

## UNIT HISTORICAL SKETCH



# 196TH PUBLIC AFFAIRS DETACHMENT

COLUMBUS, OHIO

# 196TH PUBLIC AFFAIRS DETACHMENT

The 196th Public Affairs Detachment was organized on February 1, 1972 in the Ohio Army National Guard at Maj. Gen. Robert S. Beightler Armory in Worthington. In 1977, public information detachments were redesignated as public affairs detachments.

In 1998, the detachment saw its first period of federal service when it was mobilized to Bosnia as part of the NATO-led Stabilization Force (SFOR) in support of the Operation Joint Forge peacekeeping mission. Nine members of the unit, along with a nine-member element from its detachment in West Virginia, provided communications support for Task Force Eagle during the eight months they were deployed.

In February 2004, the detachment was mobilized in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and deployed to Iraq to support the 1st Infantry Division. The detachment was awarded the Meritorious Unit Commendation (MUC) for the period February 18, 2004 to February 1, 2005 for its support of the Big Red One.

The detachment returned to Iraq in 2010 in support of the 13th and 103d Sustainment Commands and United States Division-Center during the final months of Operation Iraqi Freedom and New Dawn. The detachment received a second MUC for its meritorious service during this mobilization.

Most recently, eight Soldiers from the detachment were deployed to support U.S. European Command across Europe. The Soldiers returned to Ohio in early 2022.



196th Public Affairs Detachment members pose for a unit photo at Maj. Gen. Robert S. Beightler Armory, Columbus, c. 1980.



# LINEAGE AND HONORS

Organized and Federally recognized 1 February 1972 in the Ohio Army National Guard at Worthington as the 196th Public Information Detachment

Redesignated 1 September 1977 as 196th Public Affairs Detachment

Location changed 11 May 1988 to Columbus

Ordered into active Federal service 22 January 1998 at Columbus; released from active Federal service 8 November 1998 and reverted to state control

Ordered into active Federal service 2 January 2004 at Columbus; released from active Federal service 7 March 2005 and reverted to state control

Ordered into active Federal service 10 March 2010; released from active Federal service 9 April 2011 and reverted to state control

HOME STATION: Columbus

CAMPAIGN PARTICIPATION CREDIT

War on Terrorism

Iraq:  
Transition of Iraq  
Iraqi Governance  
Iraqi Sovereignty  
New Dawn

DECORATIONS

Meritorious Unit Commendation (Army), Streamer embroidered IRAQ 2004-2005

Meritorious Unit Commendation (Army), Streamer embroidered IRAQ 2010-2011



RIGHT: Staff Sgt. Robert Jennings and Spc. Andy Allison, broadcast journalists with the 196th Public Affairs Detachment, interview Sgt. Robin Wright, the NCO in charge of postal operations at Camp Castle, Honduras, 1989.

BELOW: Sgt. Horvat of the 196th Public Affairs Detachment prepares to board a OH-58 Kiowa helicopter of the 107th Armored Cavalry to be flown to a story assignment at Camp Grayling, Mich., circa 1975.





Master Sgt. Jim Hall, 196th Public Affairs Detachment, uses a photography loupe to check film negatives during annual training in Panama in 1990.



Members of the 196th Public Affairs Detachment are recognized after returning to Columbus from an eight-month mobilization to Bosnia in support of the NATO-led peacekeeping mission Operation Joint Forge on Sept. 11, 1998.



Members of the 196th Public Affairs Detachment pose for a unit photograph at FOB Danger in Tikrit, Iraq during their mobilization in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2004.



Sgt. Kim Snow photographs members the Brigade Reconnaissance Troop, 3d Brigade, 1st Infantry Division during combat operations in Fallujah, Iraq, 2004. Snow was credited as "one of the best combat photographers the coalition has had in Iraq." Commanders used many of the images Snow took to prove that enemy forces were using protected targets as weapon platforms.



Spc. Michael Carden records operations of the 1st Infantry Division in Iraq, 2004.

RIGHT: From left, Staff Sgt. Nicholas Pavlik and Staff Sgt. Randall Carey play cameramen during a mock press conference training exercise at Army Support Activity-Dix's Public Affairs Office on April 2, 2010. These Soldiers are with the 196th Public Affairs Detachment and were at ASA-Dix training with their fellow brethren for an upcoming mission in Balad, Iraq.

BELOW: Spc. Michael Baumberger, a mass communication specialist with the 196th Public Affairs Detachment, adjusts the focus on his camera as soldiers with the Hellenic Army pass in Leopard A2 tanks during a U.S.-Hellenic joint exercise known as Olympic Cooperation at Petrochori Range, Triantafyllides Camp, Greece, Nov. 16, 2021.



# HERALDIC ITEMS



## DISTINCTIVE UNIT INSIGNIA

Description/Blazon: On a hexagon shaped Gold colored metal and enamel device 1 3/16 inches (3.02 cm) in height overall blazoned: Azure, a quatrefoil throughout Or charged in its bottom lobe with a guze bearing three mullets, one and two, of the like, and issuant there from a hydra of as many heads of the field detailed of the second. Below a Blue scroll inscribed "THE FOG OF WAR" in Gold letters.

Symbolism: The overall shape of the device is a hexagon which reflects the benzene ring. The quatrefoil is also symbolic of the fog in their motto, "The Fog of War." The hydra represents the Chemical Corps. The three stars represent the three campaigns awarded to the ancestor units during World War II.

Background: The distinctive unit insignia was approved on 11 December 2006.



## COAT OF ARMS

Description/Blazon:

Shield: Per chevron abased Azure and Gules, a hexagon in chief surmounted by a chevronel Or, counterchanged of the field, in base a hydra of the third.

Crest: That for the regiments and separate battalions of the Ohio Army National Guard: From a wreath Or and Azure, a sheaf of seventeen arrows Argent, bound by a sprig of buckeye (aesculus glabra) fructed Proper (two leaves with bursting burr).

Motto: THE FOG OF WAR.

Symbolism: Yellow and blue are the traditional colors for the Chemical Corps. The hexagon shape reflects the benzene ring. The chevron division symbolizes the swallowtail design on the Ohio State Flag. The hydra (a multi-headed dragon) represents the dragon theme used in Chemical Corps designs and the multiple missions of the Chemical Companies within the 155th Chemical Battalion.

Background: The coat of arms was approved on 11 December 2006.



## SHOULDER SLEEVE INSIGNIA

Description/Blazon: On a blue triangular background, one point down, with a 1/16 inch (.16 cm) white border and a 3/16 inch (.48 cm) red border, the whole 2 1/2 inches (6.35 cm) wide and 3 inches (7.62 cm) high, a white disc 7/8 inch (2.22 cm) in diameter charged with a red disc 5/8 inch (1.59 cm) in diameter, above a white star 7/16 inch (1.11 cm) in diameter.

Symbolism: The design of the shoulder sleeve insignia is based on the Ohio State Flag.

Background: The shoulder sleeve insignia was originally approved for Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, Ohio National Guard on 30 November 1948. It was amended to include a symbolism on 7 May 1974. The insignia was redesignated for Headquarters, State Area Command, Ohio Army National Guard on 30 December 1983. It was redesignated for the Ohio Army National Guard Element, Joint Force Headquarters and amended to update the description effective 1 October 2003.

# PAST COMMANDERS

## 196TH PUBLIC INFORMATION DETACHMENT

1972-1975: Maj. Richard E. Snide

1975-1976: Capt. William David F. J. Crosson

## 196TH PUBLIC AFFAIRS DETACHMENT

1977-1980: Maj. Steven C. Stone

1980-1981: Capt. Dennis M. Jankowski

1981-1983: Capt. Paul T. Chupka

1983-1985: Capt. William Russell

1985-1988: Maj. Glenn E. Metzler

1988-1994: Maj. Richard L. Benfield

1994-1995: Maj. Howard A. Bullis

1995-1999: Maj. Robert P. Johnson

1999-2001: Maj. Joseph T. McCarthy

2001-2003: Maj. Patrick Gaia

2003-2006: Maj. Neal O'Brien

2006-2011: Maj. Marshall K. Jackson

2011-2012: Capt. Robert J. Miller

2012-2016: Capt. Sarah K. Cahill

2016-2019: Maj. Ismail Turay

2019-2020: Maj. James Borchers

2020-2023: Maj. Aaron M. Starr

2023-: Maj. Courtney K. Schoger



Maj. Snide



Capt. Crosson



Maj. Stone



Capt. Jankowski



Capt. Chupka



Maj. Metzler



Maj. Benfield



Maj. McCarthy



Maj. Gaia



Maj. O'Brien



Maj. Jackson



Capt. Miller



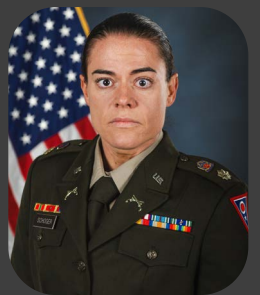
Capt. Cahill



Maj. Turay



Maj. Starr



Maj. Schoger

# PAST FIRST SERGEANTS

## 196TH PUBLIC AFFAIRS DETACHMENT

2008-2015: 1st Sgt. Steve Toth

2016-2018: 1st Sgt. Gregory L. Jones

2018-2021: 1st Sgt. Greg A. Jamison

2021-2023: 1st Sgt. Kellie King-Feciuch

2023-2024: 1st Sgt. Timothy M. Parker

2024-: 1st Sgt. Jennifer M. Reynolds



1st Sgt. Toth



1st Sgt. Jones



1st Sgt. Jamison



1st Sgt. Parker



1st Sgt. Reynolds



Updated as of Jan. 27, 2026

This historical sketch is published IAW AGOR 870-5 by the office of the Historian, Ohio National Guard. This history reflects the approved lineage and honors of the unit as determined by the U.S. Army Center of Military History. All photographs used, unless otherwise cited, are from the Ohio National Guard Heritage Center. Errors, corrections and suggestions may be submitted to:

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