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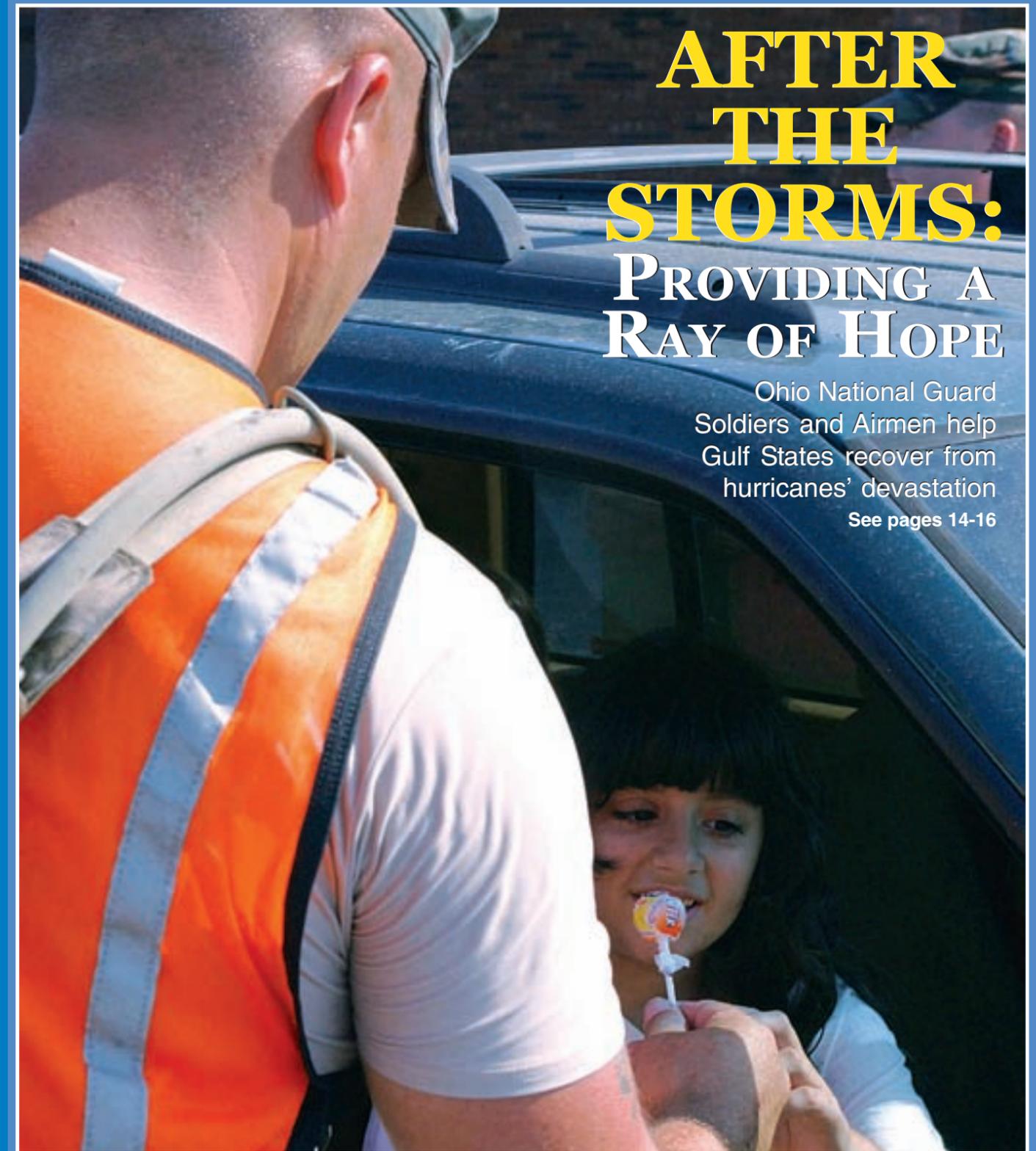
BUCKEYE GUARD

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

AFTER THE STORMS: PROVIDING A RAY OF HOPE

Ohio National Guard Soldiers and Airmen help Gulf States recover from hurricanes' devastation

See pages 14-16



BUCKEYE GUARD

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Thank You

To the men and women of the Ohio Army National Guard and their families.

You have served your country, state and community with pride and distinction. You have ensured a better way of life for those at home and abroad. Help us make tomorrow a better day for everyone. Contact your first-line leader, first sergeant or commander, and let them know that you want to extend today.

Eligible Soldiers are able to receive a \$7,500 bonus if they extend their enlistment for three years. Soldiers signing up for six more years can receive a \$15,000 bonus.



BUCKEYE GUARD

Volume 28, No. 3

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BUCKEYE GUARD STAFF

Director, Government and Public Affairs
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Editor
Mr. Steve Toth

Associate Editor
Maj. Nicole Gabriel

Contributors
Army/Air National Guard Photojournalists
ANG Multimedia Specialists
Unit Public Affairs Representatives



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PFC Joseph Pramuka (from left), CW3 Kenyon Kurtz and PFC Rodd Knepp of G Company, 137th Aviation Battalion work on a CH-47 Chinook helicopter during this summer's deployment to Arizona along the U.S.-Mexico border. See page 20.



Dan Simon / Fort Huachuca Public Affairs

DEPARTMENTS

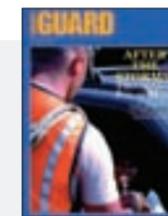
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SSgt Douglas Nicodemus / 121st ARW Multimedia Center

TSgt Jamie Burr of the 121st Security Forces Squadron scales a log obstacle during an endurance course, one of the many events comprising the Air Mobility Command Rodeo competition held at McChord Air Force Base, Wash. See pages 12-13.

ABOUT THE COVERS



FRONT: SFC Barry Stiverson, a member of Company C, 112th Engineer Battalion, hands a lollipop to a girl at a distribution point for essentials in Sulpher, La. **Photo by SPC Chad Menegay / 196th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment**

BACK: TSgt Jeff Morgan and TSgt Kevin Cartright compete in the cargo load event at this year's Air Mobility Command Rodeo competition, held at McChord Air Force Base, Wash. **Photo by SSgt Douglas Nicodemus / 121st ARW Multimedia Center**

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

Embracing core values leads each of us to success



BY MAJ GEN HARRY "A.J." FEUCHT
ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GENERAL, AIR

I am honored to serve in the Ohio National Guard as a member of the Joint Force Headquarters and as the commander of the Ohio Air National Guard. This is an organization that understands service and duty at the community, state and national level. The success of this organization is directly

attributed to your professionalism, dedication and selfless answer to the call to duty.

I continue to be impressed with your excellence, competence and character. When I travel throughout the state to visit units, I continue to see high-powered teams that take pride in their mission and contributions to the defense of our homeland. That pride translates into a level of performance and excellence that few organizations can equal.

The U.S. Air Force has three core values that are applicable to all of us in the Ohio National Guard. These values provide stability to organizations in an ever-changing environment and can affect the behavior and culture of an organization. They are values by which I have tried to live my life and that have guided me throughout my career.

As Citizen-Airmen and Soldiers, and with the support of our families, employers and communities, we sustain our force by embracing the core values of: Integrity First, Service Before Self and Excellence In All We Do. Allow me to detail each of these values, to provide a greater understanding of these guiding principles.

Integrity First is the most important of the three values. Integrity is a character trait. Simply put, it is what we do when no one is watching. It is our moral compass – our inner voice; the voice of self-control and the basis for the trust imperatives of today's military. As a person of integrity, you act on conviction and control impulses and appetites. A person of integrity possesses moral courage and does what is right even if the personal cost is high. A person of true integrity is responsible and acknowledges his or her duties and acts accordingly. Professionals of integrity encourage a free flow of information

within the organization and seek feedback from all directions. A person of integrity is sobered by the awesome responsibility of defending the Constitution of the United States of America. I encourage each of you to practice integrity both on a personal and organizational level. It should show in the treatment of our people and our words must be followed by actions.

Service Before Self is the second core value. As members of the Ohio National Guard, you are all too familiar with this core value. You may have heard this concept described as selflessness, serving above and beyond the call of duty, helping others and giving 110 percent. Many talk the talk, but it is those who walk the walk who put those words into action. Each time you answer the call to duty you put service before self. Many of you have missed birthdays, anniversaries, weddings or the funeral of a loved one because you were serving others. Your commitment, your sacrifice and your dedication are what set you apart from others and your service on behalf of your community, state and nation is appreciated.

Excellence In All We Do is the third core value. Excellence is the difference between simply getting by and striving for perfection. It is your personal satisfaction and the thrill you get from performing your best. If you live your life with a passion for excellence you can contribute tremendously to the success of our members. As a professional you promote mission accomplishment not just to the minimum standard but to the achievement of excellence.

When you put your head on your pillow at the end of a productive day, you should be able to say to yourself, "I could not have been more productive or given any more." Some settle for less than their best and are convinced that excellence is negotiable. It is not. Excellence is a commitment to constant improvement. Excellence is a value that we must nurture and promote throughout the Ohio National Guard. There are only

two directions to move in life, forward or backward. Maintaining the status quo means you are actually falling behind.

I believe several key elements make members and organizations successful. Effective communication through positive leadership and the promotion of values and goals are essential to success. Encouraging improvements to existing norms is essential for effective organizational change. I encourage each of you to be a team player and to be a proactive, positive voice for the continued promotion of values and goals within our Ohio National Guard. I am proud of all of you and your great contribution to our nation, state and community. ■

This is an organization that understands service and duty at the community, state and national level. The success...is directly attributed to your professionalism, dedication and selfless answer to the call to duty.

OHIO NATIONAL GUARD

Historical Highlights



Maj. Gen. George B. McClellan was commissioned Major General of Volunteers and commander of Ohio's militia by an act of the Ohio Legislature on April 23, 1861. He became "General in Chief" of the entire Union Army on Nov. 1 of that same year. **RETIRED JUDGE (COL.) ROBERT D. WALKER / 37TH INFANTRY DIVISION**

Many Gulf Staters grateful for Ohio Guard's assistance

The eye of Hurricane Katrina passed over my sister Carriere's home, with 150 mph winds. She told me that the Ohio National Guard was in the area and that they came to her home to check on them and to see if they had any needs. Thank you for leaving your families to care for mine. I appreciate the sacrifices you made.

**MARY DUKES
DELTA, COLO.**

I live in Moss Bluff, which is just outside of Lake Charles. We had a National Guard unit here assisting with ice, water and food. They were working from the "old" Wal-Mart location here. Hopefully, my husband obtained the correct information for me: 112th Engineering—Aloha Camp. If that isn't correct, maybe this is enough information to know who I am talking about.

This group was so kind, polite, generous and every good word available! I know they were away from their families, friends and homes. Please give them a "pat on the back" for us. They truly deserve one. Also, please tell them thank you for all they do and have done.

**THE COLE FAMILY
MOSS BLUFF, LA.**

Just a short note from southwest Louisiana to say thanks to Ohio and their National Guard units that helped here. The engineer battalion dispensing food here in Sulphur were wonderful people. It remains a mystery how they did it in the heat and confusion, but they remained friendly, efficient and very helpful through it all.

Words alone will never say enough of the great help your people have

been for us. My warmest thank you to all the great people of Ohio, and their great Guard units.

**THOMAS JONES
SULPHUR, LA.**

I had the pleasure of being involved with a company (I do not know which one) of the 437th Military Police Battalion during the crisis in lower Mississippi. The distribution point they were manning (VFW Post 58, on Highway 603 North of Kiln, Miss.) was run in an efficient manner, and they made it a point to see that everyone who showed up had all the essentials.

This unit is a credit to the state of Ohio, and should be treated as such.

PATRICK G. MARTIN

EDITOR'S NOTE: *Mr. Martin was referring to the 838th Military Police Company, Youngstown.*

My name is Stan Warren and I live in Poplarville, Miss. I wanted to drop a short message and express our gratitude for the Ohio National Guard, who supported our town following Hurricane Katrina.

The individuals of your group were very professional and courteous at all times; they are what makes America such a great place to live.

Let your guys and gals know somehow that they are in our hearts and will always be remembered by the Warren family. Also tell them that our lives are getting back to normal more every day.

**THE WARRENS (STAN, DEBORAH,
KIRSTEN AND LORRIE)
POPLARVILLE, MISS.**

As a resident of the Moss Bluff Community just north of Lake Charles, La., I wish to personally thank all your fine National Guardsmen for coming to our aid. Everyone who assisted me were all very friendly.

On behalf of our little community, we hope that they all made it back home safe and sound and in the arms of their families who missed them.

**LINDA S. MANUEL
LAKE CHARLES, LA.**



State command sergeant major weighs in on ACU

Recently all of the Ohio National Guard's general officers and the state command sergeant major received a complete set of the new Army Combat Uniform.

The ACU replaces both the temperate and enhanced hot weather battle dress uniform (BDU) in the clothing bag and the desert camouflage uniform (DCU) as an organizational clothing and individual equipment (OCIE) item. The ACU was initially fielded in February 2005 as an OCIE item to units supporting Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom.

The phase-in period for the ACU universal camouflage pattern is from May 2005 until May 2008. During this period, Soldiers will have a mix of camouflage equipment. Commanders can authorize the wear of BDU and DCU camouflage equipment with the ACU until those items are replaced. The ACU will be placed in the Federal Fiscal Year 2006 clothing bag, and next April will be available at both Army military clothing sales stores and the Kentucky logistics operation center.

In order to maximize the service life of the uniform, Soldiers will not starch the ACU under any circumstances. The use of starch, sizing and any process that involves dry cleaning or a steam press will adversely affect the treatments and durability of the uniform, and is not authorized. It is recommended that to clean the new uniform, you will wash it in cold water and tumble dry at low heat. Sleeves on the coat will be worn down at all times, and not rolled or cuffed.

Maj. Gen. Gregory L. Wayt, Ohio adjutant general, Brig. Gen. Matthew L. Kambic, assistant adjutant general for Army, and I agree that the uniform is Hooah! The feel and comfort of the new uniform is outstanding. It was designed by Soldiers, for Soldiers.

**CSM WILLIAM GILLIAM
STATE COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR**

RIGHT: CSM William Gilliam (from left), state command sergeant major; MG Gregory L. Wayt, Ohio adjutant general; and BG Matthew L. Kambic, assistant adjutant general for Army, show off the new Army Combat Uniform (ACU).

National Guard spreads positive image, says chief

Performing its mission around the world in 2005 has allowed the National Guard to spread a positive message about the military, the chief of the National Guard Bureau said.

With almost 80,000 Citizen-Soldiers deployed overseas in the Global War on Terrorism and thousands more responding to natural disasters in the United States and abroad, it has been an unprecedented year for the Guard.

"Nothing has happened this year that the Guard hasn't been part of," said Army Lt. Gen. H Steven Blum in a Pentagon Channel interview Nov. 30. "The best part of it is, when we're responding to these kind of disasters, everybody understands why you're needed. Everybody supports what you're doing; nobody questions how you're doing it. When you're out there saving lives instead of taking lives, it makes those that you're saving feel very, very good about you."

In disaster relief efforts for Hurricanes Katrina and Rita and the earthquake in Pakistan, the National Guard is sending a significant message, albeit unintentionally, about the quality of America's military, Blum said.

"When (people) see the uniforms and they see the military equipment being used as a force for good, it sends a very positive message to them about what's right about this country," he said.

The National Guard's response to Hurricane Katrina was the largest, fastest response of the U.S. military to a natural disaster in the country's history, Blum said, and it really was amazing in its scope.

"It is a difficult thing to do, but it didn't look difficult," he said. "The way the states responded, it actually looked rather effortless."

One phone call with the states' adjutants general was all it took to generate 50,000 guardmembers to respond to the disaster, Blum said.

The concerns people had about disaster response being affected by overseas deployments were legitimate, Blum said, but were not realized.

"As a matter of fact, the deployments did have an effect on our response—they made it better," he said. "Over 60 percent of the people that re-

sponded were veterans of at least a year 'boots on the ground' (in Iraq or Afghanistan) if they were Army National Guard and at least one, two or more Air Expeditionary Force rotations overseas. They brought those same skills to Mississippi and Louisiana, and they were invaluable."

Blum said he is immensely proud of the National Guard response to Katrina, because it was on target, on time and more than sufficient. All the U.S. governors agreed the troops were needed, and not one doubted the mission at all, he said. "It should make every American immensely proud of their National Guard and of their military," he said. **SGT SARA WOOD / AMERICAN FORCES PRESS SERVICE**

Servicemembers can get reimbursement for gear

Some servicemembers who bought their own protective gear will get reimbursed for the purchase under a new policy approved Oct. 4.

The order covers the period between Sept. 10, 2001, and Aug. 1, 2004. Pentagon officials said "relatively few" servicemembers are affected by the order.

In the early days of the Global War on Terrorism, there was a shortage of interceptor armor. The services issue body armor to those most in need of it; however, some servicemembers—both active and reserve component—bought their own protection.

Reimbursement is limited to the actual purchase price, plus shipping, of the equipment, and servicemembers must have the receipts.

Under the legislation, those claiming reimbursement must turn in their privately purchased gear. The services will destroy the equipment, as it may not meet government standards. Under the policy, reimbursement cannot exceed \$1,100 for any one piece of equipment.

The services can request to add items to the list. The list includes the complete outer tactical vest or equivalent commercial ballistic vests. The components of the vest—the groin protector, throat protector, yoke and collar assembly, collar protector, ballistic inserts and small arms protective inserts—are covered individually. The list also includes the Kevlar helmet, ballistic eye protection and hydration systems. **JIM GARAMONE / AMERICAN FORCES PRESS SERVICE**



MSgt Efrain Gonzalez / U.S. Air Force

Airmen show off different combinations of the new Air Force physical training uniform while jogging during the wear-test phase conducted earlier this year at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas.

Air Force sets physical training uniform wear date

The Air Force Uniform Board established an Oct. 1, 2006, mandatory wear date of the physical training uniform, or PTU, for unit fitness activities.

The board also released additional guidance for Airmen wearing the uniform for personal workouts. Airmen may wear the PTU during personal workouts given the following conditions:

- ◆ T-shirts may be worn out or tucked in;
- ◆ Jackets may be zipped, unzipped and worn with civilian clothes;
- ◆ Black or navy blue leggings or stretch shorts may be worn under the uniform shorts;
- ◆ White socks of any length and small conservative trademarks are authorized;
- ◆ Any athletic shoes may be worn;
- ◆ Safety items such as reflective belts, camelbacks and fanny packs are authorized;
- ◆ Hats or knit caps are authorized provided they meet military image requirements;
- ◆ Headphones are still authorized;
- ◆ Bandanas and other similar head scarves are not authorized unless Airmen have a medical waiver; and
- ◆ Saluting is not required.

For more information, Airmen should contact their commander's support staff, military personnel flight or personnel office at deployed locations. **AIR FORCE PERSONNEL CENTER NEWS SERVICE**

SOLDIERS/AIRMEN OF THE YEAR

The best Soldier, Airman and noncommissioned officers for 2004 were selected and announced earlier in 2005. These six individuals represent the best resource that the 15,000-member Ohio National Guard has to offer—men and women able and willing to respond, when called and ready to do the job required of them, whether at home or overseas.

SOLDIER OF THE YEAR



Spc. Paul A. Kaperak is a member of Company C, 112th Engineer Battalion, Columbus. While deployed for two years in support of Operation Noble Eagle, Kaperak provided force protection and security at Springfield Air National Guard

Base, home of the 178th Fighter Wing. He played an important role in several security force responses, which included a civilian helicopter medical evacuation, a downed power line and a major vehicle accident.

NCO OF THE YEAR

Sgt. Matthew J. France was a member of Joint Force Headquarters, Columbus. He since has been commissioned as a second lieutenant, and now is a member of Battery B, 1-134th Field Artillery Battalion, Alliance. During the time for which he was recognized as NCO of the Year, France worked full-time for the National Guard as a personnel clerk. He was honor graduate at both his infantry (11B) and administrative (42A) advanced individual training courses.



SENIOR NCO OF THE YEAR



more than 20 years in law enforcement. Jones is also a published author, having written more than 10 books and 200 articles, technical documents and lesson plans focusing on law enforcement, security and corrections.

AIRMAN OF THE YEAR



Senior Airman Patrick M. King has been a member of the 178th Fighter Wing Communications Flight, Springfield, since his induction into the Ohio Air National Guard in August 2002. King was the quickest in the history of his

unit to complete Air Force "5-level" requirements related to his training as a computer technician. He was recognized for his overall computer hardware support to the entire 178th Fighter Wing. He is currently attending Wright State University.

NCO OF THE YEAR

Tech. Sgt. Dean Butler is a member of the 180th Fighter Wing, Toledo, as a security forces craftsman in the wing's SF squadron, and also serves as the training noncommissioned officer. Butler was mobilized for both Operations Noble Eagle and Enduring Freedom, and also was tasked to deploy to Shaw Air Force Base, S.C., to supplement security forces personnel there. In his civilian capacity, Butler works full-time as a City of Perrysburg police officer.



FIRST SERGEANT OF THE YEAR



Master Sgt. Robert S. Kinion is the first sergeant of the 178th Fighter Wing Logistics Readiness Squadron, Springfield. In that capacity, he provides advice to the squadron commander on a wide range of enlisted issues, including esprit de corps, personnel management, retention, awards and professional development. Kinion has experience in construction equipment operations as well as avionics, and has an associate's degree in electronics engineering technology.

MANSFIELD

Command profile



Col Mark L. Stephens
179th Airlift Wing

Age: 48

Full-Time Position:

commander, 179th Airlift Wing

Hometown: Lexington, Ohio

Family: married, two sons, one daughter and two grandchildren
When I was younger, I wanted to:

be a pilot

Most recent achievement: making it past my 23rd wedding anniversary

The last good movie I saw was:

The Aviator

The book I'm reading is:

Leading Change

My favorite recreational activity is:

skiing

The one thing I treasure most is:

family and friends

Heroes:

Founding Fathers

Nobody knows I'm:

an introvert at heart

I'm better than anyone else at:

getting along with almost anyone

I'd give anything to meet:

George Washington

My biggest pet peeve is:

laziness

The three words that best describe me:

down to earth

If I could leave today's guardmembers with one piece of advice it would be:

Don't rule out career or personal goals because you think they are beyond your reach. If you don't, you will probably be surprised where you end up and what you accomplish

Soldier grappling for chance at Summer Olympics

Story By Spc. Michelle Morgan,
Joint Force Headquarters-Ohio

At one point in their lives, a lot of kids dream of growing up and starring in the Olympics. They see their favorite athlete on the front of a cereal box and want to be just like them. For most, once the two-week Games are over, they go on with the rest of their lives.

But not all.

While the 2008 Olympics in Beijing, China, are a few years away—and the odds of him making the team may be slight—Sgt. Corey Taylor has never been one to back down from a challenge and hard work.

When he was in high school in Missouri, Taylor wanted to play basketball. He loved the game, was the fastest on the court and had a great jump shot. But Taylor was cut from the team, not because of his lack of skill, but because of his lack of stature. He was told to “come back next year after you grow a few inches,” by a coach even shorter than his 5-foot 6-inch size.

After Taylor was cut, the wrestling coach asked Taylor to try out for the team. The coach liked Taylor’s competitive nature and promised to make him a champion.



Taylor

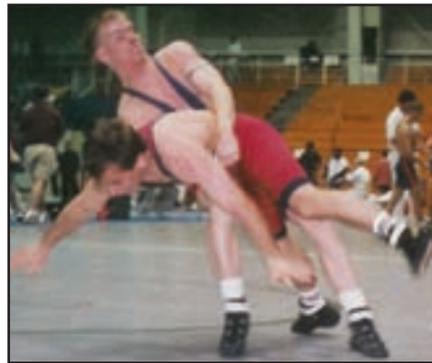
Knowing nothing about wrestling, Taylor declined.

That summer, most of the basketball team grew even taller, but not Taylor. Once more, the wrestling coach asked Taylor if he wanted to join the team. Feeling that wrestling was better than nothing, but probably not much, Taylor decided to give it a try.

With dedication and determination, Taylor learned to wrestle to win. Ten years later, Taylor is still wrestling and has won many titles, proving his coach’s boast was not idle.

“My first season (in high school), I had 25 wins and only two losses. All of my wins but five were by pins in the first period,” Taylor said.

Bad luck and broken bones kept him



Courtesy photo

Corey Taylor competes in an international meet while a member of the All-Marine Wrestling Team.

from going to state. However, his senior year, in 1995, just after the state championships, the Amateur Athletic Union (AAU) Nationals were held in Missouri; Taylor was determined to compete.

“Everyone said I was wasting my time. I hadn’t even placed in state. I couldn’t possibly compete,” Taylor said. “But not only did I compete (in the AAUs), I won.”

In 1997, after his high school graduation, Taylor joined the Marine Corps. It was not until he was at his first duty assignment in Washington, D.C., that he learned about the All-Marine Wrestling Team.

“The idea is that the military offers members the sports and educational opportunities that a college would,” Taylor said. And he planned to take full advantage of all of those opportunities.

When Taylor asked his chief warrant officer about trying out for the team, he was told that the only way he would be allowed to try out was if he could beat him. The chief figured that the scrawny little guy could not take him. So out on the parade grounds—in front of the Commandant of the Marine Corps’ house, no less—a 120-pound dynamo from small-town Missouri took down 6 feet of scoffing chief warrant officer. Taylor packed his duffel bag and never looked back.

“Wrestling and everyone associated with the sport has taught me values, skills and lessons that you can’t find in any classroom, book or job,” Taylor said.

Taylor was one of 13 wrestlers and wrestling partners on the All-Marine Wrestling Team. They lived, breathed and ate to wrestle. They ran, lifted and practiced—five days a week, every week, except weeks they competed. Taylor mostly com-

peted in Greco-Roman wrestling—a style of wrestling that focuses on throwing your opponent to the mat using only your arms and upper body.

Taylor traveled the world from 1999 through 2001, competing for the Marines in the 50 kilogram class (under 110 pounds). But all that experience and training could not quite prepare Taylor for the biggest challenge of his career to that point—the 2000 Olympic Trials in San Antonio, Texas.

“It’s huge. There are American flags everywhere. It’s so intense I was sick,” Taylor said. Though all the Marines on the team went, only 10 of the 13 qualified to try out in different weight classes. In 2000, one Marine made it to the Olympic team; unfortunately, for Taylor, it was not him.

He left active duty in 2001 and joined the Ohio Army National Guard, where he is currently the administrative noncommissioned officer for the Joint Force Headquarters chief of staff in Columbus. He also attends college at Ohio State University, where he is on the cheerleading squad. His full-time job is no longer wrestling, but he still lifts every day to stay in shape and still competes, though now it is ultimate fighting.

“Ultimate fighting is basically where two guys get in a cage and anything goes but we can’t hit below the belt, bite or scratch,” Taylor said.

But the wrestling bug is still there as well. Taylor says he will begin competing in regional wrestling matches throughout the United States, beginning in 2006, in preparation for the 2008 Olympics. And, while his future in wrestling may not be certain—there is no doubt about what his wrestling past has taught him.

“Wrestling is just like life: at some point you will either be down or at worst flat on your back, but with hard work and determination you can fight back and overcome those obstacles,” Taylor said. “After I graduate college, I plan to coach and instill those same values in my wrestlers.” ■

Citizen Spotlight is a feature aimed at highlighting the unique civilian occupations, hobbies, endeavors and other off-duty interests of Ohio National Guardmembers.

These types of stories call attention to the well-rounded Citizen-Soldiers and Airmen who make up the organization, and are balancing family, work, life and their military commitments.

Please e-mail story ideas to buckeye@tagoh.gov, or call (614) 336-7003.

Two Ohio Guardmembers fall while serving in Iraq

‘Hollywood Out’ was 612th Soldier’s signature sign-off

There are things that fathers “just know.” They know when their son is ready to take his first step; they know when it is time to take the training wheels off his bike; they know when he is ready for his first driving lesson; and sometimes ... fathers know that the men in uniform on your front porch are the bearers of bad news.

When Mike Hodge, an 11-year Air Force veteran, went home on his lunch break, men were standing on his front porch. “I just knew. I didn’t want to know, but I did,”

Hodge said from his home in Rushsylvania, a village located about 50 miles northwest of Columbus.

The uniformed men told him that his son, Spc. Jeremy Michael Hodge, died Oct. 10 in Baghdad, Iraq, when an improvised explosive device (IED) exploded near his vehicle.

Jeremy Hodge, 20, joined the Ohio National Guard shortly after graduating from Ridgemont High School in 2003, and was assigned to Company B, 612th Engineer Battalion, Tiffin.

He, along with 450 other Soldiers of the 612th, deployed in November 2004 to support Operation Iraqi Freedom. “We both understood why he wanted to enlist and that he might end up going to Iraq,” Mike said. “If you knew what kind of kid Jeremy was, you would understand that serving others was part of who he was,” he added.

Once he arrived in Iraq, the best of what Jeremy had to offer came out. “I could tell by our conversations that he believed in what he was doing and he was always looking for opportunities to lead.” So his father was not surprised that Jeremy was the lead driver of the armored convoy. “Whatever Jer-

emy was involved in, he went at it full bore.” On the streets of Rushsylvania you couldn’t miss Jeremy’s Dodge Ram 4x4 pickup truck; it was larger than life, with oversized tires and chrome wheels. Jeremy replaced the “Dodge” logo on the windshield with “Hodge.”

Mike and Jeremy communicated via e-mail often. They would spend time chatting about family and friends and Jeremy’s plans for when he returned. “He’d been deployed since January and we were counting the days until he came home... he had 74 days left,” said Mike, his gaze focusing on nothing in particular. Each time they ended their e-mail session Jeremy would sign off with: “Hollywood Out.”

For Vince Gillfillan, Jeremy’s best friend and fellow Soldier, the loss is especially painful. They were just like brothers throughout high school. They lived close to each other and were inseparable. Whenever you saw one, you knew the other was not far behind. “I treated

them both as my sons and I know this is tough on Vince too,” Mike said. “They were together in the same unit, in the same convoy.”

Teachers and coaches remember Jeremy as someone who was always offering help to others. In high school, Jeremy sang in the choir

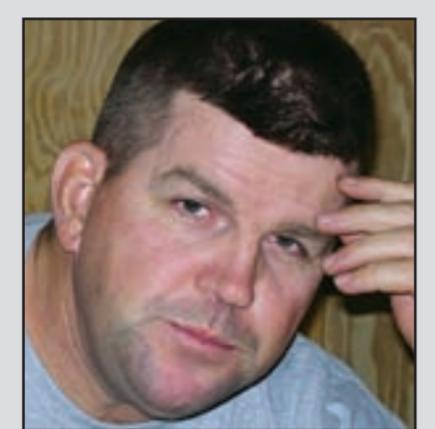
and played football and baseball. He was a tough competitor on the track, football and baseball field but was not afraid to stand out in choir or during musicals. He was also a country boy at heart who loved the outdoors.

“I remember when he shot his first deer, he kept yelling, ‘I got it...I got it,’” Jeremy’s cousin, Dustin, recalls. But his mood turned sour when he got to the buck and saw that part of its 6-point antler had broken off.

But if you ask anyone what Jeremy’s true passion was, they will tell you that it was NASCAR racing. He loved the sport ever since he was old enough to watch it on television and dreamed of someday becoming a NASCAR driver. His favorite driver was Mark Martin, driver of the No. 6 car.

“He didn’t just talk about it, he pursued his dream with the same fire that he went after everything else with,” Mike said. While in Iraq he was accepted to a NASCAR driving school and planned to enroll when he returned.

Friends, family, fellow Soldiers and classmates went Oct. 19 to say goodbye to Jeremy



Courtesy photo

SFC Daniel J. Pratt was a 16-year member of the National Guard.

Husband’s final gifts indicative of character

Linda Pratt received a gift Nov. 4 that temporarily brought sunshine into one of the darkest moments of her life.

Flowers and candles decorated with heart-shaped soap arrived just a few hours after military officials visited her Youngstown home to inform her that her husband, Sgt. 1st Class Daniel J. Pratt, 48, had died of a non-combat-related injury the previous day, while serving with the 211th Maintenance Company on a one-year tour in Nasiriyah, Iraq.

Sgt. 1st Class Pratt sent the gifts to his wife in advance of the couple’s 20th wedding anniversary, on Nov. 7.

“I was just overwhelmed and touched and just felt his goodness again come through,” said Linda Pratt, who lived with her husband and their two children in Austintown. “He has a kind and good soul. He loved his family. He just had a zest for life.” ■

AGOH-PUBLIC AFFAIRS AND WIRE REPORTS

and to provide words of comfort to a grieving family. In the small town of Rushsylvania, people young and old lined the streets to pay tribute to their fallen Soldier. As the funeral procession made its way through town, Mike Hodge led the way in the “Hodge” Ram.

“I want everyone to remember Jeremy for the way that he was and the passion he lived his life with,” Mike said, pausing to gather himself.

“I will miss my son for the rest of my life,” he said. “... Hollywood Out.” ■

JAMES A. SIMS II / AGOH-PUBLIC AFFAIRS

180TH FIGHTER WING



SSgt Beth Slater / 180th FW Multimedia Center

Airmen of the 180th Fighter Wing take their places Nov. 6 in the aircraft maintenance hangar at the Toledo Express Airport, prior to a welcome home ceremony honoring them.

Toledo-based ANG unit returns from overseas

Story by Senior Airman Janet Dougherty
180th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

SWANTON—With the Thanksgiving holiday, many Americans reflect on what they are thankful for this year.

However, none may be as grateful as the family, friends and Airmen who attended a welcome home ceremony Nov. 6 in the 180th Fighter Wing's aircraft maintenance hangar at the Toledo Express Airport.

More than 300 members of the 180th took part in the most recent Aerospace Expeditionary Forces (AEF) deployment, which spanned from Aug. 1 to Sept. 30. On this deployment, the 180th—working with units from the Iowa and Oklahoma Air National Guard—fulfilled a U.S. Air Force Aerospace Expeditionary Forces (AEF) rotation in Southwest Asia. Personnel provided aerial support to military operations throughout the U.S. Central Command region, in support of the Global War on Terrorism.

"The 180th provided close support for ground forces directly engaged, and used the sound of their aircraft to put fear into the enemy," said U.S. Air Force Col. Stanley Kresge, base commander while the unit was overseas.

The 180th and its pilots completed 2,600 flying hours and 370 sorties with the unit's F-16 "Fighting Falcon" jet aircraft.

Ohio National Guard leadership and many public officials were on hand to pay tribute to 180th Airmen who deployed, including: Maj. Gen. Gregory L. Wayt, Ohio adjutant general; Maj. Gen. Harry "A.J." Feucht, Ohio assistant adjutant general for Air; U.S. Rep. Marcy Kaptur (D-Toledo), congresswoman for Ohio's ninth Con-

gressional District; Diane Miller, representing U.S. Sen. Mike DeWine; Dennis Fligore, representing U.S. Sen. George Voinovich; state Rep. Mark Wagoner (R-Toledo); Toledo Mayor Jack Ford; and Col. Thomas E. Schart, 180th Fighter Wing commander.

"We were there for you when you left and our hearts remained with you while you were gone," Kaptur said during the ceremony. After her speech, Kaptur presented Schart with an American flag that flew over the U.S. Capitol.

In addition to the AEF deployment, other unit members have recently participated in several Expeditionary Combat Support deployments, in various locations including Iraq, Germany, Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates.

"Like your fathers and grandfathers before you, you have liberated millions from oppression," Wayt said at the ceremony.

Exemplary of today's Air Force—with elements always on the go—the 180th has members who are currently deployed, and more Airmen who are preparing to deploy in the near future.

"I want us all to remember those who are still deployed or are getting ready to deploy," Schart said. "Please hold them in your thoughts and prayers until we get them home." ■

Unit supports several missions

More than 300 members of the 180th Fighter Wing served on the most recent Aerospace Expeditionary Forces (AEF) deployment, which spanned Aug. 1 to Sept. 30. In addition to the AEF deployment, other 180th Airmen have participated in several Expeditionary Combat Support (ECS) deployments during 2005, including:

- Security Forces personnel who deployed to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, and to Kuwait in a U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM) support role;
- Fuels personnel who deployed to Balad, Iraq and also to Rhein Main Air Base, Germany, where they provided more than 9 million gallons per month of jet fuel to transport aircraft in their area of responsibility;
- Military Personnel Flight members who deployed to Moron Air Base, Spain, where they provided a Personnel Support Contingency Operations (PERSCO) Team;
- Services Flight personnel who deployed to Southwest Asia, where they supported more than 7,800 U.S.-led coalition forces at the second-largest food services operation in the Air Force while monitoring more than 16,000 morale calls on a monthly basis; and
- Firefighters and Civil Engineers who deployed to Balad Air Base, Iraq, where the first Hazmat Safety program was initiated, and the largest, most complicated Hazmat incident—with 500 gallons of sulfuric acid—was mitigated without injuries.

JOINT FORCE HEADQUARTERS

Soldiers develop weapons fundamentals



Ohio Army National Guardmembers attempt to qualify on the 9 mm pistol range.

Story and photos by
Lt. Col. Craig J. Clark
Camp Perry Training Site

PORT CLINTON—On a pleasantly cool September morning, the sun rises on the North Coast, where a low-lying layer of fog obscures the view of the waves lightly lapping at the beach near the clubhouse.

By 8 a.m., as if on cue, the sun burns off the fog and the sound of 40 M-16 rifles splits the morning calm, heralding the start of the annual range fire make-up, hosted by the Training Site Detachment at Camp Perry.

About 500 Ohio Army National Guardmembers attended the range fire, with 408 qualifying on either an M-16 rifle or M-9 pistol. Much of the lower-than-planned attendance was due to the very rapid deployment of the always ready Ohio National Guard Soldiers who went to support the response to Hurricane Katrina.

A total of 88 guardmembers ran the combat pistol range, four M-16 Alternate Course "C" ranges, the engagement skills trainer (EST) and various support elements. While 100 percent of the detachment was fully engaged in this operation, an additional 48 Soldiers from the three major subordinate commands provided support. A

large portion of this support was performed by officer candidates and TAC (Train-Advise-Counsel) officers from the Ohio Army National Guard Officer Candidate School, 1-145th Regiment, Regional Training Institute (RTI), who received both valuable range operations training and first-hand experience.

Guardmembers arrived continuously starting Friday through midday on Sunday to qualify with their assigned weapon.

They represented all the major subordinate commands in the state. Soldiers who previously failed to qualify received remedial instruction on basic marksmanship skills at their units.

Beamhit, a basic rifle marksmanship training aid, was a required station for all shooters in the past. This requirement was based on the idea that this range was origi-

nally intended for shooters who had not qualified at their unit's range. Beamhit was dropped this year because of the large number of personnel expected and the units ensuring their Soldiers were properly instructed before attending this event. This eliminated the slowest portion of the event.

This year Soldiers shot the Alternate Qualification Course "C" instead of the pop up targets for the M-16 shooters. This meant that they could zero, qualify and conduct Nuclear Biological and Chemical (NBC) warfare qualification firing, all at the same range.

The engagement skills trainer (EST) was used for simulated night fire by both M-16 rifle and M-9 pistol shooters. After a short transition from the pleasantly warm, sunny day outside, they lined up in the darkened indoor simulated range. Here they used specially modified weapons that simulated the sound and feel of real range fire while actually engaging a computer screen with laser pulses instead of bullets.

Through most of the training year, the Soldiers of Camp Perry provide customer support to units that come to use the facility for various training activities including range fire. This one weekend a year, Soldiers can hone and demonstrate their skills at professionally-run ranges. Thus, they provide positive examples of how to run ranges, while getting to share the best North Coast training weather of the year with Soldiers from all over the state of Ohio. ■



PFC Paul Kilbane (left) receives ammo from SPC Shane Williams.



Riding in a humvee convoy, 237th Forward Support Battalion Soldiers react to small arms fire from an “insurgent” role player.

Ohio convoys thunder through Michigan

Story and photo by
Spc. Chad Menegay
196th Mobile Public Affairs Det.

As part of convoy training operations conducted at Camp Grayling, Mich., Ohio Army National Guard vehicles rolled over hardball (paved roadways), gravel, sand, narrow roads, bridges and hills.

Soldiers overcame heat and fatigue to survive the mock exercises and, when the situation dictated, destroyed Opposition Forces (OPFOR) with M-249 Squad Automatic Weapons, M-16 rifles and .50-caliber machine guns from turrets atop humvees and trucks, also known as “guardian angels.”

Lanes and Ground Assault Convoy (GAC) exercises at the expansive training grounds located in northern Michigan were designed to reflect conditions that Soldiers are facing when deployed overseas to places like Iraq, where the possibility of encountering improvised explosive devices, also called IEDs, are a constant concern while conduct-

ing convoy missions.

IEDs normally consist of one or more artillery shells and a triggering device. Soldiers are being taught to look for specific signs indicating the presence of an IED, based on Soldiers’ deployment experiences. IEDs allow small groups of insurgents to select when and where they want to attack, and also permit them the opportunity to blend into society without face-to-face combat. These weapons have been the cause of about half of U.S. servicemember deaths in Iraq.

Soldiers assuming the role of OPFOR during the training exercises at Camp Grayling placed dummy IEDs alongside routes and hid them in the engines and frames of vehicles in the motor pool. Through the use of items including blank ammunition, hand grenade simulators, smoke canisters, flour bombs and pseudo rocket-propelled grenades (RPGs), OPFOR made the training even more realistic

for Ohio National Guard Soldiers.

“We’re going to hit them like we got hit in Iraq,” said Sgt. Richard Householder, a truck driver for the 1485th Transportation Company, located in Dover. Householder’s unit was called up for a year of duty in Iraq in February 2003. Members who served in Operation Iraqi Freedom provided experience-driven training as they served as OPFOR during a six-day, 40-mile lanes training exercise.

Soldiers were required to safely navigate the supply route. The emphasis was on communication and awareness.

“On a convoy, you have to watch everyone around, because any civilian can also be an insurgent,” Householder said.

Soldiers learned how to travel through a simulated village using proper tactics, and how to identify civilians on the battlefield.

Middle Eastern music, de-

signed to cause confusion, hamper communication and increase stress levels, blared over the loud speakers on wooden buildings. Some convoys were road-blocked and forced to halt in the village where individuals in Middle Eastern garb approached the vehicles and antagonized Soldiers to test the troops’ understanding of the rules of engagement.

While in a village, the instruction was to maintain an interval of one to one-and-a-half humvees apart and not to engage unless engaged first. Outside of a road-blocked village environment, convoys focused on getting from one point to another without stopping.

“They’re going to keep the convoy rolling as much as possible,” said 1485th Staff Sgt. Bryan Cole, noncommissioned officer in charge of OPFOR for his unit at Camp Grayling. “A rolling target is harder to hit than a stopped target.”

The 237th Forward Support Battalion, headquartered in Springfield, normally would conduct supply convoys, but sometimes when

Leadership focus drives cavalry training

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

Troops take cover behind their vehicle while it takes the impact of enemy fire. A sergeant devises a plan that might turn the tables in his Soldiers’ favor. They work together and use the skills they gained at annual training to overcome their challenges.

Soldiers under the leadership of Capt. Devin A. Braun, commander of Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 2nd Squadron, 107th Cavalry, located in Kettering, took advantage of their mission to support other units by building their own leadership skills in preparation for combat. The focus of the 2-107th at Camp Grayling’s annual training this year was on Warrior Task Training. The skills they capitalized on were basic troop leadership and weapons safety, according to Braun.

“Our goal at AT was to be safe and to provide a meaningful event for our Soldiers,” Braun said. “At the same time we developed individual combat skills. The junior enlisted will become more proficient in basic leader skills that will prepare them to deploy and potentially go to combat.”

Braun continued, “Safety is always a big concern. During the initial phase of the AT we were very concerned with pre-combat checks and pre-combat inspections. We

make sure everyone does risk management.”

According to Braun, junior leaders develop basic skills regardless of what training task they are assigned.

Braun’s squadron served as a support element for the 37th Brigade Combat Team during AT ’05.

“Most of our Soldiers were cross-leveled with other elements to support their annual training,” Braun said.

One of the many different tasks assigned to Braun’s Soldiers was to help run the Multi-Purpose Range Complex (MPRC).

It is very important to use safe weapons-handling procedures on this range and it takes good leadership skills for in the Soldiers to

maintain that safety, according to Staff Sgt. Larry E. Hollie, MPRC operations sergeant.

“Although Soldiers might think weapons training seems like a small part of (overall) training, it’s essential to form the necessary habits Soldiers need to become proficient in weapons clearing procedures and muzzle awareness,” Braun said.

“Everything we do when we put on this uniform is important, because it’s developing habits and the perception of our junior soldiers. Whether we’re doing ranges or something of a higher collective level, it’s all building skill sets, and it’s all building habits—we want to build the right ones for our Soldiers,” Braun said. ■



During a class on weapons safety, SPC Curtis Haffey of Troop A, 2-107th Cavalry Squadron, demonstrates the proper technique to fire the M-2 .50-caliber machine gun.

units are deployed overseas, they must carry out assault convoys to maintain supply route security. Soldiers of the 237th carried out one such convoy operation, at times, directly assaulting insurgents. The GAC exercise consisted of a 15-mile route, repeated three times, on the first day and a live-fire exercise on the second.

The 2-337th Training Support Battalion from Selfridge, Mich., which helps mobilize

units all over the country, led the training of the 237th FSB and gave detailed blocks of instruction on field communication, mounting and dismounting a vehicle, check-point procedures, 360-degree security, tow bar usage and breaching a suspected IED.

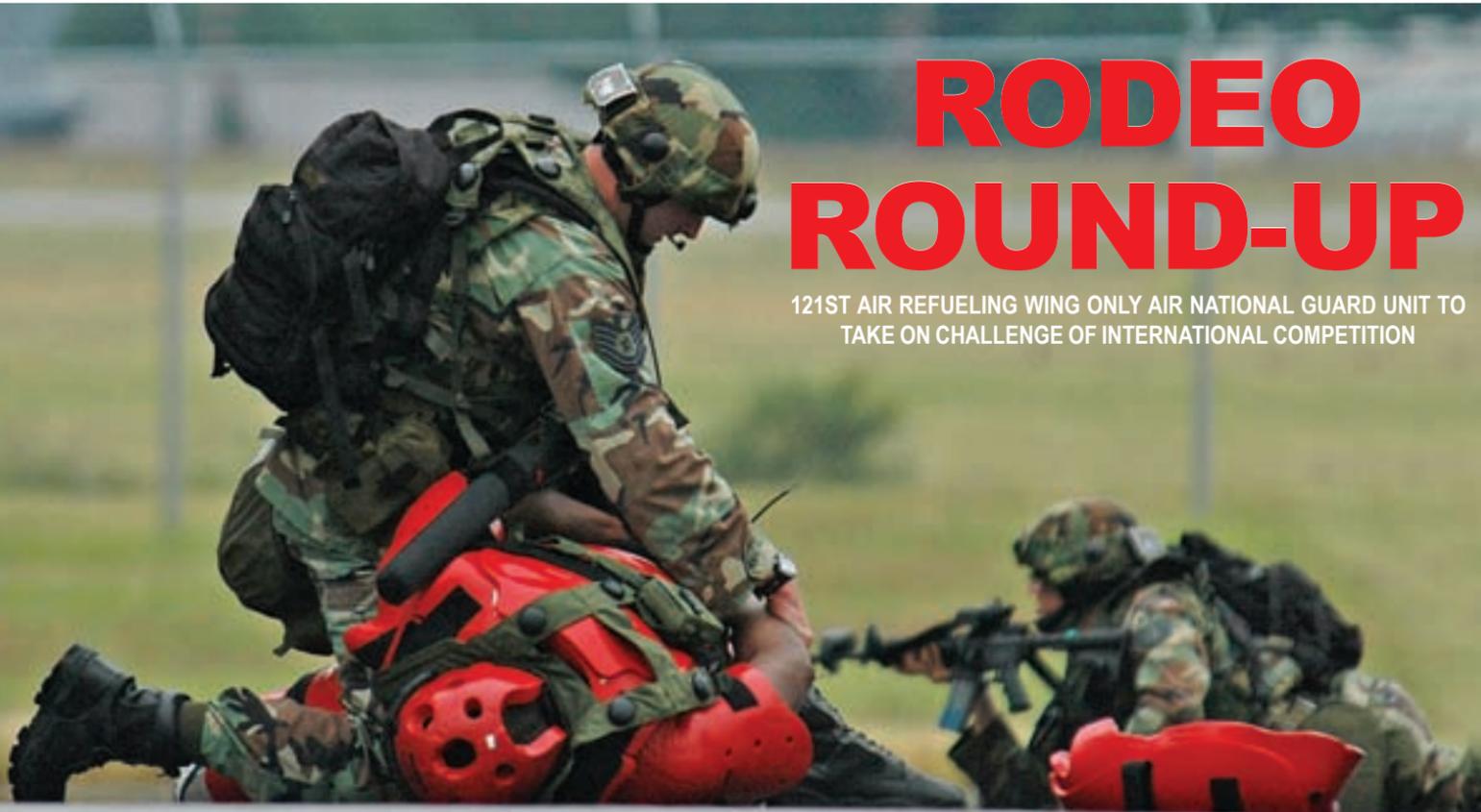
The two-day exercise was packed full of techniques and situations, and although a few team members commented to one another that it was a lot to juggle all at once, the in-

structors commented on how well the 237th performed and absorbed information.

For the culminating live-fire exercise, members of the 237th FSB navigated six engagements. The majority of the Soldiers had not fired live rounds from a moving vehicle before.

“Obviously, the situations change every day overseas,” Householder said. “These Soldiers are going to be more prepared (for the conditions in Iraq) than we ever were.” ■





RODEO ROUND-UP

121ST AIR REFUELING WING ONLY AIR NATIONAL GUARD UNIT TO TAKE ON CHALLENGE OF INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION

TSgt Jamie Burr (left) secures an intruder on the flightline as SSgt Troy Taylor returns fire on another approaching intruder.

Story by Lt. Col. Kathy Lowrey
121st Air Refueling Wing Public Affairs



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

A 19-member team from Columbus' 121st Air Refueling Wing was the only Air National Guard unit in the 2005 Air Mobility Command's Rodeo competition, conducted June 18-25 at McChord Air Force Base in Tacoma, Wash. "Just remember what we did there," said Master Sgt. Jerry Locke, a 121st ARW jet engine technician, as soon as the team landed back home after the intense, fun-filled week. To him and the other members of the team, this meant seeing the best in each other, forming friendships, gaining corporate knowledge and experiencing the pride they felt as the only Citizen-Airman team at Rodeo.

"It is our honor to be here and further the tradition of the Citizen-Airman and Citizen-Soldier," said Maj. Dave Johnson, 121st ARW team commander. "We are proud to go shoulder-to-shoulder against the 'best of the best' in air mobility and showcase our strong commitment to the total force and Ohio."

The AMC Rodeo is the international military competition of air mobility professionals that tests security forces teams in three categories: combat arms, security tactics and an obstacle course. Air Force active-duty and reserve components, as well as international security forces teams, compete in the three categories while providing an opportunity to share the best practices and lessons learned since the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks.

Rodeo's roots began in 1962 as a combat skills competition designed to develop and improve how air mobility forces operated and to promote esprit de corps. In 1979, Rodeo expanded to include international air mobility partners.

The 121st ARW last participated in 1998. The international event has been on hold since it was last conducted at Pope Air Force Base in 2000, due to the increasingly important role air mobility professionals have played during the Global War on Terrorism. Rodeo 2005 allowed AMC professionals to take a pause from the very real, very demanding war, and come together in an intense but friendly competition that allowed competitors to honor the "best of the best."

Rodeo 2005 boasted more than 900 competitors from seven countries: Brazil, France, Germany, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, the United Kingdom and the United States. It featured more than 40 aircraft from U.S. and foreign air forces, ranging from the C-21—which is about the size of a Lear Jet—to the gigantic C-5 Galaxy. France and Germany flew the C-160, a twin-turboprop cargo aircraft. Other foreign nations flew the C-130 Hercules, a four-engine turboprop cargo aircraft. Aircraft the U.S. Air Force teams flew included the C-17 Globemaster III, C-5 Galaxy, C-130 Hercules, KC-10 Extender and the KC-135 Stratotanker (the refueling aircraft flown by the 121st ARW), along with smaller aircraft like the C-21 and the T-1.

Nine other countries participated as observers. In 2000, there were 2,500 attendees, more than twice the participants of this year. The decrease in turnout for 2005 is the result of an increase in operations tempo and funding restrictions.

The Rodeo showcased airdrop, air refueling, aeromedical evacuation, security forces procedures, short-field landings, related ground operations and for the first time—physical fitness. The world's best aerial refuelers and airlifters demonstrated their capabilities, improved procedures, compared notes and enhanced standardization for world-

wide operations. Rodeo tested the flight and ground skills of aircrews and aeromedical evacuation personnel as well as the related skills of ground support teams like security forces, aerial port operations and maintenance. It also provided valuable joint and combined training for all participants.

A team made up of two security forces members of the 121st Air Refueling Wing placed second at the Rodeo. Tech. Sgt. Jamie Burr and Staff Sgt. Troy Taylor out-performed 29 other security forces teams from around the world and were the only representatives of the Air National Guard unit to compete. Burr and Taylor competed in the Combat Endurance, Weapons and Tactics tests.

For months prior to the 2005 Rodeo, Burr and Taylor engaged in an intense one-on-one competition. The one who fell short at practice did the push-ups. After all the training, and at least a six-year friendship, they knew each other well enough to cue off of each other's body language. When quick decision-making and prompt action was needed in a scenario which required the duo to secure a C-130 on foreign soil from civilian protestors, hostile military and a sniper, this immediate, nonverbal communication produced ideal teamwork and results. "We (were) ready to push the envelope and bring home some trophies," said Burr, the security forces team leader.

"I am really proud of them. This result is a great way for our security forces to showcase their strong ongoing commitment to Ohio and the U.S. Air Force," said Brig. Gen. Tom Botchie, 121st ARW commander.

The 121st ARW placed third of all the KC-135 teams in attendance. This ranking included air refueling, arrival time, cargo loading, fuel servicing, preflight inspection, daily observations and home station check scores. The unit received perfect scores for on-time arrival and fuel servicing. On the first day of the competition, the 121st ARW received the highest air refueling score. The aircrew, headed by aircraft commander Maj. Chris Fuller and copilot 1st Lt. Nick Hupp, ranked fourth. Of the 11 tankers participating, the 121st ARW placed fifth.

The 10-member maintenance team, led by Master Sgt. Kevin Cameron, placed sixth. Bringing 160 years of combined military maintenance experience gained from worldwide deployments, this impressive team was tireless in their efforts. Cameron, who has spent his entire 22-year career on the KC-135 airframe, consistently demonstrated his wealth of knowledge and expertise in his leadership

role. "We have never been more prepared to make Ohio and the Guard proud," Cameron said.

Serving in the military for 36 years, Master Sgt. Martin Frey was honored by his co-workers by receiving the 121st ARW maintenance Knuckle Buster award for his all-around great performance and teamwork.

The youngest member of the team, Senior Airman Colin Gallagan, said, "I didn't want to let anyone down due to my lack of experience so I hit the books pretty hard. It was a great learning experience for me and all of my fellow team members and I look forward to going back as a 'veteran.'"

Boom Operators Tech. Sgt. Jeff Morgan and Tech. Sgt. Kevin Cartwright were responsible for composing the 121st ARW tent for "Tent City." Thanks to the scarlet and gray flag, and the specially constructed bar, the unit was known as "the Guard from the Buckeye State." This tent drew multitudes of Buckeyes from all over the country to visit. Often, visitors would start singing the Ohio State University fight song or alma mater as a greeting, and everyone else would join in. The tent was very well received and provided a very welcoming and memorable Air National Guard presence at the event.

"I am really proud of the outstanding performances of each team member and what we learned," said Maj. Dave Johnson, team commander. "Security did great, bringing home second place. Maintenance worked hard, as always, and showcased how much they love what they do. And, our aircrew got the highest air refueling score on one day of the competition. We came together and did our best," he said.

Gen. John W. Handy, commander of U.S. Transportation Command and Air Mobility Command, said he believed it was important to hold Rodeo 2005 to allow competitors to test their abilities against peers, while sharing knowledge and building bonds that strengthen joint commitments for peace and security across the international landscape.

The 121st ARW, which has 18 aircraft and about 1,400 people, is the second largest Air National Guard unit in the United States. Located at Rickenbacker Air National Guard Base, the primary mission of the 121st ARW is to provide aerial refueling to the U.S. Air Force, Navy, and Marine Corps and allied aircraft. The unit's Airmen perform worldwide refueling and transport missions on a daily basis during times of peace as well as during times of international conflict.

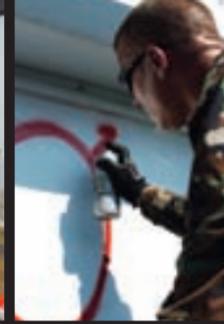
About 220 wing personnel have been mobilized in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, during which time they have performed 27 percent of all the refueling missions, flown more than 3,788 hours and 797 sorties.

In 2004, the 121st ARW was recognized as the best ANG wing in Ohio, and also received the 2004 ground safety award for Ohio.

"Leading this group of fine citizen-warriors has been the highlight of my military career," Johnson said. ■



ABOVE, TOP: KC-135 Stratotanker crewmembers perform hourly post inspection on the flightline at McChord Air Force Base, Wash. ABOVE: Maj. Dave Johnson knocks out push-ups during the physical fitness evaluation portion of the Rodeo competition. LEFT: TSgt Jamie Burr of the 121st Security Forces Squadron removes a simulated casualty dummy from a hostile environment as part of the combat tactics course.



Modern-Day Minutemen Answer Call

By Maj. Nicole Gabriel, AGOH-Public Affairs

Maj. Rob Fenstermaker got the call as he arrived home from work on a Friday, ready to enjoy the Labor Day weekend.

A phone call from a sergeant awakened Spc. Ricky Robinson early that Saturday morning. On Sunday, these two 21st-Century “minutemen” boarded an Ohio Air National Guard C-130 aircraft with 340 Soldiers from the 1-134th Field Artillery Battalion and headed to the Gulf Coast. They joined the Ohio National Guard task force that had been arriving throughout the week in Mississippi and Louisiana to support the national relief efforts in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.

In the tradition of National Guard—which traces its history to the colonial militia or “minutemen,” who were ready to defend the homeland on a “minute’s” notice—Fenstermaker and Robinson, were among the 1,600 Ohio National Guardmembers who quickly and efficiently answered the call to support their fellow Americans in a time of crisis.

Like their 18th-Century counterparts, these modern-day minutemen dropped what they were doing, left behind families, jobs and college to answer the call.

Fenstermaker, the battalion operations and training officer, packed a few last-minute things Friday night before saying goodbye to his wife and two children on Saturday. He postponed a family cookout and put his wife’s “honey-do” list on hold indefinitely. “I reported Saturday morning to my unit and started working on the plan to get the battalion down there,” he said.

About the same time, Robinson received a call from his Army supervisor. “He told me I had to come in ASAP (as soon as possible),” Robinson said. A resident of Carlisle, located southwest of Dayton, Robinson is a communications specialist for Headquarters Battery, 1-134th Field Artillery Battalion, Columbus.

“I called my mom to get her to help take care of some personal affairs. I packed up all I could and then headed to my unit in Columbus,”



CPT Steve Alvarez / U.S. Army

White Cypress Lakes, Miss., resident Shirley Lott hugs SGT William Martin of Company B, 1-137th Aviation Battalion, when Martin and other aircrew members delivered supplies to her community after Hurricane Katrina struck.

Robinson said. On Sunday, Robinson met up with the battalion’s advance party of about 10 Soldiers who had arrived in Poplarville, Miss., the day before.

During the days immediately following the hurricane, C-130s from the 179th Airlift Wing in Mansfield flew Soldiers and Airmen to the affected states, while other units made three-day convoys in humvees and military trucks down south.

Ohio’s Air National Guard played a critical role in getting Soldiers, Airmen, supplies and equipment on the ground so quickly, said Maj. Gen. A.J. Feucht, assistant adjutant general for Air. “Obviously, aircraft can get people and equipment there in a matter of hours versus the three days it takes to ground convoy. Having our C-130s from the 179th and our KC-135s from

the 121st proved vital to our success.”

Those C-130s and KC-135s enabled the artillery battalion to quickly set up operations.

Robinson spent his first days in Mississippi at the battalion headquarters monitoring the radios. He said he was anxious to go out and help at one of the food and supply distribution sites. “Things are not as bad here as in the other areas, so in some ways, I feel like I am not doing as much as I should,” Robinson said. “I am glad to be here, though. I wanted to come. I volunteered. I know if I was a citizen down here, I would expect the help.”

Less than a month later, Mother Nature let loose another punch to the Gulf Coast—Hurricane Rita—and the Ohio National Guard provided an additional 1,100 Soldiers and Airmen to the relief efforts. The assistance was provided under the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC), a national mutual aid and partnership agreement that allows state-to-state assistance during states of emergencies declared by the governor or president.

“The quick response of our Citizen-Soldiers and Airmen was amazing,” said Maj. Gen. Gregory L. Wayt, Ohio adjutant general. “We had more than 350 Soldiers and Airmen on the ground in about 36 hours after the hurricane struck. Another 1,000 were on their way within 48 hours and we continued to respond with ready units in the days following as the situation unfolded. This is a testament to our readiness, as well as to the sense of selfless service inherent in our guardmembers.” ■

OHIO’S SUPPORT: BY THE NUMBERS

- Soldiers deployed: **2,479**
- Airmen deployed: **191**
- Meals distributed: **4,481,168**
- Gallons of water distributed: **3,164,042**
- Pounds of ice distributed: **4,444,080**
- Tons of cargo moved by air (OHANG): **352**
- Distribution points supported: **185**
- Citizens evacuated: **8,052**
- Black Hawk helicopter missions flown: **128**
- Chinook helicopter missions flown: **52**
- Baby supplies delivered: **1,300 pounds**

OHIO’S 1-148TH INFANTRY SOLDIERS SHINE IN NEW ORLEANS’ MUCK



ABOVE: A 1-148th Infantry Battalion Soldier keeps a watchful eye over the activity around the New Orleans Superdome. RIGHT: LTC Gordon Ellis (center), 1-148th Infantry Battalion commander, met two of his officers from the Franklin, Ohio Police Department who were also supporting relief efforts.



Courtesy photos

By Maj. Nicole Gabriel, AGOH-Public Affairs

Initially, Lt. Col. Gordon Ellis thought his unit, the 1-148th Infantry Battalion, was headed to Mississippi to assist with Hurricane Katrina relief efforts. About an hour into the planning process, however, Ellis was called by Brig. Gen. Jack Lee, commander of the 73rd Troop Command and Joint Task Force Buckeye.

“He wanted to know how quickly we could get about 300 Soldiers to move by air to New Orleans,” Ellis said. Within 13 hours of starting the battalion recall, 315 of his Infantrymen were aboard Ohio Air National Guard aircraft heading to the Gulf Coast. As they boarded the planes, the Soldiers grabbed body armor, shotguns and ammunition—last-minute supplies that would prove critical to the mission they faced at the New Orleans Superdome, Ellis said.

The Soldiers landed that night at Belle Chase Naval Air Station in Mississippi to extremely austere conditions. There was no power, no sanitation, nothing. “Imagine trying to gather people and equipment with no lights except the lights from the aircraft,” Ellis said.

They spent the first night in a gymnasium at the air station knowing they would be moving to the “Dome” sometime the next day, Sept. 1. “About 7 or 8 a.m., a major at the reception station said: ‘There’s a riot at the Superdome. We need your people there as quick as possible.’” Within a half an hour, the 1-148th Soldiers arrived at the airfield.

“It was like a scene out of the movie *Apocalypse Now*,” Ellis

said. “There were all types of military helicopters. Crew chiefs ran out the doors saying, ‘Give me 10, 20 50 pax (passengers). We were loaded and in the air in about 30 minutes. It was the most amazing thing.’”

During the 20-minute flight from the air station to the Superdome, Ellis viewed the devastation that was New Orleans. Below him a building burned and as the helicopter descended through the smoke, the Superdome came into view. He saw several thousand people milling around the building, but they did not appear to be rioting.

As the world watched the images of the helpless citizens being rescued from roof tops and heard reports of horrendous crimes taking place in the Superdome, not many knew that the professional Soldiers of Ohio’s 1-148th were on the scene, quietly and efficiently re-establishing order and moving the evacuees out of the building to await transportation out of the city.

The battalion, which returned from peace support and peace keeping operations in Kosovo less than six months earlier, was well-prepared for this type of mission, Ellis said. That mission could not, however, prepare them for the conditions they encountered upon entering the Superdome.

“It was surreal,” Ellis said. “The garbage was up to your knees.

**“It was surreal....
The garbage was up to your knees.
There was every type of bad smell
you can imagine... human waste,
rotten food and dead body
all mixed into one.”**

—Lt. Col. Gordon Ellis
1-148th Infantry Battalion commander

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1-148TH INFANTRY SOLDIERS SHINE
—continued from previous page

There was every type of bad smell you can imagine...human waste, rotten food and dead body all mixed into one." The smell was so horrible, Soldiers had to wear masks. There was no electricity or plumbing. The dome roof was damaged, there was little lighting and the temperature hovered around 95 degrees plus humidity. To compound the problem, many of the evacuees were in dire need of medical care. The battalion's medical team treated many medical emergencies from heart attacks to insulin shock.

Despite the adversity, the Soldiers restored order quickly. Ellis said a few people who were intoxicated caused some disruptions and they seized multiple weapons, but the Soldiers were well-received and treated with respect. Ellis, who serves as the City of Franklin's police chief, attributes his unit's success to having the right equipment to do the job, namely body armor and shotguns. "When you show up with the demonstrative ability to use force, you don't often have to use it. We had the ability to use force, but we never had to use it because (the Soldiers) were perceived as professional and nobody challenged that."

Besides securing and clearing the Superdome, the group that went to New Orleans received many "short-fuse" missions around the city, such as rescuing people who were under small arms fire from looters as well as conducting neighborhood patrols, going from house to house, often in boats because of the flood waters, searching for the living and the dead.

The Soldiers themselves endured miserable conditions, yet put aside their own well-being to help their fellow Americans. When they completed their mission, 22 days later, the Soldiers had evacuated 8,000 people from the Superdome, conducted 363 patrols and rescued 52 people from their homes.

"Always etched in my mind will be the willingness of these Soldiers to do whatever was asked without reservation," Ellis said. They climbed through garbage and put themselves at risk to pull people out of flooded homes. "No doubt, the best of America resides in those young Soldiers." ■



Courtesy photo

While visiting Ohio National Guardmembers supporting Hurricane Katrina recovery efforts near Kiln, Miss., Ohio Gov. Bob Taft (second from left), along with BG Jack E. Lee, Task Force Buckeye commander, and MG Gregory L. Wayt, Ohio adjutant general, talks with a Salvation Army relief worker.

Governor visits Ohio troops, helps distribute supplies to evacuees

Governor Bob Taft traveled Sept. 13 to Southern Mississippi to tour the devastation caused by Hurricane Katrina and visit Ohio troops assisting with recovery efforts near Kiln, Miss.

Taft visited with several Ohio National Guardmembers supporting Joint Task Force Buckeye.

"I am proud that our Ohio National Guard (provided) much-needed support for the families and communities that are trying to recover from the devastation caused by Hurricane Katrina," Taft said.

Joint Task Force Buckeye was responsible for security operations in parts of Mississippi and Louisiana and provided support to local law enforcement. The units also were involved in missions including search and rescue, evacuation and delivering supplies to the local populations.

The governor thanked Ohio troops aiding in the Hurricane Katrina relief efforts and helped the troops distribute supplies to evacuees outside Kiln, Miss. Taft visited Soldiers from the 73rd Troop Command, Columbus; 371st Corps Support Group, Kettering; and 324th Military Po-

lice Company, (Middletown); and Airmen from the 269th Combat Communications Squadron, Springfield.

On Aug. 31, Taft authorized 1,500 Ohio National Guard Soldiers and Airmen to assist in the rescue and recovery efforts for the Hurricane Katrina victims. Within 36 hours of the call-up, 320 Ohio National Guard Soldiers were in New Orleans.

Maj. Gen. Gregory L. Wayt, Ohio adjutant general, thanked Taft for spending time with the Soldiers and Airmen.

"When the (state) commander-in-chief arrives in theater, it shows the men and women he commands that he is proud of them, and that he appreciates their effort and their sacrifice. That means a great deal to a Soldier or an Airman," Wayt said.

Joint Task Force Buckeye drew personnel from many units of the Ohio National Guard, both Air and Army, utilizing people from all over Ohio to aid in Hurricane recovery efforts.

However, more than 80 percent of the Ohio National Guard's assets remained in Ohio, ready for missions closer to home, if the need arose. ■ **GOVERNOR'S COMMUNICATIONS OFFICE**

Vigilant Guard: an exercise in preparedness

**Story by Sgt. 1st Class Nancy McMillan
196th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment**

Columbus—These days, the threat of explosive-laden zealots detonating themselves in vehicles, buildings and other high-traffic public areas is not unimaginable. Injury and death is one half of the destructive plot; lasting fear and uncertainty completes the radical feat. The capacity for Ohio National Guard Soldiers and Airmen to quickly respond to an incident in Ohio is essential. At times it can mean the difference between life and death.

"Ohio is transforming from a strategic to an operational force," said Maj. Gen. Gregory L. Wayt, Ohio adjutant general. "One important aspect of transformation is ensuring that the readiness level of Ohio National Guard's Soldiers and Airmen is at the highest level possible, a must in today's world where a fast response to a mission means hours, not days," Wayt added.

With such terror present throughout the world, the nation is taking measures to become better prepared for the ongoing violence that jeopardizes freedom and peace. One such measure in Ohio included the hosting of a multi-state series of training exercises designed to enhance readiness in performing state roles and responsibilities associated with Homeland Defense and Defense Support to Civil Authorities. "Vigilant Guard," a three-day, single-site, multi-state training exercise involving a period of heightened alert, was followed by a mock Chemical Biological Radiological Nuclear Explosive (CBRNE) attack on a major city in the Great Lakes region which included participants from Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Minnesota and Wisconsin.

Conducted in August and sponsored by the National Guard Bureau, in cooperation with state adjutants general, "Vigilant Guard" provided National Guard personnel an opportunity to explore cooperative relationships with other govern-

ment entities and build trust during a simulated crisis in order to identify shortfalls in current plans and to develop innovative applications.

During the first week of the exercise participants received simulated streams of Indications and Warning (I&W) intelligence information, as well as a series of state and federal injects that portrayed a heightened awareness of credible terrorist threats.

Intelligence sources indicated that working through associates in a foreign country, a secular terrorist purchased materials for making "dirty bombs." Utilizing sleeper cells within the United States, the radical's intent was to transport the component and detonate devices in four major cities, killing 200-500 people and contaminating 20,000 more.

As the terrorist's plans started to unfold, participants continued to respond to previously received I&W information, as well as new injects dispensed during morning Joint Task Force Commander's and shift change briefs.

Throughout the week, the participants, including representatives from various Defense Department, federal and state organizations such as U.S. Northern Command, the Department of Homeland Security, Joint Terrorism Task Forces and Emergency Management Agency, discussed operational challenges, issues and proposed actions associated with each new development. "This is a great training event and the first of its kind," Wayt said. "Crises of this magnitude bring

together many organizations who do not meet on a regular basis. The scenarios that were presented helped better prepare us to perform our jobs in a real-life mission."

The exercise ended with the participants, through strategic and operational analysis and quick reaction, thwarting much of the terrorist's plan, saving hundreds from immediate death and preventing consequential suffering and destruction for years to come.

"It was a very productive exercise," Wayt said. "Our No. 1 priority is the security and defense of our homeland." ■



Timing of homeland defense exercise proves to be uncanny

Shortly after the "Vigilant Guard" exercise in August, about 2,700 Ohio National Guard Soldiers and Airmen deployed to assist in the Hurricane Katrina and Rita rescue and recovery efforts.

The assistance was provided under the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC), a national mutual aid and partnership agreement that allows state-to-state assistance during states of emergencies declared by the governor or presi-

dent. The agreement provides a responsive and straightforward system for the National Guard in unaffected states to send personnel and equipment to help disaster-relief efforts in affected states. Soldiers and Airmen from Ohio provided security assistance and general support in Mississippi and Louisiana.

Although there was no way of knowing that the lessons learned from the Joint Staff exercise would be employed

so quickly, Operation Vigilant Guard was the best preparation for the Guard's support mission in response to Hurricane Katrina a mere two weeks later, and to Hurricane Rita, three weeks after that.

"You saw the results (of the exercise) with Katrina and Rita," Wayt said. "(The response to the hurricanes) was the National Guard's finest hour. The entire Ohio National Guard was ready to respond." **AGOH-PUBLIC AFFAIRS**

RANGE ROVERS

Annual weapons qualifications help Soldiers maintain one of the most vital warrior skills

Story and photos by Spc. Brian Johnson



Company A, 216th Engineer Battalion



LEFT: From the range control tower at Camp Sherman, SSG Richard Wright gives instructions to troops on the firing line. **ABOVE:** A Soldier takes aim at a target with his M-16 rifle while firing from the "prone, unsupported" position.

Members of Company A, 216th Engineer Battalion, performed their annual individual weapons qualification in August at Camp Sherman, an Ohio National Guard training site just outside of Chillicothe.

The unit, headquartered in Chillicothe, has more than 100 members who perform various engineering jobs including carpentry, plumbing and electrical work. The unit also has Soldiers who operate heavy equipment including bulldozers, backhoes, rollers and semi trucks.

But on this particular weekend, everyone, regardless of their job skill, had the requirement to try and qualify their assigned small arms weapons. This requirement enables Soldiers to maintain familiarity with their weapons, should they ever be called upon to use them.

Weapons qualification consists of a Soldier trying to hit at least 40 targets at a specified distance with 40 rounds of ammunition within a limited amount of time. The minimum required score for an M-16 rifle on a range with stationary targets is 26 hits out of 40 shots. As easy as this may sound, the targets are of varying distances from 50 meters to 300 meters. Soldiers also have to qualify wearing their protective mask and at night.

"The Soldiers of the unit ran a very efficient and effective range," said Capt. Donald Westfall, Company A commander. "I feel very comfortable with the results of this range and the Soldiers who qualified today. This is just another example of why we are the best (company) in the battalion."

Soldiers held varied views about the weapons qualification. "I really look at the weapons qualification differently now since I have returned from Iraq," said Spc. Christopher Wysong, a resident of

Washington Court House. Added Sgt. Patrick Wolfe: "This was an adrenaline rush. It was good hands-on training. This was one of the reasons why I joined the Ohio Army National Guard."

Spc. David Whaley, also a resident of Washington Court House, had a slightly more humorous observation. He was a gunner on a humvee through most of the 216th's deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. "I miss my 50-cal(iber machine gun). This really is a change for me."

The 216th was mobilized for service in December 2003, and after train-up at a stateside location, Soldiers of the battalion spent 11 months serving in the area around Tikrit, Iraq, hometown of former Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein. The unit returned last February.

"Weapons qualification is a basic skill that each Soldier is required to perform at a moment's notice," Westfall said. "By

running a qualification range, we ensure that each Soldier is familiar with his weapon and can perform the job if required." ■



Two Soldiers from Company A, 216th Engineer Battalion "zero" their weapons under the watchful eye of a range safety noncommissioned officer.

This was done by a UPAR!

Ohio Army and Air National Guard Unit Public Affairs Representatives, or UPARs, are a critical element in telling the great Ohio National Guard story.

UPARs are encouraged to submit articles and photos meant to inform, educate or entertain our readers, including stories about interesting Guard personalities and unique unit training. Submissions also may be utilized on the Ohio National Guard website, www.ohionationalguard.com.

For information on article and photo specifications, or to submit completed stories and photos, you can send an e-mail to buckeye@tagoh.gov.



ABOVE: COL Debbie Ashenhurst (No. 6186) finishes her two-person team's relay at the Columbus Marathon Oct. 16. Ashenhurst teamed up with SSG Joshua McKee after the two served together in Mississippi during hurricane relief efforts. **BELOW:** Soldiers of the Ohio Army National Guard's 237th Personnel Services Battalion, Columbus, pose for a photo Oct. 15 after a 5-kilometer race that was conducted at Camp Doha, Kuwait, in support of the Columbus Marathon.



From Start to Finish: ONG helps make Columbus Marathon a success

Story and photos by Sgt. Kimberly Snow
196th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

A C-130 airplane roared over building tops Oct. 16 in downtown Columbus as about 5,000 runners prepared to race 26.2 miles in the 26th annual Columbus Marathon.

The fly-over, courtesy of the Mansfield-based 179th Airlift Wing, helped to bring an element of celebration and excitement to the event said Mike Collins, the marathon's executive director.

"I was warming up for the race when the C-130 flew over," said 1st Lt. Buddy Longhenry from A Battery, 1st Battalion, 134th Field Artillery. "There were a bunch of guys near me who didn't know about the fly-over and they looked up and said, 'Oh man! I used to jump out of those!'"

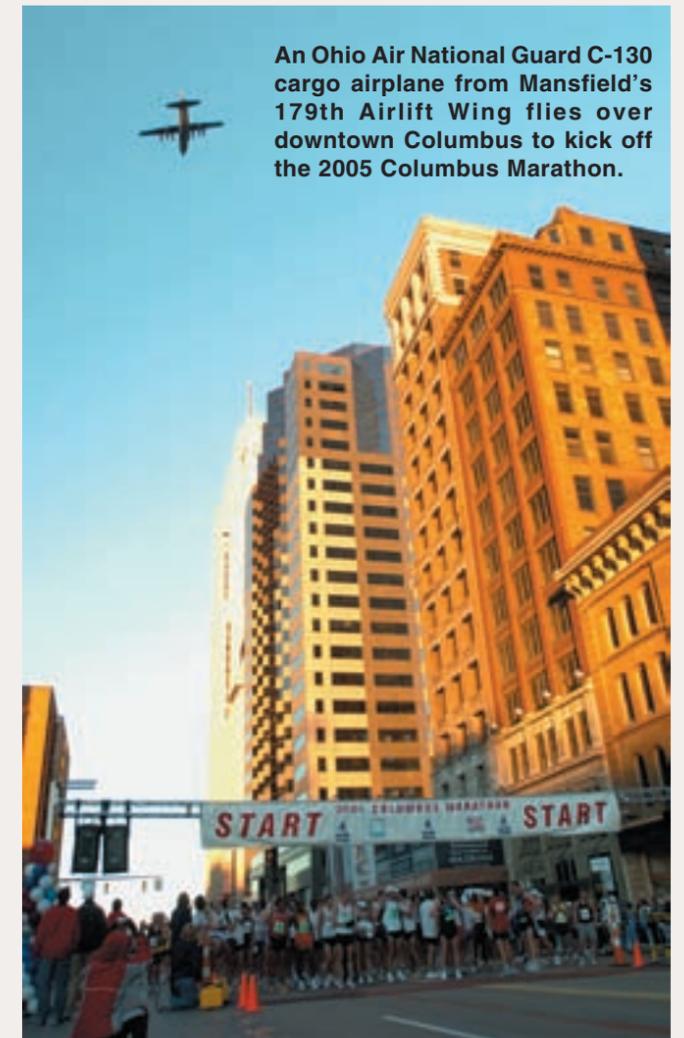
Longhenry was one of about 50 Ohio Air and Army National Guardmembers who took advantage of a registration fee waiver offered to guardmembers by the marathon's board of trustees.

About 200 additional Air and Army National Guardmembers volunteered time and expertise Oct. 14-16 to help support their community and to celebrate the Guard's partnership with the Columbus Marathon. Ohio Adjutant General Maj. Gen. Gregory L. Wayt coordinated Guard support with marathon officials and sounded the air horn beginning the race. Wayt credited State Command Sgt. Maj. Bill Gilliam and State Command Chief Master Sgt. Chris Muncy with organizing all aspects of the Guard's involvement, which began with a meeting with Marathon Board President Cynthia Lazarus months before the event.

In addition to the fly-over, the Ohio National Guard provided both pace and sweep vehicles, staffed two water points and provided an honor guard to open ceremonies on race day. The 122nd Army National Guard Band also performed in front of the Ohio Statehouse.

The three-day calendar of events, culminating in Sunday's 26-mile race, began on Oct. 14 at the Columbus Convention Cen-

An Ohio Air National Guard C-130 cargo airplane from Mansfield's 179th Airlift Wing flies over downtown Columbus to kick off the 2005 Columbus Marathon.



ter with activities ranging from rock climbing to a recruiting display with the National Guard's NASCAR show car, the No. 16 racer driven by Greg Biffle.

Members of the Guard also provided support to the Red Nose Run at the Franklin Park, which focused on youth fitness and offered a wide variety of activities for kids of all ages. At the Expo Center the Ohio National Guard's Counterdrug Task Force set up a rock wall for climbers of all ages and ability levels.

On Saturday, there was also a "dual marathon" in Kuwait, with about 60 runners from the 237th Personnel Services Battalion running a 5-kilometer race in an attempt to bring a piece of home to the desert. The Columbus-based unit ran the mini-marathon wearing official Columbus Marathon race shirts, which were donated by the marathon's executive council.

"This is a great event to show that we're in shape and that we care about our commitment to the community," Wayt said. "It's a fantastic partnership." ■

HELP FROM ABOVE:

Ohio Army National Guard aviators assist with border security

Story and photo by Dan Simon
Fort Huachuca Public Affairs

Members of the Ohio National Guard helped plug another gap in America's border with Mexico this summer as their CH-47 Chinook helicopters positioned vehicle barricades in the Coronado National Memorial in Arizona.

The effort—part of a joint project between the Ohio Army National Guard's Company G, 137th Aviation Battalion, National Park Service, Joint Task Force North, National Guard Bureau, Bureau of Land Management and U.S. Border Patrol—showed what can happen when government agencies work together on a mutually beneficial mission.

For the Soldiers, the project represented a real-world training opportunity to prepare for the kind of conditions and challenges they might face in Iraq or Afghanistan. For the National Park Service it means fewer places where motor vehicles can penetrate the U.S. border within the memorial grounds.

"We were getting people who were coming across the open lands of Mexico," said Kym A. Hall, Coronado National Memorial superintendent. "Because of the way the topography was in that particular part of the park, it was a pretty open shot."

The memorial shares a three-and-a-half mile border with Mexico and much of the approach from America's southern neighbor is across hot, flat desert. Once near the memorial, though, the terrain becomes challenging. Near the park edge the ground lifts and is marked by small ridges and washes. Still, an aggressive driver in a sport utility vehicle could often find a way over the ridges and through the washes.

The solution to the problem has been to place several types of barricades in strategic locations to bar access to the park by vehicles. These barricades ranged from vertical posts, to post and horizontal bar combinations, to the "D-Day" style Normandy beach "X-bar" obstacles that the Ohio Guard unit placed in the current operation.

Some 30 barriers were placed by Ohio Army National Guard Chinook helicopters and crews. The twin-rotored aircraft are each capable of hauling between 18,000 to 26,000 pounds of a cargo from as many as three hooks located on the helicopter's underbelly.

The aircraft used two of their three hooks for the 1,600- to 2,200-pound barricades. Besides creating a more stable load, it made it easier for the pilots to land the barriers with the pinpoint precision required.

It's a tricky load for us," said Maj. Anthony Digiaco, the company commander. "The pilots have to place these loads down on the ground using 40-foot slings, plus or minus 6 or 8 inches. It takes a tremendous amount of coordination and

the flyers Digiaco said.

"We have to have a lot of pilots," he explained. "About two hours of such an intensive flight is about all they can take before we need to rest them."

The project came about when Digiaco received a phone call from Joint Task Force North, a Defense Department agency that acts as a facilitator for homeland security and drug interdiction support efforts. The organization doesn't have any forces of its own, but specializes in finding military units interested in participating in homeland security support missions.

The task force makes things happen by footing the bill for all mission related costs, except for the costs of materials needed for the project. These are provided by the requesting government entity.

Company G members were eager to take on the project because it represented a strong training opportunity.

"This is an air movement operation," Digiaco said. "That's one of our mission essential tasks. Refueling is another one of our mission essential tasks. What this allows us to do is try all our mission essential tasks along with mobilizing and deployment which is our third. They are perfectly dovetailed."

"This mission is a perfect match to what we need to do in the real world in a wartime environment."

Preparations for the mission began more than six months in advance of the unit's July mission in Arizona.

"Every month, from January (2005) on, we would do sling loading," said Staff Sgt. Jonathan South. "We would do it at the (Akron-Canton Airport) where we're from. We would get the pallets and practice moving them like we're doing here."

Hall said the project was a success for both the Guard and the park service.

"It meets their need to have specialized training, it meets our need to have a project completed," she said. "It's a win-win. We get what we need, they get what they need. It's just a very positive story all around." ■



SGT Joseph Russo gives an approaching helicopter a "go" signal.

therein lies the difficulty in the way the barriers are set up."

The rugged landscape made it impractical to use heavy equipment to position the barricades Digiaco said, making airborne delivery the only option. This put a strain on his pilots, but also provided an exquisite test of their training and preparation.

"It (the barrier) has to be positioned precisely," he said. "The reason we're out here is because ground people can't access this area because of the terrain and how rough it is. It's too dangerous for ground crews to try to jockey the barrier as it comes down. The aircraft has to place it in a precise manner. That's where it takes a lot of skill."

The work is so demanding that only modest stunts in the aircraft were possible for



LEFT: Visitors to the OSU Airport Open House get up close to the Ohio National Guard's UH-1 Huey helicopter (foreground) and the C-130 Hercules cargo aircraft. ABOVE: SFC John Beltran (left) of Company B, 2-19th Special Forces Group, answers questions about the Green Berets and the equipment they use.

Airport open house showcases Army, Air Guard capabilities

Story by Maj. Ed Mikula
Joint Force Headquarters-Ohio

Camp Grayling, Mich., wasn't the only training site for high-speed joint military operations this past July.

Members of various Ohio Army and Air National Guard units descended upon the Ohio State University Airport in northwest Columbus in support of their biennial open house last July.

The Airport Open House proved to be a great venue for Soldiers and Airmen to interact with the public while demonstrating their skills and displaying their unique equipment. While there were more than 40 aircraft on display, the most popular exhibit on display seemed to be the Ohio Air National Guard's "Herc-93," a C-130 from the 179th Airlift Wing located in Mansfield.

The Open House began with the Don Scott Trot—a 5-kilometer race on the airport's runway. The OSU Airport closed the runways so 394 race participants could participate in a charitable run-walk in support of Angel Flight-Mid Atlantic.

Once the 5-kilometer run-walk concluded and the runways opened, the aerial demonstrations began with the 1-137th Aviation Battalion and B Company, 2-19th Special Forces Group, both headquartered at Rickenbacker Airport, Columbus. The 137th transported a squad of Green Berets into the airport's infield to simulate a quick insertion rescue mission to recover a wounded com-

rade in a combat operation. Once the Special Forces Soldiers established themselves on the ground and quickly stabilized the wounded Soldier, they "popped" smoke—set off smoke grenades for concealment from enemy viewing—and the UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter immediately returned to the landing zone, also known as the "LZ," for quick extraction.

About an hour later, two F-16 jet fighters came screaming out of the western skies for a high-speed pass over one of the airport's runways. The two "Fighting Falcons"—from the

178th Fighter Wing located in Springfield—performed two fly-by exhibitions, showing the crowd maneuvers such as steep banks and vertical climbs.

The final joint National Guard operation was an airborne demonstration by the Ohio Army National Guard's Special Forces unit. Once the C-130 took off and after a brief climb to altitude, the Herc-93 approached the airport. Just before it crossed the airport's infield, the plane's crew opened its back door ramp, and the Special Forces Soldiers parachuted en masse out of the back of the aircraft and landed

on the infield grass.

Once the jump team was safe on the ground and accounted for, Herc-93 and its crew conducted various fly-bys and demonstrated a combat landing and takeoff.

Other activities and displays included the Recruiting Command's rock climbing wall, a weaponry display by the Special Forces, and booths with information on how citizens could join the Ohio Army and Air National Guard. ■

EDITOR'S NOTE: Photos by Maj. Ed Mikula, Jo McCully and Bob Mullins



As a crowd looks on at the OSU Airport, a C-130 Hercules aircraft makes a pass in preparation for a parachute drop by Ohio Army National Guard Special Forces Soldiers.

a closer look at your associations

Guard chief addresses EANGUS Conference

ORLANDO, Fla.—“A relevant, reliable, ready and accessible National Guard.” It is the mantra that the chief of the National Guard Bureau, Lt. Gen. H Steven Blum, has taken on the road with him everywhere he goes.

On Aug. 21 Blum brought his message to the Rosen Centre Hotel, location of the Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States’ (EANGUS) 2005 National Conference.

Prior to Blum taking the podium, conference attendees were shown a short video in which Blum outlined his vision of the future for the National Guard. Key in the presentation was the tenet that the Guard must change and adapt to face the challenges posed by the Global War on Terrorism.

“We must transform. We don’t have the advantage of time our oceans once afforded us,” Blum said during the video presentation. “We are defending our homeland today in scheduled away games, to use a sports analogy, both in Afghanistan and Iraq.”

Images of Citizen-Soldiers engaged in foreign lands filled the screen; slowly, the screen faded to emotional images of the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks on the United States.

“But we also know that we can be subject to unscheduled home games like 9-11,” Blum said. “America expects us to be ready when this happens, and we will deliver.”

Shifting from transformation of the Guard to the importance of professional organizations such as EANGUS, Blum noted that his position as an officer on U.S. Code Title 10 status (federal control by the president) gave him “a left and a right boundary.”

“In my position, there are certain things that I’m allowed and not allowed to say and do,” Blum said. “That’s why organizations such as EANGUS are so important. They give you, Sol-



LTG H Steven Blum, chief, National Guard Bureau (right) presents SMSgt Shelly Brunn of the 180th Fighter Wing with a Chief’s Coin during the 2005 National EANGUS Conference.

diers and Airmen, a voice on issues before Congress.”

Blum responded to concerns on veterans benefits and retirement age; how was the National Guard going to get funding to replace equipment left in theaters of war and future funding for professional development conferences such as EANGUS? By far, the most passionate discussion centered on the issue of Base Realignment and Closure Commission (BRAC). Taking considerable fire from members of the conference, Blum reiterated that as a Title 10 officer, there was only so much he could say but he did note, “As a citizen and a taxpayer, I think the BRAC Commission is a good idea...but the process is far from perfect. We are working very close with the adjutants general of the states affected to do all that we can.”

Bringing the question-and-answer session to a close, Blum left conference-goers with a final thought—“The National Guard will protect our country, the associations will protect the National Guard.”

Stories and photos by SPC Benjamin Cossel ♦♦♦ 196th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Enlisted association looks toward future

ORLANDO, Fla.—Among the many presentations during the 2005 National Conference of the Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States (EANGUS), one issue was prominent above all else—how to increase the organization’s membership.

For Tech. Sgt. Steve Brunn, vice president-Air of the Ohio National Guard Enlisted Association (ONGEA), the issue is more finite than simply increasing overall numbers.

“Your senior personnel—sergeants major, chief master sergeants—they get it,” Brunn said. “They get that we need a professional lobbying organization like EANGUS on Capitol Hill speaking for the issues near and dear to the hearts of National Guardsmen. We need to focus our recruiting efforts on junior Soldiers and Airmen, and get them on board.”



Henkaline

think about retirement and health care benefits. All are issues which Brunn and other leaders of the Ohio National Guard Enlisted Association have noted.

Spc. Adam Henkaline, 22, of Columbus, a member of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1-148th Infantry Battalion, gives voice to many of the challenges leaders like Brunn identified.

“Prior to coming to this conference, I had no idea what EANGUS was,” Henkaline said. “And let me tell you, I’m impressed. I mean, I’m not thinking about

Brunn noted that several challenges exist in getting the EANGUS message out to younger Soldiers and Airmen, from lack of information about the organization to the mindset of a younger corps of individuals who have yet to

some of this stuff right now, but I need to, and we need groups like this to give us a voice.”

Henkaline and 11 other junior Ohio National Guardmembers attended the conference on active-duty orders. Command Sgt. Maj. Randy Kintz, ONGEA president, explained it is just one of the ways the ONGEA is reaching out to its younger constituents.

“This is the first year we’ve been able to bring people to the national conference on orders,” Kintz said. “We were able to bring one Soldier for every thousand (members of the Ohio National Guard), and we hope to increase that to two for every thousand next year.”

Kintz said it is his hope that once these young Soldiers and Airmen have returned from the conference, they will return to their units and spread the word of EANGUS and ONGEA.

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2006 State Conference dates set

The annual Ohio National Guard Enlisted Association Conference will be conducted May 19-21 in Columbus. For information, call the association at (800) 642-6642.

2006
ONGEA
Winter Dinner Dance
25 February 2006
Villa Milano, Columbus
6pm Social Hour
7pm Dinner
8pm Dancing

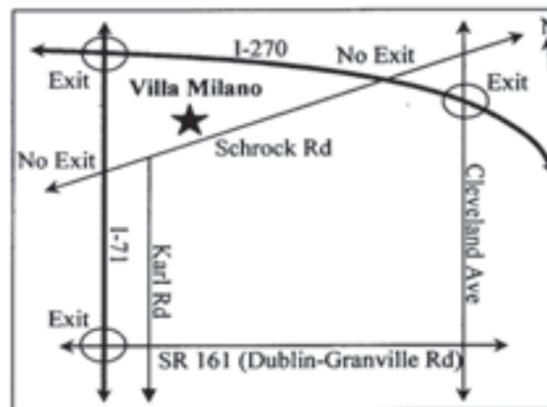


Directions:

Villa Milano
1630 Schrock Rd. (614) 882-2058

From I-270 exit at Cleveland Ave North. Schrock is the first intersection, turn left (west). Villa Milano will be approximately one mile down on the right.

From I-71 exit at SR 161 East. Go about one mile to Karl Rd, turn left (north). Karl Rd dead ends into Schrock Rd, turn right (east). Villa Milano is about ¼ of a mile down on the left.



Nearby Hotels: (Within 2 Miles)

- Marriott (614) 885-1885
- Quality Inn (614) 431-0208
- Holiday Inn Express 877-531-5084
- Ramada Limited (614) 846-9070
- Embassy Suites (614) 890-8600

Registration Form

Name: _____

Rank: _____

Unit: _____

Phone: _____

Guest: _____

Meal Selection (for special dietary needs call Tina (614) 882-2058):

Senior Officer (O4, CW4 & above):

Member (Circle one choice):

Filet M	Lasagna	Fish
\$39.00	\$29.00	\$29.00

Senior Officer Guest (Circle one choice):

Filet M	Lasagna	Fish
\$39.00	\$29.00	\$29.00

Junior Officer (O3, CW3 & below):

Member (Circle one choice):

Filet M	Lasagna	Fish
\$32.00	\$24.00	\$24.00

Junior Officer Guest (Circle one choice):

Filet M	Lasagna	Fish
\$32.00	\$24.00	\$24.00

Total: \$ _____

Make checks payable to: ONGEA

Mail your check and this form to arrive NLT 15 February 2006 to:

The Ohio National Guard Association
P.O. Box 8070
Columbus, OH 43201

Questions can be directed to:

CW2 Lee Scott (614) 336-7382 or
CW2 Rosalie Metoxen (614) 336-7442.

Voucher # _____

Seating will be setup by unit. Table reservations will not be necessary.



MSgt Brian Schaefer / 121st Air Refueling Wing

Ohio Air National Guard Airman Leadership School students and guests built a Habitat for Humanity home last July in Columbus, as part of their class project in conjunction with the nationwide Make A Difference Day.

Class 'makes a difference' in local Columbus community

Ohio Air National Guardmembers "made a difference" by helping to build a home for an underprivileged family last July.

The 121st Air Refueling Wing's first Airman Leadership Class located at Rickenbacker Air National Guard Base and consisting of 13 students and their four guests, joined more than 100,000 Ohio volunteers and more than 3 million volunteers nationwide as part of "Make A Difference Day."

Master Sgt. Brian Schaefer, a 121st Airman Leadership School instructor who accompanied the group, said the students provided 76 total hours of construction work.

Make A Difference Day is the largest national day of volunteering. Through its outreach, the campaign touched the lives of about 25 million people in 2004.

This is the first time the Ohio Air National Guard has participated in Make A Difference Day, but Lt. Col. Kathy Lowrey, 121st ARW community affairs manager, said she hopes the wing will be able to participate again next year. She encouraged other Ohio National Guard units to become involved as well. Ohio has led the nation the past four years in total service projects; 745 projects were conducted in 2004.

The national Make A Difference Day, founded by *USA Weekend* magazine in 1990, supports communities through activities such as food drives, neighborhood and environmental cleanup, health screenings, recognition of veterans and clothing collection and distribution. **SRA DAVID CONRAD / 121ST AIR REFUELING WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS**

Army R&R praises top performers in 2005

The Recruiting and Retention Battalion recently recognized those who made an impact on the force's success during Federal Fiscal Year 2005. At the command's annual Dining Out, Nov. 5 at the Westin Great Southern Hotel in Columbus, many individuals and units were recognized:

Chief's 54 Award, Sgt. 1st Class Vincent J. Coleman; Chief's 54 Award Runner Up, Sgt. 1st Class Jacob C. Kandel; R&R Command Sergeant Major's Award, Sgt. 1st Class David J. Rohrbaugh; Regional Production Awards, Kandel and Sgt. Sonny L. Hernandez; Top R&R Area Team Award, Team Canton; Rookie of the Year Award,

Kandel; R&R Production Sergeant Major's Award, Team Rohrbaugh; High School Recruiting Excellence Award, Staff Sgt. James D. Florance; Minority Recruiting Award, Staff Sgt. John A. Patterson; Superior Performance Non-Prior Service Recruiting Award, Coleman and Staff Sgt. Robert A. Scott; Superior Performance Female Recruiting Award, Scott; Top Producer College Market Recruiter Award, Kandel; MEPS Guidance Counselor of the Year Award, Sgt. 1st Class Samuel B. Mark; and Write-Rate Letterman Club, Coleman.

Also recognized at the Dining Out were the top five "You Can Challenge" winners; unit members who provided leads that resulted in enlistments during the reporting period: Sgt. 1st Class Jason D. Litz, 838th Military Police Company; Sgt. 1st Class Manuel S. Perez, 838th Military Police Company; Sgt. Phillip J. Faires, Headquarters Battery, 2-174th Air Defense Artillery Battalion; Sgt. Scotty D. Henson, Company B, 2-174th ADA; and Spc. Gregory S. Serpico, Company F, 1-134th Field Artillery Battalion.

At the Fall Commanders Call at Camp Perry, units and battalions that provided the most enlistments under the "You Can Challenge" were recognized: First Quarter-FY05, Honor Company, Headquarters Company, 1-107th Armor Battalion (four enlistments); Honor Battalion, 1-148th Infantry Battalion and 2-107th Cavalry Squadron (tie-five enlistments each); Second Quarter-FY05, Honor Company, HHC, 1-137th Aviation Battalion and Company D, 1-148th Infantry Battalion (tie-six en-

listments each); Honor Battalion, 1-148th Infantry (nine enlistments); Third Quarter-FY05, Honor Company, 838th Military Police Company (five enlistments), Honor Battalion, 437th Military Police Battalion (eight enlistments); and Fourth Quarter-FY05, Honor Company, 838th Military Police Company (nine enlistments), Honor Battalion, 437th Military Police Battalion (nine enlistments).

Top honors for FY05 went to the following: Honor Company of the Year, 838th Military Police Company (20 enlistments); and Honor Battalion of the Year, 437th Military Police Battalion (26 enlistments).

For information on the FY06 "You Can Challenge" program and incentives, go to <https://oh-tag.net.oh.ngb.army.mil/rr/> and click on the "statistics" link. You must enter your Army Knowledge Online (AKO) login and password when prompted. **DIANE FARROW / RECRUITING COMMAND**



Courtesy photo

A Fort Chaffee Airman instructs SrA Michael Gilb (left) of the 180th Fighter Wing Security Forces Squadron on use of the 9 mm pistol.

180th Security Forces prep for future at Fort Chaffee

It is known as the "Staging Point." Before Active, Reserve and Air National Guard security forces members deploy to such places as Iraq or Afghanistan, they train at Fort Chaffee, Ark., home of the 188th Readiness Training Site.

"Many active-duty units are going through Fort Chaffee for training before they deploy," said Master Sgt. Ed Wagner, with security forces operations for the 180th Fighter Wing. "We felt our unit needed this type of training before our next call-up and we wanted to obtain this hands-on training." The intense weeklong training was conducted earlier in 2005 at the installation. This rotation had 38 members of the Toledo-based unit participate in the training program. Five main areas of training were cov-

ered: combat lifesaver, combat convoy, close precision engagement course, M-4 rifle qualification and sniper weapons system modernization.

Wagner expects the combat lifesaver program to be a real asset to security forces with future deployments. "When we go on deployments, we don't have a medical person assigned, and that leaves us vulnerable," he said. "The training is a step above the self-aid buddy care we receive at the 180th. We learned how to take care of gun shot wounds, clear obstructed airways and insert IV units for members."

Other training included classes on the various weapons and tactical devices such as the M-4 tactical rifle, M-68 sniper rifle, 50-caliber machine gun and night vision equipment, as well as classes on basic rifle marksmanship and range determination. **180TH FIGHTER WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS**

Car wash benefits Soldier wounded serving in Iraq

An Ohio National Guard Soldier injured in Iraq received some unexpected help from the Toledo-area community—in the form of a car wash, so he could return home to be with his family.

Spc. Matthew Drake was seriously injured in the fall of 2004 while serving in Iraq when a car bomb exploded near his patrol. Since then, he has been recovering in rehabilitation facilities stateside.

In order for Drake to be home with his family, their house needs an extensive rehab to meet his needs. That is where the Ohio Army National Guard's 323rd Military Police Company stepped in.

The car wash attracted several customers, including some veterans who just wanted to help any way they could. "I'm a veteran," said Edward Huddy while his car was soaped and rinsed. "I just want to support our young men and women."

Many did not know Drake personally, but wanted to help. Staff Sgt. Marc Robertson of the 180th Fighter Wing Security Forces Squadron made his Jeep as dirty as possible before arriving. "It's just so important right now with what's going on in the military. And I just thought I'd pitch in and do my part and come out today and help out Matthew," Robertson said.

"He needs help. So we're out here trying to help our Soldiers," said Sgt. William Barton of the 323rd MP Company. The unit family support group hopes to raise enough money eventually to allow Drake to return home to a newly rebuilt house. **WWW.WTOL.COM**



Courtesy of The News Democrat

Ohio Army National Guard leaders and Washington Township trustees unveil a sign at an Oct. 8 ceremony to mark renaming a 16-mile span of state Route 756 to the "Ohio National Guard 216th Engineering Battalion Memorial Highway."

Officials rename highway to recognize Guard engineers

Since the war in Iraq began nearly three years ago, communities all over the United States have found different ways to honor U.S. troops who served in the fight against terrorism.

Some communities held "welcome home" parties, while others threw parades to honor the return of troops who were stationed in Iraq. Most local troops and their families hold on tight to the pictures taken from the parties and parades held in their honor. The pictures are often stashed away in albums where they are viewed on occasion by family members or friends but, as years pass by, the pictures no longer serve as a permanent source to remind all members of the community of those who stepped up to protect the United States, spending extensive periods on foreign soil in a time of violence.

Washington Township trustees Ron Rudd, Tom Dix and Richard Pollard came up with an idea that will continuously remind all locals of the sacrifices made by the Soldiers of the Ohio Army National Guard's 216th Engineer Battalion, including those in nearby Detachment 1, Headquarters Support Company, located in Felicity.

On Oct. 8, Washington Township trustees in Clermont County (located in southwestern Ohio) held a ceremony to rename a 16-mile stretch of state Route 756 the "Ohio Army National Guard 216th Engineering Battalion Memorial Highway."

"This is certainly a fitting tribute to the men and women of the 216th Engineer Battalion," said Brig. Gen. Matthew Kambic, Ohio assistant adjutant for Army. "I will tell you that it is a proud moment anytime the citizens that we serve reach out to pay tribute and honor to the men and women for

servicing our nation and their state today. There is no finer example of that service than the 216th Engineer Battalion. They've always been here in times of need, high water, deep snow and when the nation called for service in Iraq. They've been a part of your community and today you honor them with this recognition." **WADE LINVILLE / THE NEWS DEMOCRAT**

512th third Ohio Army Guard unit to earn MUC

About 40 Soldiers of the 512th Engineer Battalion headquarters, located in Cincinnati, received the Meritorious Unit Commendation, one of the Army's highest unit awards, for their service during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

While deployed to Iraq from February 2004 to February 2005, the battalion headquarters commanded a diverse group of engineer units, spanning the active Army and Reserve Army, the Army National Guard, the active and Reserve Marine Corps as well as the active Air Force. The headquarters planned and supervised numerous critical engineer missions, many of which were conducted under hostile fire from anti-Iraqi Forces. The 512th's engineers worked tirelessly on an array of projects that improved the quality of life for both American servicemembers and Iraqi citizens.

The 512th Engineer Battalion is one of three Ohio Army National Guard units to receive this commendation for their service in Operation Iraqi Freedom. The other two units are the 216th Engineer Battalion, with headquarters in Hamilton, and the 196th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment, Columbus. **AGOH-PUBLIC AFFAIRS**



Steve Stout / Urbana Daily Citizen

Country music artist Darryl Worley receives his own personalized Air Force Battle Dress Uniform (BDU) shirt from the 179th Airlift Wing's SMSgt Randy Dunham, recognizing Worley's strong support of the U.S. military.

Too tall to fly, Worley makes good second career choice

When country music star Darryl Worley graduated from a western Tennessee high school, he walked straight into an Air Force recruiter's office and proclaimed he was there to enlist to learn to fly fighter jets.

The Air Force let him down by telling him that at 6 feet 7 inches, he was too tall to fly. Worley never forgot that pain, but he did not carry a grudge. After the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, Worley again went to a military recruiter and asked what he could do to help. This time, the military did not let him down. Military officials told Worley to keep doing what he was doing; by performing in USO tours abroad, he was giving the troops something they could not get from their remote locations—a slice of Americana in the form of song.

A year after the attacks, Worley recorded what became an anthem to remind the world of what happened that September Tuesday morning. "Have You Forgotten" catapulted to the top of the charts and Worley took that song on two more USO tours. On Aug. 8, Worley finally saw his dream of becoming a member of the Air Force come true—sort of. A team of enlisted troops from the 179th Airlift Wing presented Worley with honorary membership into the Ohio National Guard Enlisted Association and gave him his own Battle Dress Uniform (BDU) shirt with his name and Air Force tapes. During a backstage meeting at the Champaign County Fair with Senior Master Sgt. Randy Dunham, and Senior

Airmen Ryan Dunham, Kristin Crain and Ryan Armstrong, Worley's eyes teared up as he was presented a plaque thanking him for his dedication and support of the troops and keeping the Global War on Terrorism fresh in the minds of Americans. "You didn't have to do this," he said with a heavy Tennessee drawl. "I never expected anything like this when I was told you were coming to talk with me. I am deeply honored and will wear this shirt proudly."

Each military member got the opportunity to talk with Worley before the concert, and then they all were treated to seats directly in front of the stage.

"We wanted to stand before Darryl and tell him that his words do mean a great deal to us," Senior Master Sgt. Dunham said. "You don't have to be a country music fan to appreciate the message he is sending regarding our mission in the War on Terrorism."

While the meeting with Worley was a private occasion, the musician made it public when, just before singing "Have You Forgotten," he pulled the plaque out on stage and read the inscription to the audience.

"I haven't won any CMA (Country Music Association) Awards yet," Worley said as he held the plaque up. "But, when I do, they will hang *under* this plaque. This is much more important and valuable to me."

That proclamation was greeted by a standing ovation and cheers of support from the crowd of several thousand people. **179th AIRLIFT WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS**

OHARNG Soldier assists in OSU Ranger Challenge win

Army ROTC Cadet Brandon Cheney, also a member of Company A, 1-148th Infantry Battalion, Xenia, was a member of the winning Ohio State University Ranger Challenge team that finished tops in a recent competition at Fort Knox, Ky., involving 19 universities from across Ohio and Kentucky.

The 18-hour competition covered eight events—the Army Physical Fitness Test, basic rifle marksmanship, construction and execution of a one-rope bridge, patrolling, weapons assembly, orienteering, hand grenade assault course and a 10-kilometer (6.2 mile) forced road march. **LTC TODD D. MILLER / OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY ROTC**

Brothers in wings: C-130 loadmasters serve together

Operation Enduring Freedom activities bring together many brothers in arms, but at Karshi-Khanabad Air Base, Uzbekistan—or K-2 as it is commonly called—two real-life brothers supported the war effort together as "brothers in wings."

Senior Master Sgts. Walter and David Leightenberger, both C-130 Hercules loadmasters with the 774th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron who deployed from the Ohio Air National Guard's 179th Airlift Wing in Mansfield, have had similar careers and lives.

Walter is senior to David by three years, but that has never made much of a difference in what they did for the Air Force, they both said. Both brothers have seen their share of deployments, so going to K-2 was nothing new to them. The operations they have supported, both separately and together, include Operations Coronet Oak (El Salvador), Joint Forge and Provide Promise (Bosnia), Uphold Democracy (Haiti), Southern Watch, Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom.

"This deployment (was) the last one we (had) together," said Walter, who retired from the military last May. "I have always enjoyed time spent with my brother. Deployments are more fun for us because one thing we do is compare notes on cultural discoveries of the area we are deployed in. We have been together in just about every unit deployment or exercise since 1980."

David said their military service together has not only allowed them to serve their country with the National Guard, but has also afforded them an opportunity to experience many unique places and diverse cultures that they otherwise might not have experienced.

"Serving together has made this far more enjoyable," David said.

In Uzbekistan, their work as loadmasters kept them busy constantly, with airlift and air-drop missions taking place every day, and their loadmaster experience being called upon over and over again. **TSGT SCOTT T. STURKOL / 416TH AIR EXPEDITIONARY GROUP PUBLIC AFFAIRS**



D. Leightenberger



W. Leightenberger

178th Security Forces Airmen take top honors

The Security Forces Squadron came out on top in the 2004 Air National Guard Security Forces competition, with two members receiving national awards.

Senior Airman Tyler Elliot was named Air National Guard SF Airman of the Year, as well as SF Airman of the Year for the entire Air Force.

Elliot distinguished himself at Andrews Air Force Base, Md., during his Air Reserve Component volunteer tour there, according to Maj. Paul Harrison, 178th SFS commander. Elliott was involved in several high-profile arrests and as an entry controller, performed in an exemplary manner while guarding Air Force One.

Staff Sgt. Robert Combs, also of the 178th, was named the ANG SF NCO of the Year.

Staff Sgt. Combs distinguished himself by taking the lead in the entire Air National Guard in the Electronic Systems Security arena, Harrison said. Combs, single-handedly designed a local high-speed force protection system with a price tag at more than \$1.3 million. **SSGT SAMANTHA THOMPSON / 178TH FIGHTER WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS**

Wright receives special ANG award for recruiting work

A 121st Air Refueling Wing recruiter received the National Guard Bureau Chief's Freedom Challenge Award for recruiting 22 new military members during a four-and-a-half-month nationwide Guard recruiter competition.

Exceeding the goal during that time span by four people, rookie recruiter Tech. Sgt. Lawrence Wright won Ohio's top Air National Guard recruiting award.

In response to last year's declining National Guard recruiting numbers, the chief of the National Guard Bureau challenged all Army and Air National Guard recruiters to a four-month push to acquire new members.

Staying in line with Ohio Adjutant General Maj. Gen. Gregory L. Wayt's and the National Guard's core value of diversity, more than half of Wright's enlistees during the period were minorities. **121ST AIR REFUELING WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS**

Military policeman earns nod as 'Home Town Hero'

"It's a dangerous world and if you are not aware of what's happening, someone could die." It is an idea that Sgt. Michael Woods, a Soldier with Ohio's 135th Military Police Company, lives by.

Recently Woods earned the City of Hilliard's "Home Town Hero" award because—in his civilian role as a Hilliard police officer—his

awareness may have saved the life of a man being robbed an ATM.

"I had just finished my shift and was on my way back to the police station," Woods said. "I noticed three men at the ATM and knew immediately something was wrong."

What Woods observed was a well-dressed man at the ATM with two younger, sloppy looking males standing behind him. When Woods pulled his police cruiser into the bank parking lot, two of the men bolted into a late model Ford Explorer and fled the scene. The remaining man told Woods that the two had abducted him at gunpoint, ransacked his home and then forced him to drive to the bank. Woods called in the description of the suspects and their escape vehicle as he escorted the victim back to his home.

"Being at the right place at the right time is a small part of police work," added Woods. "It's far more important to know how to quickly assess the situation and react to it correctly. In this case, my instincts were right."

A high-speed chase ended the suspects' attempted get away and soon they were behind bars. Hilliard Police Chief Rodney Garnett said it was good police work and now two criminals are off the streets.

Woods had a more humble view of things. "I was tired and I could have easily missed the whole situation, but then where would that man have been?" he stated.

Overcoming exhaustion and fear in the line of duty is not new for Woods. The 135th Military Police Company Soldier deployed shortly after the terrorist attacks on Sept. 11, 2001, and also spent a year with the unit supporting the early stages of Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2003.

"Spending a year in Baghdad taught me a lot about the different aspects of being a police officer," he said. "The experience made me more self-confident and taught me how to talk with people better. I also think the danger I faced in Iraq helped get me ready for the things I could expect here."

According to Woods, the recognition is nice, but he just loves being a police officer.

"I sometimes get scared, but it's something I have wanted to do for a long time," he added. "People who do what they have to do, every day, with patience and persistence, like my fellow officers and National Guard Soldiers, are the real heroes." **SGT KENT TAYLOR / DET. 2 HHC/MMC, 38TH SUPPORT COMMAND**



SFC Don Vogel / 1-145th Regiment, RTI

Showing off a minuteman statue and pistol given to him to help mark his retirement from the military, CSM Gary Spees leaves with nearly 40 years of service to his state and nation.

Spees retires after nearly four decades of service

Command Sgt. Maj. Gary G. Spees has retired after a lengthy Ohio Army National Guard career that began in 1966 in the 1-148th Infantry Battalion and culminated as the sergeant major of Ohio's Soldier training academy.

A banquet in Spees' honor took place June 4 at the Makoy Center in Hilliard, attended by more than 120 former and current guardmembers, friends and family members, including Spees' 90-year-old mother, Bernice.

Throughout his career, Spees held a variety of traditional and full-time positions including antitank gunner, unit clerk, supply sergeant, platoon sergeant, operations sergeant, chief intelligence sergeant, first sergeant and personnel management and support noncommissioned officer.

In April 1991, Spees was promoted to command sergeant major and served as the 1-148th command sergeant major for two years, until he was appointed Non-commissioned Officer Education School branch chief (commandant) for the Ohio Military Academy (OMA). On July 1, 1996, he was assigned command sergeant major for the 145th Regiment, Regional Training Institute (RTI), the position he held until his retirement.

While he is retired, Spees continues his service to the OHARNG as a civilian contractor in the State Safety Office, where he formerly worked as a federal technician. **SFC DON VOGEL / 145TH REGIMENT, REGIONAL TRAINING INSTITUTE**

Federal, state survivor benefits see increase

Legislators in both Columbus and Washington, D.C., last summer increased benefits for family members of service personnel who die while serving on active duty.

As reported in the *Spring/Summer 2005* edition of the *Buckeye Guard*, Congress passed the Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act (HR 1268), which increased the one-time military death gratuity payment from \$12,500 to \$100,000, making the benefit retroactive to Oct. 7, 2001. In addition, it raised the Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance (SGLI) benefit from \$250,000 to \$400,000 as of Sept. 1, 2005.

At the same time, the Ohio Legislature focused on the same issues in the biennial budget bill (HB 66). The new law raised the state death gratuity from \$20,000 to \$100,000. Previously, the Ohio law only covered guardmembers serving on State Active Duty. The new law expands coverage to include duty under Title 10 and operational Title 32.

The new law also requires the adjutant general to reimburse members for the cost of the SGLI premium while they are in an active-duty status. If an Ohio National Guardmember serves under federal or state active duty for part of any month, the adjutant general must reimburse the entire SGLI premium for that month.

An additional federal insurance benefit came online on Dec. 1, 2005. A \$100,000 traumatic injury payout was added to the SGLI coverage. The traumatic injury coverage costs an additional \$1 per month, and was applied automatically to all existing SGLI policies beginning with December pay.

For more information, call (614) 336-7000. JOHANN KLEIN / AGOH-LEGISLATIVE LIAISON

Historical trip top prize in NGB student essay contest

The National Guard Bureau is sponsoring the "Lewis and Clark Youth Rendezvous Essay Contest," which began Nov. 12 and will end Feb 28. Submissions must be 1,000-1,500 word essays discussing the Lewis and Clark journey and the Corps of Discovery in relation to an Army value: Loyalty, Duty, Respect, Selfless-Service, Honor, Integrity and Personal Courage.

Reserve Pay for 4 Drill Periods

Unofficial Copy (Effective Jan. 1, 2006)

YEARS OF SERVICE

Grade	<2	2	3	4	6	8	10	12	14	16	18	20	22	24	26
O-10	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	00.0	1709.16	1709.16	1709.16	1709.16
O-9	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1558.60	1581.00	1613.48	1670.08
O-8	1102.80	1138.92	1162.88	1169.60	1199.48	1249.48	1261.08	1308.56	1322.16	1363.04	1422.16	1476.72	1516.16	1513.16	1513.16
O-7	916.36	958.92	978.64	994.28	1022.64	1050.60	1083.00	1115.32	1147.72	1249.48	1335.44	1335.44	1335.44	1335.44	1342.20
O-6	679.20	746.16	795.12	795.12	798.12	832.36	836.88	836.88	884.44	968.52	1017.88	1067.20	1095.28	1123.68	1178.84
O-5	566.20	637.82	682.00	690.28	717.80	734.32	770.56	797.16	831.48	884.08	909.08	933.84	961.92	961.92	961.92
O-4	488.52	565.52	603.24	611.68	646.68	684.24	730.96	767.44	792.72	807.24	815.68	815.68	815.68	815.68	815.68
O-3	429.52	486.92	525.56	573.00	600.40	630.52	650.04	682.12	698.76	698.76	698.76	698.76	698.76	698.76	698.76
O-2	371.08	422.68	486.80	503.24	513.60	513.60	513.60	513.60	513.60	513.60	513.60	513.60	513.60	513.60	513.60
O-1	322.16	335.28	405.28	405.28	405.28	405.28	405.28	405.28	405.28	405.28	405.28	405.28	405.28	405.28	405.28
O-3E	0.00	0.00	0.00	573.00	600.40	630.52	650.04	682.12	709.12	724.60	745.72	745.72	745.72	745.72	745.72
O-2E	0.00	0.00	0.00	503.24	513.60	529.96	557.52	578.88	594.76	594.76	594.76	594.76	594.76	594.76	594.76
O-1E	0.00	0.00	0.00	405.28	432.84	448.40	465.16	481.24	503.24	503.24	503.24	503.24	503.24	503.24	503.24
W-5	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	762.68	788.84	815.08	841.48
W-4	443.84	477.48	491.20	504.68	527.92	550.84	574.12	596.76	620.20	656.96	680.48	703.48	727.32	750.80	774.80
W-3	405.32	422.24	439.52	445.24	463.40	484.20	511.64	538.72	567.52	589.12	610.64	619.88	629.44	650.24	671.00
W-2	356.52	376.88	394.72	407.64	418.76	449.28	472.60	489.92	506.84	518.44	528.20	546.76	565.20	583.88	583.88
W-1	314.84	340.60	357.84	369.00	398.72	416.64	432.52	450.24	462.00	472.64	489.96	503.08	503.08	503.08	487.96
E-9	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	536.28	548.44	563.76	581.80	599.92	629.04	653.64	679.60	719.20
E-8	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	439.00	458.44	470.44	484.84	500.44	528.60	542.88	567.16	580.64	613.80
E-7	305.16	333.08	345.84	362.76	375.92	398.60	411.32	424.04	446.72	458.08	468.84	475.44	497.68	512.08	548.48
E-6	263.96	290.40	303.24	315.68	328.68	358.00	369.40	382.04	393.16	397.08	399.80	399.80	399.80	399.80	399.80
E-5	241.88	258.04	270.48	283.28	303.16	320.28	336.88	336.88	336.88	336.88	336.88	336.88	336.88	336.88	336.88
E-4	221.72	233.08	245.68	258.12	269.12	269.12	269.12	269.12	269.12	269.12	269.12	269.12	269.12	269.12	269.12
E-3	200.16	212.76	225.60	225.60	225.60	225.60	225.60	225.60	225.60	225.60	225.60	225.60	225.60	225.60	225.60
E-2	190.32	190.32	190.32	190.32	190.32	190.32	190.32	190.32	190.32	190.32	190.32	190.32	190.32	190.32	190.32
E-1>4	169.80	169.80	169.80	169.80	169.80	169.80	169.80	169.80	169.80	169.80	169.80	169.80	169.80	169.80	169.80
E-1<4	157.08	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

This contest is open to all current high school sophomores and juniors, and 10 winners will be named for each state and territory. The grand prize is an all-expense-paid journey to North Dakota to follow the Lewis and Clark trail, experience Indian culture of yesterday and discover military history. The trip will take place Aug. 13-18, 2006.

For information, visit www.lcyouthrendezvous.com or contact Lt. Col. Julie Blike at (614) 336-6000, extension 7672. OHARNG RECRUITING COMMAND MARKETING

Scholarships now available for children of military families

The Defense Commissary Agency and the Fisher House Foundation have teamed up again to offer educational scholarships to children of military families and retirees.

The Scholarships for Military Children Program is marking its sixth year, DeCA spokesman Kevin Robinson said. The goal, he said, is to provide at least one \$1,500 scholarship for each of DeCA's 268 commissaries worldwide.

Authorized applicants include unmarried children under age 21 of active-duty, Guard or Reserve, or military retiree families, Robinson said. Applicants may also range up to 23 years in age if they are enrolled in school.

The application period for this year's DeCA-Fisher House scholarship program began Nov. 1 and closes Feb. 22, Robinson said.

Application forms for the program are avail-

able at commissaries worldwide and for download via the Internet at www.commissaries.com or at www.militaryscholar.org.

Robinson said applicants are required to write and submit an essay on why they admire a great past or present military leader. More than one scholarship per commissary may be awarded, Robinson said. In 2004-05, 500 scholarships were awarded.

The Fisher House Foundation administers the Scholarships for Military Children Program, which is funded by manufacturers and suppliers of groceries and services in the commissary system. GERRY J. GILMORE / AMERICAN FORCES PRESS SERVICE

ONGSP APPLICATION DEADLINES

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

It is the responsibility of each individual student-guardmember to hand deliver or mail a completed application to the **Ohio National Guard Scholarship Program** Office, located at the Adjutant General's Department, 2825 West Dublin Granville Road, Columbus, Ohio 43235-2789, by the deadlines listed above. This must be done prior to each term a student attends school. You may also renew your application online at www.ongsp.org.

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

Photo by Sara A. Perkins



LEFT: MG Gregory L. Wayt (left), Ohio adjutant general, and retired Brig Gen Stephen M. Koper (right), National Guard Association United States president, present U.S. Rep. Dave Hobson with the NGAUS MG Charles Dick Medal of Merit, for a lifetime of legislative service to the National Guard. RIGHT: Receiving recognition during the Army Engineer Association Regimental conference are the 216th Engineer Battalion's 1LT J. Robert Vagnier (left), who won the Grizzly Award as the most outstanding engineer platoon leader in the National Guard; and SGT Raymond Boso, who won the Sturgis Award as the top engineer NCO in the National Guard.

Guard Snapshots

RIGHT: Two Clyde High School seniors, PV2 Andrew Sherman (second from left) and PV2 Cory Wetzel (third from left), transfer to the Ohio Army National Guard after their Reserve unit, the 706th Transportation Company of Mansfield, was deactivated as a result of Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC). Tiffin Recruiters SSG Kevin Hollenbacher (far left) and SSG Brian Clum found the Soldiers a new home with Bravo Company, 612th Engineer Battalion.



Courtesy photo

ABOVE: Several 16th Engineer Brigade Soldiers made "flat daddies" before they departed for a one-year deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. It was a creative way for family members to deal with the separation from their loved ones. Many family members said they planned on taking their flat daddy to special events such as sporting contests and family holiday gatherings.



Courtesy photo

RIGHT: The 1-134th Field Artillery Battalion supply team of SSG Kevin Jones (left) and SFC Chester Sudina (right) are congratulated by BG Matthew L. Kambic, Ohio assistant adjutant general for Army, for being the national runners-up in the battalion-level category of the Army's annual Supply Excellence Award (SEA) competition. The two were honored at a May awards banquet in Washington, D.C.



RIGHT: Michael Barkey Avenue was dedicated earlier this year in the city of Canal Fulton. Barkey, 22, a sergeant in the 1484th Transportation Company, Akron, died July 7, 2004, in Ramadi, Iraq, when enemy fire shot out a tire on the military vehicle in which he was riding, causing the driver to lose control and the vehicle to flip over. Barkey's parents are building a house on the intersecting Kirkland Street.



Courtesy photo

SSgt Douglas Nicodemus / 121st ARW Multimedia



LEFT: After being promoted at a ceremony in early December, Brig Gen Tom Botchie (right) stops for a photo with his wife, Jane. Botchie is commander of the 121st Air Refueling Wing, located at Rickenbacker Air National Guard Base in Columbus.