

# BUCKEYE GUARD

MAGAZINE OF THE OHIO ARMY AND AIR NATIONAL GUARD  
SPRING/SUMMER 2007

## DUTCH TOUGH DOWN

178TH FIGHTER WING SCORES NEW MISSION TRAINING  
DUTCH PILOTS ON F-16 FIGHTER JETS [SEE PAGES 18-19](#)



# GOD, FAMILY, COUNTRY, AIRPLANES: Friends, family mourn loss of Ohio Air National Guard pilot

A memorial display consisting of LtCol Kevin Sonnenberg's restored Pontiac Trans-Am (from left), John Deere tractors, classic Ford F-100 pick-up truck and a mini F-16 fighter aircraft from the 180th Fighter Wing stand on his parents' farm.



SRA MATTHEW KING / 180TH COMMUNICATIONS FLIGHT

By Tech. Sgt. Annette Kornasiewicz  
and Lt. Col. Thomas Gee  
180th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

**M**CCLOSURE—If one can judge a man's greatness by where his devotions lie, then one can say that Lt. Col. Kevin Sonnenberg was truly a great man. His dedication to God, Family, Country and airplanes shaped him into a hero that all can look up to, be inspired by and emulate in everyday life—a hero to be remembered forever.

Sonnenberg, a pilot with the 180th Fighter Wing, Toledo, crashed shortly after takeoff and tragically died on June 15, 2007, while flying his F-16 Fighting Falcon aircraft near Balad Air Base, Iraq, shortly after takeoff.

Sonnenberg was one of 350 members of 180th participating in an Air Expeditionary Forces (AEF) deployment. He had just departed on a mission to provide air support to coalition ground forces fighting anti-Iraq forces when the crash occurred, 35 miles north of Baghdad.

"His priorities were like this: God, family, country, airplanes," said his mother, Jean Sonnenberg.

Sonnenberg faithfully worshiped at a small country church in the middle of Henry County's farmland.

"Kevin always said Henry County is God's Country," Jean said. "He's in God's Country now."

On June 26, hundreds of family, friends, unit members and retirees gathered one last time to say goodbye to Sonnenberg at the Peace Evangelical Lutheran Church in rural Deshler, Ohio. The entire church and its basement were filled and additional seating that included a tent area with video screens to view the service was available for hundreds of people attending outside the church.

"He laid down the ultimate sacrifice for his friends and his country. Nothing can be greater than this," said the Rev. Thomas E. Smuda, who presided over the service and who had known Kevin and his family for years.

"He was a terrific son," Jean said. "The worst part of all this is that he just didn't have enough time to spend with his wife."

Kevin and his wife, Lorin Sonnenberg, were married in August 2006.



Sonnenberg

"They were perfect for each other," said Jennifer Miller, Kevin's sister. "They were so in love."

Family members also expressed how devoted Kevin was to his stepson, 6-year-old Carson Orr.

In addition to his deep devotion to his family, Sonnenberg was also dedicated to the military.

"He just loved flying those jets," said Vickie Schulze, one of Kevin's three sisters.

Sonnenberg, a traditional member of the Ohio Air National Guard, was assigned to the 180th in 1990.

"If he knew what would eventually happen to him I'm not sure he would have changed a thing," Miller said. "He still would have been a pilot."

On June 23, family, friends, unit members and retirees came together when Sonnenberg was returned to the 180th Fighter Wing. Formal military honors were paid to Sonnenberg during the ceremony. The pilot had touched so many lives in such a profound way, as described later that weekend by Lt. Col. Tony Iannucci, fighter pilot at the 180th and personal friend of Sonnenberg.

"I can honestly say that Kevin was a man who, when you met him, you considered him a friend," said Iannucci. "He absolutely did not have an enemy in the world."

On June 24-25, family, friends, unit members and retirees paid their respects to Sonnenberg during visitations held at the Rodenberger Funeral Home in Napoleon, Ohio, not far from where Sonnenberg grew up. A slide show presentation including Sonnenberg's childhood, family times, military career and recent wedding was shown, and a collection of Sonnenberg's high school, military and other professional awards also were on hand for friends to remember and reflect upon. Sonnenberg was a 1983 graduate of Napoleon High School, where he was an active athlete, played football and earned several individual awards, including state honors while wrestling for the Wildcats. He attended Bowling Green State University and earned a bachelor's degree in 1987.

In addition to his Air National Guard career, Sonnenberg had been a commercial pilot for Delta Airlines since 2000. He was also an avid farmer and helped maintain 500 acres of wheat, corn and soybeans with his father, Marvin. He will be fondly remembered as a Renaissance man able to maneuver America's most advanced aircraft in a perilous war zone one week and discuss corn and soybean crops with Henry County farmers the next. And he did both with his natural, down-home nature that endeared him to so many. **OG**

To read an extended version of this article, log onto [www.ohionationalguard.com](http://www.ohionationalguard.com).

IN MEMORIAM

# BUCKEYE GUARD

Volume 30, No. 2

roll call

Spring / Summer 2007

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](mailto: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 19,000. Deadlines are:

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

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SPC DIEGO J. ROBLES / 196TH MOBILE PUBLIC AFFAIRS DET.

**PFC Courtney D. Hagerman (left) passes an Improved Chemical Agent Monitor, or ICAM, over SrA Corrie E. Przysiecki following a mock rescue at Muscatatuck Urban Training Center in Indiana during Vigilant Guard. See pages 7-13 for more on this historic National Guard training exercise.**



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## ON THE COVER

**DUTCH AIR FORCE TOUCHES DOWN IN SPRINGFIELD:** An F-16 Fighting Falcon aircraft (large photo) soars by during an April 24 ceremony at the Springfield-Beckley Municipal Airport marked the beginning of a partnership between the Ohio Air National Guard's 178th Fighter Wing (hangar in small photo, far left) and Royal Netherlands Air Force to train Dutch pilots (small center photo) on operating the F-16s. Several local, state, national and Dutch officials attended the event, including Maj. Gen. Erik Jan Oliemans (small right photo), Royal Netherlands Air Force deputy commander. **Photos by SSgt Douglas Nicodemus / 121st Air Refueling Wing Multimedia Center. See pages 18-19.**



on the web @ <http://www.ohionationalguard.com>

# The way ahead for the OHANG

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

On May 13, 2005, the initial Air Force and Department of Defense recommendations to the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) commission were publicly announced. These recommendations affected all components of the Total Force and had a direct affect on three of the four wings in the Ohio Air National Guard. The Columbus-based 121st Air Refueling Wing was not impacted. The Toledo-based 180th Fighter Wing was programmed to gain equipment and strength. The Springfield-based 178th Fighter Wing was to realign, losing its F-16 pilot training mission in 2010, with the possibility of transitioning into a new mission. The Mansfield-based 179th Airlift Wing was to close in 2010, although through the efforts of Ohio National Guard leadership, the command and members of the 179th and Ohio's congressional delegation, "closure" was changed to "realign" prior to the final BRAC recommendations being voted into law. Nonetheless the 179th is still scheduled to lose its eight C-130s in 2010.

In 2005, the Air National Guard, the most cost-effective military organization in the United States, and the Ohio Air National Guard faced the greatest challenge they had ever faced. This was the beginning of continuous communication between the headquarters of the United States Air Force, the headquarters of the Air National Guard, the Joint Force Headquarters (JFHQ) Ohio, the Ohio Air National Guard Wing and Geographically-Separated Unit (GSU) senior leadership and Ohio political and community leaders. In December 2006, this positive dialogue resulted in a very rough planning document being presented to each state JFHQ.

This document brought together the impacts of BRAC, Total Force Integration (TFI) initiatives and "reset" or "rightsizing" initiatives, to present a comprehensive picture of the future size, structure and organization of each state's Air National Guard.

The Ohio Air National Guard is in a state of transformation brought about by positive engagement with regard to BRAC, TFI, and reset/rightsizing. Brig. Gen. Robert Boggs, Ohio's Air chief of staff, has created and organized a TFI council and three working groups to analyze, program and coordinate our transformation process both internally and externally. The TFI council is composed of senior representatives from each wing and GSU and has met four times through the time of this writing. This composition ensures that every unit has a voice in addressing the issues that impact each and every one of our Airmen. The council is tasked to address issues of recruiting, retention, force development, potential transfers, human resource and military personnel requirements, critical mission compliance time lines, mutual cross-functional support efforts and information dissemination to all the working groups that are working current and future transformation efforts. Each council member is also tasked with delivering the message of transformational progress and challenges to their respective chain of command. All commanders have been encouraged to conduct periodic town hall meetings with all members of their organization to update them on the council's progress.

The council also has created three working groups. The leader of each working group sits on and reports progress back to the council. The reports emphasize the progress for cross-functional support, potential transfers, personnel requirements, mission time lines and Airmen priorities.

The Civil Engineering Working Group is focused on issues associated with rolling three of our Prime Beef (engineer) squadrons into the 200th Rapid Engineer Deployable Heavy



**We continue to focus on maintaining the position we had prior to BRAC but with a vision for more relevant missions**

Operational Repair Squadron Engineers (RED HORSE). Our new mission tasking is to double the size of the existing squadron located at Camp Perry and operate at Camp Perry and at the 179th in Mansfield. This expanded RED HORSE mission is a result of our efforts after BRAC and our TFI focus on new mission relevance. RED HORSE is an expanding long-term mission and the relevance of the Prime Beef squadrons is diminishing. Lt. Col. Michael Skomrock, 200th RED HORSE commander, is leading this group and they have met three times. Our focus for this working group is to ensure these Airmen have the knowledge of the career options that are open to them in the future.

The Logistics Readiness and Aerial Port Working Group is focused on issues associated with the potential transfer and/or retraining of our Airmen in these career fields. Our new mission is a result of Air National Guard reset and rightsizing and has an impact on all of our four wings. Lt. Col. Tommy Calhoun, 121st Logistics Readiness Squadron commander, is leading this group; the group has effected corrections to organizational issues and Unit Type Code (UTC) tasking with National Guard Bureau, again focusing on ensuring affected Airmen are aware of their career options.

The Personnel Transformation Working Group is focused on identifying action items that will ensure a balanced look for our Airmen throughout our transformation process. They are developing common statewide processes to manage full-time and traditional guardmember personnel issues. They will maximize opportunities for Airmen and prioritize mission readiness as we balance transfers, cross training, and mission-initial and final-operational capability. Cols. Nancy August from the 180th Mission Support Group, and Steve McMahon from the 121st Operations Group, are leading this group and they have developed a transformation survey for traditional guardmembers affected by transformation through fiscal year 2008.

We continue to focus on maintaining the positions we had prior to BRAC but with a vision for more relevant missions. Every Ohio Airman will have a position as we move through transformation. The new position may not be their No. 1 choice if they are affected by transformation, but we will make every attempt to provide meaningful career opportunities. Our goal is that each of you will know your/our way ahead with minimal surprises. I ask that all Airmen continue to perform in the professional manner that has been the mantle for the Ohio National Guard for many years. We will continue dialogue with the Air Force and Air National Guard for new relevant missions into the future. I thank each of our dedicated Ohio Airmen for your support of our mission. I am proud to be your commander. **AG**

### Annual OHANG Chief's Recognition dinner brings newest E-9s together

On Friday night, Feb. 23, 2007, at the Embassy Suites North in Columbus, 154 people witnessed the third annual Ohio ANG Chief's Recognition Dinner. This dinner recognized 19 new chief master sergeants and their spouses, those chiefs retiring this calendar year, and some special awards.

The adjutant general, Maj. Gen. Greg Wayt, and his wife, Debbie, attended the event. My wife Monique and I were the hosts for the evening.

Each new chief (those promoted since the last dinner in February 2006) was given a framed print of Ohio ANG Airmen. This print had a bronze plate with their name and recognition of being a new chief, plus metal chief master sergeant chevrons to show the new stripes off. Each new chief was also given a coin, but not a chief's coin. Each new chief is given their chief's coin by their unit Chief's Council, but here at the dinner they are given a coin with one stripe on it, an Airman's coin, for their focus from this day until the end of their careers is on the development of Airmen.

Each chief's spouse received flowers, a spouse's coin, and a creed to a chief's spouse. Each retiring chief was given a copy of the book *Through Airmen's Eyes*, a history of ANG Enlisted Members.

There were two special awards given out this evening. The first was the Ohio Command Chief's Award given to Col. Robert Baylor of Headquarters, Ohio Air National Guard. Col. Baylor is the executive staff support officer and deputy chief of staff for the Ohio ANG. He has

done so much for enlisted members in his great career that I felt it necessary to let him know before his retirement this summer (early June), that the enlisted Airmen appreciated all he has done for them. The final award was a surprise. The command chiefs and senior chiefs from each of Ohio's geographically separated units (GSUs) bestowed the honorary rank of chief master sergeant on to Maj. Gen. Wayt. The framed certificate, surrounded by the unit patches of all the Ohio ANG units, also contained chief master sergeant stripes. He was given chief coins from each unit, and like all new chiefs, he was given an Airman's coin by me.

These chiefs are the bridge builders for the future force. The mission rests in their hands.

**CMSGT CHRIS MUNCY**  
STATE COMMAND CHIEF MASTER SERGEANT

### Visit to Ohio brings back memories of retiree's National Guard service

Last fall I was able to return to Beightler Armory for the first time since I retired in May of 2002. I was in Columbus to visit with my friend Sgt. Maj. Atriel Henderson and to attend, of course, an Ohio State football game with my son, who continues to live and work in Columbus even after graduation from Ohio State University.

Beightler Armory looked great as Sgt. Maj. Henderson gave me a tour and informed me on the changes which had occurred under the leadership of Col. (Alfred C.) Faber (chief of joint staff for the Ohio National Guard), Brig. Gen. (Jack E.) Lee (commander of Joint Task Force 73), Brig. Gen. (Matthew L.) Kambic (Ohio assistant adjutant general for Army) and Maj. Gen.

(Gregory L.) Wayt (Ohio adjutant general). I was very pleased that these individuals whom I had worked with in the past were now in the critical roles they now hold. It was a very gratifying visit for me. I miss the Ohio National Guard and the friends I developed over seven years of work at Beightler Armory.

I picked up a copy of the Buckeye Guard to take with me to read and to keep. It was GREAT. Please add me to your mailing list as a former Ohio National Guardmember who wishes very much to remain in touch with the Ohio National Guard. My address can be found below.

In the fall I again plan to return to Ohio to visit my son, attend another great Ohio State football game and of course to visit Beightler Armory. Thanks for seven great years with the Ohio National Guard.

**LTC (RET.) JEFFREY M. COLLINS**  
WINDSOR, CT

### 3rd Freedom Walk set for Washington D.C., to honor Sept. 11 tragedy

The 3rd annual National Freedom Walk is scheduled for Sept. 9, 2007, in Washington, DC. The walk will take place between the Pentagon and the National Mall.

Freedom Walk 2006 honored those who died on Sept. 11, 2001, and our nation's veterans, past and present. Thousands walked in more than 130 gatherings nationwide in 2006. This event is sponsored by the America Supports You Program. For more information on coordinating a walk in your state or local community visit the website at [www.America.SupportsYou.com](http://www.America.SupportsYou.com).

**NATIONAL GUARD BUREAU**  
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

## HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHT



### Leon L. Van Autreve—4th Sergeant Major of the Army

Leon L. Van Autreve was born in Eeklo, Belgium in 1920. His family moved to the United States when he was very young, first in Montana and then moving to Delphos, Ohio. In 1938 Van Autreve, whose father was the second most highly decorated Belgian Soldier in World War I, joined the Ohio National Guard. Private Van Autreve served as a clerk in Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion, 148th Infantry Regiment at Spencerville. Van Autreve left the guard in 1940, but his time in the guard laid a foundation for a career that led him to the top enlisted position in the Army. A veteran of World War II and Vietnam, Van Autreve served in every engineer position from private to brigade sergeant major. Three times he was considered for Sergeant Major of the Army, however, he was overlooked because of his lack of experience at the division level. He continued to expand his knowledge and even went to Airborne School at the age of fifty-two. In 1973 he was chosen as the fourth Sergeant Major of the Army and quickly began to rebuild the NCO corps that lost so much of its stature in the Vietnam War. His insistence on uncompromising standards for NCOs and his constant efforts to see troop units firsthand ensured that the necessary policies were implemented to put NCOs back into the chain of command. Submitted by Staff Sgt. Josh Mann, OHARNG Historian

**Rickenbacker Airport to host Air Force Heritage Week in September**

COLUMBUS—Reaffirming its commitment to the commemoration of 60 years of air and space power, the U.S. Air Force announced earlier this year that Columbus has been selected as host for the nation’s only Air Force Heritage Week in conjunction with The Gathering of Mustangs and Legends this September.

“Air Force Heritage Week will give the citizens of the area the opportunity to pause and remember the talented, dedicated, professional Airmen serving around the world, day and night, to keep America safe,” said Lt. Gen. Terry Gabreski, vice commander of Air Force Material Command.

Gabreski joined Lee Lauderback, President of Stallion 51 and organizer of The Gathering of Mustangs, Franklin County Commissioner Paula Brooks and Rod Borden, senior vice president and chief operating officer of the Columbus Regional Airport Authority on stage at Rickenbacker International Airport in Columbus for the announcement in February.

“My charge to the citizens of Ohio and around the United States is to find your way to Columbus the last week of September for Air Force Heritage Week and The Gathering of Mustangs and Legends,” Gabreski said. “You owe it to yourselves to see them fly, you owe it to yourselves to hear their stories, you owe it to them to listen.”

The announcement also included narrated flyovers of two P-51 Mustangs and two F-16 fighter aircraft from the Ohio National Guard. At the conclusion of the announcement, Gen. Gabreski presented Lee Lauderback with a copy of the official letter from Air Force Chief of Staff, Gen. T. Michael Moseley, declaring the gathering as an official Air Force Heritage Week.

Quoting Capt. Eddie Rickenbacker, the Air Force legend and namesake for the Columbus airport to play host to the gathering, Moseley’s letter stated, “Aviation is proof that given the will, we have the capacity to achieve the impossible.”

The Gathering of Mustangs of Legends will unite Airmen and aviation enthusiasts of the past and present, bringing together Air Force legends like retired Brig. Gen. Chuck Yeager and historic planes, including a flyover of at least 51 P-51 Mustangs, for a week in September. Now partnered

with the Air Force, the gathering will also feature senior Air Force leaders speaking at events, flight demonstrations, ground displays, and a show by the Air Force’s elite demonstration team, the Thunderbirds.

This year marks the 60th anniversary of the U.S. Air Force. Throughout this historic year, the Air Force is commemorating 60 years of air and space power through events such as The Gathering of Mustangs and Legends. **AIR FORCE PRINT NEWS**

**Mears honors fallen National Guardmembers en route to Memorial Day NASCAR victory**

CONCORD, N.C.—In his 156th NEXTEL Cup Series start, Casey Mears, driver of the No. 25 National Guard/GMAC “American Heroes” Chevrolet, won the Coca-Cola 600 during Memorial Day weekend at Lowe’s Motor Speedway to earn his first victory at NASCAR’s highest level.

Mears said it was especially meaningful that his first Cup Series victory came on Memorial Day weekend. His uncle, Rick Mears, won the Indianapolis 500 on this same weekend in 1979, 1984, 1988 and 1991.

Additionally, Mears’ No. 25 National Guard/GMAC “American Heroes” Chevrolet featured a special paint scheme for the race as part of the American Heroes Memorial Day salute to the Armed Forces at Lowe’s Motor Speedway. The No. 25 car featured an Army Combat Uniform pattern (camouflage) paint scheme with the names of National Guard Soldiers who lost their lives in the Global War on Terrorism displayed on the car’s deck lid—more than 400 names at the time.

“This is a special weekend for me, obviously because of my family’s history with the Indianapolis 500, but also because it’s Memorial Day weekend and we have the privilege to represent the National Guard,” Mears said. “It was an honor for me to have those names on our car, and to win with



HENDRICK MOTORSPORTS

During Memorial Day weekend, NASCAR driver Casey Mears raced to victory in the Coca-Cola 600 in his No. 25 National Guard/GMAC “American Heroes” Chevrolet, which featured a special Army Combat Uniform paint scheme with the names of National Guard Soldiers who lost their lives in the Global War on Terrorism displayed on the car’s deck lid.

them on board is amazing.” HENDRICK MOTORSPORTS

**Former OHARNG member makes history as one of first female Avenger crewmembers**

CAMP BLANDING, Fla.—Two Florida National Guard women made history as the first females to become Avenger crewmembers, a military occupational specialty restricted to males until last October.

Spc. Sorimar Perez, 32, and Spc. Amanda Landers, 25, are assigned to C Battery, 1st Battalion, 265th Air Defense Artillery, in Daytona Beach. Both trained at the Regional Training Institute for the new military skill through early April.

Originally from West Virginia and now residing in Port Orange, Landers joined the Ohio National Guard in 2000 while attending college there. In 2004, she deployed to Iraq as a truck driver, her first military job.

“I transferred to Daytona in December. There were no positions available for me in my MOS so I had to find a new one. Then this opportunity came up and I thought it would be a good experience,” Landers said.

The Avenger system is a lightweight, highly mobile and transportable surface-to-air missile/gun weapons system. It provides mobile, short-range air-defense protection against air and land attacks. **SSG C.G. MALDONADO / FLORIDA NATIONAL GUARD PUBLIC AFFAIRS**



Air Force Heritage Week



Landers

# Military pay earned while out of state now exempt from state income taxes

Beginning in calendar year 2007, all pay military members receive while stationed out of state is exempt from the Ohio income tax. In previous years, only pay received in a combat zone was exempt from taxation. The Ohio General Assembly enacted language that exempts military income from state income taxes for those members of the military who are serving outside the state but have declared Ohio as their home residence.

Examples of military pay and allowances which qualify for this deduction include the following:

□ Military pay and allowances received while a member of an active component of the U.S. Armed Forces and assigned to a permanent duty station outside Ohio.

□ Military pay and allowances received while a member of the National Guard or Reserve components of the U.S. Armed Forces in an active-duty (other than for training) status, assigned to provide disaster relief assistance outside Ohio.

□ Military pay and allowances received while a member of the National Guard or the Reserve components of the U.S. Armed Forces in an active-duty (other than for training) status and assigned to duty at any location in the continental United States outside Ohio or at any overseas non-combat zone location.

Examples of military pay and allowances which do not qualify for this deduction include the following:

□ Military pay and allowances received while a member of an active component of the U.S. Armed Forces who is assigned to a permanent duty station inside Ohio and who departs Ohio for a period of temporary duty for unit or individual training (examples are training exercises, basic and advanced training courses and additional skill training courses).

□ Military pay and allowances received

while a member of the National Guard or the Reserve components of the U.S. Armed Forces in Active Duty for Training (ADT) status who departs Ohio for a period of temporary duty for unit or individual training (such as basic and advanced individual training, unit annual training, training exercises, basic and advanced training courses and additional skill training courses).

Military pay and allowances for servicemembers of all military components who are Ohio residents stationed inside Ohio will continue to be subject to Ohio individual income tax and also to school district income tax if a servicemember resides in a taxing school district.

## Policy Change Boosts G. I. Bill Eligibility for members of the Guard and Reserve.

A recent Defense Department policy change widens the eligibility window for some reserve-component troops who want to use their Montgomery G.I. Bill education benefits. The DoD policy now aligns with Department of Veterans Affairs rules, which state that National Guardmembers and reservists are eligible to receive Montgomery G.I. Bill education benefits for the period covering the amount of time they served on active duty, plus four months.

The Reserve Education Assistance Program (REAP), established by the 2005 National Defense Authorization Act, is another DoD education initiative for members of the Guard and Reserve. To be eligible, servicemembers must have served at least 90 consecutive days of active service after Sept. 11, 2001, in response to a Presidential or Congressional call-up of military forces for wartime or other emergency service.

Servicemembers can determine if they qualify for the Montgomery G.I. Bill and REAP by contacting their local education office. **EG**

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

# legislative look

with johann klein



COLUMBUS

## Command profile



**CMSgt Chris Muncy**

Headquarters, Ohio Air National Guard

Age: 46

### Full-Time Position:

state command chief master sergeant, Ohio Air National Guard

**Family:** Monique, wife (retired Ohio ANG); daughters, Capt. Becky Rudy and Senior Airman Aubrey Muncy (both in the Ohio ANG); sons, Peter and Adam (both still in high school)

**When I was younger, I wanted to:** play professional baseball

**Most recent achievement:** being chairman of the ANG's national Enlisted Field Advisory Council (EFAC)

**The last good movie I saw was:** 300

**The book I'm reading is:** Ted Williams

**My favorite recreational activity:** softball and watching our kids in sports or theater

**Heroes:** My parents and anyone who deploys for the U.S. Armed Forces

**Nobody knows I'm:** a hillbilly at heart  
**I'm better than anyone else at:** doing the dishes and taking out the garbage

**I'd give anything to meet:** More of our Soldiers and Airmen

**The three words that best describe me:** Airman, dad, chief

**If I could leave today's guardmembers with one piece of advice it would be:** Be attentive to your comrades in arms, listen more, and stay sharp—your country needs you

# Citizen-Soldier molds future as educator, leader

By Spc. LeRoy F. Rowser  
196th Mobile Public Affairs Det.

**B**ARBERTON—The hallways of Barberton High School bustled with activity as students hurried to get to class on time. As the bell rang, students in one classroom settled into their seats to face a smiling, clean-shaven teacher with a fresh, “high and tight” military-style hair cut.

Staff Sgt. Henry D. Muren, a cavalry scout with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 145th Armored Regiment, was poised to begin class. A native of Barberton, Muren graduated from Barberton High School in 1989. He has taught mathematics in the district since 1998, and is a 15-year veteran of the Ohio Army National Guard.

Muren and his wife both have strong roots in the Barberton community, where they reside with their three children. Their parents also still live in the area, and Muren said he enjoys the history his family has there and he also enjoys teaching children that grew up in his hometown.

“I like the kids here. I can relate to them. For many of them, they are growing up the same way I did. They’re growing up on the same streets I did. It’s not a totally rough area. We have our good times and our bad times here,” he said.

Muren’s family has a rich history of educational and military service; his father served in the Army, his father-in-law served in the National Guard and five of his wife’s brothers have served in the military. His mother was a teacher and an uncle taught at the Naval Academy.

Since 2001, Muren has deployed twice in support of the Global War on Terrorism. His first deployment, from October 2001 through September 2002, was spent with a security force at Camp Perry, a National



SPC LEROY F. ROWSER / 196TH MOBILE PUBLIC AFFAIRS DETACHMENT

**Henry D. Muren, a mathematics teacher at Barberton High School and a staff sergeant in the Ohio Army National Guard, explains a math problem to his class while solving it on the board.**

Guard training site near Port Clinton, Ohio. He deployed again from October 2003 through January 2005 to Southwest Asia in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

He said he enjoys serving his country and testing himself as well as the camaraderie that comes with the job.

“Being a scout is the greatest thing in the world. We pride ourselves on being out front, being the best, and going above and beyond the standard,” Muren said. “We are the ‘Damn Scouts’ you always hear about. That’s us. We are a very close group.”

Muren said his desire to help others and

serve his community were the main reasons he decided to become a teacher. He has developed an approach to teaching that might initially appear uncharacteristic of a Soldier.

“I’m laid back. I like to joke around and have a good time in the classroom,” he said. “I’m not always serious. There is a time for joking and there is a time to get to work and get through a lesson, or a topic.”

The Soldier-teacher tries to balance fun and discipline in both roles, and said his students and his Soldiers know when it’s time to get down to business. He uses the lessons learned in one role to augment the other. And the leadership experience and people skills learned in both roles have been particularly beneficial.

“There is a lot of guiding in both situations. You look at the young Soldiers coming into your platoon and you are constantly guiding them, instructing them,” he said. “Not just teaching them how to do a task, but how to be a good person. Here’s how to build a good moral character. Teaching is the same way. I hold my students accountable for their own education. I’m here for the kids. I stay after school to let them know I’m here for them.”

Muren has earned many awards as a Soldier and as a teacher. His military awards include the Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal and Ohio Commendation Medal. His civilian honors include the Sam’s Club/Wal-Mart Teacher of the Year award, and a nomination for the Martha Holding Jennings Award.

His advice for future Soldiers and teachers is simple and straightforward.

“Make sure it’s what you want to do. Neither job is easy,” he said. “Really think about it. You don’t go into either job for the pay. Both jobs entail a serious commitment.” **BC**

# VIGILANT GUARD <sup>2007</sup>

Specialized Ohio National Guard units  
test first response capabilities

Story by Staff Sgt. Kimberly Snow  
Photo illustration by Spcs. Diego J. Robles and Parker Steele  
196th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment



# A

BOUT 450 OHIO NATIONAL GUARD SOLDIERS AND AIRMEN FROM UNITS THROUGHOUT THE STATE RACED INTO ACTION MAY 10 AFTER 6,000 PEOPLE WERE “KILLED” AND ANOTHER 7,000 “SUSTAINED INJURIES AND SERIOUS RADIATION EXPOSURE” WHEN TERRORISTS SMUGGLED COMPONENTS FOR A 10-KILOTON NUCLEAR BOMB INTO THE UNITED STATES, THEN ASSEMBLED

AND DETONATED THE DEVICE IN INDIANAPOLIS.

The simulated blast kicked off an 11-day joint civil-military training scenario involving more than 2,000 National Guard troops mainly from Indiana, Ohio and Illinois, along with about 4,000 civilian first responders from throughout the country who descended on several sites in Indiana to participate in one of three scenarios in the largest-ever National Guard training exercise, dubbed Vigilant Guard 2007.

“These joint civil-military exercises are essential to our homeland defense efforts,” said Maj. Gen. Gregory L. Wayt, Ohio adjutant general. “They offer great training not only for our Citizen-Soldiers and Airmen, but for all first responders during domestic crises. More importantly, they identify shortfalls and allow us to improve communication and cooperation among agencies.”

The Vigilant Guard 2007 homeland defense exercise was comprised of three major and separate scenarios—the Vigilant Guard Indiana nuclear detonation, a category three hurricane in the HUR-REX Rhode Island scenario, and multiple terrorist attacks in the Northern Edge Alaska scenario. The exercise was designed to test the National Guard as a military first responder, refine plans and procedures currently in place that are utilized during a crisis event, explore ways to enhance homeland readiness and initiate an emergency management assistance compact (EMAC) plan,

EMAC agreements—which were utilized during the Hurricane Katrina recovery efforts in 2005 when several states sent National Guard personnel and equipment to Louisiana and Mississippi—are part of public law which allow for states to provide mutual assistance in managing any natural or man-made emergency disaster that is declared by the governor of the affected state.

Hosted by the Indiana National Guard, the 11-day Vigilant Guard exercise offered guardmembers an opportunity to hone their skills and gauge their level of preparedness for a real crisis.

“This is probably one of the best homeland defense exercises that Ohio has participated in,” said Brig. Gen. Jack Lee, commander of the Ohio National Guard’s Joint Task Force 73. “The realism for tactical units couldn’t have been better and the performance of Ohio Soldiers and Airmen was just phenomenal. They operated through long hours, hot temperatures and always had great morale. And they always got the job done.”

Airmen from the Mansfield-based 179th Airlift Wing were some of the first Ohio Guardmembers to mobilize and within two hours of notification, two C-130 cargo aircraft and crews were ready to transport troops and cargo.

“The Ohio Air National Guard allows essential military capabilities in the state to be deployed anytime, anywhere, no notice,” said Col. Robert J. Baylor, deputy chief of the joint staff for the Ohio National Guard. “Vigilant Guard showcased the importance of cargo aircraft to support Ohio and its neighbors during homeland security crises.”

Ohio National Guard liaisons were also quickly dispatched to

Camp Atterbury, an Indiana National Guard training facility near Edinburgh, to coordinate assistance from specialized Ohio units at a hastily established joint operations center there.

The first such Ohio National Guard unit to deploy in support of the operation was the state’s Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and High-Yield

“This is probably one of the best homeland defense exercises that Ohio has participated in”

- Brig. Gen. Jack Lee, commander of the Ohio National Guard’s Joint Task Force 73.



SSG RUSSEL L. KLIKA / INDIANA NATIONAL GUARD

*Army and Air National Guardmembers assigned to the Ohio National Guard’s Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear or High-Yield Explosive Enhanced Response Force Package (CERFP) practice extracting victims trapped in the rubble of a collapsed building.*



SPC PARKER STEELE / 196TH MOBILE PUBLIC AFFAIRS DETACHMENT

Explosive Enhanced Response Force Package, or CERFP, which quickly mobilized and arrived at “ground zero” at about 10 p.m. May 10. CERFPs provide search and extraction, medical support, security and decontamination capabilities during a major crisis and are comprised of existing National Guard engineer, medical, military police and chemical units.

By the morning of May 12, all initial Ohio support elements were on site, including troops from the 52nd Civil Support Team (Weapons of Mass Destruction), whose mission is to assess hazards, advise civil authorities and facilitate military support during emergencies and incidents of suspected weapons of mass destruction. Additional units on the ground included Joint Task Force 73, which provides command and control over deployed state assets, and the Chagrin Falls-based 135th Military Police Company, augmented by a platoon from the Middletown-based 324th Military Police Company, which were assigned to the Ohio National Guard’s Quick Reaction Force (QRF). The QRF is a rotating duty assigned to military police companies within the 437th Military Police Battalion—the state’s National Guard Reaction Force.

“Each and every state and territory, all 54, have an immediate quick reaction force and a rapid response force which can deliver a battalion-sized, trained and ready organization in less than 24 hours,” said Lt. Gen. H Steven Blum, chief, National Guard Bureau. “Most can deliver a company-sized unit in less than four hours anywhere in their state or territory.”

The Indiana National Guard’s Muscatatuck Urban Training Center, a sprawling 1,000-acre training site that formerly housed a state mental health complex, acted as “ground zero” for the operation. Troops and civilian first responders climbed through two enormous rubble piles, one situated over an underground tunnel system, searching for “casualties” and pulling them to safety, then administering medical aid and conducting decontamination operations.

Exercise planners lent an air of realism to the scenario by hiring local residents to act as casualties. The actors were dressed in ragged clothing and made up with fake blood and props to simulate a range of injuries and were instructed to present varying levels of consciousness and cooperation.

“The simulated casualties really enhanced the training opportunity,” said 1st Lt. Carl J. Roberts, operations officer for the 52nd. “They provided the closest measure of realism in a training environment that we’ve ever seen. The next step would be to have people with actual injuries. That’s how good they looked.”

Indiana Gov. Mitch Daniels and key personnel including Maj. Gen. R. Martin Umbarger, Indiana adjutant general, and Eric Dietz, Indiana Department of Homeland Security executive director, also added to the realism by conducting “synthetic” press conferences to test the effectiveness of disseminating critical information to the public via civilian media outlets.

Additional military participants in the exercise included National Guard Bureau, the Department of Defense (DoD) and U.S. Northern Command (USNORTHCOM). One of nine DoD unified combatant commands, USNORTHCOM was established Oct. 1, 2002 to provide command and control of DoD homeland defense efforts and to coordinate defense support of civil authorities.

Civilian agencies participating included the Indiana Department of Homeland Security, Indiana Emergency Management Agency, Marion County Emergency Management Agency, Marion County first responders, surrounding county first responders, hazardous materials response personnel, civilian law enforcement, Indiana Tactical Medical Emergency Services and the U.S. Department of Energy.

Vigilant Guard 2007 was the National Guard component of the larger U.S. Northern Command-sponsored homeland defense exercise, Ardent Sentry. The two-week national level exercise involved more than 5,000 active-duty, Reserve and National Guard troops from the U.S. and Canada. The larger exercise was comprised of 15 scenarios representing a range of man-made and natural disasters including a maritime situation and a pandemic flu outbreak. **OG**

*ABOVE, LEFT: A member of the Ohio National Guard’s 52nd Civil Support Team (Weapons of Mass Destruction) checks an area for contamination. BELOW: SFC Justin Shuman of Task Force 73 coordinates response elements during Vigilant Guard. Task Force 73 serves as the Ohio National Guard’s command and control element during an emergency response.*



SSGT DOUGLAS NICODEMUS / 121ST AIR REFUELING WING MULTIMEDIA CENTER



*A 52nd Civil Support Team member checks for radiation around a door before entering the area.*

# Protecting AGAINST WMD

*Story and photos by  
Spc. Parker Steele  
196th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment*

**M**AY 10, 10 A.M. ON A TYPICAL THURSDAY MORNING, HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE IN THIS MIDWEST STATE'S CAPITOL CASUALLY GO ABOUT THEIR DAILY BUSINESS. Kids have been dropped off at school and day care, coffee shops have quieted and traffic has lightened following the morning rush. Most of the city's residents and commuters have settled in for what they expect to be a normal work day.

Moments later, terrorists detonate a nuclear device, leveling a two-square mile section in the city's north-eastern sector, immediately killing thousands and injuring tens of thousands more. As

local emergency first responders scramble to provide aid and services, Indiana Gov. Mitchell Daniels declares a state of emergency, mobilizes the Indiana National Guard and begins requesting help from neighboring states.

While the nuclear detonation was only a simulated attack on Indianapolis, part of the largest-ever National Guard training exercise called Vigilant Guard, the uncertainty of the scenario made it one of the most realistic training events ever for the Soldiers and Airmen of the Ohio National Guard's 52nd Civil Support Team (Weapons of Mass Destruction).

A military first responder, the 52nd mobilizes to support local and state au-

thorities during domestic incidents which may involve nuclear, biological or chemical agents. The team is divided into six sections—command, operations, communications, administrations/logistics, medical and survey. Their mission is to identify agents and substances, assess current and projected consequences, advise on response measures and assist with requests for additional military support.

Shortly after the simulated blast, the 52nd received the call and was on its way to Mansfield, Ohio to load equipment and vehicles, dark blue 4x4 trucks and sport utility vehicles, onto C-130 Hercules cargo aircraft of the Ohio Air National Guard's 179th Airlift Wing.

Hours later, the team rolled into the Indiana National Guard's Muscatatuck Urban Training Center, a 1,000-acre complex that, at one time, was home to the Muscatatuck State Developmental Center, which housed thousands of developmentally disabled patients. This all-inclusive site has been transforming over the past several years into one of the premier urban combat train-

ing sites in the United States.

The team donned their first level of protective gear, a disposable chemical suit with respirator, and prepared to conduct radiological survey and rescue missions. They quickly coordinated with emergency personnel already on site, including local, state and federal agencies, like the Environmental Protection Agency, and established a perimeter around the blast zone.

This innovative joint exercise provided a new facet to the training of both civilian and military first responders.

“This is new territory,” said Zoltan Jung, a senior scientist with the EPA and an instructor at the Defense Nuclear Weapon School at Kirtland Air Force Base in Albuquerque, N.M. “The National Guard will go into a situation and get the job done and that’s a great environment for us to go in and support. They are very mission oriented; they go in—they come out. When the situation settles down, then our agencies can move in and it is more manageable and controllable. The National Guard projects great power through great resources at great distances and that’s what we are experiencing here.”

By working together, members of both the EPA and the 52nd said they were confident that they could do their jobs more efficiently, which is essential to saving lives.

The joint training scenario employed realistic training aids to help to improve both the training and evaluation processes. As the exercise unfolded, the troops were increasingly challenged by the scenarios, designed to mirror what they might face in a real-world disaster situation. In one such scenario, the 52nd was called to a mall that also housed a school for special-needs children.”

“This mall is actually located on the peripheral edge of hazard zone for the nuclear weapon,” said Lt. Col. Jeffery D. Smiley, a civil support team observer-controller-trainer from the California National Guard. “What they are going to do is push in to find out just how far that zone is. They will detect radiation levels and clear the mall of people and then see if it can be used as a shelter for anyone who is located deeper in the hazard zone.”

The team prepared for this mission by donning a new training aid—in addition to their first and lightest level of personal protective equipment—which looks like a small backpack and weighs no more than the standard issue body armor plates. This backpack is actually a Global Positioning System that can record a Soldier’s every move during the scenario.

This new multi-faceted training resource employs three main parts. The first is the GPS, which is mounted on Soldiers and vehicles. Second, programmers create a variety of battlefield simulations such as an overhead view of the training site from an unmanned aerial vehicle. Last is a training device that allows Soldiers to sit in a wrap-around virtual battlefield or



*Through advanced technology, 52nd Civil Support Team members wear devices during Vigilant Guard that track their movement during the exercise. Then a computer makes a virtual copy of each individual and the exercise is played back for the whole team and evaluators to review and provide feedback during after action reviews.*

*Survey Team members from the Ohio National Guard’s 52nd Civil Support Team execute a search and rescue mission inside a building.*

urban disaster scenario, said Mark Johnson, a senior software engineer for Stanford Research Institute (SRI) International, an independent, non-profit research institute.

“Historically, this type of training has been used exclusively by the National Guard and some Marine forces, but now with homeland defense first responders like police, firefighters, Coast Guard, SWAT and FBI are all using this technology for their own personal needs,” Johnson said.

This new technology, provided by the Joint Training Experimentation Program, created by the National Guard Bureau and the California National Guard in conjunction with SRI International, is just one system being tested and improved through exercises like Vigilant Guard. It is also helping to provide realistic training opportunities for units like the 52nd.

“It’s a challenge finding new training environments,” said Lt. Col. David Seitz, 52nd CST commander. “But because of that we look at a variety of training venues and different scenarios to involve as many first responders as possible to ensure that we are forming relationships with them. That way, in the event of a real emergency, we already know each other and they already know a lot of our capabilities.”

The technology also allows commanders to place Soldiers into different leadership positions and gauge how well those Soldiers with less experience conduct themselves, which will give an organization more depth, Smiley said.

Vigilant Guard has given first responder units like the 52nd a chance to try out state-of-the-art training technology being used by other National Guard units, including ways to improve the quality of a unit’s after action review, a structured debrief process that analyzes what happened, why it happened, and how the training can be improved.

“We capture everything the Soldiers do in this lane with video and 3D graphics, and then the commander will pick and choose clips for his AAR,” Smiley said. The commander will edit out what he doesn’t want and focuses only on the training task. “This is state-of-the-art, this is the way training should be.” **8G**





Members of the Ohio CERFP—Air National Guard SSgt Robert M. Baldwin (from left), TSgt Bradley A. Taylor, and Army National Guard SPC Martin J. Sanders—locate and prepare to extract two “victims” from an abandoned building.

Story and photos by Spc. Diego J. Robles  
196th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

# New unit shines during training exercise

One of the Ohio National Guard's newest and most specialized units recently tested its skills and training at the Indiana National Guard's Muscatatuck Urban Training Center during a joint civil-military disaster response scenario and the largest training exercise in National Guard history, Vigilant Guard 2007.

The Ohio Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear or High-Yield Explosive (CBRNE)-Enhanced Response Force Package (CERFP) sprung into action May 10 after Indiana Gov. Mitchell Daniels requested support following the simulated detonation of a 10-kiloton nuclear device in Indianapolis. Pieces of the Ohio unit began arriving on site that evening, and by May 12, all elements were on the ground and conducting their full range of operations.

Tasked with search and extraction, decontamination and medical treatment and triage during domestic crises, CERFPs are comprised of existing National Guard units that operate under the direct control of their state's or a supported state's governor. A military first responder, the Ohio CERFP is one of only 12 such units in the National Guard, with at least one in each of the 10 Federal Emergency Management Agency regions. Five additional CERFPs have been authorized and funded by Congress.

Near Butlerville, the Muscatatuck 1,000-acre full-inversion contemporary urban training environment has 68 major buildings and an extensive tunnel system. Once on site, the troops were confronted with two huge man-made rubble piles constructed especially for the exercise.

Soldiers from the Chillicothe-based 1194th Engineer Company, which comprises the CERFP's search and extraction element, along with Airmen from the Columbus-based 121st Medical Group, which is responsible for medical treatment and triage, spent their first night of rescue operations on rubble pile No. 1. The search and extraction team

rescued 15 mock casualties with simulated injuries including lacerations, punctured lungs, broken bones and severe head wounds.

"It was a grueling task because before you extract casualties, you have to shore the tunnels to make sure the passage is safe and ensure no further collapse," said Spc. James T. McGee of the 1194th.

After the team members found and rescued all "casualties," they were presented with a new scenario. Day after day, they ran through one scenario after another with little time to rest. One scenario would require rescuing survivors from buildings with major structural damage, in which the team would construct rakers—four-by-four

a 45-degree angles on the damaged structure and the adjacent ground—in order to stabilize the structures. In another scenario, the Ohio and Indiana CERFPs worked together and in less than three hours, removed a 7,900-pound rock to reach casualties trapped under the rubble, McGee said.

After rescuing survivors, the search and extraction team then turned the casualties over to the 637th Chemical Company, from Kettering, for decontamination. The 637th had set up massive tents with a conveyer system of roller-topped

tables running through it from one end to the other. Once casualties arrived, workers placed them on the tables and rolled them through the line. Chemical specialists cut contaminated clothes off the victims, set them aside to be destroyed and proceeded to decontaminate the individuals. Once decontaminated, they were handed over to medics from the 121st for treatment.

The final day of training took the CERFP back to rubble pile No. 1, the smaller of the two, but also the most isolated. The scenario this day was a wood treatment facility collapse. The search and extraction team was to locate and rescue injured personnel as well as a high-profile city official who was reported to be on site. With the aid of jackhammers and giant crowbars, the team accomplished the task, which was made more difficult because of narrow underground crevices and tunnels.

Despite differences among Army and Air troops in areas such as uniforms and command structure, the joint effort appeared seamless to observers. However, the troops had to overcome some initial reservations.

While some Airmen involved in the exercise might have been apprehensive at first about the challenges of working in a joint environment with Soldiers, they soon learned that their Army brethren were focused on mission accomplishment, said Senior Master Sgt. Robert W. Schraft of the 121st.

Many Soldiers assigned to the CERFP echoed those sentiments. McGee, who had several Air National Guard medics attached to his search and extraction team, praised the medics' professionalism, saying they were "full of hustle and hard work."

Tech. Sgt. Eric M. Ball, a medic attached to the 121st, was one of several Air National Guard medics awarded the Army Achievement Medal from the 1194th for their work during the exercise. He said the two branches mixed well together and the working relationship between the Soldiers and Airmen "was almost love at first sight." **86**

*CERFP members use a jackhammer to remove debris so they can locate potential casualties trapped underneath building rubble.*



*Ssg Rick V. Spellman (left) of the Ohio National Guard's 1194th Engineer Company, the search and extraction element of the state's CERFP, locates a "victim," in an abandoned building.*

# Medical Corps reaps real-world experience overseas



Soldiers from the 285th Medical Company evacuate a Soldier onto a UH-60 Blackhawk for additional medical treatment.

SGT ANDREW BRACE / 285TH MEDICAL COMPANY

## Doc adapts to life in Baghdad

By Col. Stephen C. Ulrich  
Ohio National Guard State Surgeon

Today a strong, dust-filled wind blew out of the south, kicked up a loose pop can and rattled it down the gravel street that serves as home to the Headquarters of the 2nd Battalion, 135th Aviation Regiment, or GSAB (General Support Aviation Battalion) for short.

I picked up the can and safely disposed of it, thinking how far from home I am once again.

It is two days past Christmas. Many of the e-mails and cards from patients have asked me if I am going to write again during this deployment. I have not, to date, because I have been too busy adapting to a new situation with different duties than my last rotation.

I had originally planned on being deployed in February 2007 to Camp Liberty, which is near Camp Victory, where I served two years ago.

However, fate had other plans. The GSAB needed a flight surgeon to fill a 90-day rotation and my name came up next on the list at National Guard Bureau.

Flight surgeons are military physicians

who receive special training in aviation medicine, aviation systems and safety issues. Their role is to make sure that pilots are medically qualified to fly safely, to educate pilots on health issues that may present safety issues and to advise the commander of the aviation unit on health issues and human factors that may present increased risks of accidents.

I used to fly my own helicopter to the hospital and even on occasion made a house call or two. It was the love of flying that initially attracted me to the National Guard. I became a flight surgeon in 1988 and served in that capacity for many years with the Ohio Army National Guard. Then I moved on to command and staff responsibilities and finally have served as the State Surgeon of Ohio for the last five years.

I tried to get my assignment passed to another flight surgeon because of my commitment to serve with the Ohio unit that is at Camp Liberty. Another flight surgeon could not be found. We are a rare commodity in the



COURTESY PHOTO

COL Stephen Ulrich, a Perry County physician who returned from deployment to Baghdad, Iraq, is flanked by fellow military health care professionals from the 2nd Battalion, 135th Aviation Regiment.

National Guard physician community.

So, after extended discussions with my wife and fellow physicians and staff in the Perry County Family Practice, I decided to do a six-month rotation, three months with the GSAB and three months with the 285th Medical Company in Camp Liberty.

After a long flight we landed in Kuwait, where I caught a ride on a C-130 to Balad. The pilot was kind enough to let me on the flight deck and to sign off my flight time. I had logged my first official hours of flight time. It was dark but I was able to make out a number of large towns along our route.

When I arrived at Balad I was met by Staff Sgt. Vance Sylvia. I had served with him two years ago at Camp Victory. It was like home-

coming weekend. Sylvia got me lined up with housing. I have a “wet trailer,” which means a bathroom and shower, which I share with another physician whose room is on the other end of the trailer. No more early morning walks in the cold air. Life is good.

Maj. Joe Kelly is the aeromedical physician assistant for the GSAB. He is a full-time national guardsman and a physician assistant with special training in aviation medicine. He was the one who had e-mailed me on several occasions and informed me of the fact that I would have oversight on over 60 percent of the helicopter medivac missions in Iraq. He gave me a tour of the clinic and filled me

in on the medical issues that I would be working with.

I then met Lt. Col. Chris Petty, commander of the unit. I shared with him my anxieties about coming in new to a strange unit. He assured me that I would do fine. He reviewed the overall structure of the unit and what he expected from his flight surgeon.

At the end of our discussion he gave me a GSAB unit patch to wear on my flight suit. Aviation units often have a distinctive patch that members wear. The patch always tells a story. This unit’s patch features crossed swords and a skull on a black background with the unit’s designation as the 2nd Bat-

talion, 135th Aviation Regiment.

The patch was actually based on the emblem that a privateer by the name of Jack Rackham used when he sailed from the outer banks of North Carolina. Blackjacks’ name just seemed to fit the picture. So the modern day Blackjacks, both men and women, fly their ships on the line in service of their country under a Blackjack patch.

As I walk down Blackjack Alley with company flags and various state flags blowing in the wind I know that I am a part of a strong history of citizen soldiers who come together to protect our country, to promote freedom and carry out the direction and will of the American people. **86**

## 285th Medical Company provides aid to Iraqi civilians

Story and photo by Sgt. Andrew Brace  
285th Medical Company

**CAMP LIBERTY, Iraq** - The sun was shining and there was hardly a cloud in the clear blue sky as we piled into the open bed of a Humvee. It was a beautiful Tuesday afternoon.

With the wind in our faces, the excitement in the air was palpable as we drove down the road discussing the rapidly approaching event we were to help administer.

“What will the Iraqi’s be like?” asked Sgt. 1st Class Kevin Runyon. “What type of care will we need to provide? Will they let us take their picture?”

These were among the many questions we were asking ourselves as we cleared the security checkpoint and advanced toward the small white building where we were to perform our mission.

The Civil Military Operations Center (CMOC) is the point of interface between the U.S. forces, local governments and civilians. One of the activities organized by the CMOC is the community medical outreach program, which gives Iraqi civilians access to a level of care neither available nor affordable to most Iraqi civilians.

Once per week, the 285th Medical Company provides a doctor and several medics in support of the program. A building is set up like a typical U.S. family practice, with a sizeable waiting room and a small treatment area containing four makeshift beds for patient care.

This day, the waiting room was packed with local civilians including fully shrouded women in typical Islamic dress with children as young as 1, and elderly men and women in wheelchairs.

Immediately upon arrival, Runyon and Lt. Col. Mark Tranovich, an Army physician, began treating patients with the aid of an interpreter.

Combat medics Spc. Stevie Lundell and Spc. Michael Healey, laboratory technician Pvt. Barton Benes and I all pitched in to help where we could.



Medics from the 285th Medical Company treat a Soldier as he is loaded onto a UH-60 Blackhawk.

As Runyon treated a young girl whose mother had brought her in for a fever, the interpreter told us that the girl was 5, although she looked several years younger.

Runyon checked her temperature, looked in her throat and ears and consulted with Tranovich. He took a small box of children’s Motrin from a shelf, handed it to the girl’s mother, and explained through the interpreter how to administer the drops.

As the girl and her mother walked out, Tranovich turned to me with a look of disappointment and said, “There is only so much we can do.”

For the Soldiers, the medical outreach program helps put a face on the war. With so much negativity surrounding us every day, it feels good to do something positive for the community. **86**

# CELEBRATING 100 YEARS: CAMP PERRY AND THE NATIONAL MATCHES

Story by James A. Sims II  
Adjutant General's Dept. Public Affairs

## 1907-2007

and events. This July and August, more than 6,000 shooters are expected to take part in this historic milestone—the 100th anniversary of

**W**hen Ohio National Guard Cpl. L. B. Jarrett fired the “First Shot” early in the morning of Aug. 19, 1907, at the newly-built Camp Perry Training Site, Brig. Gen. Ammon B. Critchfield, Ohio adjutant general, and others in attendance had no idea that the sound from his .30-.40-caliber Krag-Jorgensen rifle would echo for years to come.

Critchfield, often referred to as the “Father of Camp Perry,” selected the site while duck hunting in the marshes along Lake Erie in 1905. One year later, the Ohio State Legislature appropriated \$25,000 to purchase more than 300 acres of land for the state rifle range and camp. By the summer of 1907, the 200-, 600- and 800-yard ranges were ready with more than 160 targets. What Critchfield did not know at the time is that he had located and built an ideal range site where rifle and pistol shooters would gather to take part in national matches for the next 100 years.

Since then, the nation’s finest civilian, law enforcement and military marksmen and women have squared off each summer for five weeks of rifle and handgun competition in a variety of formats

National Matches at Camp Perry.

The event is an economic boon to the local area, contributing more than \$10 million annually, according to Tom Brown mayor of Port Clinton. The matches also have a larger economic impact of \$15-\$20 million to the northwest corridor of Ohio.

The National Matches encompasses both the National Rifle and Pistol Championships conducted by the National Rifle Association and the National Trophy Matches conducted by the Civilian Marksmanship Program.

One look at historical photographs from the early years at Camp Perry reveals some interesting details not only about the ranges but about the historical roots of the Ohio National Guard.

“The training site has a rich history,” said Staff Sgt. Josh Mann, the full-time historian for the Ohio National Guard and caretaker of weapons, uniforms and other historical artifacts from the era. “During World War I, Camp Perry served as a training center for Army officers and marksmanship instructors and during World War II, Camp Perry housed German and



**BOTH PAGES: How the firing line and targets looked during the 1936 National Rifle and Pistol Matches at Camp Perry. Photo by Dick Dryer, courtesy of Ohio Army National Guard Historical Collections**

## 2007 SCHEDULES

**ABOVE, INSET: BG Ammon B. Critchfield was Ohio adjutant general in 1905 when he discovered and later persuaded the Ohio Legislature to purchase the land that would become Camp Perry, one of the premier shooting ranges in the United States. Photo courtesy of Ohio Army National Guard Historical Collections**

**RIGHT: The 2007 National Rifle Association National Rifle and Pistol Matches and Civilian Marksmanship Program National Trophy Matches are currently under way and run through mid-August at Camp Perry, Graphic courtesy of American Rifleman magazine.**

### 2007 CIVILIAN MARKSMANSHIP PROGRAM NATIONAL TROPHY MATCHES, CAMP PERRY, OHIO

<b>JULY 9-10</b>	SMALL ARMS FIRING SCHOOL—PISTOL
<b>JULY 15</b>	PRESIDENT'S 100—PISTOL
<b>JULY 22</b>	RIMFIRE SPORTER RIFLE MATCH
<b>JULY 28-29</b>	SMALL ARMS FIRING SCHOOL—RIFLE
<b>JULY 30</b>	PRESIDENT'S 100—RIFLE
<b>JULY 31</b>	NTI
<b>AUGUST 1</b>	HEARST DOUBLES
<b>AUGUST 2</b>	NTT/ M1 CARBINE MATCH
<b>AUGUST 3</b>	NTIT/SPRINGFIELD MILITARY/VINTAGE MILITARY RIFLE MATCH

### 2007 NRA NATIONAL RIFLE & PISTOL MATCHES, CAMP PERRY, OHIO

<b>JULY 9</b>	FIRST SHOT CEREMONY
<b>JULY 10</b>	PISTOL PRACTICE DISTINGUISHED REVOLVER PISTOL MATCH HARRY REEVES REVOLVER MATCH
<b>JULY 11-14</b>	PISTOL MATCHES
<b>JULY 18</b>	SMALLBORE PRACTICE
<b>JULY 19-21</b>	SMALLBORE 3-POSITION MATCHES
<b>JULY 22-26</b>	SMALLBORE PRONE MATCHES
<b>JULY 24</b>	WHISTLER BOY SMALLBORE MATCH
<b>AUGUST 1</b>	WHISTLER BOY JR. HIGH POWER MATCH
<b>AUGUST 5</b>	NRA/SPRINGFIELD ARMORY M1A MATCH
<b>AUGUST 6-10</b>	HIGH POWER MATCHES
<b>AUGUST 11-14</b>	LONG RANGE MATCHES

Italian prisoners of war.”

Today, many of Camp Perry’s original structures are still in use in one form or another.

During the centennial celebration, visitors will see reenactments of events representing various wars throughout the years and the on-post museum will include displays focusing on specific eras of military history.

“I can tell you without a doubt this camp is rich in history and now stands as a world-class facility with the largest outdoor rifle range in the world,” said Col. James Chisman, who has served as the Camp Perry Training Site commander since 2005. “During my tenure, we have put in excess of \$2.2 million into facilities, \$1.9 million in infrastructure improvements, and \$2.1 million in range enhancements.”

The National Rifle and Pistol Matches are hosted at Camp Perry Training Site through a partnership between the Ohio National Guard, the NRA and the CMP. The matches are considered America’s “World Series of the Shooting Sports” and attract thousands of competitors from all across the nation to compete in a variety of events.

“The partnership between the Ohio National Guard, the Civilian Marksmanship Program and the National Rifle Association is, at its core, what makes this annual event the premier experience that it is,” Chisman said.

The CMP, headquartered in Port Clinton, Ohio, was created by the U.S. Congress to provide civilians an opportunity to learn and practice marksmanship skills in case they were called to serve the U.S. military. Over time, the emphasis of the program shifted.

“We promote firearms safety training and rifle practice for all shooters,” said Gary Anderson, director of the CMP and two-time Olympic gold medal winner and seven-time world champion rifle shooter. “However, our primary focus is to develop and sustain successful youth shooting programs at both the regional and national level.”

The National Matches begin each year with the annual “First Shot” ceremony. The event, which attracts local, state and national elected

officials as well as military members, traditionally serves as the kick-off for the annual competitions. This year’s ceremony took place on Camp Perry’s Rodriguez Range. John McLaurin III, deputy assistant secretary of the Army for human resources, served as the guest of honor. After his comments, he had the honor of firing the competition’s first shot with a specially selected AR-15 competition service rifle.

Previous first shot honorees have included Maj. Gen. Gregory L. Wayt, the current Ohio adjutant general, Nancy Johnson, the 2000 Olympic gold medalist in women’s air rifle, Bill Blankenship, a six-time NRA pistol champion and Lt. Gen. H Steven Blum, chief of the National Guard Bureau.

Each year, under the direction of the NRA, more than 500 volunteers and an additional 75 seasonal staff members work to ensure that the national matches are successful.

“Camp Perry may well be the single most revered place in the hearts and minds of competitive shooters,” said NRA President John Sigler. “Since 1907, some of the most elite marksmen America has ever produced have competed there alongside club shooters who consider the NRA National Champion-

ships a vital part of their lives.”

In addition to coordinating support staff, the NRA’s competitive shooting division offers a wide range of activities in all types of shooting for everyone from the novice to the world-class competitor. The NRA sanctions and sponsors more than 10,000 shooting tournaments each year.

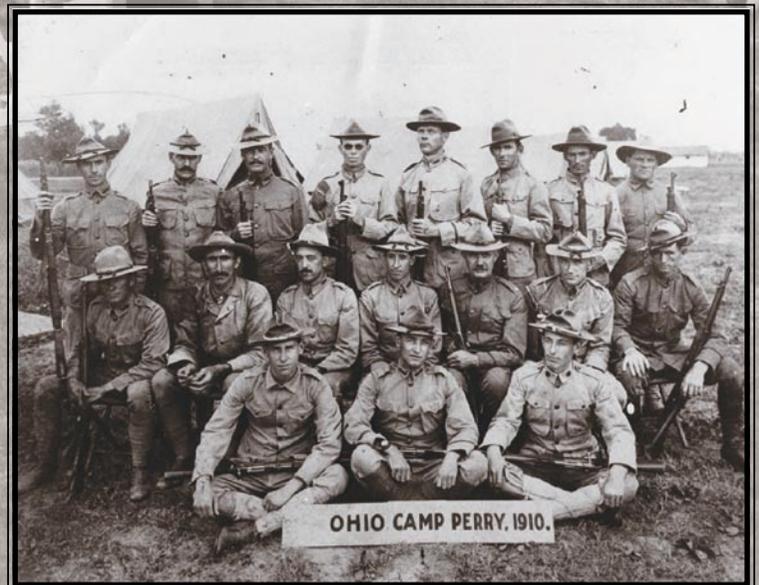
“Our collaboration at Camp Perry is truly unique, everybody involved in this partnership brings something to the table,” said Mike Krei, director of the NRA competitive shooting division. **86**



**ABOVE: The front gate to Camp Perry as it welcomed National Match participants in the mid-1980s. Photo courtesy of Ohio Army National Guard Historical Collections**



**ABOVE: Ohio Army National Guardmembers fire the M-1 rifle on a Camp Perry range sometime in the 1960s. RIGHT: The 1910 Ohio National Guard Rifle Team. Photos courtesy of Ohio Army National Guard Historical Collections**



# DUTCH TOUGH DOWN

178TH FIGHTER WING SCORES NEW MISSION TRAINING  
DUTCH PILOTS ON F-16 FIGHTER JETS

SSGT DOUGLAS NICODEMUS / 121ST AIR REFUELING WING MULTIMEDIA CENTER



Story by Senior Airman Bethany Vital  
178th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

**S**PRINGFIELD—April 24, 2007 commemorated another step forward in the long and friendly history between the United States and the Netherlands. The 178th Fighter Wing hosted a ceremony to welcome officially the Royal Netherlands Air Force to the Springfield-Beckley Air National Guard Base and celebrate the two countries' new joint mission.

More than 500 civilians and service-members turned out to participate in the

event. Distinguished guest speakers, introduced by Col. Richard Lohnes, commander of the 178th, included Ohio Governor Ted Strickland; Christiaan M.J. Kröner, ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to the United States; U.S. Senator George Voinovich, Congressman Dave Hobson from Ohio's 7th District; Maj. Gen. Erik Jan Oliemans, deputy commander of the Royal Netherlands Air Force and Maj. Gen. Gregory L. Wayt, Ohio adjutant general.

"This is a great day for the 178th Fighter Wing and for the Ohio National Guard," Wayt said. "A lot of people put in a lot of time and effort to make this happen. This joint mission, and the exchange of culture and ideas that accompany it, can only serve to strengthen our military



LT COL (RET.) THOMAS HITZEMAN / 178TH FIGHTER WING



SSGT DOUGLAS NICODEMUS / 121ST AIR REFUELING WING MULTIMEDIA CENTER

**ABOVE, TOP PHOTO:** Fire trucks at the Springfield-Beckley Municipal Airport provide a water cannon salute after an F-16 Fighting Falcon aircraft lands during a April 24 ceremony marking the Royal Netherlands Air Force beginning training on the F-16 with the 178th Fighter Wing. **LEFT:** A pilot prepares to dismount from the cockpit of his F-16. **ABOVE:** Members of the Royal Netherlands Air Force stand in formation during a ceremony announcing the Dutch-U.S. partnership.



TOP LEFT: Christiaan M. J. Kroner (fourth from left), Dutch ambassador to the United States, talks with reporters as U.S. Rep. David L. Hobson (second from left), Ohio Gov. Ted Strickland, U.S. Sen. George V. Voinovich and MG Gregory L. Wayt, Ohio adjutant general, look on. LEFT: Airmen from Springfield's 178th Fighter Wing (left) and the Royal Netherlands Air Force stand together in formation during a ceremony that began a mission where 178th pilots will instruct Dutch pilots on operating the F-16. BELOW: Col Rich Lohnes, 178th Fighter Wing commander, speaks during the ceremony.



services and the relationship between our great countries.”

The wing Honor Guard kicked off the ceremony with the posting of colors followed by the playing of the Dutch and U.S. National Anthems by the U.S. Air Force Band of Flight from Wright-Patterson Air Force Base. The Honor Guard also presented the Dutch 306th Squadron flag. After solemnly carrying the encased standard down the red carpet, the members slowly unfurled it before handing it on stage. The colors were ceremoniously passed from Oliemans to Wayt to Lohnes and finally, to Anthony Montecalvo, who assumed command of the Netherlands Detachment, Springfield, Ohio, officially marking the new home for members of the Dutch flying squadron. This is the third mission change for the 306th since it was founded more than 50 years ago.

Following the assumption of command,

the crowds exited the hangar to observe four Dutch and American F-16s flying a routine training mission with pattern work overhead. Two base fire engines sat facing each other on the ramp waiting for the planes to land. Members of the base fire department used the water hoses to create an arch in the sky under which one of the Dutch jets slowly pulled through to face the guests

Following the display of aircraft, the guests attended a luncheon hosted by the RNLAf at the Yoxford Inn, the base dining facility, where they were served a traditional Indonesian Rijstafel, or “rice table,” a common Dutch meal. The buffet-style fare consisted of rice accompanied by many spicy side dishes. Indonesian culture has been intimately incorporated into Dutch tradition since World War II, when many people from the Indonesian colonies

came to the Netherlands to serve in the Dutch military.

Originally served mainly in military dining facilities, Indonesian food is now more popular in the Netherlands than any other cultural food. Each table in the dining hall was adorned with a tiny flag stand holding small American and Dutch flags. Also included on the tables were menus detailing each dish and how it had been prepared, as well as note cards along the buffet line explaining how to best serve each dish. Guests were offered a base tour following the meal.

“We are proud to be participating in this mission,” said Col. Lohnes. “But no matter how wide our global missions expand, our people will continue to be our most treasured resource.”

The 178th has begun preliminary talks to extend its new training mission to other European countries. **86**

## Family Readiness Conference brings guardmembers, civilian volunteers together to learn newest ways to prepare troops

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

**C**OLUMBUS—Soldiers, Airmen and their families mingled with volunteers over coffee and snacks during a three-day Ohio National Guard Family Readiness Program conference April 13-15 at the Marriot Northwest hotel.

More than 700 attendees heard speakers on a variety of topics including preventing identity theft, hosting unit family readiness group (FRG) websites through Army Knowledge Online, group fund raising and financial planning. They were also able to participate in a “town hall” question-and-answer session with Ohio National Guard leaders to discuss issues such as current and future deployments.

The purpose of the annual conference is to help produce FRGs that are engaged with their units in yearly activities and prepared for deployments and “no-notice” missions, according to Lt. Col. Robert “Buck” Bramlish, ONG Family Readiness Program director.



“Wouldn’t it be nice to know your Soldiers arrived at AT (annual training) safely?” Bramlish asked. “Ready families, anytime, anywhere—it means ready for mobilization, flood, ready for anything.”

Bramlish said FRGs should seek to give the best support possible to families, as Ohio’s Soldiers and Airmen face mobilizations in the Global War on Terrorism and national emergencies such as Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

“As a family member, we get to share in the military side of our loved ones’ lives,” said Yvette Hager, whose husband, Sgt. 1st Class Fred Hager, served in Operation Iraqi Freedom. “Before this, there was nothing—there was nothing for families.”

Hager said the spouses who remained at home and other family members learned to lean on one another during the unit’s deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

“We became family while he was deployed,” she said. “We just met to celebrate one of the ladies in the group’s birthday the other day.”

The program operates through volunteers, military liaisons—who

are usually noncommissioned officers in the unit and the company commander.

“This program has exploded because of the involvement of commanders and volunteers,” Bramlish said. “When you bring families together and they rub shoulders, it’s going to benefit the families and it’s going to benefit the Soldiers and Airmen. You’ve got to believe that!”

The program has been successful in gaining interest and involvement from volunteers and commanders.

“We teach the volunteers and company commanders how to run and inspire participation,” Bramlish said

Bramlish and his program have recently garnered attention on a national level. Ohio has been tapped to be the model for a tri-state FRG.

“What I see in Ohio is success,” said Col. Anthony Baker, chief of family programs for the National Guard Bureau in Washington, D.C., who attended the weekend conference in Columbus. “I’ve been to seven family readiness group conferences in eight weeks. You guys get it!”

For more information on the Ohio National Guard Family Readiness Program, log onto [www.ong.ohio.gov/family/](http://www.ong.ohio.gov/family/), or call (800) 589-9914. **SG**



**ABOVE:** Shannon Behling (left), whose husband, CPT David M. Behling, serves with Company C, 1st Battalion, 145th Armored Regiment, holds her daughter while taking notes during the Ohio Family Readiness Program April 14 at the Marriot Northwest hotel in Columbus. **RIGHT:** The Ohio National Guard Joint Family Readiness Council prepares to recognize volunteers for their service.

# OIF veteran's strong family bond helps him through it all

Spc. Levi Preston  
196th Mobile Public Affairs Det.

**C**OLUMBUS—Sitting quietly in his apartment, Spc. Michael Carden's hands are steady as he works diligently on a broadcast script. The scrawl upon the paper loops and swirls with precision, all the while masking something hidden within the man.

Carden is an accomplished broadcast journalist, or 46 Romeo, working with the 196th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment, located in Columbus. He is a communications student, a loving husband and a father. But Carden is also something else. He's a veteran of one of the most trying wars the nation has ever seen. He is a survivor.

Combat has changed throughout the years, as have the men who have fought in it. As technology has advanced, overall American casualty rates have gone down, but one factor has increased as war has evolved.

Army statistics show that among enlisted personnel, there were 7,152 divorces last year, 28 percent more than in 2003 and up 53 percent from 2000.

"My situation is unique in that (my wife) Jamie and I began dating in high school," Carden admits. "We'd continued dating through her first few years of school and my active-duty time as a cavalry scout, but by the time this deployment (the 196th deployed to Iraq from February 2004 to February 2005) came up we'd stayed together despite separations for 5 1/2 years already, it was old hat for us," Carden said. Even still, Carden recognizes the importance of ever-changing technologies in the struggle to stay connected with a loved one. "You have to keep in touch through e-mail as much as possible and photos and videos have their place as well, but people have to realize the importance of the old fashion care package," Carden said. "In Iraq we'd get a package and it didn't matter how many mortar rounds had exploded how many yards from me, this was a great day."

Just prior to being separated from his now-wife Jamie by his Iraq deployment, Carden began to feel a lingering angst, a need to solidify his love while time still remained.

"I was an assistant youth pastor at my church and so the night I was going to tell the kids I had been deployed was also the night I decided to propose, so I went and got three dozen red roses," he said.



COURTESY PHOTO

**Ohio Army National Guard SPC Michael Carden (from left), his wife, Jamie, and their daughter, Nora, attend a recent Daughters of the American Revolution dinner.**

The children presented his wife with the rosebuds one by one as she stood confused, whereupon Carden knelt and presented her on bended knee with the final rose and the grandest gesture of love.

"She was excited so it took away some of the lingering gloom of the deployment and it made the kids feel great because they got to be a part of something," he said. "These are the things you have to do if you expect love to sustain."

While some might suggest that a romantic gesture such as this should be enough to indeed sustain a love throughout a deployment, Carden refuses to sit back on his heels.

"I always get her red roses for her birthday, and for whatever reason she always seems surprised, I think she's just really great at acting like it. This year could be no different though, just because I was in Samarra (Iraq). There's a florist I always use and I had him ready, he had my information, and I'd paid in advance. She came home to a nice surprise and even though I knew it meant a lot to her, she never realized how much it also meant to me. There's a sense of accomplishment in being that far away and knowing someone feels loved, it's like 'Yes! I pulled it off.'"

Telling other people's stories is never easy in a war zone, but pen in hand, Carden

struggles as he describes his own time overseas and the difficulties in discussing things with his wife upon his return.

"There are things that I saw over there that I'm not comfortable talking about," Carden said. "She knows I'm not at that place yet and that one day I'll share with her but the support is what any Soldier needs when they first get home." Carden goes on to insist that Soldiers be mindful when discussing everyday happenings with their loved ones in the U.S. "You don't share certain things when you're over there. There's no sense in me telling my wife that a mortar round landed 40 meters away today, she's just going to worry and there's nothing she can do about things that are out of her control."

Carden said this is the kind of consideration Soldiers must have for the ones they care about.

And it pays off. Carden, having returned home found his family along with his wife awaiting him. Others are not so lucky. Those who do not know this Soldier might wonder, was it all worth it? And in response, Carden sets down his pen, and replies with an inquisition of his own.

"Did we bring all 23 people back unharmed? Then, Hell yeah. At a gut level I knew I was supposed to go all along, my wife knows who I am as a person; my father knew I'd go," Carden said. "The fact that we won countless Army and Department of Defense awards for work done over there, or even that our's was the first public affairs unit to ever receive the Meritorious Unit Citation all takes a back seat to that main goal.

"When I came home I looked my wife in the eye and I was proud, knowing that I did everything I could to bring my family, my team home."

Carden grasps his pen firmly once again, settling back in, and eyeing the page before him he speaks once more.

"Love endures," Carden said. "This story is hard to tell but when you're asked, you go, and you tell it later. I love my wife and we'd do it again." **SG**

# Desert Excursions

## Ohio National Guardmembers support U.S. Border Patrol mission

By 1st Lt. Shannon Parks  
Headquarters, Ohio Air National Guard

When most people think about the Ohio National Guard's (ONG) involvement in homeland defense, they often think about deployments to Iraq or Afghanistan. The ONG, however, also plays a crucial part in homeland defense by protecting our own borders in Arizona, California, New Mexico, and Texas.

In May 2006, President George W. Bush announced Operation Jump Start (OJS), a plan to aid U.S. Customs and Border Patrol (CBP) by providing up to 6,000 troops in an effort to stop the infiltration of terrorist, drugs, weapons and the trafficking of people across the U.S.-Mexico border. As usual, the ONG stood ready to answer the call and quickly sent volunteers to support OJS.

Ohio National Guardmembers can be found performing a variety of tasks on the border. For example, Army Spc. Jay Braddock from Company G, 137th Aviation Regiment, is helping support the mission by using his helicopter repair skills on the OH-58 Kiowa observation helicopter. The Kiowas are used to fly over five southwest border sectors and, through the use of global positioning systems, pinpoint and report illegal activity on the border to CBP agents. According to Braddock, aviation assets such as the Kiowas are in constant use and must be ready to go at a moment's notice. Without a skilled maintenance and repair team on hand, rapid deployment could be hindered.

"I love being a part

of a mission that allows me to contribute to something bigger than myself and that helps win the war on drugs," Braddock said.

To date, nearly 200 ONG Airmen and Soldiers have participated in OJS. In addition to air support, the ONG is also providing extensive ground support to the CBP. They are functioning in a variety of roles that help enhance border infrastructure, communications and entry identification

activities. Infrastructure includes building roads and barriers while entry identification involves scanning the border from atop guard posts. If illegal activity is spotted, Ohio National Guardmembers alert CBP authorities. The ONG mission is to provide support in a non-law enforcement capacity, so they do not become directly involved in arrests or captures.

Tech. Sgt. Greg Corson from the 121st Civil Engineering Squadron was involved

in construction along the border. Working in a joint environment alongside Army National Guard counterparts, he poured concrete, put up framing, welded and constructed fencing along the Arizona border.

"Participating in OJS gives us the opportunity to do something for our country on our own land. We're stopping illegal activity before it even has a chance to get through to our borders and our hometowns," Corson said.

"Having the Guardsmen serving in these different support roles has allowed Border Patrol agents to return to the field to perform their vital law enforcement role," said Sgt. Gustavo Soto, CBP supervisory patrol agent.

"This law enforcement role, which Guardsmen do not do, includes confronting and arresting illegal drug, weapons and human traffickers and apprehending those entering the country illegally."

"Apprehensions of illegal crossers have dropped twelve percent, which means less people are even attempting to cross the border illegally, while drug seizures have gone up twenty-nine percent since last year," Soto said.

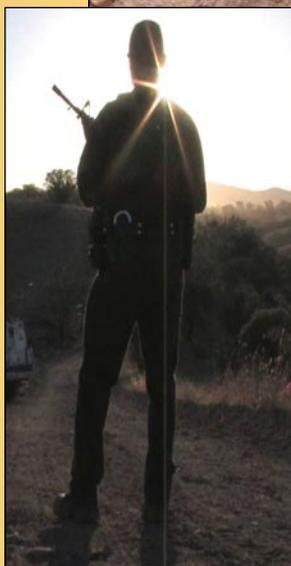
Soto attributes this positive change to the presence of Guardsmen serving in OJS. "The Operation Jump Start mission is a success," he said. **GG**



**ABOVE: Airmen supporting Operation Jump Start near Douglas, Ariz. drill a foundation for a light pole installation. The fence on the right is the official border between the U.S. and Mexico. RIGHT: MSgt Tom Cullen of the 200th Red Horse Squadron, based in Port Clinton, discovers a trap door found in the fence along the U.S.-Mexican border. Someone had it disguised as a welded repair in the fence and covered it with dirt. BELOW, RIGHT: A U.S. Border Patrol officer keeps watch while servicemembers conduct engineering projects to improve security along the U.S.-Mexican border.**



OHIO AIR NATIONAL GUARD PHOTOS



# Beautiful stories from a not-so-beautiful time in history: The 18th annual Memorial Bataan Death March

By Sgt. Andi Motley  
1486th Transportation Company

My heart was beating with the anticipation I had been feeling since I learned of this event during the past summer months. This was the 18th annual Memorial Bataan Death March, set in the beautiful scenery of the New Mexico desert. I was finally there and though I didn't really know what to expect, I knew the experience would be more than a crowded van ride from Missouri to White Sands, New Mexico.

I arrived at White Sands Missile Range on Friday, March 23, with the Arkansas Army Reserve Engineer Sapper team who "adopted" me as a teammate when the Ohio Soldiers I had planned to team-up with were unable to make the event. Somehow, even in the presence of complete strangers, meeting new Soldiers never really seems like meeting strangers.

In the months, weeks and days leading up to the event, I spent time online reading about what really took place during World War II in the Philippines, where more than 54,000 men died from a grueling march that stretched more than 90 miles. Without food, water, rest or medicine, 75,000 Filipino and American Soldiers watched as their fellow Soldiers and friends died or were killed by the Japanese guards who marched them to prisoner-of-war camps O'Donnell and Cabanatuan. Among the troops were Soldiers from the National Guard's 192nd Tank Battalion, including Company A from Wisconsin, Company B from Illinois, Company C from Ohio, and Company D from Kentucky. I spoke with the Ohio Army National Guard historian, Staff Sgt. Joshua Mann, and learned that the tank at Camp Perry, along with a replica of their battalion flag, had been donated to honor the memory of the Soldiers from Ohio. After watching a video interview with the survivors' stories of what had happened to them so long ago, I asked Mann if I could take the flag with me on the march. I thought it might be a small way to honor these great heroes.

After I arrived, the first vet-

eran I met was Mr. Weldon Hamilton. He wrote a book in which he mentions the 192nd Tank Battalion multiple times throughout his recollections. As I took the flag around to get photographs, I was surprised to hear someone who knew of the 192nd make a comment to me. I had figured I would show up and get a few photos, but it was surprisingly nice to hear from someone who had served with Soldiers from our state and recognized the flag.

The following days brought great experiences of living



SGT ANDI MOTLEY / 1486TH TRANSPORTATION CO.

with people I wouldn't normally get to and in situations I wouldn't particularly choose. We were camped in tents one night when tornados touched down in the state, and were awoken throughout the night by neighbors' loud music and jolly conversation. The excitement and camaraderie constantly filled the atmosphere. The night before the march, I think I slept maybe fifteen minutes total, and only in spurts at that. We got up in the darkness, to the sound of traffic and the trail of lights passing by the campgrounds. They were the late arrivals, and had missed out on all of the past days' events.

The schedule had included a Bataan history seminar followed by small group meetings with the surviving Bataan POWs. It was like listening to the great stories your grandparents told you growing up about all the hardships they faced. How strong they always



COURTESY PHOTO

**ABOVE: SGT Andi Motley (left) finds a World War II veteran and Bataan Death March survivor to help her hold up the 192nd Tank Battalion flag, which draws its lineage from that Ohio Army National Guard unit's World War II service in the Philippines. LEFT: Motley captures a photo of other participants in the 26.2-mile 2007 Memorial Bataan Death March near White Sands, N.M.**

seemed to stand against all these adversities! I think that this was one of the greatest privileges of the entire trip. The opening ceremony began around 6 a.m. and ended with a moving roll call remembering those who had passed since last year's event. The 18th annual Bataan Memorial Death March started off with the wounded-warrior participants, including veterans from Vietnam, Iraq and Afghanistan, followed by the individual light category, then team light category, individual heavy category, team heavy category, and honorary march participants.

The day, combined with the scenery, couldn't have been more beautiful. It truly was a perfect day, especially for the veterans, who were escorted

out to the water points situated every two miles along the route. It was a humbling experience to stop and shake the hands of these men who have been through more than most of us could ever imagine. Shaking hands with the veterans throughout the memorial march, I was reminded of how much these men love their country, and their thanks told us how much they support and respect Soldiers today.

Participants traveled from all over the United States and overseas to take part in a march that will all too soon lose its handshakes. It's sad to think that future marchers will not be able to ask these veterans about their personal experiences. The entire atmosphere revolves around not only the history, but around the survivors themselves. Their actual touch and every visible wrinkle not only proves these veterans' hardships and continued love

for their country, but also reveals their smiles and words of gratitude to each and every participant whether in uniform or not.

Encouragement was constant throughout the march, especially with individual participants who were continually teaming up with someone new for a short while to keep each other going throughout the 26.2 mile trek. According to official results, Ohio had nine military participants with no known teams. The replica flag that had been presented to Ohio by its last three Bataan survivors made the complete journey to and from the Bataan Memorial Death March, enduring the entire 26.2 mile march and was honored by being recognized by and photographed with a few Bataan survivors.

For more on this event, log onto: [www.bataanmarch.com/index.htm](http://www.bataanmarch.com/index.htm). **86**



121ST AIR REFUELING WING MULTIMEDIA CENTER

**The 121st Air Refueling Wing Services Flight earned high honors earlier this year when it was named the best food service operation in the entire Air National Guard.**

**Rickenbacker food service operation named best in entire Air National Guard**

COLUMBUS—The 121st Air Refueling Wing Services Flight, located at Rickenbacker Air National Guard Base, earned the title of “Best Food Service Operation in the Air National Guard,” announced in March by the Maj. Gen. Charles V. Ickes, II, deputy director of the Air National Guard.

The Senior Master Sgt. Kenneth W. Disney Food Service Award competition evaluation took place during the 121st Air Refueling Wing’s November 2006 unit training assembly. The unit last competed for the Disney Award in 2004 and received second-place honors.

“I am proud to be part of the 121st services team and it is an honor to receive the Disney Award,” said Capt. Holly Mitchell, 121st services commander. “This is one of the finest groups of individuals I have ever worked with.”

The purpose of the Disney competition is to improve food service preparation, serving techniques, sanitation and food management throughout the Air National Guard, and to increase the morale of food service personnel.

All Air National Guard units with self-supporting food service operations are eligible for nomination, but only the top three nominees compete. Each services flight submits a nomination package that includes specific initiatives and accomplishments during the award year.

“I am very proud of all of the members of the 121st Services Flight. This was the second time the flight has been selected as a finalist for this prestigious award and their quest for excellence has paid off,” said Brig. Gen. Thomas Botchie, 121st ARW commander. “We always have wonderfully prepared meals, even at our mobile kitchen trailer (MKT) during our annual training exercises. Now the whole Air National Guard

knows what we’ve known for a long time...they are truly the best of the best.” **BILL PIERCE / ADJUTANT GENERAL’S DEPARTMENT PUBLIC AFFAIRS**

**Unit plays vital role in unprecedented Iraq project**

MOSUL, Iraq—Soldiers from the Springfield-based 237th Forward Support Battalion recently played a crucial role in completing an unprecedented redistribution project in Iraq.

As part of the unit’s base support responsibilities at Forward Operating Base (FOB) Marez in Mosul, the unit was tasked with assisting the Multi-class Redistribution Team (MRT) to consolidate

and redistribute excess equipment on the base.

“FOB Marez is the first FOB in theater to conduct the MRT effort,” said Lt. Col. Maria Kelly, the battalion commander. “The project is one that is designed to reduce the amount of excess equipment left behind by previous units. Additionally, it is aimed at closing out overdue leases on storage containers and prevention of future overdue leases. This is the first time this type of project has been completed for a base this large.”

The battalion’s container manager, 2nd Lt. Bruce Hubert, was primarily responsible for mission planning and initial coordination to ensure the project’s success. Working with a civilian contractor, Hubert prepared the land for use and procured the movement equipment to execute the mission. Not until this groundwork was laid could the MRT begin their part of the mission.

The MRT identified loaded, inventoried and sorted excess equipment. After the equipment was moved to the staging area, it was sorted by class and serviceability. As an incentive, participating units were offered amnesty, allowing them to dispose of anything they did not need or want—provided the items were not on their property books—without repercussion.

In all, 281 containers (in both 20- and 40-foot sizes) were processed during the three-week project, resulting in \$3.4 million in serviceable excess equipment being reintegrated into the supply system and 168 carrier-leased containers set to be returned to the carriers. The operation recovered \$498,000 in air transport pallets

and disposed of 128 truckloads of trash and 38 truckloads of scrap metal.

“Working hand-in-hand with all tenant units, we’ve exceeded our own expectations and are very proud of these efforts,” Kelly said. “Millions of dollars worth of neglected equipment have been put back into use and truckloads of waste were properly disposed of as a result of the completion of this project.” **SGT HOLLY SPOHN / 237TH FORWARD SUPPORT BATTALION**

**Ohio artillery Soldiers honor patron saint during annual military ball**

COLUMBUS—Every December, professional artillerymen and women around the world hold celebrations to honor Saint Barbara, their patron saint, and to bestow the Order of Saint Barbara—acceptance into the honorary military society of the U.S. Field Artillery—upon those of proven mettle.

In Ohio, this year’s event was hosted by Lt. Col. Steven Schemine, commander of the Ohio Army National Guard’s 1st Battalion, 134th Field Artillery Regiment.

The celebration held added significance because troops from two of Ohio’s three artillery battalions, the 1st and 2nd Battalions, 174th Air Defense Artillery Regiment, were deployed overseas in support of the Global War on Terrorism.

Despite the absence of so many of their members, the event garnered a generous audience of 139 alumni, officers, noncommissioned officers, spouses and guests who gathered at the historic downtown Columbus Athenaeum to celebrate.

After mixing a secret elixir known as the artillery punch, 10 Soldiers from the 134th and 174th were awarded The Order of Saint Barbara. The honorees were Maj. Joe Gabriel and Josh Quantz, Capt. Tim O’Connor and Pat Rippeth, 1st Lt. Todd Keyser, 1st Sgt. James Miracle, Sgt. 1st Class Brody Shepard, and Staff Sgts. William Hansen, Kenneth Owen and Shawn Hannon. Another of the Saint Barbara’s Ball traditions celebrates the famous American Revolution heroine, Molly Hays, who earned the nickname, “Molly Pitcher,” for delivering pitchers of water to artillery Soldiers during the heat of battle.

A Soldier’s wife, Hays gained fame after taking her husband’s position on a howitzer when he was wounded at the battle of Monmouth.

In her name, the artillery community presents the Molly Pitcher Award to those spouses who perpetuate the essence of Molly Pitcher. This year’s honorees were Susan Moore, Brandee Anderson, Donna Page, Allison Miracle and Casey Klies.

The legend of Saint Barbara originated in Asia Minor around 300 A.D., after a pagan father killed his beautiful young daughter upon learning she converted to Christianity.

According to the legend, he was “struck by lightning and his body consumed.”

As early as the seventh century, the legend of the lightning bolt led many people to invoke her patronage and protection from thunderstorms, fires and sudden death.

Artillerymen began invoking Saint Barbara for protection against explosions when the introduction of gunpowder often caused some of the earlier artillery pieces to blow up instead of firing their projectiles. **MAJ CRAIG W. BAKER / 1-134TH FIELD ARTILLERY REGIMENT**

### Buckeyes fares well in National Guard Bureau biathlon championships

JERICHO, Vt.—Four Ohio National Guardmembers waxed up their skis and loaded up their rifles to compete in the 2007 Chief of the National Guard Bureau Biathlon Championships, Feb. 18-24 at the Ethan Allen Firing Range here.

Against Guard competitors, Sgt. Andi Motley of the 1486th Transportation Company finished third in both the women’s 7.5-kilometer sprint race and the 15-km race; Maj. Larry Henry of Company B, 2nd Battalion, 19th Special Forces Group (Airborne) finished 15th in the men’s 10-km sprint race and 11th in the 20-km race; Master Sgt. Greg Rudl of the 121st Air Refueling Wing, currently assigned to National Guard Bureau, finished 10th in the men’s sprint and 19th in the 20-km; and novice racer Sgt. 1st Class Mark Sundbury of 2nd Battalion, 174th Air Defense Artillery Regiment, finished 47th in the men’s sprint and 37th in the 20-km. Ohio, as a team, finished 6th in the 15-km patrol race and 5th in the 4 x 7.5-km relay.

Eighteen states sent teams to the championships, with about 60 biathletes participating. A Valentine’s Day snowstorm covered the race course with several feet of snow, making racing conditions ideal, with temperatures cold.

Biathlon combines rifle marksmanship with cross country

skiing. Competitors ski loops on hilly trails, returning to a 50-meter firing range to shoot at targets with a .22-caliber rifle from the prone and standing positions. The Ohio team is coached by former Ohio biathletes retired Col. Bill Pifer and Lt. Col. Thom Haidet, currently of Joint Force Headquarters. Ohio has been sending teams to the championships for more than 20 years.

To find out more about joining the team, contact Haidet at (614) 270-5018 or Henry at (614) 336-7550. **NATIONAL GUARD BUREAU PUBLIC AFFAIRS**



COURTESY PHOTO

**Ohio’s 2007 Biathlon Team is coach Bill Pifer (from left), SGT Andi Motley, MSgt Greg Rudl, MAJ Larry Henry, SFC Mark Sundbury and coach LTC Thom Haidet.**

### Kindred warrior spirits unite during mixed martial arts fighting event

COLUMBUS—Duty, honor and sacrifice are words often used to describe members of the U. S. Armed Forces and veterans. Those same words describe another kind of warrior, those found in the Ultimate Fighting Championship (UFC).

Soldiers who are veterans of the Global War on Terrorism Soldiers and other veterans from Columbus had a unique opportunity to meet their favorite mixed martial artists during the UFC’s tribute to heroes as part of UFC 68: The Uprising, held in March at Nationwide Arena.

“I was really impressed the fighters were as interested in our experiences as Soldiers as we were their experiences as fighters, and moved by their sentiments of appreciation for the Armed Forces,” said Capt. James Sizemore, and Ohio Army National Guard chaplain.

The pinnacle of the event took place when Army veteran and UFC Hall of Fame member Randy “The Natural” Couture defeated, by way of a decision, Tim the Maine-iac Sylvia for the UFC Heavyweight Championship in front of 19,000 energized fans.

After his stunning victory over Sylvia, who was favored to win the bout, the jubi-

lant warrior celebrated his victory in the middle of the octagon with friends and family, but he took a moment to publicly thank those men and women who are currently serving in the U.S. Armed Forces.

“I wore the uniform for six years and traveled down that road for a while. I take every opportunity to give back and let them know we care and support them,” Couture said. **AL BURZYNSKI / CHALMERS P. WYLIE OUTPATIENT CLINIC**

### OHARNG Earth Day showcases plans for helping ensure ‘Secure Tomorrow’

COLUMBUS—Earth Day was celebrated April 26 at Beightler Armory in Columbus with presentations and displays by the OHARNG Environmental Office staff and energy manager. Presentation materials included posters, Environmental Management System (eMS) and energy updates, solar oven demonstrations and educational outreach materials for recycling and conservation.

The Army theme for 2007 Earth Day was “Sustaining the Environment for a Secure Tomorrow.”

Marks of achievement for OHARNG units and facilities for the past year include savings of more than \$412,800 by a 9 percent reduction in total energy consumption. Energy consumption is the most significant impact the Ohio Army National Guard has on the environment. The 9 percent reduction in total energy consumption reflects a commitment to environmental stewardship that conserves precious natural resources, reduces air and water pollution, and preserves our way of life for future generations. Another significant achievement is a 50 percent reduction in pesticide use at OHARNG facilities. In addition, the OHARNG was recognized as one of National Guard Bureau’s top tier performers during the Fiscal Year 2007 Environmental Performance Assessment System (EPAS) assessment. **OHARNG ENVIRONMENTAL OFFICE**



MICHELLE COVERT / CHALMERS P. WYLIE VAOPC

**Ultimate Fighting Championship Heavyweight Champion Randy Couture (right), meets with CPT James Sizemore, an Ohio Army National Guard chaplain and Operation Iraqi Freedom veteran, before a UFC competition March 3 in Columbus.**



SSG KIMBERLY SNOW / 196TH MOBILE PUBLIC AFFAIRS DETACHMENT

**COL Timothy Gorrell (left), Ohio National Guard inspector general, shares a laugh with children participating in the Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Ohio program.**

### OIF veteran reaches out to local youth through Big Brothers Big Sisters

COLUMBUS—A group of about 25 children sat side by side against the gymnasium wall at Grandview-Stevenson Elementary School and looked around at one another, appearing somewhat apprehensive. Slowly, several hands stretched timidly into the air, requesting permission to speak to the Soldier standing before them.

The children were gathered for a meeting of their weekly Big Brothers Big Sisters group, a non-profit, prevention-based agency that serves the community by matching local youth with mentors. Misty Welsh, a local program coordinator, called on a young girl of about 10, allowing her to ask the first question.

“Have you ever been to Hawaii?” she asked.

“Yes, I have,” Col. Timothy Gorrell replied with a bright smile.

“Really? Me too!” she said with a giggle.

More hands shot into the air as the children, put at ease by Gorrell’s relaxed demeanor, grew more curious.

“Have you won any wars? Did anyone teach you to fight in a war? Have you ever hurt or killed anyone? Why do people do wars? What if nobody volunteered?”

The questions came one after another, their eager faces upturned, peering at their guest speaker, who recently returned from a yearlong deployment to Kuwait in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. A father of two teenage daughters, Alexandra, 15, and Emma, 13, Gorrell spoke easily with the children, encouraging their participation, while delicately navigating some of the tougher questions.

“I’m going to answer that question, and I want you to know it’s OK to ask me. But it’s better if you don’t ask other Soldiers that question,” he said when asked if he had hurt or killed anyone. “Fortunately, I never had to. But it’s different for some and many don’t like to talk about it.”

Gorrell had been invited to speak to the schoolchildren through Operation Tribute to Freedom, an Army program designed to recognize U.S. Soldiers and provide them opportunities to interact with and thank their countrymen for their support.

A 25-year regular Army veteran, Gorrell was assigned to the Ohio National Guard inspector general post in August 2006, one month after returning from Kuwait. He had previously deployed for a six-month rotation to Bosnia-Herzegovina in support of Operation Joint Endeavor in January 1996. Although most of

his career was spent on active-duty installations, the Toronto, Ohio-native had served as a professor of military science at The University of Akron from 1997 to 2000. That experience, along with his current assignment, has given Gorrell a unique perspective as a military parent, and he said he was grateful for the chance to reach out and tell the Army story.

“I don’t think (National Guardmembers) are always visible enough in our communities,” he said. “So educators don’t always realize they have military children in their schools, but they do. Sometimes it’s a challenge.” **SSG KIMBERLY SNOW / 196TH PUBLIC AFFAIRS DETACHMENT**

### Torch is passed during ‘Triple Nickel’ change of command ceremony

TOLEDO—The Air National Guard Band of the Great Lakes, or “Triple Nickel” as it is sometimes called, held an official change of command ceremony on May 6 at the 180th Fighter Wing.

Newly commissioned 2nd Lt. Haley S. Armstrong officially took over as commander. She replaces Lt. Col. Robert L. Krichbaum, who served as leader of the band for several years until reaching mandatory retirement age last fall. A retirement celebration was held in June for Krichbaum and Senior Master



**Krichbaum**

Sergeant Michael J. Bayes, who retired as band superintendent.

Armstrong, who has been a member of the Air National Guard since 2000, had been the deputy commander for the band since August 2006. Armstrong graduated summa cum laude from Eastern Washington University with a bachelor’s in education and bachelor’s in trumpet performance with university honors. She is currently pursuing a master’s at Indiana University, where she teaches and hopes to pursue a doctorate in conducting.

The members of the “Triple Nickel” are traditional military personnel who perform for more than 150,000 people annually and travel over 3,000 miles giving performances before both military and civilian audiences throughout Ohio, West Virginia, Michigan and Indiana.

“We are very connected to the community and we plan to continue to perform these events,” said Armstrong, who has the distinction of being the first female to command an Air National Guard Band. Ensuring the band achieves and maintains its readiness will also be a primary task for Armstrong. “Bands are now deployable so we will need to ensure that we are trained and can deploy overseas.” **LT COL THOMAS GEE / 180TH FIGHTER WING**

### Six years at 6,000 feet: 237th BSB Soldiers re-enlist in unique manner

NORTH CANTON—The leadership of the 237th Brigade Support Battalion had a special treat for Soldiers extending their enlistments with the Ohio Army National Guard during a drill weekend earlier this year.

The idea of 237th Command Sgt. Maj. Jeff Horne came to life on the afternoon of April 14. A CH-47 Chinook helicopter—flown by a crew from Company B, 3-238th Aviation Regiment located at Akron-Canton Regional Airport—took Soldiers up to 6,000 feet and Maj. Gerard Garvey, battalion commander, administered oaths to Sgts. Jennifer Woods and Angela Bell for six year re-enlistments to their contracts, with 30 of their fellow peers flying with them to witness the event. **237TH BSB UNIT PUBLIC AFFAIRS**

### Ohio National Guardmembers excelling in G-RAP program as it hits milestone

COLUMBUS—Two Soldiers from the 237th Personnel Services Battalion helped mark a significant milestone March 3 in the Ohio Army National Guard’s yearlong participation in the Guard Recruiting Assistance Program. Meanwhile, an Airman from the Toledo-based 180th Fighter Wing was recently recognized for leading the Air National Guard in accessions through the Guard Recruiter Assistance Program (G-RAP).

Spc. Jeremy Bennett, a Soldier with the 237th

PSB, was presented with an oversized \$1,000 check for his enlistment referral of Pvt. James Hoffman, who on Feb. 15 joined Troop C, 2nd Squadron, 107th Cavalry Regiment, located in Greenville. The ceremony marked the 1,000th enlistment the OHARNG has gained through the Guard Recruiting Assistance Program (G-RAP).

“Pvt. Hoffman represents how G-RAP and the efforts of our Soldiers as recruiter assistants serve as a significant combat multiplier in our strength maintenance efforts,” said Brig. Gen. Matthew L. Kambic, Ohio assistant adjutant general for Army, who presented the check to Bennett during a ceremony at Rickenbacker Air National Guard Base during the 237th’s March drill assembly.

Since December 2005, when the OHARNG began its participation in G-RAP, Ohio has become the No. 1 state in total recruiter assistants with more than 5,000 Soldiers enrolled in the program, according to Docupak, Inc., the company that administers G-RAP nationwide.

This voluntary program allows any Soldier or Airman to be a part-time recruiter assistant and earn up to \$2,000 for every new recruit that joins the National Guard—\$1,000 when the new Soldier or Airman enlists and another \$1,000 when he or she ships to basic training.

Exemplary of how profitable G-RAP can be for enterprising guardmembers, Spc. Robbie McBride, also a member of the 237th PSB, received an oversized check for \$6,000 from Kambic for six successful enlistment referrals, with the potential to earn \$6,000 more when the enlistees go to basic training.

Since the G-RAP program began for the Air National Guard in April 2006, Staff Sgt. Ashley Schmidt of the 180th Fighter Wing, Toledo, has recruited 14 new trainees into the Ohio Air National Guard. Schmidt’s efforts have netted her a hefty \$28,000.

Schmidt is an intern for U.S. Sen. Chris Dodd of Connecticut and will deploy to the Middle East with her unit later this year to complete a 120-day Air Expeditionary Force (AEF) tour.

For more information on G-RAP, go to [www.guardrecruitingassistant.com](http://www.guardrecruitingassistant.com). **SPC DIEGO J. ROBLES / 196TH MOBILE PUBLIC AFFAIRS DETACHMENT AND 180TH FIGHTER WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS**



**Schmidt**



**McBride**

## Toledo officer represents Air National Guard at national symposium

TOLEDO—Lt. Col. Mary-Thom Williams, commander of the 180th Mission Support Flight, was selected to represent the Air National Guard at the Fifth Annual Department of Defense Historically Black Colleges and Universities Symposium.

The Symposium, held on Feb. 22 during the 2007 African American History Month, at Hampton University in Hampton, Va., was designed to provide a forum for the leaders of HBCU to network with senior-level DoD officials to help motivate minority students in pursuing high-level non-military and military positions. Williams is one of eleven honorees who were selected nationally to represent their respective component of the Armed Forces. **180TH FIGHTER WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS**

## Smith earns entry into Infantry Officer Candidate School Hall of Fame

FORT BENNING, Ga.—An Ohio Army National Guardmember was honored for his career accomplishments during a March 30 ceremony at Fort Benning’s Marshall Auditorium.

Col. Rufus J. Smith, acting commander of the Ohio National Guard’s 174th Air Defense Artillery Brigade, was among 47 officers—including two posthumous honorees—inducted into the post’s 3rd Battalion, 11th Infantry Regiment, Officer Candidate School (OCS) Hall of Fame. Smith graduated from the Fort Benning OCS program and was commissioned into the Air Defense Corps at age 24 on Sept. 9, 1983.

The Infantry OCS Hall of Fame was established in January 1958 to honor OCS graduates who have demonstrated exemplary service to the nation. Inductees must have attended an active-duty Army OCS program and meet one of five criteria: awarded the Medal of Honor, attained the rank of colonel, elected or appointed to an office of prominence in the national or state government, achieved national or state recognition for outstanding service to the nation or attained an exceptional wartime service record. The OCS Hall of Fame currently has 2,426 members. **SSG KIMBERLY SNOW / 196TH MOBILE PUBLIC AFFAIRS DETACHMENT**

## Grappling guardmember wins title during Advanced Individual Training

ALLIANCE—Pfc. David Daily, a generator mechanic with Company F, 128th Support Battalion, won as a light-heavyweight in an Modern Army Combatives tournament Feb. 3 while at Advanced Individual Training at



**SPC LEROY F. ROWSER / 196TH MOBILE PUBLIC AFFAIRS DETACHMENT**

**PFC David Daily, a generator mechanic with Company F, 128th Support Battalion, executes a rear-naked choke on his sparring partner during a training session.**

Aberdeen Proving Grounds, Md.

The MAC program is based on simple, easy-to-learn ground-fighting techniques borrowed from Brazilian jiu-jitsu. The MAC course teaches its students how to end a fight through grappling, choking and joint manipulation. The Level I MAC training is now being taught in Basic Combat Training and the Officer Basic Course.

Daily, a 2002 graduate of Louisville High School, was a three-sport athlete there who played football, wrestled and participated in track and field. He credits involvement in high school sports in preparing him for the rigors of BCT, AIT and the MAC course.

With this experience under his belt, Daily is confident that he is prepared to handle himself in a war-time situation if it comes down to hand-to-hand combat.

“Everyone can use more training, but I feel the training (at AIT) I received gives me one up the enemy,” said Daily, who added that he would like to continue competing in the mixed-martial arts arena and possibly start a fighting career.

“I just want to thank my drill sergeant and the other sergeants that trained me. They gave me the confidence to be the best, the biggest, and the baddest. That’s what we (Soldiers) are,” Daily said. “I love the Guard and I’m honored to be a part of it...I’m part of the best military there is.” **SPC LEROY F. ROWSER / 196TH MOBILE PUBLIC AFFAIRS DETACHMENT**

## Educational benefits info available online for reserve component vets

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) has information materials and a means to submit questions or contact the VBA available on its website at [www.vba.va.gov](http://www.vba.va.gov). **DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS**

## Policy change boosts G.I. Bill eligibility for some members of Guard, Reserve

WASHINGTON, D.C.—A recent Defense Department policy change widens the eligibility window for some Reserve-component troops who want to use their Montgomery G.I. Bill education benefits, a senior DoD official said here today.

The DoD policy now aligns with Department of Veterans Affairs rules, which say National Guardmembers and reservists are eligible to receive Montgomery G.I. Bill education benefits for the period covering the amount of time they served on active duty, plus four months, said Tom Bush, principal director for manpower and personnel within the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs.

After studying the matter over the past few months, DoD agreed to align its policy with the VA's, Bush said during a joint Pentagon Channel/American Forces Press Service interview. DoD's previous policy, he said, only recognized the amount of active-duty time as applied to the G.I. Bill coverage period for reserve component members but still required the member to continue to serve in the Selected Reserve.

"The change, from the DoD perspective, is that the benefit now can be used by somebody that leaves the selected reserve for the amount of time that they've served on active duty, plus four months," Bush said. Guard and Reserve members who attend regular drill training and meetings are considered part of the selected reserve.

The total amount of G.I. Bill coverage for reservists is still 36 months, Bush said. "So, if you've used part of that (G.I. Bill benefit) it may eat into that 36 months."

Bush said reservists normally have 14 years to use their Montgomery G.I. Bill benefits. However, that time might also be extended, he noted, by the amount of time Guard or Reserve members serve on active duty, plus our months.

Senior Guard and Reserve officials, as well as demobilization sites, have been alerted to the policy change, Bush said. About 370,000 Guard and Reserve members on drill or active-duty status have signed up to use

Montgomery G.I. Bill benefits since the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks on the United States, Bush said.

The Reserve Education Assistance Program, established by the 2005 National Defense Authorization Act, is another DoD education initiative for members of the Guard and Reserve, Bush noted. To be eligible, servicemembers must have served at least 90 consecutive days of active service after Sept. 11, 2001, in response to a Presidential or Congressional call-up of military forces for wartime or other emergency service.

Guard and Reserve members who served for two continuous years on active duty in support of a contingency operation would qualify for both the Montgomery G.I. Bill and REAP and could select which program they want to use, Bush noted.

Servicemembers can determine if they qualify for the Montgomery G.I. Bill and REAP by contacting their local education office. **GERRY J. GILMORE / AMERICAN FORCES PRESS SERVICE**

## Utilizing military commissary regularly provides significant cost savings

FORT LEE, Va.—If you think you have to be married to shop the commissary, think again. You don't have to make a lifetime commitment to begin a lifetime of savings at the commissary. That's good news for young single servicemembers who aren't ready to take the proverbial plunge.

"Commissaries are an essential part of the whole military community, and that's just one of the messages we want to deliver to all servicemembers," said Patrick Nixon, director and chief executive officer of the Defense Commissary Agency. "With extensive health and wellness sections, lean meats, fresh produce, organics and more, we offer 'healthy food at healthy savings' to all our customers—whether they are married or single."

Single servicemembers can find all their toiletries, snacks, beverages, vitamins and personal care items at cost in their commissary. "The problem is too many servicemembers wait until they get married or have children to start using the commissary regularly. They don't discover it as soon as they get into the service," Nixon said.

The Defense Commissary Agency operates a worldwide chain of commissaries providing groceries to military personnel, retirees and their families in a safe and secure shopping environment. Authorized patrons, including members

of the National Guard and Reserve, purchase items at cost plus a 5-percent surcharge, which covers the costs of building new commissaries and modernizing existing ones. Shoppers save an average of more than 30 percent on their purchases compared to commercial prices—savings worth about \$3,000 annually for a family of four.

Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, located near Dayton Ohio, contains the only commissary in Ohio, however there are four other commissaries located in states bordering Ohio. For more information on commissary locations, log onto [www.commissaries.com/store\\_locator.cfm](http://www.commissaries.com/store_locator.cfm)

"You're ready to serve your country. Your commissary is ready to serve you," Nixon said.

"That's our most important mission." **CARRIE WILLIAMS / DEFENSE COMMISSARY AGENCY**



## Theme parks again offering free one-day admission for military families

ST. LOUIS—Under the Here's to the Heroes program, any active duty, activated or drilling reservist, or National Guardmember is entitled to one complimentary single-day admission per person, per year, to one of the following Anheuser-Busch Adventure Parks: SeaWorld Orlando, San Diego, or San Antonio, Busch Gardens Tampa Bay or Williamsburg, Sesame Place, Water Country USA and Adventure Island.

As many as three direct dependents of military personnel also are entitled to free admission. Dependents may take advantage of the offer without their service member, though an adult must accompany minor dependents. For more information, log onto [www.herosalute.com](http://www.herosalute.com). **ANHEUSER-BUSCH COMMUNICATIONS**

### 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](http://www.ongsp.org).

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



PFC AMY THOMPSON / 437TH PERSONNEL SERVICE DETACHMENT

ABOVE: SPC Jacob Horwich prepares his weapon for a live-fire run-through during ground assault convoy training conducted at Ft. McCoy, Wisc. The training was part of two months of mobilization site certification before Horwich deployed to Kuwait with the 437th Personnel Service Detachment from Columbus. The unit is set to return to Ohio later this year. Under the new Army mobilization policy, Warrior Skills certification will now be completed during drill assemblies and annual training periods, prior to a unit's mobilization.



SPC RYAN A. CLEARY / 196TH MOBILE PUBLIC AFFAIRS DETACHMENT

ABOVE: SFC Tracy Ballog (left), of Headquarters and Headquarters Company (HHC), 16th Engineer Brigade, Columbus, shares a laugh in March at the Ohio Army National Guard Unit Public Affairs Representative (UPAR) Conference with BG Matthew L. Kambic (right), Ohio assistant adjutant general for Army (center), during a recognition ceremony for Ballog and SPC Hugh J. Martin, of HHC, 1-145th Armored Regiment, Stow. The two were recognized for their outstanding efforts serving as UPARs. BELOW: U.S. Rep. David L. Hobson, of Ohio's 7th District, speaks during an Order of the Musket recognition dinner in mid-March at the Ohio Statehouse. The enlisted Airmen of the Ohio Air National Guard honored Hobson with the award for his extensive support throughout the years.

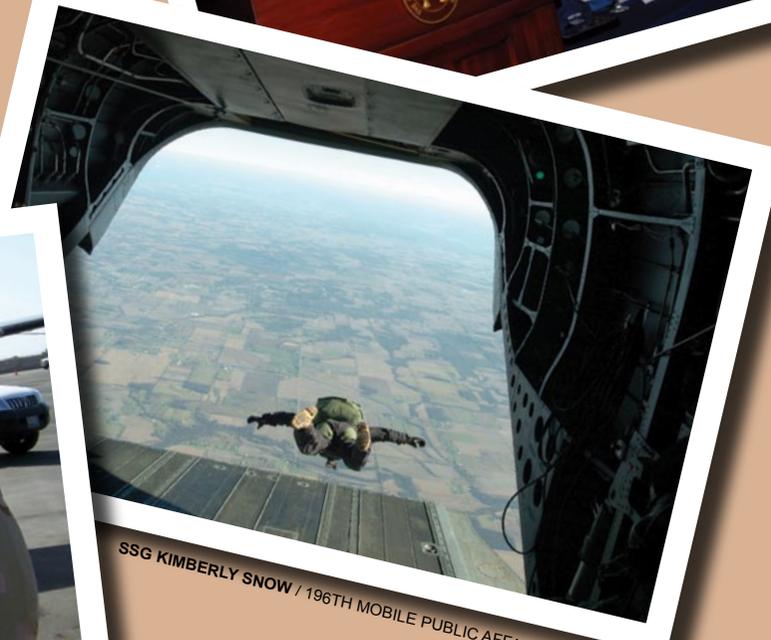
# Guard Snapshots

BELOW, RIGHT: MAJ Michael Jones, 2nd Battalion, 19th Special Forces Group executive officer, conducts a HALO (high altitude, low opening) training jump from a CH-47 Chinook helicopter Dec. 2 at Rickenbacker Air National Guard Base in Columbus. BELOW: CW4 Rodger West (left) receives congratulations Feb. 27 from Navy Rear Adm. (Lower Half) James M. Hart, Combined Joint Task Force-Horn of Africa commander, following West's final flight as an Army aviator. After 42 years of service to the Ohio Army National Guard in the aviation field, West had logged nearly 8,000 flight hours, the last 101 hours were performed overseas as part of a deployment to support the Global War on Terrorism. For his final flight, West piloted a C-26B fixed-wing aircraft, with Hart aboard, from Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, to Djibouti-Ambouli International Airport in Djibouti, Djibouti.

SSGT DOUGLAS NICODEMUS / 121ST AIR REFUELING WING MULTIMEDIA CENTER



COURTESY PHOTO



SSG KIMBERLY SNOW / 196TH MOBILE PUBLIC AFFAIRS DETACHMENT



# VIGILANT GUARD

SPC DIEGO J. ROBLES / 196TH MOBILE PUBLIC AFFAIRS DETACHMENT

SPC Shelton Beasley (from left), TSgt Andrew S. Warburton and SGT Larry W. Brown, of the Ohio National Guard Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear or High-Yield Explosive Enhanced Response Force Package, or CERFP, free a mock casualty from a tunnel underneath a massive rubble pile at Muscatatuck Urban Training Center, near North Vernon, Ind., during Vigilant Guard. The operation, a joint military and civilian training exercise, simulated the detonation of a nuclear device in a major metropolitan area.

# BUCKEYE GUARD

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