Iraq to get rid of her!" Richard quipped.

While Richard agrees with his wife, he said he will still worry about her.

"She could get into a position where she could be harmed and I wouldn't be there to protect her," he said.

However, for some, there are trade-offs to spending a year deployed with your spouse.

"It's hard to see him all the time and not have time to actually spend with him," said Maj. Jennifer Franz, assistant operations officer for the brigade. Jennifer's husband, 1st Lt. Doug Franz, is also deploying as the general's aide-de-camp.

Although the Franz's may have dinner together or work together, they rarely have the opportunity to spend time alone or show affection for each other, Jennifer said.

Most of the couples agree deploying together is a special opportunity. Sgt. Garrison Ball said he is lucky to share this experience with his wife, Spc. Allison Ball.

"A lot of spouses don't get to understand what it really means to deploy," Garrison said.

In fact, Garrison and Allison spent their first anniversary together Sept. 13 at Fort McCoy, Wis.—an anniversary they would have spent apart but for the shared deployment.

Command Sgt. Maj. Rebecca George, the senior supply supervisor, is preparing for her second deployment with her husband. This couple, however, deployed to separate locations, which presents unique challenges. They still worry about their spouse also being deployed but without actually spending time together. The logistics of coordinating schedules to meet up for leaves and passes can be difficult, and with tour start and end dates differing somewhat, they spend much more time apart than

the standard 12 months. Rebecca's husband, Sgt. 1st Class Mark George, deployed with D Company, 1st Battalion, 137th Aviation Regiment, to Joint Base Balad in Iraq. During their last deployment in 2004, she went to Kuwait and he was in Kosovo.

Pvt. Samuel Craigo, a vehicle driver for the brigade, actually joined the Ohio Army National Guard in order to serve his country and deploy with his wife, Staff Sgt. Roberta Craigo, the unit property book NCO.

The engineer brigade headquarters is in Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. **16TH ENGINEER BRIGADE PUBLIC AFFAIRS**

180th Security Forces Airman wins USAFE Reserve Component award

RAMSTEIN AIR BASE, Germany—U.S. Air Forces in Europe (USAFE) recently announced the winner of its 2009 Outstanding Security Forces Air Reserve Component Airman award. Senior Airman Kyle T. Dussel, of the Ohio National Guard's 180th Fighter Wing, was selected from the reserve component Airmen assigned to the 86th Security Forces Squadron here.

"Winning this award means a lot to me and I am thankful that my leadership thought enough of my abilities to recommend me," Dussel said. "It is a privilege to represent both my unit and the state of Ohio."

Dussel initially joined the Ohio Air National Guard in 2006 for educational benefits. "I joined Security Forces because I have always been interested in law enforcement and thought I would enjoy this career field the most," he said.

He will be recognized at the annual USAFE Chiefs of Security Forces Conference banquet along with other USAFE award winners this March. All USAFE winners are eligible to compete at the Air Force level. If selected at that level, winners will be honored at the USAF SF Symposium in April. **BILL PIERCE / ADJ. GEN. DEPT. PUBLIC AFFAIRS**

Father and son reunite overseas

CAMP BUEHRING, Kuwait—Chief Warrant Officer 4 Craig Smith was able to reunite here with his son, 1st Lieutenant Craig Smith, who was on his way to Iraq with the 16th Engineer Brigade.

Chief Smith was deployed to Kuwait as chief, quality assurance, Route Clearance Vehicle Modernization Program. Lt. Smith had just finished post-mobilization training at Fort McCoy, Wis. He was in Kuwait for two days when he was able to coordinate a meeting.

"It was absolutely great to be able to drive up from Camp Arifjan to spend some time with my son before he head(ed) north into Iraq," Chief Smith said.

Lt. Smith was cross leveled from the 945th Engineer Company, Norwalk. Chief Smith is a member of E Company, 237th Support Battalion, Lima. **16TH ENGINEER BRIGADE PUBLIC AFFAIRS**

178th FW graduates last F-16 pilot class

CINCINNATI—The 178th Fighter Wing graduated its final American F-16 "Fighting Falcon" Basic Course class Dec. 12 at a formal banquet at the Hilton Cincinnati Netherland Plaza.

Capt. Christopher Behrens was recognized with the distinguished graduate award. Six graduates will go on to active-duty assignments, and one will fly with the Iowa Air National Guard.

"As with all of the fighter pilots we have sent to the Combat Air Forces from the 178th Fighter Wing, we are extremely proud of this graduating class in their completion of this stage of training," said Col. Mike Roberts, 178 FW commander.

The Basic Course, or B-course, is for students who have never flown a fighter aircraft, but are graduates of Air Force Undergraduate Pilot Training. Students are inducted into an 8 1/2 month rigorous training regimen, including academics, simulators and flying training.

The 178 FW training mission began September 2000 and has graduated 77 pilots through the B-course and a total of 350 pilots. The total number includes both graduates of the transition course, which is for experienced fighter pilots transitioning to fly the F-16 and training for pilots upgrading to operational or formal training instructor pilot status.

The American F-16 training program will no longer continue at Springfield Air National Guard base as the mission was ended under the 2005 Base Closure and Realignment Commission. The 178 FW was one of three formal training units for the F-16. The Springfield aircraft will be distributed to ANG units across the country.

"We'll especially remember these guys; they're the end of an era for the 178th Fighter Wing in the training of American pilots," Roberts said. "However, we won't get too sentimental as we look forward and move into new missions to replace our current American jets." **SMSGT JOE STAHL / 178TH FIGHTER WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS**



COURTESY PHOTO

Retired COL Cyril L. Sedlacko is inducted Nov. 6 into the Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame by Ohio Gov. Ted Strickland and SFC Joshua Mann of Joint Force Headquarters-Ohio.

OHARNG veteran Sedlacko among 2009 Ohio Vets Hall of Fame inductees

COLUMBUS—A crowd of Family and friends filed into the large auditorium of the Franklin County Veterans Memorial Nov. 6 to honor the 20 inductees of the Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame Foundation, class of 2009.

The event, which followed the Columbus Veterans Day Parade, recognizes 20 inductees who are chosen annually from more than 100 applicants. The OVHFF honors those veterans who have not only sacrificed for their country, but who also have made an exceptional effort to give back to their communities.

"The Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame is a different hall of fame," said Tim Espich, assistant director for the Ohio Department of Veteran Services. "The honor was created for Servicemembers who not only served their country, but who have come back to serve through their community or through professionalism."

The selection process culminates close to Veterans Day.

"Veterans Day gives us veterans a chance to express our gratitude. When a person gives his life for his country, there is nothing more a person can give," said retired Ohio Army National Guard Col. Cyril L. Sedlacko, a World War II and Korean War veteran and one of the 20 inductees this year. "My brother Paul gave his life defending our great country. And honoring those who gave their lives, that's what Veterans Day means to me."

Sedlacko was instrumental in reviving the 37th "Buckeye" Division Veterans Association that was nearly extinct, and currently serves as the organization's secretary-treasurer. In May 2004, Sedlacko arranged for 40 veterans of the 37th Division and 60 of their Family members to attend the dedication of the World War II Memorial in Washington, D.C. **SPC RYAN A. CLEARY / 196TH MOBILE PUBLIC AFFAIRS DETACHMENT**

ARNG Officer Candidate School great experience for Soldiers

COLUMBUS—As an officer candidate, I remember these words of wisdom: “take charge,” “always have full accountability,” “stay focused,” “always have a plan,” “think proactively.” These words of wisdom were given to me through my senior TAC (Teach, Assess, Counsel) instructor throughout the entire program of Ohio Army National Guard Officer Candidate School. By far, it was the most mentally and physically challenging course that I have taken in my entire life. But the rewards are great. The school is designed to take Soldiers and make them into second lieutenants while exposing their leadership potential and building upon it. As an officer candidate, I started Zero Phase in the spring of 2008 at the 147th Regional Training Institute in Columbus. It was there, that I was first introduced to the TAC instructors.

They were very professional and corrected us when needed. June arrived and we left for Phase 1 which was conducted at Fort McClellan, Ala. It is two weeks and by far the toughest phase. I remember running everywhere and being pushed to my full potential.

There are three different types of programs for Officer Candidate School: The Army National Guard Accelerated Officer Candidate School (AOCS), which is an intensive eight-week program; Traditional Officer Candidate School (TOCS), which is an 18-month program during which officer candidates go to Phase 1 at Fort McClellan and complete Phase 2 in their state and then complete Phase 3 at Fort McClellan; and the 14-week Federal OCS (active-duty) Program, in which you will have weekends off. By going through OCS, it changed me as an individual. The program transformed me into a leader who can take on any task no matter how big or small. I recommend this program to any Soldier who may want to better themselves and their leadership potential. **2LT JOSHUA RODAK / SUPPORT COMPANY, 112TH ENGINEER BATTALION**

EDITOR'S NOTE: The following are upcoming Officer Candidate Schools dates:

■ Traditional OCS

Phase 0: Feb. 5-7, March 19-21, April 2-4, April 30-May 2 and June 4-6, 2010;

Phase 1: June 11-26, 2010

Phase 2: July 1-24, 2011

Phase 3: July 24-Aug. 7, 2011

■ Federal OCS

Feb. 8-April 29, 2010



COURTESY PHOTO

Army National Guard officer candidates conduct pre-mission briefings during Officer Candidate School.

March 1-May 20, 2010

March 22-June 10, 2010

For questions or more information, contact Maj. Phil McGonagill in Officer Procurement at 614-376-5015 or *phillip.mcgonagill@us.army.mil*.

Troop support tops \$2.5 million through AAFES gift card program

DALLAS—What started as an effort to support troops downrange while trying to minimize the amount of mail sent into a war zone has produced an outpouring of support in just five short years of existence.

Since AAFES implemented its gift card program in March 2003, people from all over the country have rallied around military Families by contributing \$2,507,440 toward the program designed to lift the morale of Soldiers, Airmen, Sailors and Marines stationed around the world.

“While the support has been inspiring, it’s understandable,” said Chief Master Sgt. Jeffrey Helm, AAFES’ senior enlisted advisor. “AAFES gift cards are a win-win for all involved; the sender saves money on postage and the recipient can go into any exchange in the world, including more than 90 BX/PXs throughout Operations Enduring and Iraqi Freedom, and redeem the gift card for exactly what they want or need.”

While only authorized military shoppers can redeem AAFES gift cards, any American can send them by simply calling 1-800-527-2345 or logging on to *www.aafes.org* and clicking the “Gift Cards/Certificates for Our Troops” icon.

From there, AAFES gift cards, ranging in values from \$10 to \$500, can be addressed to a specific Soldier, Airman, Sailor or Marine or sent to “any Servicemember” through the American Red Cross, Fisher

House Foundation, USO, Soldier and Family Assistance Center, Air Force Aid Society or Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society. **AAFES PUBLIC AFFAIRS**

Shinseki pledges improved support for all U.S. veterans

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The Veterans Affairs Department continues its efforts to provide the best support possible to the nation’s military veterans, VA Secretary Eric K. Shinseki told a House committee recently.

Among the nation’s 23.4 million living veterans, nearly 8 million choose to access Veterans Affairs-provided services and benefits, the secretary said. VA health care, services and benefits are in great demand, Shinseki said, noting that demand increases each year. More than 4 million new veterans have been added to the VA’s health care rolls since 2001, he said.

Some of today’s youngest veterans are dealing with the effects of post-traumatic stress disorder, traumatic brain injury and other multiple-trauma injuries from service in Iraq and Afghanistan, he said.

Shinseki also promised to improve the quality of care delivered to veterans of World War II, Korea, Vietnam, Grenada, Panama, Somalia, Desert Storm and other operational deployments.

In addition, “the honor of providing final resting places for our veterans remains a source of immense professional pride for the National Cemeteries Administration, and indeed, the rest of VA,” Shinseki said. The NCA over the past year has interred about 107,000 veterans at 130 national cemeteries. Five new national cemeteries have been opened and 16 cemetery projects have been funded for expansion. **GERRY J. GILMORE / AMERICAN FORCES PRESS SERVICE**

ONGSP APPLICATION DEADLINES

Fall term, July 1

Spring semester/Winter quarter, Nov. 1

Spring quarter, Feb. 1

Summer term, April 1

It is the responsibility of each individual student/Guardmember to hand deliver or mail a completed application to the **Ohio National Guard Scholarship Program** Office, located at the Adjutant General’s Department, 2825 West Dublin Granville Road, Columbus, Ohio 43235-2789, by the deadlines listed above.

This must be done prior to each term a student attends school. You may also renew your application online at **www.ongsp.org**.

For more information, call (614) 336-7032 or toll-free (888) 400-6484.



SFC TRACY BALLOG / RECRUITING & RETENTION COMMAND MARKETING OFFICE



COURTESY PHOTOS



Guard Snapshots

CLOCKWISE, FROM ABOVE, LEFT: (1) U.S. Rep. Marcy Kaptur (D-Toledo) stands with MG Gregory L. Wayt (right), Ohio adjutant general, and MajGen A.J. Feucht, Ohio assistant adjutant general for Air, as they throw the ceremonial switch to turn on the photovoltaic solar field at Camp Perry Joint Training Center in Port Clinton. Kaptur was instrumental in helping secure the \$3.3 million in funding for the project, which estimates say will produce about one-third of the electrical demand for the installation. (2) About 140 Recruit Sustainment Program Warriors and personnel from Ohio Army National Guard Recruiting and Retention Battalion Companies A, C, G, H and I pose for a photo with Ohio State University football head coach Jim Tressel and MG Matthew L. Kambic, Ohio assistant adjutant general for Army, Dec. 19 at the Woody Hayes Athletic Center on the OSU campus. The Soldiers watched the team practice just days before the Buckeyes headed to Pasadena to play in the Rose Bowl, where they beat Oregon 26-17. (3) LTC Kirk Zecchini (second from left) takes command of the 1st Battalion (Engineer), 147th Regiment (Regional Training Institute) by receiving the guidon from COL Dana McDaniel, RTI commander, as LTC Robert "Buck" Bramlish (third from left), outgoing battalion commander, and MSG James E. Koval round out the diamond. (4) PFC Lorenzo Clark controls his area of ground clearance during the last phase of a five-day training course on the ground torch system on Camp Liberty in Baghdad. The ground torch is used primarily by route sanitation personnel to clear brush along convoy routes. (5) Ohio Army National Guard Soldiers assigned to B Troop, 2nd Squadron, 107th Cavalry Regiment participate in an Army 10-Miler shadow run Oct. 4 at Camp Taji, Iraq. (6) Two Soldiers from the Findlay recruiting office, Ohio Army National Guard Recruiting and Retention Battalion, recently volunteered their time to recognize some outstanding local students. SFC Brian Clum and SSG Jody Passeno delivered "college bound commitment to excellence backpacks" to National Honor Society inductees from the Mohawk Local School District.



SGT TRACY KNOWLES / 101ST ENGINEER BATTALION PUBLIC AFFAIRS



COURTESY PHOTOS



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Mansfield's 179th Airlift Wing stands ready to take on C-27 Spartan mission

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PHOTO BY TERRY MOORE

Standing on the wings of a C-130 Hercules transport aircraft while training overseas in preparation for their new mission are 179th Airlift Wing members SrA Anthony Oprean (from left), TSgt Todd Ashcroft, MSgt Joe Crawford, SMSgt Scott Pensinger, Capt Robert Cunningham, MSgt Brian Owns, SSgt Ryan Armstrong, TSgt Robert Snyder and SSgt Travis Hooper. The 179th is one of two Air National Guard flying wings that will be the first to operate the new C-27J Spartan medium tactical airlift aircraft that will be used by both the Army and Air Force. The 179th is expected to receive delivery of the new aircraft, roughly half the size of a C-130, in Fall 2010.