Ohio Engineers lay groundwork in Iraq

PAGES 16-17

CPT L. Paula Sydenstricker / 196th Mobile Public Affiairs Detachment

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MAGAZINE OF THE OHIO ARMY AND AIR NATIONAL GUARD
WINTER 2004/2005

FAREWELL TO A GENTLEMANLY GENERAL

John H. Smith retires as adjutant general

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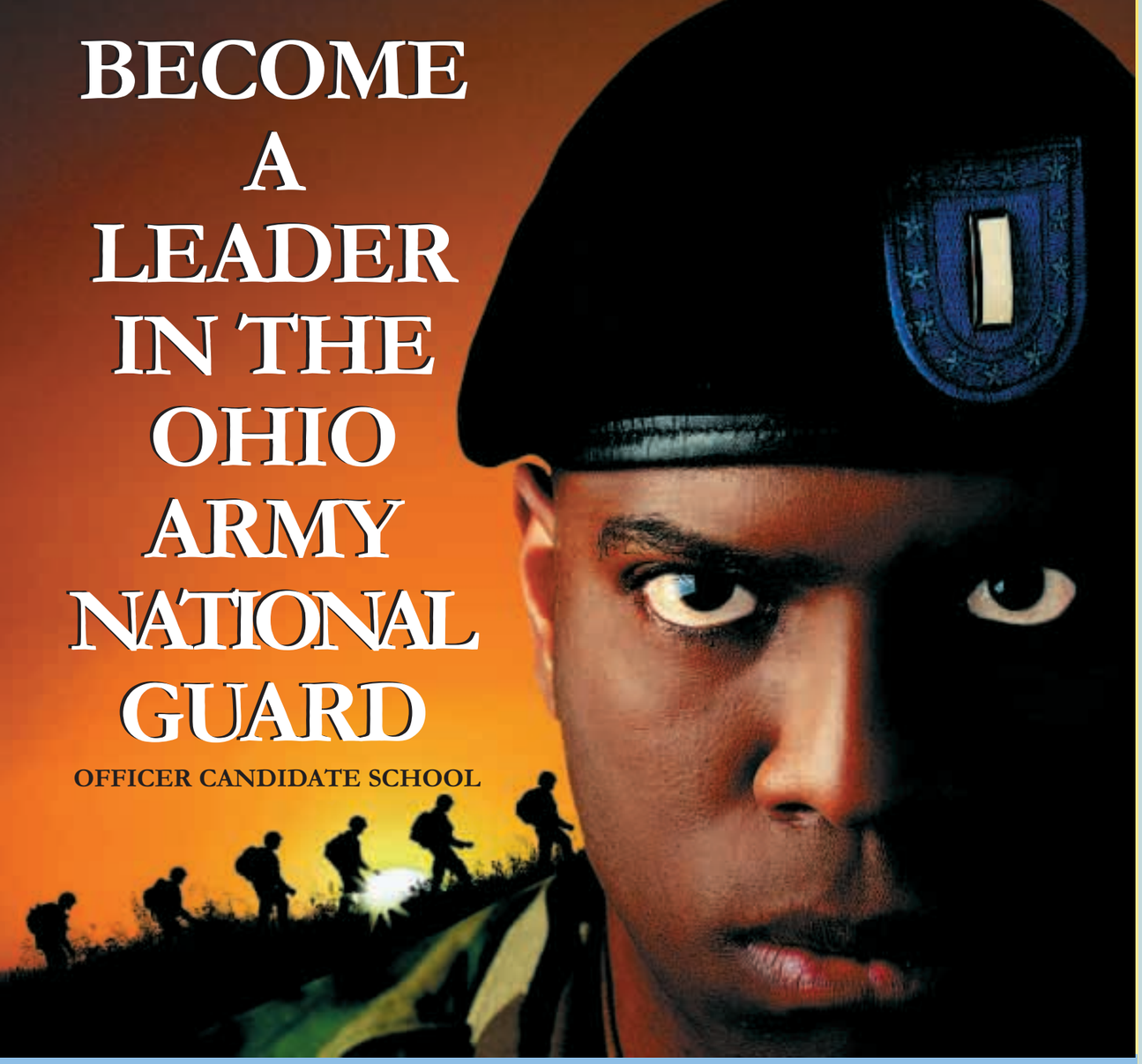

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BUCKEYE GUARD

Volume 28, No. 1

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

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SGT Haraz N. Ghanbari / JFHQ-Ohio

SPC Jimmy Gutknecht (right) of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 612th Engineer Battalion, shares a moment with his son Jimmy, after a deployment ceremony Nov. 12 in Toledo. For coverage on Ohio units supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom, see pages 13-19, 34-37.

ABOUT THE COVERS

FRONT: After more than five years at the helm of the Ohio Guard, Maj. Gen. John H. Smith retired last June as state adjutant general. ***Photo by SSgt Douglas Nicodemus** / 121st ARW Visual Information*

BACK: SGT Raymond Boso (right) and SSG Todd Szabo of the OHARNG's 216th Engineer Battalion work at Forward Operating Base Danger in Tikrit, Iraq. ***Photo by CPT L. Paula Sydenstricker** / 196th MPAD*

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

Total copies printed: 19,000 Unit Cost: $.67 Publication Date: 3/05

Many experiences, people put career in perspective

BY MAJ GEN JOHN H. SMITH
THE ADJUTANT GENERAL

Several months have passed since I officially retired. The first week was the most difficult as I struggled to adjust my daily routine to a much different set of requirements. However, I am even more confident today that this next phase will be as exciting and interesting as the previous one.

As it was for many of you in this organization, some of the most difficult days of the past few months occurred when we heard the sad and tragic news that two of our Soldiers from the 216th Engineer Battalion were lost during a mission in Iraq. I vividly recall the farewell ceremonies of the 216th, both from their hometowns and at the airport in Indianapolis. And the real cost of what our profession can ask of us becomes more vivid when we know a Soldier that has been lost in combat. I understand how difficult it is for those who knew and loved 1st Lt. Charles Wilkins and Spc. Ryan Martin, and the four other Ohio Guardmembers who have passed away serving in the Global War on Terror—Staff Sgt. Aaron Reese, Spc. Todd Bates, Pfc. Samuel Bowen and Sgt. Michael Barkey. Hopefully, in due time all of us will come to understand that having died in service to country and others will somehow lessen the pain and anguish for those that suffer.

> As long as the citizens of Ohio...respond to our nation's call, we will remain a strong and free nation.

The enormous participation of our Guard men and women in Iraq, Afghanistan, Kosovo, the Middle East and Europe serves to remind us that the routine and model of service in the National Guard has indeed changed, especially in the Army National Guard. Before 9-11 and the creation of the Air Expeditionary Forces (AEF), the model, with few exceptions, was one drill weekend a month and two weeks of annual training (AT) each year. In today's National Guard, it is noticeably different. While drill weekends are still a part of the Guard regimen, much more than two weeks of AT are being asked. Many of our men and women have been able to volunteer their time and services beyond the two weeks of prescribed AT. And many, of course, have answered our nation's call for mobilized, extended active duty. We are all aware of the Guard's mobilized participation in World War II and Korea. But until 9-11, we had become accustomed to life in the Guard with the belief that mobilization and deployment for extended periods to locations like the Middle East would be unlikely.

How the times have changed.

The Cold War reductions in the early 1990s and the redistribution of missions between the active component and the reserve component, especially in the Army, exposed all the components to extended and often repeated periods of mobilization.

We need to keep in mind, however, that the model hasn't changed entirely. During my tenure as the adjutant general, I attended virtually all of the unit send-offs that were conducted in hometowns all across Ohio. I, like many other leaders within the Ohio National Guard, strongly believed that it was important to be present for two reasons—first, to show our respect and understanding for what it was that we were asking these outstanding men and women to do; and second, to remind them that the values of military service that have endured for more than 200 years within this great country are as valid and real today as they were in the 1770s, the 1860s, the 1940s and all the other times that our country has asked its citizens to respond. Those values, as I stated to the units before they embarked on their missions, were selfless service and personal sacrifice. Very few of us enjoy the misery and hardship of difficult and long deployments. Very few of us volunteer because we enjoy the thrill of battle. As long as the citizens of Ohio and of our other 53 states and territories respond to our nation's call, we will remain a strong and free nation. It remains necessary, of course, that our political incumbents ensure that the cause is just and noble.

One other feature of military service remains as sacred and important today as it did in times past. The greatest responsibility that the Adjutant General's Department has is to ensure that its forces are properly organized, trained and equipped. Space doesn't permit me to emphasize the importance of being properly organized and equipped, except to say that we owe it to our Soldiers and Airmen that our organizations be as effective and efficient as the mission requires.

The degree of personal responsibility that our individual Soldiers and Airmen accept is extremely important. Understanding that they owe it to not only themselves but to the man or woman that serves alongside them is a necessary element in building a cohesive and effective organization. More important, however, is the role of leadership in achieving high levels of readiness. Of all that might have been achieved in my 5 ½ years as adjutant general, nothing pleased me more than the ringside seat that I had observing the role that leadership played in ensuring that our units were highly trained. Leaders at all levels have done a superb job.

I enjoin all of you to continue this great effort on behalf of our men and women. A new and different challenge may likely emerge as seasoned, combat tested units and personnel return to our armories, air bases and communities. They will have definite ideas given all their personal experiences on how to conduct effective, efficient training. Those of us that haven't deployed should listen.

I have rambled long enough. Allow me to use this opportunity to thank all of you for the outstanding support that you rendered to me during my time as adjutant general. Thanks to every one of you that sent the wonderful notes and tributes. The send-off on July 10 was fantastic, and the gifts were much more than I deserved. I have always found it difficult to stand before someone and accept praise. It should have been the other way around—me praising all of you. As I said to many of you in the weeks leading up to my retirement, I want to be remembered only as someone that came along, served his part, and then moved on. Remember all those that are deployed far from home and their families. God bless you all.■

Guardmember's daughter writes poem for 'My Soldier'

I have started this letter four times trying to find the simple words to say, "I am very proud of my husband, Staff Sgt. Edward O. Mundy, Company A, 216th Engineer Battalion."

Due to a medical condition, he is retiring after serving our state and country 28½ years. He has completed missions within the United States and other countries with pride and honor. His departure will be bittersweet as his thoughts and prayers go out to his unit serving in Iraq.

Our oldest daughter was inspired to write her own thoughts, showing her love and pride for her father in a poem.

My Soldier
My Soldier is brave and true
to his family and country.
My Soldier is a provider for his family.
My Soldier is a son, husband
and a father.
My Soldier is a shoulder to cry on.
My Soldier is a man with great courage facing the danger with unknown expectations.
My Soldier will be ready to stand and fight for freedom.
My Soldier is a leader to his men and women in his squad.
My Soldier makes sure that his squad works together as a team.
My Soldier is a hard worker; he makes sure that the jobs are done right.
My Soldier is a man with great pride and motivation when it comes to serve the United States.
My Soldier is loved and liked by many.
My Soldier is a proud American Soldier. I am proud to say that my Soldier is my father. I love you, Dad.

ERIN AND CATHY MUNDY

Reader clarifies weapons type gaffe in *BG* article

In the spirit of seeking true wisdom by calling things by their proper names…

The article on page 20 of the Summer/Fall 2003 issue of the *Buckeye Guard* refers to a Soldier who "…showed up with a SAW (squad-assisted weapon) and 500 rounds…." I'm sure this was an unintentional typographical error. The nomenclature used by the manufacturer, the U.S. Army, and combat MOS soldiers has always been the M-249, 5.56mm—*Squad Automatic Weapon*—which can be verified by accessing any of several references.

Other than that, it was a great article. Keep up the good work.

SGT STEVEN YODERS
145TH REGIMENT (RTI)

Unit aims to keep supplies flowing throughout Iraq

I deployed with the 1487th Transportation Company for Operation Iraqi Freedom II and wanted let everyone know how well the Soldiers of the Ohio Army National Guard are doing here. Many people do not realize just what these truck drivers have done over here but I am sure you all realize the vulnurability of the massive supply lines that our Soldiers drive every day.

As the 1st Platoon leader, I can tell you that we have our fair share of contact with the enemy and the Soldiers of the Eaton unit have performed with honor and distinction. Most have never served in an infantry unit or operated in an environment as we are in now, but when faced with the enemy, all have done their jobs, and in all cases have driven back the attackers. The 1487th has driven and fought hard, and the people of Ohio should be proud of their Soldiers.

A select few from the 1487th were designated to be part of a newly formed unit which was designed for protection of convoys. The 518th Combat Gun Truck Company is a combination of active duty, Reserve and National Guard Soldiers. I was selected to serve as the company executive officer and with me came 12 Soldiers from the 1487th and 12 from the 1486th Transportation Company, from Ashland. Every day our mission is to protect the convoys and engage and destroy the enemy on the military supply routes.

Courtesy photo
1LT James McCormick (standing) shows off one of the vehicles of the 518th Combat Gun Truck Company, serving a critical mission in Iraq.

We have Soldiers who have fought with bullets in their body, not giving an inch. I have watched Soldiers go face-to-face with the enemy and not back down. I have been blessed with some of the finest Soldiers in the U.S. Army, who also happen to be Buckeyes. God bless them all.

1LT JAMES MCCORMICK
1487TH TRANSPORTATION CO.

Stivers only ONG member serving in state legislature

I have been getting calls from public officials and other *Buckeye Guard* readers asking me about an article in which state Sen. Steve Stivers is named as the "only" member of the Ohio Legislature in the service.

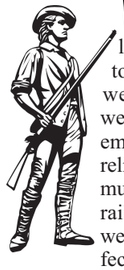
The callers are asking why John Boccieri is not being mentioned. I have told them that I believe it may be because the senator is in the Guard, while Rep. Boccieri is in the Air Force Reserve.

LYN FALK
AIDE TO REP. JOHN BOCCIERI

Ms. Falk:
*The **Buckeye Guard** is about and for the members of the 15,000-member Ohio Army and Air National Guard. It does not cover the Reserve, which indeed is different from the Guard. The reason Rep. Boccieri is not mentioned is for the very reasons you identified. He is a captain and pilot in the Air Force Reserve and has served in Iraq. Sen. Stivers is the only state legislator in the Ohio National Guard, as correctly reported.*

OHIO NATIONAL GUARD

Historical Highlights



When the 11th Ohio Volunteer Infantry Regiment left Camp Dennision in July 1861 to fight in the Civil War, they were armed with muskets that were good only for drill and ceremony. Wanting something more reliable, they simply dropped their muskets out of the windows of the railway cars as they proceeded to western Virginia, leaving them effectively disarmed. Upon their arrival at their destination, they were issued proper rifles. **RETIRED JUDGE (COL.) ROBERT D. WALKER** / 37TH INFANTRY DIVISION

Steve Toth / AGOH-Public Affairs

OHARNG CW5 Dale Taylor (right) pins the engineer branch's castle insignia on a fellow Buckeye, CW3 Ken Stebleton, during a ceremony which was part of an Army-wide milestone marking warrant officers replacing the "Eagle Rising" insignia with insignia specific to their career fields.

Warrants integrate more into Army officer corps

The Ohio Army Guard's warrant officers were part of the ARNG's nearly 7,000 warrant officers nationwide who observed their corps' 86th birthday July 9 with more than a traditional cake.

Most of them replaced their distinctive "Eagle Rising" insignia on their left collars with their appropriate branch insignia. And the highest-ranking members of the corps, the chief warrant officers 5, pinned on new rank insignia that is significantly different from the square "dots" that had previously defined warrant officers' rank. Those who have earned the CW5 insignia of four black dots with silver trim now wear a silver bar with a single black stripe centered down the length of the bar.

The rank is currently worn by senior warrant officers in the Navy and Marine Corps. According to the Army, the increasingly joint nature of operations within the Defense Department and the expanded use of most senior warrant officers in joint operations validated the need to standardize CW5 rank among all the services that employ them.

Active-duty and Reserve warrant officers have also changed their insignia, effective in July. More than a symbolic gesture, the ceremony represented a milestone change in the Warrant Officer Corps. "This is to make us more closely associated with the commissioned officer corps, This is among the first in a long list of Army Training Leadership Development Program (ATLDP) initiatives that, among other things, should make us better understood," said Chief Warrant Officer 5 Poyas Haynes, command chief warrant officer for the Army National Guard in Washington, D.C. "Down the road we expect to see fewer separate education systems for warrant officers and for commissioned officers. Both will eventually take part in one Officer Education System."

Lt. Gen. Roger Schultz, Army Guard director, said the significance of warrant officers wearing their branch insignia has to do with higher expectations for the members of a "small but powerful" corps of technical experts.

"As I have come up through the ranks, warrant officers have changed their roles over time. They have been regarded as expert technicians over a period of years," Schultz said. "Today we ask more of our warrant officer team. You know what I'm talking about. It's called leadership."

Now, warrant officers who have completed their branch qualifications will wear the insignia for the Army's 15 different branches in which warrant officers serve. The "Eagle Rising" insignia, adopted in 1921, will continue to be worn by warrant officer candidates.

"This is a good thing, that we have made this change," said Col. Christopher Acker, the Ohio National Guard's senior active-duty Army advisor. Previous to his current assignment, Acker was commandant of the Army's Warrant Officer School at Fort Rucker, Ala. In that capacity, he took part in developing the new initiatives in the warrant program.

"Now that the individual branches are represented for all of the officers, not just commissioned officers…this (also) allows for more experience and better education of warrant officers," said Acker, noting that in the future the Army would see warrant officers performing administrative and unit command functions previously restricted to commissioned officers. **STEVE TOTH** / AGOH-PUBLIC AFFAIRS AND **MSG BOB HASKELL** / NGB PUBLIC AFFAIRS & STRATEGIC COMMUNICATIONS

Taxpayers getting money's worth from National Guard

Unlike their active and Reserve counterparts, members of the Army and Air National Guard can be called on to serve two different masters: their state governors and their commander in chief.

They serve as their state militias, available at the bidding of their governors in the event of emergencies, insurrections, attacks or acts of nature, such as last fall's multiple hurricanes in Florida. But guardmembers also play an increasingly important role in national defense, with some 100,000 of them deployed overseas in 44 countries, including Iraq, where they make up 34 percent of the U.S. force.

Army Lt. Gen. H. Steven Blum, chief of the National Guard Bureau, said balancing the demands of these dual missions takes careful coordination to ensure no state governor is left short in the event of an emergency because the state's Guard force is overextended overseas.

Blum said state governors have demonstrated overwhelmingly that they understand their National Guardmembers are needed to reinforce the active Army and Air Force overseas, particularly during the war on terror. What they don't want, Blum said, is to have their states left "uncovered" because they've contributed too many troops to the national mission.

Blum said he's made a concerted effort to strike a balance between guardmembers deployed overseas, those preparing for deployment, and those available to carry out state missions, if required, since taking over as NGB chief in April 2003.

"We've been pretty successful at doing this," he said. It's a delicate balancing act, Blum explained. Rather than taking "one giant slice" out of one state, it means "taking a smaller piece out of two or three states" for the federal mission.

But it's more than just a numbers game, he said. "It means ensuring that we have the right capabilities in the right numbers in the right places, distributed all around the country so that each of the governors would have the essential capabilities they need," he said.

These capabilities include communications, transportation, medical, aviation, engineering and security assets, he said.

"And they (the governors) would all have to have some of that left in their state, even while they are executing the Global War on Terror overseas in Iraq and Afghanistan and in other places," he said. **DONNA MILES** / AMERICAN FORCES PRESS SERVICE

Changing of the Guard:

New TAG tops several changes to ONG leadership

The June 30 retirement of **Maj. Gen. John H. Smith**, state adjutant general, and the accompanying selection of **Col. Gregory L. Wayt** as Ohio's 80th adjutant general, set off a chain of upper-level Ohio National Guard leadership changes throughout the past several months.

Wayt, who served as Ohio Army Guard chief of staff, was replaced, effective June 21, by **Col. Matthew L. Kambic**, deputy chief of staff for operations and plans for the Ohio Army Guard. It would be a short-lived tenure for Kambic, as he was tapped to move up and replace **Brig. Gen Ronald G. Young** as Ohio's assistant adjutant for Army.

Kambic

Feucht

Faber

R. Smith

Muncy

Young was selected as the director, manpower and personnel (J1) at the National Guard Bureau in Washington, D.C. Young's new position comes with the rank of major general.

Other changes in Ohio Army National Guard leadership include **Col. Alfred C. Faber** being named as Ohio Army Guard chief of staff upon Kambic's promotion. Prior to being named chief of staff, Faber served briefly as the deputy chief of staff for operations and plans (J3), and before that for six years as the deputy chief of staff for personnel (J1).

Col. Rufus J. Smith is now the J3. The former commander-administrative officer of the Kettering-based 371st Corps Support Group recently returned from serving a year in Kuwait in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Smith served briefly as J1 and then assumed the J3 position upon Faber's promotion to chief of staff.

The Ohio Air National Guard also experienced significant changes recently. **Maj. Gen. Harry "A.J." Feucht** was appointed assistant adjutant general for Air in January. He replaces **Brig. Gen. Richard M. Green**, who had served in the position since December 2003. Prior to this assignment, Feucht was commander of the 121st Air Refueling Wing, Columbus.

Chief Master Sgt. Richard A. "Dick" Smith, who had been command chief master sergeant of the Ohio Air National Guard since 2000, assumed the position of command chief master sergeant of the entire Air National Guard on Aug. 1. He now is based at National Guard Bureau in Washington, D.C.

Smith was replaced as command chief master sergeant of the Ohio Air National Guard by **Command Chief Master Sgt. Chris Muncy**, formerly command chief master sergeant at the 251st Combat Communications Group in Springfield.

The adjutant general's personal staff saw a major change as well. Retired Air Guard **Brig. Gen. Stephen M. Koper** was selected in March 2004 to become president of the National Guard Association of the United States, succeeding retired **Maj. Gen. Richard C. Alexander**, who served as Ohio adjutant general, from 1987 to 1998.

Dr. Mark Wayda was selected in August to fill Koper's position as deputy director, public relations, for the Adjutant General's Department. In that capacity, Wayda directs both the Public Affairs and Legislative Liaison offices. Wayda came from the State of Ohio Medical Board, where he served as chief of staff.■ **AGOH-PUBLIC AFFAIRS**

SPRINGFIELD

Command profile

Col Richard "Rick" Lohnes
178th Fighter Wing

Age: 52

Full-Time/Traditional Occupation: Commander, 178th Fighter Wing

Hometown: Springfield, Ohio

When I was little, I: wanted to be a football coach and fighter pilot

Friends and classmates in high school thought I was: ambitious

My favorite time of year is: fall-winter (hunting season)

The one thing I treasure most: my wife and daughters

My favortie junk food is: ice cream

My biggest pet peeve: Bosses who expect more than they are willing to give

If I could travel back in time, I would: fly fighters in Vietnam

If I won $20 million in the lottery, I would: fix my church

The older I get, the more I: try to relax

When I retire, I want to: maybe coach again, and hunt more

If I could leave today's guardmembers with one piece of advice it would be: Continue to look and pay forward, even though you may never enjoy the fruits of that effort

Love of art leads to vocation, renewed Guard career

SSG Bob Barko Jr. puts the finishing touches on "Pete the Penguin."

Story and photos by Spc. Jessica M. McMillen
196th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

In the northeastern Ohio postindustrial city of Youngstown, community pride and a sense of history shine through in many places. Thanks to one Youngstown native, these emotions have been captured through creativity and artistic talent.

Staff Sgt. Bob Barko Jr., a member of the196th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment (Rear), has lived in Youngstown all his life. Last year, when he was offered the chance to be considered for participation in a city-wide art project that would highlight his hometown in a unique way, he seized the opportunity.

Out of 181 applicants considered by a community review board, Barko's proposal was chosen, along with those of 30 other local artists, to decorate a penguin, mascot of Youngstown State University, for the "Penguin Parade."

Like similar projects in other Midwestern cities, including the decorated fiberglass cows in Chicago, pigs in Cincinnati, frogs in Toledo and corn on the cob in Columbus, the penguins were placed in city parks, venues and other public places. Each artist had creative control over the 5-foot-tall penguin and its 2-foot square base.

Barko, a YSU alumnus, named his penguin "Pete and the Multi-Landmarked Memory Coat." His idea to create a historic Youngstown collage on the "memory coat" grew from his love of local history and his nostalgic illustrations of area landmarks. In keeping with Barko's chosen theme, "Even as I look forward, I remember," Pete was decorated with favorite landmarks and historic scenes depicting the evolution of Youngstown—from its founding in 1796 to the present and Youngstown 2010, the city's future development plan.

The Schwebel Baking Company sponsored Barko's artwork. He showed his appreciation for their support by portraying their historic bakery building on the "memory coat."

Barko said he was pleased to be in the company of the many talented people involved in the project.

"It was an honor to be chosen along with so many heavy-hitting local artists for this project," Barko said. "I had heard about the cows in Chicago, the guitars in Cleveland and the buffaloes in Buffalo. I was thrilled to think the penguins could be a part of Youngstown's cityscape for many years to come."

The Penguin Parade is not the only artistic endeavor with which Barko has been involved. In 2000, he opened his own business, Steel Town Studios, in the heart of Youngstown. Three years later, the business became Steel Town Studios Gallery and Shoppe, a not-for-profit endeavor highlighting 20th century popular culture in Youngstown through his illustrations, and a collection of memorabilia and artifacts.

"This is such a terrific mechanism to be able to share so much of the city's history with the public, as well as allow me to earn a living doing something I truly enjoy," Barko said.

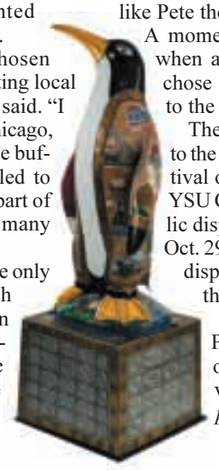
Barko has also incorporated his civilian talents into a military career. He combined his passion for art and love for his country in October 2001 when he rejoined the Ohio Army National Guard and retrained to become a photojournalist, which followed a break in service after spending his first six years in the OHARNG as a military policeman nearly a decade earlier. Besides writing articles and taking photos for the *Buckeye Guard* magazine, he has also created illustrations for the magazine, military posters and T-shirts for the 196th.

"I was driven to the public affairs field because I'm fascinated with history. As a photojournalist, I have the opportunity to record history in the making," Barko said. "I enjoy covering these events and then sharing them with others."

Barko admits that his artistic abilities have always found an outlet for expression. For many years, he has tried to use art as a means to enrich lives. Barko said he hopes the Penguin Parade will have a continued impact on area residents and will also show off the city's commitment to displaying community pride.

He fondly recalled one particular project he accomplished over the course of several years on the YSU campus. He handpainted more than 100 fire hydrants to look like Pete the Penguin, the school mascot.

A moment of satisfaction came later when a college student told him he chose YSU over other schools due to the display of school spirit.



The Penguin Parade was unveiled to the public during the Summer Festival of the Arts, July 10-11, on the YSU Campus. The flock was on public display through a charity auction Oct. 29. After that, the penguins were displayed by the winning bidders throughout Youngstown.

For more information on the Penguin Parade or to see the other artists' versions of Pete, visit *www.ysu.edu/penguinparade.*■

Farewell to a Gentlemanly General

After 5 ½ years at the helm of the Ohio National Guard, Maj. Gen. John H. Smith retired June 30, 2004, as the state's 79th adjutant general

During his tenure as adjutant general, the National Guard emerged as an organization vital to U.S. security interests at home and overseas. He guided Ohio's Soldiers and Airmen through a time of high operations tempo that resulted from the Global War on Terrorism, the response to the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks on the United States.

"As we have seen, 9-11 has been a watershed event for our nation," Maj. Gen. John H. Smith, Ohio's 79th adjutant general said. "Since we have moved (more than) three years beyond that event, certainly the effects of 9-11 have demonstrated that our nation cannot secure itself without the National Guard."

His term also was highlighted by the expansion of the Ohio National Guard Scholarship Program in 1999. After working with the Ohio Legislature and Gov. Bob Taft, funding for the program was increased to pay 100 percent of eligible Ohio Army and Air National Guardmembers' tuition at state colleges and universities, up from 60 percent previously. As a direct result, the Ohio Army National Guard met its annual personnel strength goals for the first time in several years, proving the scholarship program's worth as a top Guard recruiting and retention tool, aiding in providing ready, trained Soldiers and

—Continued on page 9

Reminiscing with the General

Maj. Gen. John H. Smith served as Ohio's adjutant general from Jan. 13, 1999 to June 30, 2004. In the last days before his retirement, he shared anecdotes from his career that spanned more than 42 years and his perspective as the head of the Ohio National Guard. The following are excerpts from that interview.

Q *Who had the most influence on you during your career?*

A Several people have influenced me—those that left a great impression and those that left a not so great impression. My first memorable experience was a squadron commander at Ramstein (Air Base), Germany. He (Ted Dowd) took over a squadron that was floundering…that had lost focus. But he came in and emphasized teamwork, and he was able to communicate that effectively.

The lesson that had a great impact on me, and that eventually stuck with me a long time was that you have to accept responsibility. He greatly emphasized individual responsibility. He was able to have an impact on a lot of these veterans coming back from Vietnam who were not accountable to anyone. He didn't raise his voice; he didn't threaten people. He emphasized that each individual in an organization has a job to do. If everyone's responsible, then teamwork becomes much easier.

The other is my Vietnam experience. I was there 1965 to 1966. Initially, I volunteered to go over as a noncombatant, as an assistant for Vietnam to put down the insurgency. Within two months of arriving there we realized we faced a formidable opponent, with respect to the Vietcong and North Vietnamese. It became a question of when to evacuate or what changes would be made.

Overnight I remember the drastic changes that occurred at the air base at Danang. Really there was no air base in North or South Vietnam. Almost overnight they built a second runway. Within a very short period of time it was round-the-clock operations. Within the next nine months or so…we realized that this was going to go on for a long, long time. We could sense, and certainly I could sense, we were not winning the effort with respect to winning the hearts and minds of the South Vietnamese people.

In the end I learned a great deal from that—that even though we could win battles, we could not win the war.

Q *During your tenure as adjutant general, this nation and our state faced some of the toughest times. Talk about some of the issues and challenges of those times.*

A As we have seen, 9-11 has been a watershed event for our nation. As we have moved more than three years beyond that event, certainly the effects of 9-11 have demonstrated that our nation cannot secure itself without the National Guard.

The challenges, I think, that arose, first of all, were in the types of missions. The first year, we were doing Operation Noble Eagle. We mobilized units, for example the (1-148th) Infantry Battalion to perform a mission that, for the most part, they had not trained for: security force protection at various installations across the Midwest and the East Coast. Any time you take companies and deploy them for those types of missions, there's always uncertainty about whether or not they will be able to sustain themselves. But to my surprise, and again because of the great leadership we have in the Ohio National Guard, they did that…Any time you don't know specifically what your mission is and the duration, it becomes a challenge in terms of leadership.

What I will cherish the most is the way our folks responded.

GENERAL from page 7

and Airmen serving the United States, Ohio and its communities in a variety of missions.

The end of the 20th Century saw the Ohio Guard already facing increasing deployments. Air National Guard units became more integrated into missions with the active Air Force, and Army National Guard units were used more frequently for peacekeeping operations in places such as Bosnia and Kosovo, as well as humanitarian missions in Central America. All the while, Ohio National Guard units were used on state active duty to help communities recover from tornados, floods and snowstorms, while still providing service to the communities where they are located.

The tragic events of Sept. 11, 2001, added the need for the Ohio National Guard to join in the fight to protect the United States from rogue nations and terrorist organizations worldwide. Since then, more than 7,000 Ohio National Guardmembers have answered the nation's call, serving everywhere from installations in the Midwest, to the mountains of Afghanistan and the sands of the Persian Gulf.

Before 9-11, Smith's leadership focus stressed the need for Ohio's units and personnel to be properly trained and equipped in the event they ever were called to serve on a large scale, as with Desert Storm in the early 1990s, or on an even larger scale, as in World Wars I and II.

In short, the top mission he set for the organization was: "When called, we respond with ready units and personnel." It proved to be both prophetic and integral.

"What I will cherish the most is the way our folks responded (when called to fight the Global War on Terror). I feel very good that 5 1/2 years ago we emphasized this feature of 'service to nation,'" Smith said. "I think our focus was right."

His military career of more than 40 years included combat flying missions in Vietnam in 1965-66 and more than 4,000 total flight hours in a variety of aircraft, including A-7D fighter jets and KC-135R refuelers.

Smith joined the Ohio Air National Guard in 1976, and served in a variety of positions, including commanding the 178th Tactical Fighter Group in Springfield, the 180th Tactical Fighter Group in Toledo, and the 121st Air Refueling Wing in Columbus. Prior to becoming adjutant general, Smith served as Ohio's assistant adjutant general for Air, after being appointed by then-Gov. George Voinovich in 1996.

Smith is a graduate of the Army War College and the Air Command and Staff College. His awards include the Legion of Merit, Distinguished Flying Cross, Meritorious Service Medal, Air Medal and Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal.

A Minnesota native who holds a bachelor's degree in economics from the University of Minnesota, Smith and his wife, Anita, reside in Westerville, and have three children: Peter, Andrew and Sarah. Smith and his wife have a summer home in Minnesota, and he said he plans to continue performing community service and volunteer work during his retirement.

His military career culminated with a well-attended retirement celebration July 10 at The Blackwell on the Ohio State University campus, a last official opportunity for friends and fellow servicemembers to say goodbye to the man known to many as a soft-spoken, but firm leader, and also a true gentleman. **AGOH-Public Affairs**

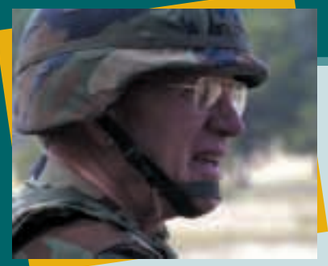
I feel very good that 5 1/2 years ago we emphasized this feature of 'service to nation.' As I have said many, many times, no matter the reason that people join, they must understand that once the bell rings, they must respond, and once they do respond, that they have the training and are ready to go. I think our focus was right.

Q *What has been your leadership philosophy?*

A I think there are several features that are very important. In terms of leadership, we all know that integrity is extremely important. It's something I have called myself to each day I have done this job.

The other feature that extends from integrity is to be inclusive. It's so easy in this profession, as it is in other types of professions, to rely on a very small group of people…it can be very comforting to rely on one or two or maybe three people you feel comfortable with, but I feel it is something a leader must avoid. There are so many types of people that we have in our National Guard…so I can't emphasize enough, how important it is to be inclusive. It can be challenging at times and uncomfortable. All voices must be heard, but it doesn't mean that leaders are not responsible. It's very important that leaders make decisions. It can be difficult at times to make the tough decisions, but not to make a decision when required sets up an organization for failure, disarray and confusion. While all decisions can't be correct…it is important to make a decision so people can reasonably anticipate what's expected of them.

Q *What are the main challenges that the Ohio National Guard will face over the next several years?*



A The biggest challenges will come from what we are currently faced with, which is a huge demand on our units in the contingencies we currently have. I don't know how long it will go on based on what I see and hear today, but it will go on for some time.… To have done it once for 12-18 months is in itself a huge requirement. And the fact that they have done it for that time makes it all the more difficult to do it a second time. They have got to have time to come back and re-establish their lives, their jobs.

Second is the role of the National Guard in terms of homeland security. There is more to be defined in terms of what that will be. I believe that we need participation from our communities in terms of homeland security exercises. We need more joint participation with our communities. Of course, we are the first responders for the governor in order to do his array of missions, but in terms of homeland security, the roles are not fully defined yet.

Q *What has been the most memorable aspect of your tenure as adjutant general?*

A The one thing I will cherish the most is the professionalism and manner in which our men and women responded when called upon. I think that if we ever felt that maybe our nation's…young men and women don't feel an obligation in terms of their service to their nation, then I think those feelings have been largely dispelled by what we have experienced in the National Guard—because our young people have responded and the exceptions have been quite rare. So, I think that bodes well for our nation.

I think the other thing I will cherish specifically…is the tremendous teamwork and cooperation that was shared between the Army and Air National Guard. I think it's been unheralded. Certainly in my 27 years in the Ohio National Guard we have never had this degree of cooperation. I am not trying to take credit for it, but it is a reflection of the tremendous leadership we have.

Q *How important has the support of your family been throughout your career?*

A We all have phases in our lives when we are uncertain in what direction we are going. I had those moments as well. After returning from Vietnam back in 1966, I stopped to consider whether I wanted to continue my career in the Air Force. On active duty, I had been accepted to go to pilot training…and I was excited about it. It was the reason I joined the Air Force. Instead they sent me to navigator training. So I volunteered for Vietnam again and they sent me to pilot training. I met a wonderful school teacher (his future wife, Anita) out in Sacramento, Calif., while waiting to go to pilot training. I fell in love, I guess, is the way to say it, and decided maybe I wouldn't continue with my Air Force career. But we had a long conversation about it and she said, 'This is something you've always wanted to do, so you better do it.'

I realized that I was going to have to make a lot of choices between my family and a career in the Air Force. Nothing got into my blood more—other than falling in love—as flying fighters. So I turned down a promotion to major and left active duty to become a civilian. So we left active duty with no benefits and no compensation and off we went. It was five years before our lives became stabilized. I got a full-time job with the Air Guard. All that time through the turbulence, the anchor in the storm was my wife. Family and faith are the two things that can get you through anything.

Q *What would you consider to be your most significant achievement?*

A The effect that I have had on others and the effect a lot of people had on me. Something I have learned from others is there are those who will work hard and unconditionally and truthfully to make sure that those that work beneath them are successful.

The other tangible achievement was keeping Rickenbacker open as an Air National Guard base. When I took command of that unit I learned (the Defense Department was) going to close the base; I realized that made no sense. It just goes to show that if you make a persuasive argument and get the facts, you can change the law.

Q *As you pack up your office and gather the many awards, trophies and mementos, is there one in particular that you are especially fond of?*

A One that stands out is the duck with a ball cap. A former secretary gave that to me. When I come back in a second life, I want to come back as a duck. They spend winters in Mexico, summers in Canada and spring and fall in Ohio. All they do is fly, eat and goof around. I can't think of a better life.

Q *What advice would you give to a young Soldier or Airman enlisting in the Guard today?*

A First, I would commend them for joining and second, I would encourage them to participate. It isn't enough to just show up for drill. I respect that they are there, but when the opportunity is there to go beyond the normal requirements, take advantage of it, particularly because it re-enforces what I've always believed, which is this profession requires a lot of ball carriers and everyone has to be a ball carrier.

Q *What is your advice for the next adjutant general?*

A The key areas that will be important are homeland security and the transformation initiatives in both the Army and Air Force.

Q *Can you give us a snapshot of your first day of retirement?*

A I plan to sleep in until 6 a.m., get up and jog three miles, come back, have a cup of coffee and read scripture. That's the first two hours. If I can get through those first two hours then everything else will fall into place.

Governor taps Wayt as Ohio's 80th adjutant general

Gov. Bob Taft in early June named Col. Gregory L. Wayt Ohio's new adjutant general, effective July 1. He succeeds Maj. Gen. John H. Smith, who officially retired June 30.

"Colonel Wayt's extensive background in military affairs and deep personal commitment to his country will serve Ohioans well," Taft said at the time of the appointment. "He is committed to ensuring that Ohio's military is prepared to serve at the call of duty."

As adjutant general, Wayt is responsible for the operation of the Adjutant General's Department and the military preparedness of the Ohio Army National Guard, Ohio Air National Guard, Ohio Military Reserve and Ohio Naval Militia, totaling more than 18,000 personnel.

He previously served as Ohio Army National Guard chief of staff. He also was commander of the largest major subordinate command within the Ohio National Guard, the 73rd Troop Command, headquartered at Rickenbacker Airport in Columbus.

Commissioned a second lieutenant in November 1975 from the Ohio State University ROTC program, Wayt served on active duty in Germany as an air defense artillery officer. A graduate of the U.S. Army War College, he also has a master's degree in public administration from the University of Dayton. With 29 years of military service overall, Wayt has been in the Ohio National Guard for the past 25 years.

MAJ Nicole Gabriel / AGOH-Public Affairs

Daughter Lindsey and wife Deborah replace the shoulder rank on COL Greg Wayt's uniform with brigadier general stars.

He has received numerous decorations for his service, including the Legion of Merit, Meritorious Service Medal, Army Achievement Medal, Army Reserve Component Achievement Medal and the National Defense Service Medal.

Wayt, 51, and his wife, Deborah, have a daughter, Lindsey. They reside in Hilliard.

Teamwork of 179th flight crew helps avert C-130 crash landing over Iraq

By Staff Sgt. Martin Jackson
386th Air Expeditionary Wing PA

Courtesy photo

The 179th Airlift Wing crew involved in overcoming a mechanical failure aboard the C-130 "Spirit of Galion" is composed of Maj Bruce Fogle (from left), pilot; Capt Matt Muha, navigator; SMSgt Mike Cyphert, loadmaster; TSgt Shane Adams, flight engineer; SSgt Mike Keller, loadmaster; and Maj Jeff Charette, co-pilot.

In June 2004 a C-130 from the 710th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron, with 65 people on board, came within minutes of making a crash landing. But thanks to the experience and level-headedness of the crew, all from the 179th Airlift Wing in Mansfield, three and a half hours of suspense ended with a safe return to the ground.

After leaving Balad Air Base, Iraq, in what seemed to be a normal takeoff, the crew gained altitude for their scheduled 90-minute flight. But when attempting to retract the landing gear, the aircrew received indications that the C-130's right main landing gear would not retract. Upon inspection they discovered the gear had become wedged.

"We had the loadmasters check out the gear and they found that the aft wheel was nearly all the way down and the forward one was retracted wedging them at an angle," said Maj. Bruce Fogle, pilot.

With 59 Soldiers on board the crew had to quickly plan their strategy, all the while working out their landing-gear quandary.

"We immediately began assessing our situation determining our flight and landing options," Fogle said. "The decision was to make our way to the Persian Gulf where we would orbit until we either fixed the gear problem or reached bingo (a specified) fuel level, then we would attempt to land at Kuwait International Airport because of its large runway and nearby medical facilities."

The two loadmasters and flight engineer meticulously worked their way through the four possible methods listed in the operating manual of raising and lowering the gear, but the gear would not budge. Resembling scenes from the movie *Apollo 13,* the crew also troubleshot the problem via radio, conferencing with several people on the ground ranging from maintainers both in country and back at the crew's home station in Ohio, to engineers at Lockheed Martin, the company that designed the aircraft, but nothing seemed to move the gear.

"We easily had more than 100 people on the ground working through and troubleshooting this situation with us," said Maj. Jeff Charette, aircraft co-pilot. "They were doing all they could to help us as we stepped through each and every possible troubleshooting technique."

Running out of fuel and time they had left, in their one-and-a-half-hour orbit over the water, they called for their approach to make an emergency landing when they finally freed the wedged gear.

"The gear is designed that if you have malfunctions that gravity will help force it down...we just had to get it to dislodge," said Tech. Sgt. Shane Adams, flight engineer. "We repeatedly worked it for quite a while in a side-to-side rocking motion, when it finally started to free up and slowly work its way down into the full down position."

In an attempt to secure the gear in the down position for landing, the loadmasters braced it in place with heavy cargo chains strapped across the belly of the C-130. They then turned their attention to their new concern—their passengers' safety.

"With 59 passengers we were configured for maximum capacity," said Senior Master Sgt. Mike Cyphert, loadmaster. "With the chains running across the inside of the aircraft and threats of metal from the props if the gear was to give way on landing, we had to rearrange their seating, moving several of them to the floor of the aircraft where we ran cargo straps across their legs to secure them in place."

With everyone secure it was now all on the shoulders of the pilot and the strength of the chains as the 65 servicemembers braced themselves for the landing.

"It was the smoothest landing I have ever seen," Charette said. "He (Fogle) put it down very soft and gentle getting us all safely back."

Safely on the ground the crew received genuine thanks from their passengers and heard elated cheers through the radio from their teammates who were working with them from the ground.

"This was a huge team effort, not by just our crew of six but of everyone on the ground working with us to fix this problem," Fogle said. "Even if it would have come to landing on a wedged gear, you never give up, that's not an option when you're flying."

Just five days later the crew was back in a C-130 and it was business as usual flying the exact same mission, this time making it back in the scheduled 90 minutes.■

1-107th Soldiers stay ready during Iraqi foot patrols

Story by Spc. Sherree Casper
196 th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

FORWARD OPERATING BASE COBRA, JALAWLA, Iraq—"Mount Up!" With those words from U.S. Army 1st Lt. Shaun Robinson, Soldiers from 2nd Platoon, Company A, 252nd Armor climbed into their assigned humvees and prepared to exit through the front gate of the base.

Their mission? A foot patrol of nearby Jalawla, home to a crowded market place. It's also an area prone to be targeted with improvised explosive devices.

—Continued on next page

"With ready units and personnel"

Ohio Guardmembers continue answering nation's call to duty

Photo by Ed Shulik

A member of the Ohio Army National Guard, Robinson, the platoon leader, led foot patrols into the city and adjacent area for several months during the unit's deployment.

A familiar sight often greeted him and his Soldiers as they left on their patrols. A shaggy, large mixed-breed dog was often found lying in the middle of the roadway just outside the gate of Forward Operating Base Cobra.

"Just keep driving, he'll move," Robinson advised the Soldier behind the wheel. Almost like clockwork, the tired canine lifted his head to stare straight at the approaching vehicle. He slowly rose up and dragged his dirt-caked body to the side of the road and plopped down again.

"Told you," Robinson said, smiling with an air of authority on the matter.

Robinson mounted up for both day and nighttime patrols. He and his men normally pulled the mission three times a week.

Other Soldiers attached to the company rounded out the patrols that were carried out three times a day in Jalawla and Seda.

Although the Ohio Guardsmen were actually assigned as tankers to Company C, 1-107th Armor, they were meshed with a North Carolina Army National Guard unit in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, said Robinson, a resident of Stow.

"It's nice that they kept our whole company together," he said. "We became Alpha Company, 252nd Armor so none of us would have to be split up."

For any outsider looking in at the Soldiers, one conclusion was instantly drawn. They had one another's backs and knew the job that had to be done.

This was evident as the four-humvee convoy pulled outside an Iraqi National Guard station on the outskirts of Jalawla.

Here, Robinson and his men linked up with some members of the Iraqi National Guard. They were no strangers, as they shook hands and exchanged pleasantries. They had been through this drill more than a dozen times.

After deciding which Soldier would take point on the patrol, the men started up a steep, rocky hill leading to the center of the city, which gave way to a bustling market.

"They are nice people," Robinson pointed out as he turned the corner on to the main thoroughfare and was greeted by stares and waves from bystanders, who appeared at times to bottleneck the streets.

"Sometimes though it gets hectic," he said, as he carried his M-16A2 rifle at the ready.

When there were no children playing on the streets, Robinson said, it's a red flag.

A restaurant manager in his civilian life, he said insurgents are less likely to set off an improvised explosive device if children are nearby.

Then again, he pointed out, the rebels are capable of just about anything.

Pointing over to the Iraqi Police Station in town, Robinson showed where an improvised explosive device blew up only a week before. No one was killed.

"Usually we find them before they blow up," said Staff Sgt. Jeffery Oyster of Alliance.

A salesman in the pet industry, Oyster said finding an improvised explosive device was almost a daily occurrence for those on patrol.

Looking around the crowded streets where a cow could be seen lingering downtown without its owner, Oyster looked on as some strays searched for some shade in the sweltering afternoon sun.

"I have a heart for animals," he said.

Point man on the patrol, Staff Sgt. James M. Davis, said pulling foot patrol versus a mounted one on a tank had some parallels.

"You're using the same principles," said the postal supervisor from Canton "You're just a little more vulnerable."

After the foot patrol, the platoon headed to nearby mountainous terrain for target practice. Robinson said it was done after every mission to ensure the weapons were working properly. The last thing they needed was for firepower to malfunction while on a foot patrol.

Firing a .50-caliber machine gun, Spc. Bryan "Turtle" Holden was anxious to empty the weapon and hone his marksmanship skills.

"If someone tries to take a pot shot at you, you have to be ready," said the tanker from Akron.■

SPC Sheree Casper / 196th MPAD

SPC Sheree Casper / 196th MPAD

LEFT: After a foot patrol, 1LT Shaun Robinson (right) questions a shepherd tending his herd whether he has seen anything suspicious in the area. ABOVE: CPT Jonathan M. Stewart (right) speaks with members of the As Sa Diyah city council. RIGHT: Janet Woehler (right) created this quilt to honor her son Troy's National Guard service.

Needle, thread help mother honor guardmember's service

Shock, awe and a boatload of tears.

That's how Janet Woehler greeted the dreadful news that her only child soon was being deployed to fight in Iraq. After several days, the Cuyahoga Falls woman pulled herself together and went into "quilting therapy."

Quilting doesn't keep Woehler's mind off the war or her son's role as a member of the Ohio Army National Guard, but the operating room nurse at Akron General Medical Center found that quilting does stop her nerves from totally unraveling. She learned that and more while performing her creative cadence with needle and thread. The very special quilting project had dominated her thinking since September 2003.

Woehler's then-20-year-old son, Spc. Troy A. Woehler, was among the 150 Soldiers from 1st Battalion, 107th Armor that deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. He graduated in 2001 from Cuyahoga Falls High School and joined the Guard in February 2002. "I saw it as a way to serve my country and pay for college all at the same time," the specialist said.

His mother fashioned one quilt to commemorate his service to his country and she was in the throes of assembling an identical one. One went with him when he left and the other was shipped to him later. "That (one was) signed on the back by Troy and the other 15 Soldiers in his original unit, Company A, 1-107th (Forward), returned and hung in the Newton Falls Armory," Woehler said.

Mike Cardew / Akron Beacon Journal

The nearly 60-inch-square coverlet, featuring mostly needle-turned appliqué, records Troy's service commitment in nine intricately threaded blocks. "I used an eagle in the center," Woehler said. "Because they're a tank unit, I incorporated a tank (done in desert camouflage)," she added.

Also included are maps of Ohio, North Carolina (their pre-mobilization site), Iraq (depicting the Sunni triangle), the American flag, and an infantry Soldier with Troy's name on the pocket. She also used reproduced Civil War fabric and recreated a poem by Civil War poet James W. Thornhill on the quilt's backing. Woehler wrote on the back of the quilt dedicating it to all the Soldiers who served in Iraq during Operation Iraqi Freedom and especially to the Soldiers of her son's unit, requesting that they sign the quilt to help commemorate their presence in Iraq.

Woehler already had her next "therapy" in sight: quilting squares for each of the 15 other Soldiers in her son's original company. **JEWELL CARDWELL** / AKRON BEACON JOURNAL

Taking from civilian role, officer still 'delivering'

AS SA DIYAH, Iraq—Capt. Jonathan M. Stewart was used to delivering things, but not just because the Ohio Army National Guardmember is a postal carrier in the civilian world.

As special advisor for As Sa Diyah and Jalawla, the commander of Alpha Company, 1st Battalion, 252nd Armor helped bring projects in the area to fruition. The problem was that he often worked hard just trying to get the city councils to give him project requests. "They call(ed) me the supreme commander of Jalawla and As Sa Diyah," he said laughing. "It can be quite the power trip if you let it."

Attending a Wednesday morning city council meeting in As Sa Diyah, Stewart noted that the group was starting to come together. "I steer(ed) them in the right direction," Stewart said of the council members. Jalawla's population is about 45,000, while As Sa Diyah has about 35,000 people.

While chatting with the mayor and some council members before the meeting, Stewart asked them why they hadn't compiled a list of "to do" projects?

"They are afraid to make decisions," he explained after the meeting. Essentially, if someone suggests something, but it doesn't materialize, he or she is considered to have failed, he said. "Democracy is still new to Iraq," he said. That's why many are apprehensive about suggesting new projects for the city. Stewart said they did not want to lose face with peers.

"Everyone wants to rebuild Iraq," he tells the group. Stewart emphasized that he couldn't stress enough the need to have the city councils submit project ideas to him so he could seek funding and initiate the bidding process.

"The city council needs to say that it wants a new health clinic," he said. "An estimate is then given." Once the city council and mayor agreed on a project, Stewart then pursued funding for it.

"The (city council) group and the mayor make decisions," he said. "Any requests that come to me will come from the city council and mayor..."This is the only forum in which decisions are made for the city of As Sa Diyah." **SPC SHEREE CASPER** / 196TH MPAD

four companies, and Guard engineers from Wisconsin and North Dakota.

"What we just finished here was the earthwork, the horizontal work for a 2,000-man holding facility," said 1st Lt. Charles L. Wilkins, III of A Company. The detention area consisted of roughly 5,000 feet of earth berm and a wall of triple-strand concertina wire.

"There was a lot of work involved, and with the wire, there's a lot of physical labor," he said. "A lot of it was done by hand. It was done in 48 hours; I don't know if it's a record but they did really well."

The troops also worked on numerous smaller projects to improve living areas, boarded up windows to protect from the sand and wind, and set up latrines. Their next big project after those was to build a firing range for small arms and track vehicles, according to Capt. Thomas Waugh, Teambuilder South and A Company commander.

In addition, the Soldiers were tasked with doing force protection upgrades for the camp, said Capt. Ronald Talarico, assistant brigade engineer. The upgrades consisted primarily of placing concertina wire,

Buckeye Soldiers lead bridge building

Story by Spc. Joe Alger
1st Infantry Division Public Affairs

Building bridges may not have been what the Soldiers of the 216th Engineer Battalion expected to be doing in Iraq. But with the help of Marines from 6th Engineer Support Battalion, they participated in the $4 million Tikrit Bridge rebuilding project in Tikrit, Iraq.

"Bridge work is an extension a little beyond our normal scope of activities," said Maj. Wayne Moening, 216th Engineer Battalion operations officer. "Usually, we're more involved in road building, quality of life improvement, carpentry and force protection."

While building bridges may not be their specialty, the Soldiers of the 216th were ready for the challenge. "Building bridges is an engineer mission, so we'll be up to the task whether it's our primary job or not," said Sgt. Todd Kristoff, noncommissioned officer in charge of bridge inspections for the 216th. To aid them in the bridge rebuilding process, the 216th Soldiers worked together with Marines from the 6th Engineer Support Battalion.

"We've conducted a few operations on bridges like this before," said Staff Sgt. Martin Kenny, staff NCOIC, Bridge Company Bravo, 6th Engineer Support Battalion. "We're one of only two bridge companies in country right now, so we work with engineers who may not have as much experience on bridges. We've had good success working with them in the past."

Kristoff said he's confident this project would be no exception. "The relationship between us and the Corps is very strong," he said.

In addition to getting help from the Marines, the 216th Soldiers also received a three-day class on bridge building at Forward Operating Base Anaconda prior to starting the project. Sgt. First Class Abraham Johnson, 216th Engineer Company, 1st platoon sergeant, said a representative from commercial bridge makers Mabey Johnson joined them to answer any questions they had about the process. Rebuilding the bridge was a three-phase project, Johnson said. During the first phase, the Soldiers removed the temporary Mabey Johnson bridge that covered the holes in the main bridge. Next, the Iraqi workers placed beams over the gaps and put the Mabey Johnson bridge back in place to allow for two-lane traffic on the bridge. In the final part of the project, Johnson said, engineers replaced the Mabey Johnson bridge with asphalt.

"This is the main crossing over the Tigris River in this area," Moening said. "It was bombed during the war and we're restoring it to eventually give back to the Iraqi people." For now, the Mabey Johnson bridge will provide the support for almost any military or civilian vehicle that needs to cross. "If you're hauling heavy equipment, this is the bridge you want," Kristoff said. "It can be crossed by pretty much any heavy military vehicle." ■

SPC Joe Alger / 1st ID PAO

SPC Joe Alger / 1st ID PAO

SGT Kimberly Snow / 196th MPAD

196th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

ABOVE LEFT: A Soldier from the Ohio Army National Guard's 216th Engineer Battalion (right) moves a beam on the Tikrit Bridge with the help of a Marine from the 6th Engineer Support Battalion. ABOVE RIGHT: Engineers from the 216th lower a piece of ramp while rebuilding the Tikrit Bridge. NEAR RIGHT: Ohio Soldiers of Teambuilder South supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom build an earth berm around a detention area. FAR RIGHT: SPC Stephen R. Klienhenz (left) and PV2 Nathan G. Osborne of Alpha Company, 216th Engineer Battalion, stomp poles into the ground to build a concertina wire fence around a detention facility.

Engineers upgrade bases

Story By Sgt. Kimberly Snow
196th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

EDITOR'S NOTE: *1st Lt. Charles L. Wilkins, III, who is quoted in this article, was killed last August when an improvised explosive device detonated near the humvee in which he was riding. See the memorial on pages 20-21 for more on Wilkins and the five other Ohio National Guard Soldiers killed while serving in Iraq.*

FORWARD OPERATING BASE DUKE, Iraq—Rome was not built in a day—but that may be because the Romans didn't have the help of the Soldiers from the 216th Engineer Battalion.

When a task force from the 216th was needed to build a detention center and make improvements to one of the forward operating bases, Ohio's engineers responded with quick efficiency. After receiving the mission on a Sunday night, the engineers had the 2,000-person center up and running by Tuesday night.

Teambuilder South, the task force, was comprised of the 216th's four companies, and Guard engineers from Wisconsin and North Dakota.

"What we just finished here was the earthwork, the horizontal work for a 2,000-man holding facility," said 1st Lt. Charles L. Wilkins, III of A Company. The detention area consisted of roughly 5,000 feet of earth berm and a wall of triple-strand concertina wire.

"There was a lot of work involved, and with the wire, there's a lot of physical labor," he said. "A lot of it was done by hand. It was done in 48 hours; I don't know if it's a record but they did really well."

The troops also worked on numerous smaller projects to improve living areas, boarded up windows to protect from the sand and wind, and set up latrines. Their next big project after those was to build a firing range for small arms and track vehicles, according to Capt. Thomas Waugh, Teambuilder South and A Company commander.

In addition, the Soldiers were tasked with doing force protection upgrades for the camp, said Capt. Ronald Talarico, assistant brigade engineer. The upgrades consisted primarily of placing concertina wire, constructing observation and traffic control points, and creating earth berms to protect the Soldiers from observation and direct and indirect fire. Eventually, they were to help build a helipad, roads within the camp, living areas and perhaps a gymnasium.

The engineers allowed the Army to resource from within rather than having to contract out to civilian workers, Talarico said. He added the engineers' work was excellent. "The reason is because they're National Guard guys who do this on the outside," he said.

Staff Sgt. David Hall, a truck driver with Headquarters Support Company, 216th, explained that Soldiers in his section cross train on everything, so that every Soldier in his platoon can operate just about any piece of equipment they have. An operations officer for a facilities maintenance company when he is a civlian, Hall explained that many of the 216th engineers have extensive experience in their civilian jobs.

"I have guys that own their own carpentry and construction businesses," he said. "...you add all that experience combined; it makes one hell of an engineer company."

Hall said they were excited for the opportunity to join the operation. "It's what we want to do. The busier we are, the happier we are," he said. "We just want to get the job done. We're not here to be heroes; we just want to get it done and get home. That's what it's about."■

Dilligence of OHARNG engineers saves money

FORWARD OPERATING BASE DANGER, TIKRIT, Iraq—Efforts by an Ohio Army National Guard engineering unit deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom II saved the 1st Infantry Division about $30,000.

The 1st ID was able to save the money when Charlie Company's 2nd platoon, 216th Combat Engineer Battalion, in April 2004 took on the project of building the Division Tactical Command Post (DTAC). The division would have had to hire a contractor had the engineers not been able to do the job. The money saved instead would be used for projects that directly benefit Iraqis, officials said.

Construction of the DTAC took about six days. But in a normal situation, the DTAC would be constructed within six hours and operational in 18 hours, said Maj. Larry Reeves of Fayetteville, Ga., the DTAC's officer in charge, stationed with the 1st ID in Germany.

In addition to building the command post, the engineers, stationed at Forward Operation Base (FOB) Speicher, did the electrical wiring. The platoon of 31 Soldiers also built four 16-foot by 16-foot offices that were attached to the main DTAC tent and served as dual purpose bunkers, said Sgt. First Class Timothy Lewis of Youngstown, the platoon's noncommissioned officer in charge. "The engineers make this…a more livable and serviceable place to work," Reeves said.

The DTAC now houses several groups to include the division engineers, intelligence unit, fire support element, aviation, air defense and communications, Reeves said, adding that about 100 people work in the structure.

The 216th Engineer Battalion brought more than 540 Soldiers in support of Operation Iraq Freedom II. When it landed in Iraq, the unit's Soldiers were dispersed to more than five FOBs within Task Force Danger.

A car salesman from Cleveland, Spc. Joseph Reinert said his military job and the deployment had been a different experience compared to his civilian career. "At work I use the gift of gab, but here it's physical labor," Reinert said. **CPT L. PAULA SYDENSTRICKER** / 196TH MOBILE PUBLIC AFFAIRS DETACHMENT

SPC Alan J. Holbrook, a truck mechanic with Headquarters, 371st Corps Support Group, works on a humvee in preparation for the Kettering unit's return to Ohio in March 2004.

Supporting the Force

371st CSG completes mission in Kuwait, returns home

Story and photo by Spc. Sherree Casper
196th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

In April 2003, the 371st Corps Support Group was assigned perhaps its most important mission to date—preparing thousands of troops on their way to war in Iraq.

It also was the first time the Kettering-based unit deployed at a senior command level, said Lt. Col. Michael E. Beasley, deputy group commander. The unit returned home from overseas in March 2004 after nearly a year of service in Kuwait.

In April 2003, more than 120 members of the 371st Corps Support Group (CSG) deployed to Kuwait and set up operations at Camp Virginia.

The unit served as the corps support headquarters for the 3rd Corps Support Command (COSCOM), and then later served the 13th COSCOM.

The unit also provided guidance, orders and plans to all V Corps elements in Kuwait, the troops' final stop before crossing the border into Iraq. The 371st CSG oversaw a personnel services battalion and three subordinate corps support battalions.

The 371st troops were in country a month before the president declared the end of major combat operations, Beasley said. When the unit arrived in country, it was responsible for the deployment of 4th Infantry Division Soldiers to Kuwait and Iraq.

"We got in and made sure there was a steady flow of materiel, equipment and supplies to support the war effort," Beasley said, noting that the 371st had offices in base camps throughout Kuwait and Iraq.

The 371st also was responsible for contracting services in Kuwait as well as managing everything from laundry to food services.

Beasley said Soldiers in the base camps in Kuwait can thank the 371st CSG for hot meals, showers and fresh Desert Camouflage Uniforms. When the unit first arrived in country, Beasley said, it was almost solely overseeing transportation management.

"We have been very transportation heavy in our mission," said Maj. Maria E. Kelly, the unit's operations, plans and training officer.

The 371st CSG was tasked to convert light-medium truck companies to gun trucks for convoy missions, she said. The unit was also instrumental in establishing a training program for all transportation companies, as well as specific training for gun truck crews, she said. The training program was adopted and implemented for all units rotating into Southwest Asia for Operation Iraqi Freedom II.

"The Soldiers have accomplished each mission and met my expectations," said Col. Rufus J. Smith, then-371st CSG commander.

The broad mission given by V Corps allowed the 371st CSG a lot of latitude when providing critical support to subordinate elements, said Smith, who also served as V Corps commander of Kuwait.

"Our mission was so diverse," Smith said. "There (were) various entities from theater, 3rd Corps and 13th COSCOM that will pick up our missions."

Smith said most of the combat service support units have been tasked with missions not within their doctrine.

When it came time to redeploy Soldiers to the United States, Beasley said the 371st helped Soldiers from the 3rd Infantry Division—"which fought the brunt of the war"—get home safely.

The 371st CSG processed about 60,000 Soldiers from the active Army, National Guard and Reserve for their return home after serving overseas, Beasley said.

After arriving in Kuwait, 371st CSG Soldiers worked 17 consecutive weeks before getting their first day off, said 371st CSG Command Sgt. Major David G. Collins.

"That's a pretty significant sacrifice right there," he said.

The command sergeant major said the 371st CSG served as a liaison between the airport and shipyard in Kuwait.

"Every task they were assigned they perfected above the standard," he said. "They were at the right place, at the right time in the right uniform."

When the unit first arrived in Kuwait, about 11,500 Soldiers shared the various facilities there, waiting two hours to eat in the chow hall, use the showers and shop in the post exchange.■

20 ROLL CALL 04

Ohio National Guard units with personnel who served on federal active duty from January 2004 through January 2005, in support of Operations Iraqi Freedom, Enduring Freedom or Noble Eagle

Ohio Army National Guard

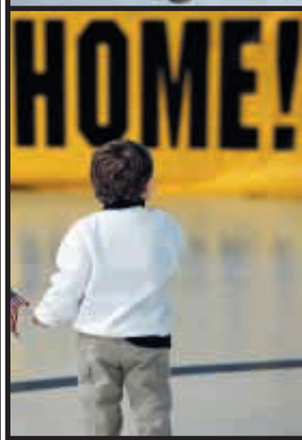
112th Engineer Battalion	186th Engineer Detachment (Utilities)
216th Engineer Battalion	Headquarters, 512th Engineer Bn.
Headquarters, 416th Engineer Group	5694th Engineer Co. (Fire Fighting)
1484th Transportation Company	1485th Transportation Company
1486th Transportation Company	1487th Transportation Company
324th Military Police Company	135th Military Police Company
323rd Military Police Company	838th Military Police Company
1-107th Armor Battalion	196th Mobile Public Affairs Det.
237th Personnel Services Battalion	337th Personnel Services Det.
437th Personnel Services Det.	Company G, 1-137th Aviation Bn
2-174th Air Defense Artillery	211th Maintenance Company
Headquarters, 737th Maintenance Bn.	371st Corps Support Group
Det. 3, Co. E, 106th Aviation Bn.	612th Engineer Battalion
Co. C, 118th Area Support Medical Bn.	4th Infantry Division Liaison Team

Ohio Air National Guard

121st Air Refueling Wing
178th Fighter Wing
179th Airlift Wing
200th Red Horse Squadron
220th Engineering Installation Squadron

Thanks to all those Soldiers and Airmen who serve!

20 05



All Gave Some, Some Gave All

A Tribute to our Fallen Soldiers
Ohio Army National Guard

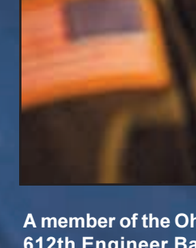
SGT Haraz N. Ghanbari / JFHQ-Ohio

A member of the Ohio Army National Guard's C Company, 612th Engineer Battalion, holds a red rose in honor of Soldiers who have deployed before him, at a farewell ceremony for the unit Nov. 11 in Norwalk.

SPC Sheree Casper / 196th MPAD

SGT Michael C. Barkey
1484th Transportation Company
Akron, Ohio

SGT Barkey, 22, of Canal Fulton, Ohio; assigned to the 1484th Transportation Company, Army National Guard, Akron, Ohio; killed July 7, 2004, when a tire was shot out on the military vehicle in which he was riding, the driver lost control and the vehicle turned over in Ramadi, Iraq.



PFC Samuel R. Bowen
216th Engineer Battalion
Hamilton, Ohio

PFC Bowen, 38, of Cleveland; assigned to the 216th Engineer Battalion, Army National Guard, Hamilton, Ohio; killed July 7, 2004, when a rocket-propelled grenade exploded near his vehicle in Samarra, Iraq.

SPC Todd M. Bates
135th Military Police Company
Brook Park, Ohio

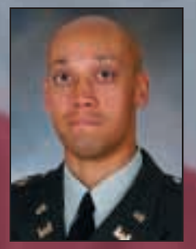
SPC Bates, 20, of Bellaire, Ohio; assigned to the 135th Military Police Company, Army National Guard based in Brook Park, Ohio. Bates was on a river patrol on the Tigris River Dec. 10, 2003, when his squad leader fell overboard. He dove into the water after his squad leader, Staff Sgt. Aaron T. Reese, but did not surface.

SSG Aaron T. Reese
135th Military Police Company
Brook Park, Ohio

SSG Reese, 31, of Reynoldsburg, Ohio; assigned to the 135th Military Police Company, Army National Guard based in Brook Park, Ohio; killed while on patrol Dec. 10, 2003, when he fell into the Tigris River south of Baghdad.

SPC Ryan A. Martin
216th Engineer Battalion
Chillicothe, Ohio

SPC Martin, 22, of Mount Vernon, Ohio; assigned to the 216th Engineer Battalion, Army National Guard, Chillicothe, Ohio; killed Aug. 20, 2004, when an improvised explosive device exploded near his vehicle near Samarra, Iraq.



1LT Charles L. Wilkins III
216th Engineer Battalion
Chillicothe, Ohio

1LT Wilkins, 38, of Columbus, Ohio; assigned to the 216th Engineer Battalion, Army National Guard, Chillicothe, Ohio; killed Aug. 20, 2004, when an improvised explosive device exploded near his vehicle near Samarra, Iraq.

Ohio field artillerymen: GUARDing Europe

SrA Amanda Currier / 100th Air Refueling Wing

Courtesy photo

LEFT: SPC Jason Gonzalez (left), of B Battery, 1-134th Field Artillery, inspects an Airman's military ID and base vehicle pass as he enters Royal Air Force Base Mildenhall, England. ABOVE: Soldiers from the 1-134th apprehend three Iraqi civilians who tried to gain access to RAF Mildenhall by hiding in the back of a semi truck.

Story by Cpl. Susan James
Joint Force Headquarters-Ohio

When they deployed in February 2004 in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, not only did the 470 Soldiers of the 1st Battalion, 134th Field Artillery Regiment have to leave their friends and families behind, but also their howitzers.

Since December 2002, Army National Guardmembers supported Task Force Reaper Sentinel, a mission to help secure military installations around the globe. Soldiers of the 1-134th Field Artillery Battalion were called up to conduct security, force protection and antiterrorism operations at 12 military bases throughout Europe. In addition, the Soldiers provided protection to installation equipment and personnel.

The major difference between this and a normal field artillery mission was that these FA Soldiers conducted it with only their personal gear and small arms weapons instead of the large howitzer cannons with which they were trained to go to battle.

"It was very interesting," said Lt. Col. Homer Rogers, Task Force Reaper Sentinel commander and, when at home station, commander of the 1-134th. "For a lot of them, being in the National Guard, this was their first taste of active-duty life." Initially, Rogers said, some of his troops weren't happy to hear they'd be going to Europe to pull gate duty. Instead they wanted to head to destinations such as Iraq with their howitzers. "Some of the Soldiers were disappointed because they wanted to go into 'the box,'" he said. Most came to realize that, by performing their roles in Europe, they freed up others to support the war in Iraq. "This was an important duty," he continued.

Once activated, the field artillerymen departed for Camp Atterbury, Ind., where they underwent three weeks of training on force protection and air base security. Once overseas, the Soldiers not only underwent constant refresher training with the Air Force security troops on force protection, pass and ID inspection and Air Force specific topics, but they also had to make time for general Army and artillery training. To stay proficient in their Military Occupational Specialty (MOS), the artillerymen focused their once-a-month Army-specific training on Soldier-common tasks and gun-line and fire direction safety tests—tasks in which the Soldiers must qualify annually to maintain their certifications as field artillery troops.

"It was extremely difficult to maintain MOS proficiency while stationed here," said Capt. Thomas Roose of C Battery, who commanded Team Mildenhall of Task Force Reaper Sentinel in England. "So much of our specialty revolves around equipment we were not able to bring with us, and as a result, our skills as field artillerymen became a little dull."

Capt. Kevin Brodzinski, F Battery commander, whose troops were primarily stationed in Vicenza, Italy, said the mission in Europe allowed the unit to come together much more than it had just by training on weekends and a few weeks a year. He felt any upcoming deployment to a trouble spot would find the unit in better shape. "The only part of their jobs they weren't doing," Brodzinski continued, "was firing their howitzers."

The Guard's support allowed the 100th Air Refueling Wing, Royal Air Force Base (RAF) Mildenhall, England, to function without having to implement its Selectively Trained and Ready, or STAR, program, where staff sergeants and below are pulled from their normal jobs to augment security forces.

"The wing has no idea about the impact these guys have made," said Lt. Col. Paul Harris, 100th Security Forces Squadron commander. "The posts they fill are the same posts STAR troops would have to fill. There are sections and offices that would not be as far down the road as they are without these Soldiers."

The guardmembers not only helped RAF Mildenhall units to accomplish their missions, but they also made it possible for 100th Security Forces Squadron members to work eight-hour shifts, instead of the 12-hour shifts the Airmen routinely pulled prior to the augmentation.

Soldiers stationed in Belgium realized how impassioned the Belgian citizens were to have them in their homeland on July 30, 2004. When a gas leak being investigated by Belgian emergency responders in Ghislenghein erupted into flames, members of Task Force Reaper Sentinel helped the victims, controlled traffic and searched the area for casualties.

When they got there it was still a little hectic, said Pvt. 1st Class Demisho Bradford, Service Battery, 1-134th. One of the civilian Emergency Medical Technicians asked them to go through a wheat field and look for casualties. "They needed us to do the field sweep which is what we do when we have a police call," said Sgt. Alan Stiles, also with Service Battery.

"We freed somebody else up who was more in touch with the situation," said Spc. Matthew Scur. "We freed them up to do something more important. So, we still did an important job. Sometimes that's part of the job description and you've got to accept it," the Service Battery artilleryman continued. The task force Soldiers working the disaster quickly saw that the Belgians very much appreciated their presence. "I was very impressed by the way they accepted us when we walked on the scene," Stiles said. "They got us someone who spoke English because we have the language barrier. They broke that right away. And they said, 'This is what we need you to do.' Everybody worked as a team. They had everything set up just the way it should go."

"It seemed everybody was happy to see us," Scur said. "I guess if I were on the other side, I would have said something (thankful) if another country came over here to help us. And I kind of noticed that look on a couple people's face. They were just happy to see us."

"I saw the same thing," Sgt. Philip Waldren said, "but I didn't get that vibe until way later. Like, 'Wow, we were helping someone else out.' It might be that down the road, they'll be helping us out."

On June 24, six Task Force Reaper Sentinel Soldiers stationed at RAF Mildenhall—C Battery Staff Sgts. Justin Errett and Brian Unangst, Spcs. Benjamin Albert and David LaPlante, and Pfc. Shawn Wheeler; and A Battery Spc. Aaron Stark—identified and apprehended three Iraqi Kurds attempting to gain entry on to the base in the back of a semi truck.

During a routine search of the vehicle at the main gate to the base, one of the Soldiers heard suspicious noises coming from inside the truck, prompting an immediate increase of security in the search facility. Once secure, the trailer was opened and three men, aged 18 to 26, were found with their baggage and a limited supply of food. The three were detained and searched by task force Soldiers before being turned over to U.S. Air Force and British Ministry of Defense officials for questioning. The stowaways' explanation was that they were seeking diplomatic asylum, but it is feasible to imagine how dangerous the situation could have become had the Iraqis had malicious intent and gained access to the base.

For nearly a year, these Citizen-Soldiers from Ohio guarded the gates of Army and Air Force bases in the United Kingdom, Italy, Netherlands, Belgium, Germany and Turkey. The welcome home for these Soldiers on Dec. 8, 2004, also meant an end to the overall two-year Task Force Reaper Sentinel mission that was supported by National Guard units from throughout the United States.

"We're going back to being field artillery as soon as we get back," Rogers said prior to coming home. "And we've got some new equipment to train on."

Working with the Air Force has been great, C Battery Sgt. Robert Shattuck said prior to the December homecoming. "It's been fun, and I've done a lot of traveling, but I just got married before I deployed, so I can't wait to get home."

"It is easy to do this job when the people we're working with are so appreciative of what we're doing," said Roose. "We will miss the camaraderie and friendship that's developed between Army and Air Force personnel but (we are), of course, anxious to get home to our families and careers," he continued.

The Ohio National Guard had more than 3,600 members mobilized for the Global War on Terror, as of mid-January 2005. "The Soldiers of the 1-134th have performed their duties defending against and deterring potential security threats to U.S. military bases in Europe with honor and distinction," said Brig. Gen. Ronald G. Young, then-Ohio's assistant adjutant general for Army. "We recognize that they and their families made significant sacrifices while they were away from home. We appreciate the enduring support which our communities have shown for our Citizen-Soldiers and their families."■

EDITOR'S NOTE: Members of the 196th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment (Rear) contributed to this article.

SGT Haraz N. Ghanbari / JFHQ-Ohio

SFC Glenn Barber of F Battery, 1-134th Field Artillery Battalion, embraces a loved one Dec. 8 at a homecoming ceremony, after a nine-month force protection mission in Europe.

Caring for Kosovo

MAJ Eric Larson / 364th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

BG Miroslaw Rozmus (second from right), presents Ohio's BG Tod Carmony (third from left), commanding general of Multi-National Brigade (East), with a ceremonial gift during a Polish-Ukranian Battalion change-of-command.

Cpl. Susan James JFHQ-Ohio
Spc. Ian Blake, 364th MPAD (USAR)
Spc. Chad Menegay, 196th MPAD (Rear)

While the nightly news focuses on U.S. armed forces serving in Iraq and Afghanistan, Soldiers from the Ohio National Guard continue to execute other important missions worldwide.

About 900-1,000 Ohio Army National Guardmembers, from more than a dozen units throughout Ohio, conducted peacekeeping operations for the Kosovo Force (KFOR) 6A rotation. Most of the troops belong to the 37th Armor Brigade, the largest combat arms organization in the Ohio Army National Guard. For many of these Soldiers it is the second time they have been mobilized since 9-11; for other 37th Soldiers, it is a third deployment in that time frame.

Kosovo continues to be a major peacekeeping operation, requiring thousands of Soldiers to fulfill the ongoing mission. "It's a mission that started here," said 1st Lt. Dustin Dulebohn, referring to the Dayton Peace Accords, signed in 1995, that ended a four-year war in Bosnia among Muslims, Croatians and Serbs. "It's good to continue the mission," said the member of Headquarters and Headquarters Troop (HHT), 2-107th Cavalry, located in Beavercreek.

Just because the peacekeeping rotations to KFOR have been continuing for years doesn't mean it is one of the safest deployments.

"Where we are going, ethnic cleansing and genocide are real," stated Lt. Col. John C. Harris Jr., 2-107th squadron commander, before the deployment. "If we were to pull out (today) thousands of people would perish."

Prior to the establishment of KFOR, Kosovo was facing a grave humanitarian crisis. Military and paramilitary forces from the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and the Kosovo Liberation Army were fighting day and night. Ethnic tensions were at their highest and claimed the lives of many. Nearly one million people fled Kosovo to seek refuge where their lives would not be endangered.

The KFOR mission is to provide for a safe and secure environment and to eventually promote the transition of responsibilities to civil authorities. The Ohio Guard troops became a part of the NATO-led international security force of more than 46,000 military personnel, from 39 countries.

"Most of them (Soldiers) are pretty upbeat about it (the deployment)," said Sgt. Ray Swartz, of B Troop, 2-107th. "They all want to go and do their part, wherever that might be."

While the focus is different from those going to countries such as Iraq, the need for tough, hands-on training remains the same. The first stop for the KFOR 6A bound troops was to Camp Atterbury, Ind. For about six weeks, the units trained in preparation for their peacekeeping mission learning, and in some cases, relearning, basic skills like land navigation, first aid and tactical radio communications.

Task force Soldiers also were required to qualify with their personal weapons and attended Theater Specific Readiness Training (TSRT). In TSRT, Ohio Soldiers learned about the history of Balkans, studied landmine awareness and were presented with tactical scenarios they could face while serving in Kosovo.

"The tactical squad formation TSRT was my favorite part," said Sgt. Cara Morgan, retention manager for the Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 37th Armor Brigade, headquartered in Columbus.

Once the Soldiers departed Indiana, they completed an extensive mission-readiness exercise at the Combat Maneuver Training Center in Hohenfels, Germany.

"The training gives you some very good knowledge," said Spc. Justin Shaver, a driver for the secretary of the general staff, and member of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 37th Armor Brigade.

For senior leaders, an additional deployment requirement known as Theater Specific Leaders Training (TSLT) also was necessary. Leaders received more instruction about the people of Kosovo, as well as the economic and social climate of the Balkans. They were also taught the basics of negotiation, and even how to work with interpreters.

At the close of their training, Soldiers participated in a command post exercise (CPX) that simulated the inter-company workings of the task force.

"It's hands-on training," said Pfc. Kelly Pels, a Judge Advocate General's clerk. "The CPX was the best training we've had."

Pfc. Andrew Locke said he was excited about the mission. The 19-year-old from West Alexandria signed up for the National Guard while still in high school. "There's been a lot of preparation for this," he said about his first deployment.

For the HHC commander, Capt. Kevin Rivers, the challenges were more than just executing training on time and to standard.

"There's also a very human element to consider. My troops have mixed feelings about the mission," said Rivers. "They are excited and anticipate going and doing their duty. They want to make a difference in where they are going, but they are also still concerned about their families back home."

Beginning the middle of August, the KFOR 6A units began the Kosovo relief in place operations with elements of the Minnesota Army National Guard, which had been in Kosovo since February 2004.

Ohio's KFOR 6A rotation of units concluded in March, when elements of the California Army National Guard were programmed to assume the mission of maintaining a safe and secure environment within Kosovo.

Missions such as KFOR 6A increase the awareness that, while places like Iraq and Afghanistan are marked by major U.S. military presence as well as intense media focus, there are several other locations throughout the world where U.S. Soldiers are serving to keep the peace.■

SPC Ian Blake / 364th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

CPL Susan James / JFHQ-Ohio

LEFT: While on patrol, SPC Aaron Oberlander of Troop A, 2-107th Cavalry, takes a minute to inspect a cow at a market outside Vitina, Kosovo. BELOW: At a deployment ceremony in May 2004, SFC Kyle Hutchinson, a member of Company A, 1-148th Infantry Battalion, shares a moment with his wife, Teresa, and son Kyle.

Pace visits Kosovo, says progress encouraging

Clear signs of progress both in the southern Yugoslav province of Kosovo as well as in other countries, are encouraging troops and residents in Kosovo, said officials who traveled to the region recently with Marine Gen. Peter Pace, vice chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Pace returned from a trip to Germany, Kosovo and Georgia Dec. 6. He met with national leaders, troops and U.S. military leaders during his visits.

Pace observed a huge difference in Kosovo from his last visit a year ago. "The general remarked that the last time he was in Pristina (the capital of the province) most of the houses had those U.N. blue tarps in place, because the roofs were missing," said a defense official who traveled with the general. "Now most of the houses have roofs, and there were very few tarps still in evidence."

The official said the general also noticed an increase in traffic—both ground and air—and commanders spoke of a new realism between the Kosovar Albanians and the Serbs.

The last confrontation between Albanians and Serbs was in March 2004. U.S. and NATO commanders told Pace that both sides seem to be coming to the realization that they pushed things too far, and that both could end up losing international support. "Albanians and Serbs know they need to ratchet things back a bit," an official said.

There are 17,500 NATO troops in Kosovo, about 950 of them American. National Guard Soldiers which included those from Ohio's 37th Armor Brigade. The unit, in Kosovo since September, had no firefights or confrontations, and were handling police missions.

The end of the Stabilization Force mission in neighboring Bosnia has encouraged the troops, as have the elections in Afghanistan, the official said.

"It shows there are other parts of the world in a bad situation—places that have no history of democratic processes—and they are models that show it can be done," he said.■ **JIM GARAMONE** / AMERICAN FORCES PRESS SERVICE

"Lest We Forget..."

37th Vets Association dedicates new monument honoring sacrifices of Buckeye Division

SPC Chad Menegay / 196th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment (Rear)

Members of the 37th Division Veterans Association and others honor the new monument dedicated in August 2004.

Story by Spc. Chad Menegay
196th MPAD (Rear)

Exactly 50 years ago, to the day, retired Maj. Gen. Robert S. Beightler, commander of the 37th Infantry Division throughout World War II, unveiled a sandstone monument at a small park in Centerburg that honored the division's service throughout three major conflicts of the 20th Century.

Five decades later, on Aug. 22, 2004, members of the 37th Infantry Division Veterans Association unveiled a new bronze and granite monument to replace the original one—which had deteriorated significantly over the years—in that same park at the geographic heart of Ohio, a fitting location to honor the "Buckeye" Division, which drew its Soldiers from all corners of the state.

The 37th ID—an all Ohio Army National Guard division—was formed in 1917 for combat service during World War I. Veterans returning from that war formed the 37th Division Veterans Association (DVA), in order to assist the widows and families of Soldiers who died while serving their country.

The 37th ID was reactivated in October 1940 for training at Camp Shelby, Miss. The unit then deployed to the South Pacific theater in 1942 to stop the southward advance of the Japanese Empire in World War II. Buckeye Division Soldiers helped win key battles in the Philippines, including the liberation of Manila.

During the Korean War, the division deployed to Fort Polk, La., but some individuals were sent overseas to fight in Korea. The division was deactivated on Feb. 15, 1968.

"This monument represents the fallen individuals from all three of those wars," said retired Col. Cyril Sedlacko, 37th Infantry Division Vetearans Association executive secretary.

According to Sedlacko, the drive to replace the deteriorating sandstone monument began two years ago when Robert Carpenter, who was present at the first monument dedication ceremony 50 years prior, brought it to Sedlacko's attention that the original monument was in bad condition and needed to be replaced. Through the generosity of living 37th DVA members as well as many widows, family members and friends, more than $10,000 was raised to purchase a solid granite stone weighing 6,500 pounds, a bronze plaque, a new flag pole and a roadside sign to inform passersby of the monument in the park.

"This granite stone will stand the test of time and will physically perpetuate the legacy and heritage of the 37th Division well into the future," Sedlacko said.

Retired Maj. Gen. David Hartley, currently deputy director of joint operations for the Ohio Adjutant General's Department, presented the keynote address. Hartley is a former commander of the 37th Armor Brigade, which carries the colors and lineage of the 37th ID. Units of the 37th Armor Brigade recently served in Kosovo.

Attending the ceremony were four war veterans and members of the Mahoning Valley Chapter of the 37th DVA—James McGinnis, Brownie Szalaj, Edgar Davis and William Skelley—who were present at the first ceremony in 1954.

"Ohio is very proud of this division, most notably its wartime accomplishments, and its contributions to the values and ideals so courageously and bravely held close by its members and their families," Hartley said. "More importantly, Ohio is proud of the 37th Division's Soldiers, who have bravely fought and died to further the cause for freedom and democracy."

The Aug. 22 ceremony held in Hilliar Township Memorial Park—exactly 50 years after the first ceremony—dedicated a sturdy, new monument; one that would ensure that Ohio's storied "Buckeye" Division is not soon forgotten in the annals of American history.■

BELOW LEFT: Four members of the 37th Division fought in World War II and attended both monument dedication ceremonies, 50 years apart—James McGinnis (from left), Brownie Szalaj, Edgar Davis and William Skelly. BELOW: The new monument is unveiled in Hilliar Township Park.

Courtesy photo

Courtesy photo

Veterans Association changes eligibility, offers benefits

The National World War II Memorial dedication ceremony, which took place in May 2004 in Washington, D.C., was a long overdue opportunity to honor the American forces who served in the global conflict that lasted from 1939 to 1945.

For 44 veterans of the famed "Buckeye Division," it was a reverent setting for their 86th Annual Reunion.

Though 53 others—primarily family and friends—also attended the reunion, the 37th Division Veterans Association recognizes that its membership continues to dwindle with each passing year.

In an effort to boost its numbers, the Association changed its by-laws governing membership at the 2003 reunion at Camp Perry. Previously, "Active and Life Memberships" were reserved for "any person who served honorably in any unit of the 37th Infantry Division, in any status, from its inception on July 18, 1917, until its deactivation on Feb. 15, 1968...."

Now, persons who served or who are serving honorably in any "Heritage Unit" of the 37th Infantry Division—mainly comprised of those subordinate units of the Ohio Army National Guard's 37th Armor Briagade—also may be eligible for membership upon application and payment of dues. Spouses, widows and all descendants of eligible applicants can submit for membership as well.

The 37th DVA Executive Committee determines individuals' eligibility status.

The benefits of membership are many—including a quarterly newsletter, reunions, social functions and the 37th DVA Scholarship Grant Program. This year, 14 applicants were awarded scholarship grants in the amount of $500.

The most significant reward for membership, however, is keeping the association, and the memory of the Ohio National Guard's most honorable unit, alive for future generations to appreciate.

Questions regarding the 37th DVA can be directed to (614) 228-3788 Mondays and Wednesdays from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.■ **RETIRED COL CYRIL SEDLACKO** / 37TH DIVISION VETERANS ASSOCIATION

37th DVA Membership Application Form

35 E. Chestnut Street, Room 425, Columbus, Ohio 43215

Membership Dues for 2005: $15 Lifetime Membership Dues: $125

New ___ **Renewal** ___ **Spouse** ___ **Widow** ___ **Descendant** ___ **Associate** ___

Name _____
Last *First* *Middle Initial*

Address _____
Street *City* *State* *Zip Code*

Unit Served(ing) _____ **37th ID:** WWII ___ KW ___ PKW ___

I am the Spouse, Widow or descendant of _____

Navigating a new MOS

Story by Spc. A. Weber, 196th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment and Maj. Nicole M. Gabriel, AGOH-Public Affairs

They say you can't teach an old dog new tricks. But with the help of the Ohio Army National Guard's 145th Regiment, Regional Training Institute, seasoned Soldiers are mastering the skills of a new MOS.

In fact, last summer about 20 Soldiers spent two weeks proving their proficiency as cavalry scouts and graduated from the 19 Delta military occupational specialty reclassification course.

The 19D reclassification course is one of many courses offered by the RTI, located at Rickenbacker Army Enclave in Columbus. Each year about 500 Soldiers from a five-state region that encompasses Ohio, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota and Wisconsin, annually train on and graduate from a variety of courses, such as the 19D, 19K and 14S reclassification courses, basic and advanced NCO courses, Officer Candidate School, Janus and combat lifesaver courses.

About 75 students have graduated from the RTI's 19D course since it began three years ago. Last year's class was particularly significant, however, because the Quality Assurance Office at Fort Knox, Ky., evaluated the course as part of the RTI's national accreditation process.

Cavalry scouts, aka 19 Deltas, are the eyes and ears of the Army; their mission—reconnaissance. In order to become a fully-trained scout, students must complete the RTI's multiphase 19D course, which is composed of six months of individual training weekends and a two-week annual training at Camp Grayling, Mich.

Sgt. Maj. Stephen Mitcham, the RTI operations sergeant major, explained that during the weapons phase, Soldiers learn how to operate and shoot the weapons that are a part of a scout squad, such as the MK-19 grenade launcher, M-60 machine gun, M-2 machine gun and the M-203 grenade launcher. Next, they receive instruction on demolitions and must master disassembling landmines. The maintenance phase teaches them to maintain their weapons, equipment and vehicles. In addition, they must recognize friendly and enemy vehicles and aircraft.

PHOTOS BY SPC. A. WEBER 196TH MPAD

OPPOSITE PAGE: Map reading is a key skill for all potential cavalry scouts. CENTER: Scouts work in four-man teams during a land navigation exercise. LEFT: A Soldier shoots an azimuth as other 19D students get their bearings by locating terrain features on their maps.

Before graduating, students must complete one of the final and most critical phases — the land navigation course, where the students must demonstrate proficiency in reading a map, identifying terrain features, shooting an azimuth, navigating across terrain and using the Global Positioning System. "You can't conduct a reconnaissance if you don't know where you're at," instructor Staff Sgt. Benjamin Lovell said.

Although the students learn how to use the new technology, they also need be able to navigate using only a compass. Instructor Sgt. Anthony Hill said Soldiers are taught navigation skills without the use of a GPS, because it has batteries and compasses do not. "We want to be able to teach them the basics first. We teach scouts here to think," he said. It is the job of a scout to go out and find routes.

"A scout could change the course of war," Hill emphasized.

Students qualify on the land navigation course in a four-man team, with each Soldier rotating through the leader position. This way, if a student runs into trouble, he has three opportunities to pass the phase.

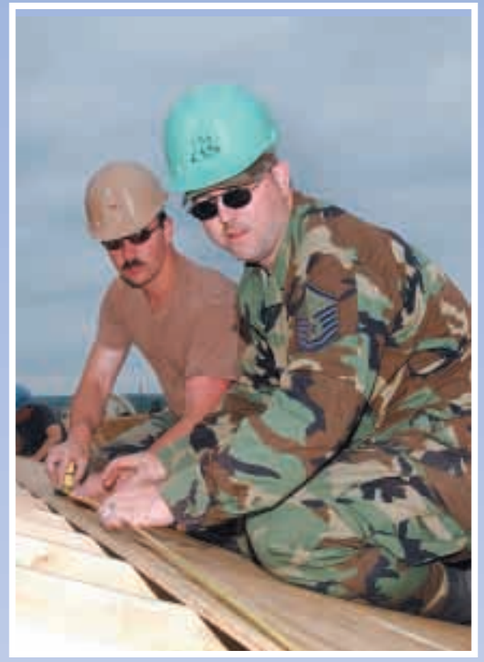
Although the course is targeted for the HMMWV scout, students also learn skills applicable to the 113 Scout. "There is no reason why a soldier who graduates from the course could not jump on a 113 vehicle after the completion of the course," Lovell said.

The differences between a HMMWV scout and a 113 scout are that the mission could change and tactics may be different in how they engage the enemy. A HMMWV scout may operate on a smaller scale, whereas a 113 scout typically works in a division. A 19D HMMWV cavalry scout may be tasked to work in a variety of other missions, such as reconnaissance, security, convoys or searching for weapons.

Whether they are training scouts or future officers and NCOs, the staff and instructors of 145th RTI continue to excel in the Army tradition of training Soldiers with the most qualified instructors. On average, each instructor here has at least 10 years experience. "I feel we (instructors and staff) have had very good leaders when we were young (Soldiers). So now we are able to pass it on to others," Lovell said. "This is a great school. This is a great MOS. We're proud of what we do."■

JOINT TEAMWORK

Photos by Staff. Sgt. Douglas Nicodemus ◆◆◆ 121st Air Refueling Wing



OPPOSITE PAGE: TSgt Andrew Gordon, an electrician with the 121st Air Refueling Wing Civil Engineering Squadron, pours concrete during a deployment to Fort Leonard Wood, Mo. ABOVE: SFC David Gann (right) and MSgt Ryan Dalton discuss plans for a warm-up shelter to be built in the bulldozer training area. RIGHT: TSgt Ronald Bird (left) and MSgt Ryan Dalton take a measurement while installing the roof on a building at Fort Leonard Wood, using a combination of traditional and insulated concrete form construction.

121st Civil Engineers team with Army, train on new construction method

The 121st Civil Engineering Squadron, based at Rickenbacker Airport in Columbus, sent 26 personnel in May 2004 to Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., to assist the Army's 557th Engineer Battalion with several construction projects to improve the installation's heavy equipment training area. That particular training area is a true joint services complex, as all branches train there on various pieces of heavy equipment, according to Maj. Mike Troxel, 121st Civil Engineering Squadron commander.

The training projects included a new warm-up building for the bulldozer operations site and three sunshades—for the compressor site, roller site and Army loader site. In addition, 121st electricians installed four separate underground electrical services to buildings throughout the complex, and nearly completed a lightning protection project for another large storage-training building.

"The deployment was a win-win situation for all," Troxel said. "The CE squadron received invaluable training in areas that they cannot train on at home, while the Army received much-needed assistance in providing quality of life services to the students they support.

"And the (121st CE) personnel (who) deployed gained memories to last a lifetime," Troxel said.■ **121ST AIR REFUELING WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS**

OHIO'S BEST

The best Soldiers, Airmen, noncommissioned and junior commissioned officers in the Ohio Army and Air National Guard from 2003 were selected and announced in 2004.The people chosen were deemed among the best and brightest in their career paths from among the 15,000 men and women in the Ohio Guard. Winners for calendar year 2004 were announced in early 2005 and will be featured in a future issue of the *Buckeye Guard.*

Ohio Air National Guard

Airman of the Year - Senior Airman Anthony Hanson
Air Surveillance/Interface Control Technician, 123rd Air Control Squadron, Blue Ash

Senior Airman Anthony Hanson is a dual-qualified air surveillance and interface control technician assigned to the 123rd Air Control Squadron (ACS). His second Air Force Specialty Code was earned while he was deployed to Kirkuk, Iraq, in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, thus becoming the youngest dual-qualified member of the operations section. Hanson was selected to attend the Weapons Director School and attend the Multi-Tadil Advanced Joint Interoperability Course (MAJIC), a course usually attended by senior service personnel. Hanson is majoring in business administration at Edison Community College in Piqua. He devotes his free time to coaching youth wrestling at Piqua High School.

NCO of the Year - Tech. Sgt. Elizabeth Brocklehurst
Recruiter Specialist, 220th Engineering Installation Squadron, Zanesville

Tech. Sgt. Elizabeth Brocklehurst was one of the first 10 graduates in the Geometrics Engineering Program at Ohio State University and has worked in three civil engineering and surveying firms in Columbus and Zanesville. She has served in the 220th Engineering and Installation Squadron since she returned from basic training in 1992. Brocklehurst was selected to her current position in September 2003. She lives in Nashport with her husband, Dean. Active in sports and music since high school, she still spends her free time playing sports, gardening or cooking.

Senior NCO of the Year - Master Sgt. Ottis LeMaster
Mission Support Group First Sergeant, 178th Fighter Wing, Springfield

Master Sgt. Ottis LeMaster served in the 178th Maintenance Squadron for 14 years, during which time he was dual qualified in weapon control systems on A-7 jet aircraft and the avionics flight line for F-16 jets. In 2001, he became the first sergeant for the 178th Mission Support Group, where he is responsible for promoting the welfare, morale and health of enlisted personnel, as well as assisting the commander in maintaining discipline and standards. LeMaster also serves as vice president of the 178th Fighter Wing First Sergeants Council. He is a driver-trainer at United Parcel Service and a pastor at the New Life Worship Center of Jamestown. LeMaster and his wife, Laura, have three daughters—Logan, Tara and Hannah.

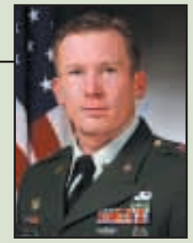
First Sergeant of the Year - Senior Master Sgt. Richard Bennett
Combat Support Flight Superintendent, 269th Combat Communications Squadron, Springfield

Senior Master Sgt. Richard Bennett joined the Ohio Air National Guard soon after graduation from Northeastern High School in 1977, where he excelled in sports and was a member of the National Honor Society. During his career, Bennett has been recognized as an exemplary leader on many occasions. In addition to the Air Force Meritorious Service Medal and four Outstanding Unit Awards he has received during his career, in 2002, while assigned to the 332nd Expeditionary Communications Squadron, Ahmed Al Jaber Air Base, Kuwait, Bennett was selected as the Outstanding Senior NCO for the 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing. Bennett and his wife, Pamela, have three children—Allison, Stephanie and Ricky.

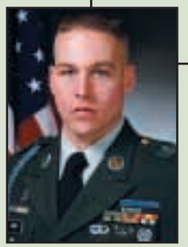
Compiled by Command Chief Master Sgt. Richard A. Smith, formerly of Headquarters, Ohio ANG

Ohio ArmyNational Guard

Traditional Soldier of the Year - Spc. Francis Martynowski
Field Medical Specialist, Headquarters, 1-134th Field Artillery Battalion, Columbus



Spc. Francis Martynowski is field medical specialist with an intensive background in parachuting. He is a graduate of Airborne School as well as the Parachute Rigger Course. He graduated from Ohio State University with a bachelor's degree in 2002. Martynowski has a commercial pilot's license and belongs to various parachute associations. During his years as in the Army, he has served in both Panama and Korea. Martynowski is a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, U.S. Parachute Association and the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association. During his military career, he has been awarded the Army Commendation Medal and Army Achievement Medal on several occasions.



Traditional NCO of the Year - Sgt. John Chupa
Infantry Noncommissioned Officer, B Company, 1-148th Infantry Battalion, Bowling Green

Sgt. John Chupa has served the Army for five years. During that time, he has held numerous positions in the infantry field—from rifleman to M-60 machine gunner, senior scout, sniper team leader and weapons squad leader. Born in Youngstown, Chupa is currently attending Youngstown State University. He is a graduate of the Army Primary Leadership Development Course, as well as Airborne and Air Assault Schools. In addition to being awarded an Army Commendation Medal and the Army Achievement Medal three times, Chupa has earned the Expert Infantryman's Badge.

Compiled by Master Sgt. Mitch Gorsuch, Joint Force Headquarters-Ohio

Ohio Soldiers face challenges of regionals

Two of Ohio's premier Soldiers—Spec. Francis Martynowski, Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 1-134th Field Artillery Battalion, and Sgt. John Chupa, Company B, 1-148th Infantry Battalion—competed in the 1st Army West Region Soldier/NCO of the Year Board May 3-6, 2004, at Volk Field, Wisc.

These Soldiers competed against six other states that make up the 1st U.S. Army West Region. All Soldiers competed in several events: individual weapons qualification (IWQ), Common Task Testing (CTT), Army Physical Fitness Test (APFT), written essay, land navigation, written exam, mystery event and appearance board (in Class A uniform).

Both Soldiers went away with a greater appreciation of what it means to compete at the regional level. They learned how fierce the competition is, and how stressful those three days can be. The weather, as usual, did not cooperate for IWQ, land navigation or CTT. The temperature hovered around 37 degrees and it rained continually throughout that day. However, on the day of the APFT the weather cleared, and it bode well for Chupa, who was the only competitor to max the event with a perfect score.

The Ohio National Guard Enlisted Association (ONGEA) recognized each Soldier at the organization's state conference, held in May near Cleveland, by presenting them with several awards and gifts.

"I would be honored to serve with these outstanding Soldiers any time, any place," said Command Sgt. Maj. Bill Gilliam, OHARNG state command sergeant major. "Congratulations to Spec. Martynowski and Sgt. Chupa for their outstanding achievements and also to their leadership, who encouraged them to achieve at this level." **STATE COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR'S OFFICE**

Courtesy photo

CSM Bill Gilliam (center) poses with SGT John Chupa (left) and SPC Francis Martynowski, who competed at the 1st U.S. Army West Region Soldier/NCO of the Year Board competition.

SPC Aaron Reedy / 1-107th Armor Battalion

1-107th Armor Soldiers train at Fort Bragg, N.C.

Armor tankers train for new overseas mission in Iraq

Soldiers of the 1-107th Armor Battalion traded in their tanker boots for a lighter version in preparation for a deployment to Iraq.

After receiving the news in October 2003 that they were heading to Iraq, the armor Soldiers of the Stow-headquartered unit spent about three months at Fort Bragg, N.C., learning new skills and training for their new mission with the 30th Enhanced Separate Brigade (ESB).

As part of that mission, the tankers temporarily became combat infantrymen, trading in not only their boots, but also their M-1 Abrams tanks for up-armored HMMWVs (Highly Mobile Multi-Wheeled Vehicles, or "humvees").

The training at Fort Bragg focused on conducting Military Operations in Urban Terrain (MOUT). The Soldiers learned the valuable skills of conducting searches, raids, combat patrols and vehicle convoys—missions the unit was likely to perform while in theater.

The basis for this training came directly from the lessons learned by Soldiers who already had performed those types of operations in Iraq. Instructors from the Joint Readiness Training Center (JRTC) at Fort Polk, La., evaluated the training to ensure the 1-107th Soldiers were ready.

Prior to the deployment, most members, including Spc. Kevin Fowler, said they were excited about going to help Iraqis.

"I feel that we still need to be over there helping (them) to establish their own government," he said.

Other members of the armor battalion were attached to a West Virginia Army National Guard unit, also a part of the 30th ESB.

In January 2005, all members of the unit returned home safely from their approximately yearlong deployment, welcomed back in their unit hometowns by family, friends and community members. **SPC AARON REEDY** / 1-107TH ARMOR BATTALION

ONG hasn't forgotten its hometown missions

The Ohio National Guard continues its commitment to the state and its communities in this time of numerous overseas deployments in support of the Global War on Terrorism. In September, Gov. Bob Taft declared a state of emergency in 18 counties due to flooding.

The Ohio Air National Guard provided Belmont County with engineering equipment and Airmen from the 200th Red Horse Squadron to assist with debris issues, and the Army National Guard provided Soldiers from the 838th Military Police Company for security assistance. Five 5-ton trucks with drivers from the 2-174th Air Defense Artillery Battalion assisted with evacuation and hauling, and six 500-gallon "water buffalo" trailers were utilized throughout the county. **AGOH-PUBLIC AFFAIRS**

Enlisted association draws strength in its numbers

The Ohio National Guard Enlisted Association is looking for its members' support. ONGEA is the voice for Ohio's Soldiers and Airmen. As a member of the U.S. Armed Services, you already stand up for what you believe.

Now help the ONGEA and the Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States (EANGUS) stand up for your rights and benefits as a servicemember. That was the message at the association's annual conference conducted in 2004 near Cleveland. The larger the organization's membership numbers, the more collective power it has to work with Congress to enact legislation favorable to the Guard.

"While we have answered the call, we must remain vigilant to our own organizational needs," said Command Sgt. Maj. William L. Gilliam, Ohio Army National Guard state command sergeant major. "Your membership helps turn up the volume on issues that affect all of our enlisted personnel, whether deployed or at home. The more voices that are heard to recommend these changes and improvements for our service personnel, the more successes we can have. If you are already a member of ONGEA and EANGUS, discuss the benefits of membership to another individual in your unit and get them to join. Our most valuable resource is our people, so we must strive to take care of their needs."

Spouses of servicemembers have come together to support ONGEA by joining the Ohio National Guard Enlisted Association Auxiliary. "With so many of our ONGEA members currently deployed and with additional deployments imminent, I encourage all spouses to join the Auxiliary in order to better support our troops and to serve as a source of comfort for one another," said Nancy J. McDowell, ONGEA Auxiliary President.

For more information on the ONGEA or to become a member, go to *www.ongea.org* on the Internet, or call (800) 642-6642. **CPL SUSAN JAMES** / JFHQ-OHIO

Freedom Tree

SSG Ronald A. Mitchell / Joint Force HQ-Ohio

SSG Ellis Broughton of the 216th Engineer Battalion, which was deployed to Iraq, had a Christmas wish for all of the deployed OHARNG Soldiers last year. Broughton's wish was to have a Christmas tree with every deployed Soldier's picture on it. Due to the timing of the wish, it had to be modified slightly in that the pictures of the Soldiers would be replaced with their names, no small task since about 3,000 names had to be placed on the ornaments. The Hilliard-Rome Wal-Mart donated the tree and students from New Albany Elementary School's fourth- and fifth-grade student council made and colored the card-stock ornaments for the tree. Additional ornaments were donated by the employees of Beightler Armory complex.

Equal opportunity vital to National Guard's success

Combining people of assorted races, religions, genders, national origins and a medley of civilian-acquired job skills makes for a very powerful force. This is what the National Guard is composed of—a hodgepodge of talent and diversity.

With this vast diversity, an immense responsibility to the Soldier is placed in the hands of National Guard leaders. This responsibility is to maintain unit cohesion, and establish work environments for military members free of discrimination and harassment.

To accomplish this goal of a discrimination- and harassment-free environment, National Guard Bureau (NGB) enacted the Equal Opportunity (EO) Program. The objective of this program is to formulate, direct, and sustain a comprehensive effort that ensures fair treatment of all Soldiers.

"Equal Opportunity in all our employment programs and diversity at all levels of the workforce is a firm commitment of the Adjutant General's Department and the Ohio National Guard," said Maj. Gen. Gregory L. Wayt, state adjutant general. "In addition to fair treatment and equal access to employment opportunities, we must build and perpetuate a culture that values the diversity our employees bring to the organization."

Since 9-11, guardmembers have been deploying more than ever. Not only do they interact with other servicemembers throughout the world, but they deploy to countries with different cultures and values, and their job is to maintain peace with the natives. It is very important that these Citizen-Soldiers understand that there are differences in another person's belief system and they need to learn how to adjust and accept another's values. This is an important contribution the EO program makes to its servicemembers.

"The EO program is about getting a group of diverse people together and working with cohesion," said Staff Sgt. Clifford Nicol, senior administrative noncommissioned officer in the EO Office. "As Soldiers serving with honor and integrity, we must all fight against negative influences, such as extremism, as we strive to achieve unit cohesion and mission accomplishment." **CPL SUSAN JAMES** / JFHQ-OHIO

Log on to *www.ohionationalguard.com* to voice your opinions about Army programs that affect you and your family members.

Website launched for feedback on programs

Want to tell the Army what you think about the family, health and personnel services you or your family received while you were mobilized as a member of the Ohio Army National Guard?

Then you and your family members need to visit *www.ohionationalguard.com* today to fill out an online customer survey card at the Ohio National Guard's Well-Being website. Here you can submit your comments and suggestions about family readiness programs, Tricare and employer support. Your feedback is critical to the success of this program.

Simply log on to *www.ohionationalguard.com* and scroll to the "What's New" section on the home page. Click on the Well-Being website to access the Interactive Customer Evaluation (ICE) system. Soldiers with access to the Ohio Army Guard intranet site, OH-TAGNet, also can access the ICE website by clicking on the "Well-Being/I.C.E." tab.

How do you fill out a survey card? It's as EASY as 1,2,3:

❖ After accessing the Ohio Army National Guard's ICE website through *www.ohionationalguard.com* or OH-TAGNet, choose from the three service categories on the page: Family, Health or Personnel Services. Each will take you to comment cards within that category.

❖ Fill out the comment cards.

❖ Click the "Submit Comment Card" to send your comments.

If you experience problems accessing the Well-Being website, contact the Ohio National Guard Public Affairs Office at (614) 336-7000. **AGOH-PUBLIC AFFAIRS**

Steve Toth / AGOH-Public Affairs

First Lady of Ohio Hope Taft announces the "On the Ohio Homefront" initiative to help families of deployed servicemembers.

First Lady's website links families with services

In response to the outpouring of love and concern by Ohioans for the families of military personnel who have recently been deployed, First Lady of Ohio Hope Taft has created the "On the Ohio Homefront" initiative.

Taft announced the launching of her new website, *www.homefront.ohio.gov,* Nov. 13 in St. Mary's at the send-off ceremony for Company A, 612th Engineer Battalion, which deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The purpose of the project is to connect families of deployed servicemembers with a network of organizations and businesses that offer volunteer assistance and discounted services to help ease the family burden while their loved ones are away supporting the nation in the Global War on Terrorism.

"Volunteers can help out with everything from lawn care to home repairs, even cooking," Taft said. "I am proud to be a part of this effort to give a helping hand to our Ohio military personnel who are actively serving our country."

Several businesses and organizations have already registered, offering various services. Families of military personnel can access these services by browsing the list of organizations, searching by county or searching within a distance from their homes. **OFFICE OF THE FIRST LADY**

Courtesy photo

Ohio Army National Guard Soldiers are among those who competed in the Marksmanship Advisory Council Region 4 matches last summer at Camp Perry.

Ohio shooters compete in MAC Region 4 matches

The Ohio Army National Guard participated in the Marksmanship Advisory Council (MAC) Region 4 matches last summer. The rifle match was held June 12 at Camp Perry. Teams from three states—Ohio, Michigan and Indiana—competed.

Some states had more than one team competing. Indiana's gold team won the team competition; Ohio's No. 1 team placed fourth.

The sniper match was held July 23-25 at Camp Atterbury, Ind., making it the third year in a row at this location. This match was attended by teams from Minnesota, Illinois and Indiana. The support for the match was provided by Small Arms Readiness Training Section (SARTS) team members from Wisconsin, Michigan, Ohio and Indiana, making it truly a regional match. This competition is a grueling 24 hours straight, a tune-up for the Winston P. Wilson match, a weeklong national event held each October. **SFC DAVID McCRARY** / MAC COUNCIL REGION 4

ONG conducts GuardCare for first time in urban area

Lucas County was selected as the site for GuardCare 2004, a National Guard program that provides free health services while contributing to the Guard's military training in medical services. National Guard medics from across Ohio convened on two separate weekends in August at the Lucas County Health Department in Toledo for the 11th annual GuardCare program.

GuardCare is hosted in a different medically underserved Ohio community each year. This marked the first time that GuardCare reached out to an urban community. Guardmembers treated a record-setting 1,291 civilian patients over the two weekends; nearly 75 percent of patients were children.

Medics provided services such as physicals, immunizations, blood work, and hearing, eye and dental exams. Follow-up is coordinated by the county health department, which, along with the Ohio Department of Health, are partners with the Ohio Guard in this endeavor.

"We realize a great number of people are not getting the checkups they need. We make sure they're up to date health wise, and let them know where they stand," said 1st Lt. Bernie Anderson, officer-in-charge of the mission. "They also get to come and see us do what we do as Citizen-Soldiers. We're doing the same for them as we do for our Soldiers."

In 2005, GuardCare will be visiting Washington County in southeastern Ohio. **SPC CHAD MENEGAY** / 196TH MPAD (REAR)

Viale Memorial Mess reveres unit's MOH recipients

The 1-148th Infantry (Mechanized) Viale Memorial Mess took place March 27, 2004, at the Holiday Inn Ballroom in Lima. The event was attended by about 150 past and present 148th Infantry officers and enlisted men and their spouses.

Retired Brig. Gen. Charles Viale was the keynote speaker. Viale is the son of 2nd Lt. Robert M. Viale, who was a platoon leader in K Company, 148th Infantry, and was awarded the Medal of Honor for sacrificing his life during the liberation of Manila during World War II.

Retired Lt. Col. Elmer Heindl gave the invocation and benediction. Heindl was the chaplain of the 2nd Battalion, 148th Infantry during WW II and was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross, Silver Star and Bronze Star for Valor. The 92-year-old veteran has remained active with the 148th Infantry Veterans Association and 37th Division Veterans Association since the war ended.

One of the many highlights of the evening came when an oil painting of Pvt. Rodger Young was unveiled for the first time. The painting had just arrived from Korea, where it was painted. The Young painting is to hang in the 148th Infantry Museum that is being assembled at the Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1-148th Infantry, armory in Lima. **SSG JOSHUA MANN** / JFHQ-OHIO

MPs help support wall of memories

Courtesy photo

The 323rd Military Police company supported the traveling Dignity Memorial Vietnam Wall Experience that was on display July 2-4 in Toledo. After a request for support from Ottawa Hills Memorial Park, the event's local hosts, CPT Jeffrey Buck (above), company commander, and the unit were able to provide camo netting for the backside of the three-quarters replica wall in order to complete its appearance.

612th joins other engineer units supporting Global War on Terror

On a day to remember those military veterans who have paid the ultimate sacrifice for freedom as well as those currently serving, a young sergeant stood at a door holding a red rose near his camouflaged uniform as he waited for his loved ones following a deployment ceremony for elements of the 612th Engineer Battalion.

The sergeant, a member of Company C of the 612th, spent Veterans Day paying respect to the sacrifice of those that went before him—as well as joining his fellow Soldiers in their own sendoff ceremony on the eve of the unit's deployment to Iraq. More than 100 Soldiers from Company C, based in Norwalk, gathered for the ceremony.

The following evening, support for members of Company B, based in Tiffin and Fremont, was so overwhelming that guests were forced to line the walls of the auditorium at at Owens Community College in Toledo.

Speaking to a group of soldiers and their families, 612th Battalion Commander Lt. Col. Tris Cooper said, "To the families, I want you to know that your Soldier's mission is truly a just and worthwhile cause." Earlier in the week Cooper spent some time at his daughter's high school speaking with students and faculty. Choking back tears, Cooper shared part of his conversation with the crowd. "They ask me why I do this. My answer is pretty simple—I do it so they don't have to, I do it for their future and the future of my children and my children's children," said Cooper. "When called, you respond, ready to go, with an enthusiasm and motivation that only an American Soldier possesses."

Like their fellow Soldiers that deployed before them, the Soldiers of the 612th also knew being deployed was a possibility, but now it has become a reality.

"We've just been waiting on a date to be deployed," said Spc. Russell Butler III. "We are all coming together—we all know we're going to the same place, we are all going to be there for each other so we might as well settle in and get ready for it."

Seeing the unit off were well wishers both young and old, including World War II Navy veteran John Selka.

"I don't like to see them go," said the 81-year-old Selka. "You've gotta give them support because their putting their neck out there. Just keep your head down, that's all I can say." **SGT HARAZ N. GHANBARI** / JFHQ-OHIO

Newark CSMS earns recognition

The Ohio Army National Guard's Combined Support Maintenance Shop in Newark was awarded the International Organization of Standards 9001:2000 registration in an Oct. 19 recognition ceremony.

Very few military or government organizations achieve this status, which puts the CSMS on par with manufacturing and service corporations in the civilian sector.

The International Organization of Standards (ISO) establishes business practice standards accepted worldwide, and registration is limited to organizations that pass a series of detailed audits to determine compliance. Beginning in February 2004, the CSMS worked to pass both internal and external audits conducted by Perry Johnson Consulting, Inc. **CPT RANDEL ROGERS** / CSMS

Courtesy photo

The Ohio Army National Guard's Combined Support Maintenance Shop in Newark was awarded the International Organization of Standards 9001:2000 registration in an Oct. 19 recognition ceremony, a rare accomplishment for a military or governmental organization.

324th MP Soldiers finally back on Buckeye soil

At the gates of Patrick Kessler Armory, Middletown, stood Pfc. Trinity Davis and Pfc. Jason Cottingham. They were standing guard Sept. 1 to assist the family members and friends in welcoming home the 324th Military Police Company from a tour of duty in Iraq.

About 60 Citizen-Soldiers of the MP Company were mobilized for Operation Iraqi Freedom in February 2003, just prior to Davis joining the unit. "These Soldiers seeing their family and friends for the first time in a while is unbelievable," said Davis as she directed guests to parking areas. She and Cottingham were assigned to welcome the guests for the unit's return home.

The unit was notified in April 2004 that it would be extended for about 90 days beyond its one-year "boots on the ground," making it the Ohio Army National Guard unit with the longest deployment in Iraq to date. Prior to this mobilization, the unit was called up after the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks to augment security during Operation Noble Eagle at Ohio airports and at Fort Bragg, N.C. They were also mobilized for Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm in 1990.

Ashley Mentz, wife of Spc. Branden Mentz, was full of emotion, excitement and nervousness all at the same time. They have an infant son whom Spc. Mentz met for the first time during the 10 days he was home for Christmas in 2003. "Things may be a little awkward at first, but I am so happy to have him back," Mrs. Mentz said. **MSGT LEE TROMPETER BURGY** / 555TH AIR FORCE BAND

SrA Janet Dougherty / 180th Fighter Wing

MSgt Maryanne Jankowski (left) checks nametapes of 180th Fighter Wing Airmen who participated in last summer's Operational Readiness Inspection (ORI).

180th FW aces national-level ORI inspection

For three years prior, Toledo's 180th Fighter Wing prepared for the unit's July 2004 Operational Readiness Inspection.

The unit's dilligence paid off as it received an excellent rating, the second highest rating a unit can earn. That rating meant the 180th's overall performance or operation exceeds mission requirements in areas such as the unit's initial response, employment, mission support and ability to survive and operate in a national emergency or war-time situation.

About 860 Airmen from the 180th participated in the ORI. The Inspection began July 14 with a mobilization exercise, which tested the unit's recall rosters and accuracy of individual personnel readiness folders. The inspection consisted of two more phases—July 15-17 at the unit and July 19- 21 at the Phelps-Collins Air National Guard Base, Combat Readiness Training Center (CRTC), located in Alpena, Mich.

The 180th FW's primary mission is to provide combat-ready F-16C/D fighter jets and crews, and combat support units capable of deploying rapidly woldwide in the event of a national emergency or war.

Equipped with the F-16C/D Fighting Falcon jet fighter, the unit trains to employ conventional air-to-surface and air-to-air weapons from its aircraft to protect U.S. and allied security interests. **180TH FIGHTER WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS**

Todd Cramer / AGOH-Photo Lab

MSgt Stephen Thompson (third from left) is inducted into the Ohio Military Hall of Fame at the Statehouse by U.S. Rep. Pat Tiberi (second from left) and state Sen. David Goodman (left).

Ohio Military Hall of Fame inducts Air Guardmember

To be inducted into a hall of fame is a tremendous honor. It means that you are the "best of the best," have overcome a great challenge, and have brought great respect and admiration to those in your profession.

This is the case with Master Sgt. Stephen Thompson from the 178th Fighter Wing Civil Engineering Squadron, Springfield.

On May 7, Thompson was inducted into the Ohio Military Hall of Fame. On average, only 12 people receive the award each year. To become eligible for this distinction, the recipient must have either been born in the state of Ohio or conscripted into service from Ohio and they must have earned a U.S. military medal for valor. Thompson was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with "V" Device for serving in the Army during the Vietnam War.

To read more about Thompson's valorous actions on July 23, 1970, check out *www.ohioheroes.org* on the Internet, or visit the permanent Ohio Military Hall of Fame exhibit at Motts Military Museum in Groveport. **MSGT GREG RUSH** / 178TH FIGHTER WING

Retired Airman receives promotion to Ohio EMA post

Gov. Bob Taft announced the appointment of Nancy Dragani as executive director of the Ohio Emergency Management Agency, effective Jan. 9.

As Ohio EMA executive director, Dragani leads the state's coordinated response to both man-made and natural disasters, administers the State Homeland Security Funding Program, oversees the State of Ohio Emergency Operations Center and disaster recovery, mitigation, radiological safety and preparedness efforts.

Dragani has more than 22 years in local, state and federal service; 10 of those years with Ohio EMA; and she recently retired from the Ohio Air National Guard. **AGOH-PUBLIC AFFAIRS**

Officer assists with rules of engagement

An Ohio Air National Guard lawyer helped make history for Japanese forces serving in Iraq.

Col. Frank Titus, staff judge advocate for Headquarters, Ohio Air National Guard, was teaching an international humanitarian law course in June 2003 at the Yokusaka Naval Activity, Japan, when Japanese officials approached him about helping them draft Rules of Engagement (ROE) for an upcoming deployment to Iraq.

Titus is an instructor for the Complex Humanitarian Assistance Response Training Course (CHART). The course, which was sponsored by the United Nations (U.N.) and the U.S. Pacific Command, included lectures on international law definitions and history, Geneva Conventions, U.N. Charter, human rights law, Status of Forces Agreements (SOFA), Status of Mission Agreement (SOMA) and Rules of Engagement (ROE).

"My last block of instruction was on Rules of Engagement (ROE)," Titus said. "After I left the podium, I was intercepted by a senior official from the Ministry of Defense." The official asked if Titus would assist them in drafting ROE for Japanese forces deploying to Iraq. The proposed ROE that Titus helped draft were later submitted to and voted upon by the Japanese legislature, called the Diet, he said.

"That deployment took place," he said. "Those ROE are in place in Iraq today." The deployment was significant as it was the first time Japanese military forces have deployed for civil-military operations outside of Japan since Word War II, he said.

Titus said he always wanted to do something positive as an affirmation of the friendship the two countries now have. "I think this is one of the most important things I've done in my life," said Titus, who retired from the Ohio Air Guard in 2004. **1LT DAN ROCHE** / HQ, OHIO ANG

Guardmember named top student photojournalist

The Ohio News Photographers Association named Sgt. Haraz Ghanbari, a Soldier assigned to the Joint Force Headquarters-Ohio Public Affairs Office, as its 2003 Student Photographer of the Year, and the National Press Photographer's Association named Ghanbari the 2003-2004 National Student Photographer of the Year in its Clip Contest Competition.

A recent graduate of Kent State University, Ghanbari earned a bachelor's degree in visual journalism. He has been a member of the *Buckeye Guard* staff since December 2000. Prior to being assigned to JFHQ, he was a member of the 196th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment.

Ghanbari

The 23-year-old Ghanbari started shooting pictures at the age of 15. His photos have appeared in the *New York Times, USA Today, Washington Post, MSNBC.Com, CNN, The Columbus Dispatch, The Cleveland Plain Dealer, The Akron Beacon Journal* and several other publications across the country and around the world. He currently works for The Associated Press in Washington, D.C. **AGOH-PUBLIC AFFAIRS**

Taft appoints retired colonel as VA head

Robert J. Labadie was appointed director of the Governor's Office of Veterans' Affairs, effective April 12, 2004, by Gov. Bob Taft. Labadie previously served as State Facilities Management Officer for the Ohio Adjutant General's Department.

Labadie, 55, serves as senior advisor to the governor on issues affecting veterans such as employment, education, health, welfare and federal funding. He also helps develop policy and acts as a liaison to state agencies and the Ohio Legislature.

Labadie began his military career in 1968, when he enlisted in the Army and trained as a Nike-Hercules Missile operator. He more recently served as director of logistics for the Ohio Army National Guard, and as executive officer of both the Ohio Army National Guard's 107th Armored Cavalry Regiment and 437th Military Police Battalion. He retired from active military service in 1998 at the rank of colonel. Labadie has received numerous military awards, including the Silver Star, Purple Heart and Combat Infantry Badge. **AGOH-PUBLIC AFFAIRS**

Former OHARNG member jumps to honor 9-11

Two men crouched low by the door, one glanced down at his wristwatch and nodded at his partner. The door popped open, the engine cut back and they stepped out onto the ledge. The two fell from sight and the pilot immediately banked hard to the left before nose diving toward the earth. He zoomed to meet them at the drop site, trying to land before they touched ground. Fresh parachutes were hastily donned, the skydivers raced to the Cessna braking to a stop near the runway and they once more ascended to 2,500 feet.

Depending upon such factors as how quickly parachutes were packed, and which pilot was on rotation, this process was repeated as quickly as once every five minutes, if the pilot was intent on racing them to the ground. The jumps continued almost unabated from sun-up until sundown on Sept. 11, 2004, stopping only when the crews prepared for their special event to honor those whose lives were most impacted by the events three years before.

David Hart, event organizer and a former member of the erstwhile Ohio Army National Guard 77th Pathfinders, formulated a plan that involved skydiving, a sport he began while in the Army, as a way to pay tribute to the families of those lost in the destruction and the Soldiers fighting the Global War on Terror.

"I also wanted to create awareness for the families of deployed Ssoldiers, their sacrifice and struggles," Hart said.

To raise awareness of his cause, Hart, who skydives competitively for Selection.com-Team Fastrax, attempted setting an unofficial world record for the most formation (two people or more) skydives within a 24-hour period. But he needed help.

Hart called two friends from the Pathfinders, Staff Sgt. Ken Fischer, currently a member of Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 2-19th Special Forces Group of the West Virginia Guard, and Jim McCambridge, who is no longer in the military.

Hart and all of his volunteers collected $1,000 in Meijer gift certificates for family support groups.

Their "unofficial" record was sent to Guinness World Records, which requested video documentation. **SPC MICHELLE MORGAN** / JFHQ-OHIO

Delivering thanks from a grateful nation

Courtesy photo

Ohio Army National Guard SSG Paul Brondhaver (right) of the 216th Engineer Battalion and his wife, Lisa, meet President George W. Bush last August in Cincinnati at the national Veterans of Foreign Wars Convention. Brondhaver received the Purple Heart for injuries sustained when his convoy was attacked July 7 north of Baghdad, the same incident in which his driver and fellow unit member, Pfc. Samuel Bowen, was killed.

Steve Toth / AGOH-Public Affairs

MSG William Ansley speaks after receiving the OHARNG's BG Robert E. Rowe Quality Award in 2004.

Ansley earns honor as Rowe Quality Award recipient

People are his business, so it wasn't much of a surprise that Sgt. 1st Class William Ansley was named the Ohio Army National Guard's 2003 Brig. Gen. Robert E. Rowe Quality Award recipient for several programs which he initiated to help Soldiers prepare for change of duty status.

"Ansley won this award because of his contributions to teamwork within the organization, his elimination of waste and conservation of human resources," said Master Sgt. Larry Hale, Ohio Guard quality advisor.

Ansley helped initiate a program that allowed Active Guard/Reserve (AGR) Soldiers within two years of retirement to participate in a Transition Assistance Program (TAP).

"This transition to civilian life class teaches retirees how to write resumes and how to dress (for interviews), basically how to walk, talk and eat like a civilian," said Ansley, who serves as Joint Force Headquarters-Ohio services sergeant for human resources.

Ansley also was involved in the mobilization process during Soldier Readiness Processing (SRP), leading a team that ensured Ohio Soldiers transitioned smoothly when deploying on to active duty and back to civilian life upon their return home.

Thanks to his efforts, mobilization stations at Fort Lee and Fort Bliss accept OHARNG personnel records as source documents from Ohio National Guard Soldiers, meaning that instead of waiting until Guardmembers return to their home units to fix the paperwork, active-duty personnel can translate documentation, originally provided by the OHARNG, saving time and increasing overall efficiency for the military. **SPC MICHELLE MORGAN** / JFHQ-OHIO

Guardmembers can save by utilizing tax breaks

Two tax deductions that reserve componenet servicemembers may utilize during the 2004 filing season could provide a significant money savings. One is for those who aren't deployed and are in an Inactive Duty for Training (IDT), or drill status; the other may benefit those servicemembers while they are federally activated:

❖ **Overnight Travel Deduction.** Congress has enacted a tax deduction, for reserve component servicemembers who travel more than 100 miles from their home of record to the location where they regularly perform monthly drills.

Members may deduct overnight transportation, meals and lodging—to the extent these items would be reimbursed under military regulations. These expenses are deductible even if the taxpayer does not itemize deductions or if miscellaneous itemized deductions are less than 2 percent of the taxpayer's adjusted gross income.

When using one's own automobile to travel to drill, mileage may be deducted at the current federal rate of 36 cents per mile. Meals and overnight lodging are deductible up to the maximum per diem ($245 per drill weekend).

For details, see Internal Revenue Service Publication No. 3, the *Armed Forces Tax Guide for 2004,* page 4.

❖ **FICA Tax Break for Mobilized Guardmembers.** Some civilian employers continue to pay mobilized servicemembers or pay the difference between their civilian and military pay while they are active duty. The IRS does not consider these payments as wages for FICA tax purposes. Many employers continue to withhold FICA taxes on these payments erroneously. Affected members should ask their employer for reimbursement of the withheld amount. Employers should file an amended income tax return using IRS Form 941. Employers should want to file the amended return because the IRS should refund any FICA taxes erroneously paid on the supplemental wages.

Get free taxpayer assistance from the IRS at *www.irs.gov* or (800) 829-1040.

ADJ. GEN. DEPT. JUDGE ADVOCATE GENERAL OFFICE

Reserve Pay for 4 Drill Periods

Unofficial Copy (Effective **Jan. 1, 2005**)

YEARS OF SERVICE

	<2	2	3	4	6	8	10	12	14	16	18	20	22	24	26
Grade															
O-10	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	00.0	1728.40	1736.88	1773.00	1835.92
O-9	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1511.72	1533.48	1564.96	1619.88
O-8	1069.64	1104.68	1127.92	1134.44	1163.40	1211.92	1223.16	1269.20	1282.40	1322.04	1379.40	1432.32	1467.68	1467.68	1467.68
O-7	888.80	930.08	949.20	964.40	991.88	1019.00	1050.44	1081.80	1113.20	1211.92	1295.28	1295.28	1295.28	1295.28	1295.28
O-6	658.76	723.72	771.20	771.20	774.12	807.32	811.72	811.72	857.84	939.40	987.28	1035.12	1062.36	1089.88	1143.40
O-5	549.16	618.64	661.48	669.52	696.20	712.24	747.40	773.20	806.48	857.48	881.76	905.76	933.00	933.00	933.00
O-4	473.84	548.52	585.12	593.28	627.24	663.68	709.00	744.36	768.88	782.96	791.16	791.16	791.16	791.16	791.16
O-3	416.60	472.28	509.76	555.76	582.36	611.56	630.48	661.60	677.76	677.76	677.76	677.76	677.76	677.76	677.76
O-2	359.92	409.96	472.16	488.12	498.16	498.16	498.16	498.16	498.16	498.16	491.16	491.16	491.16	491.16	491.16
O-1	312.48	325.20	393.08	393.08	393.08	393.08	393.08	393.08	393.08	393.08	393.08	393.08	393.08	393.08	393.08
O-3E	0.00	0.00	0.00	555.76	582.36	611.56	630.48	661.60	687.80	702.80	723.28	723.28	723.28	723.28	723.28
O-2E	0.00	0.00	0.00	488.12	498.12	514.04	540.76	561.48	576.88	576.88	576.88	576.88	576.88	576.88	576.88
O-1E	0.00	0.00	0.00	393.08	419.84	435.32	451.16	466.76	488.12	488.12	488.12	488.12	488.12	488.12	488.12
W-5	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	739.76	765.12	790.56	816.16
W-4	430.48	463.12	476.44	489.52	512.04	534.28	556.84	578.80	601.56	637.20	660.00	682.32	705.44	728.24	751.24
W-3	393.12	409.56	426.32	431.84	449.48	469.64	496.24	522.52	550.44	571.40	592.28	601.24	610.52	630.68	650.84
W-2	345.80	365.56	382.84	395.40	406.16	435.76	458.40	475.20	491.60	502.84	512.32	530.32	548.20	566.32	566.32
W-1	305.36	330.36	347.08	357.92	386.72	404.12	419.52	436.72	448.12	458.44	475.24	487.96	487.96	487.96	487.96
E-9	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	520.16	531.96	546.80	564.80	581.88	610.12	634.00	659.16	697.56
E-8	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	425.80	444.64	456.28	470.28	485.40	512.72	526.56	550.12	563.20	595.36
E-7	296.00	323.08	335.44	351.84	364.60	386.60	396.96	411.28	433.28	444.32	454.76	461.16	482.72	496.68	532.00
E-6	256.04	281.68	294.12	306.20	318.80	347.24	358.28	370.56	381.32	385.16	387.76	387.76	387.76	387.76	387.76
E-5	234.60	250.28	262.36	274.76	294.04	310.64	322.88	326.76	326.76	326.76	326.76	326.76	326.76	326.76	326.76
E-4	215.04	226.08	238.28	250.36	261.04	261.04	261.04	261.04	261.04	261.04	261.04	261.04	261.04	261.04	261.04
E-3	194.16	206.36	218.80	218.80	218.80	218.80	218.80	218.80	218.80	218.80	218.80	218.80	218.80	218.90	218.80
E-2	184.60	165.24	165.24	165.24	165.24	165.24	165.24	165.24	165.24	165.24	165.24	165.24	165.24	165.24	165.24
E-1>4	164.68	164.68	164.68	164.68	164.68	164.68	164.68	164.68	164.68	164.68	164.68	164.68	164.68	164.68	164.68
E-1<4	152.36	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

ONGSP now offers online registration option

On Line Registration is as Easy as 1...2...3.

1 Log On

Visit *www.ongsp.org* and enter your username and password.

Using the Army and Air Force personnel systems, your information is loaded and waiting for you.

Your user ID is your initials followed by the last five digits of your SSN and the last two digits of the year you were born. Example: David Ryan Smith, SSN 321-51-1245

Example: DRS1124579

Your password is year, month and day of birth (yyyymmdd)

Example: 19791214

2 Select your action

- Term Renewal
- Check Application Status
- Change of Application

3 Complete Your Term Application

ONGSP APPLICATION DEADLINES

Fall term, July 1
Spring semester/Winter quarter, Nov. 1
Spring quarter, Feb. 1
Summer term, April 1

It is the sole responsibility of a student/guardmember to turn in 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.

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

NOTE: First-time applicants cannot use online registration. They must complete printed copies of the initial application and sign the Statement of Understanding and mail, fax or hand deliver.

Courtesy photos

LEFT, ABOVE: Daughters of CPT Edward Mikula of the 416th Engineer Group talk to him through a video teleconference via the Internet while he is deployed to Afghanistan.

Communications advances both benefit, challenge for Guard

Story by Maj. Nicole M. Gabriel
AGOH-Public Affairs

Before Capt. Edward Mikula of the 416th Engineer Group in Walbridge, Ohio, left for Afghanistan in 2003 for Operation Enduring Freeedom, he bought two web cameras for about $50 each and hooked them up to his and his wife's computers to use via their Internet account.

While he was away, the family stayed connected through phone calls, e-mails and letters, but the web cams really made a difference, his wife Tricia Mikula said. "It helped so much to be able to see him and not just to talk," she said. The family coordinated the video e-mails for special events such as birthdays and holidays.

For the couple's two daughters, Jackie, 7, and Samantha, 5, it was especially nice for them to see their father, who has since returned from Afghanistan. "It gave them some kind of reference to know where he was and that he was not just gone," Mikula said. "It gave their minds some closure as to where he was."

All in all, Mikula said, having the web cameras and access to other technology made the deployment a little more bearable. "It cut down on some of the worries. It really gave the girls a peace of mind."

Advances in communication technology are giving Ohio's Soldiers a variety of options to stay in touch with their loved ones while they serve overseas. The information revolution has created a different communication world that has eased some of the stress of the deployments—but also has created challenges for leadership.

Today's Soldiers have access to Internet cafes, digital photographs, cell phones, video teleconferences and many more things unheard of during previous wars.

Col. James Chisman served in Vietnam in 1970-71 as a helicopter pilot. More than 30 years later, he deployed to Kosovo for NATO peace support operations. Chisman served as the task force deputy commander for civil military operations.

"We didn't have any of this in Vietnam and you felt very much disconnected from your family at that time, due to the technology limitations," he said. "It is just amazing the direct contact you have with your family, compared to what you had in Vietnam." In those days, the mail was much slower, the Internet did not exist and phone calls were rare and difficult to make. "I made one 10-minute phone call the whole year I was there and it was terrible. I had to yell over the phone," Chisman said.

"I really don't know how women of the other wars survived," said Tiffany Dereza—wife of Sgt. Andrew Dereza of 1-107th Armor Battalion, Stow—whose husband deployed less than a month after the couple married. "As a family member it's (e-mail) just been a mental life saver. Without it, I don't think I'd be able to do this."

Even Ohio's family readiness groups are taking advantage of the technology using a variety of ways to keep families in touch and informed. Dereza's pet project was coordinating video letters, which were video messages they recorded and then converted to DVDs to send to spouses overseas.

Capt. Jeremy Banta, commander of the 1485th Transportation Company, Dover, participated in phone conferences with his unit's family readiness group while his unit was in Iraq. He also set up chat rooms with the FRG.

He said from a commander's perspective, this technology was a valuable asset. "It was good because it allowed the families to see my responses directly in real-time, not secondhand or weeks after the fact in the newsletter," Banta said.

He also e-mailed the FRG leader anytime the unit was attacked. Banta sent minimal details and tried to make sure injured or involved Soldiers called home (or were planning to soon) before he sent the e-mail.

"This helped calm fears when the families saw information on the news or heard from other people back home that something may have happened," Banta said. "Again, they got it first hand and if they had not heard from their Soldier, they immediately knew they were OK."

While the technology was a benefit, it sometimes presented problems for the leadership, because communication was so fast, that sometimes families received information before the Soldiers in the unit did.

Other technology enables the FRGs to put out information to families instantly. Many FRGs in Ohio are using My Team One Call service, where units can set up a phone tree in the system, record a message and the automated service sends the message to everyone on the tree.

Soldiers in Iraq and Kosovo have been able to "visit" with their families through the video teleconferencing technology being implemented. Cameras and microphones pick up the video and audio data which is transmitted via a highspeed phone line so Soldiers can see their loved ones as they talk to them, according to Warrant Officer Robert Jorgensen, communication systems manager for Ohio's headquarters. About 400 Soldiers and family members have participated in VTCs which started for the holidays, Jorgensen said.

"The familiy member or Soldier sits down and starts talking," he said. "It's that easy." Jorgensen said the eventual goal is to have VTC capability in every armory.■