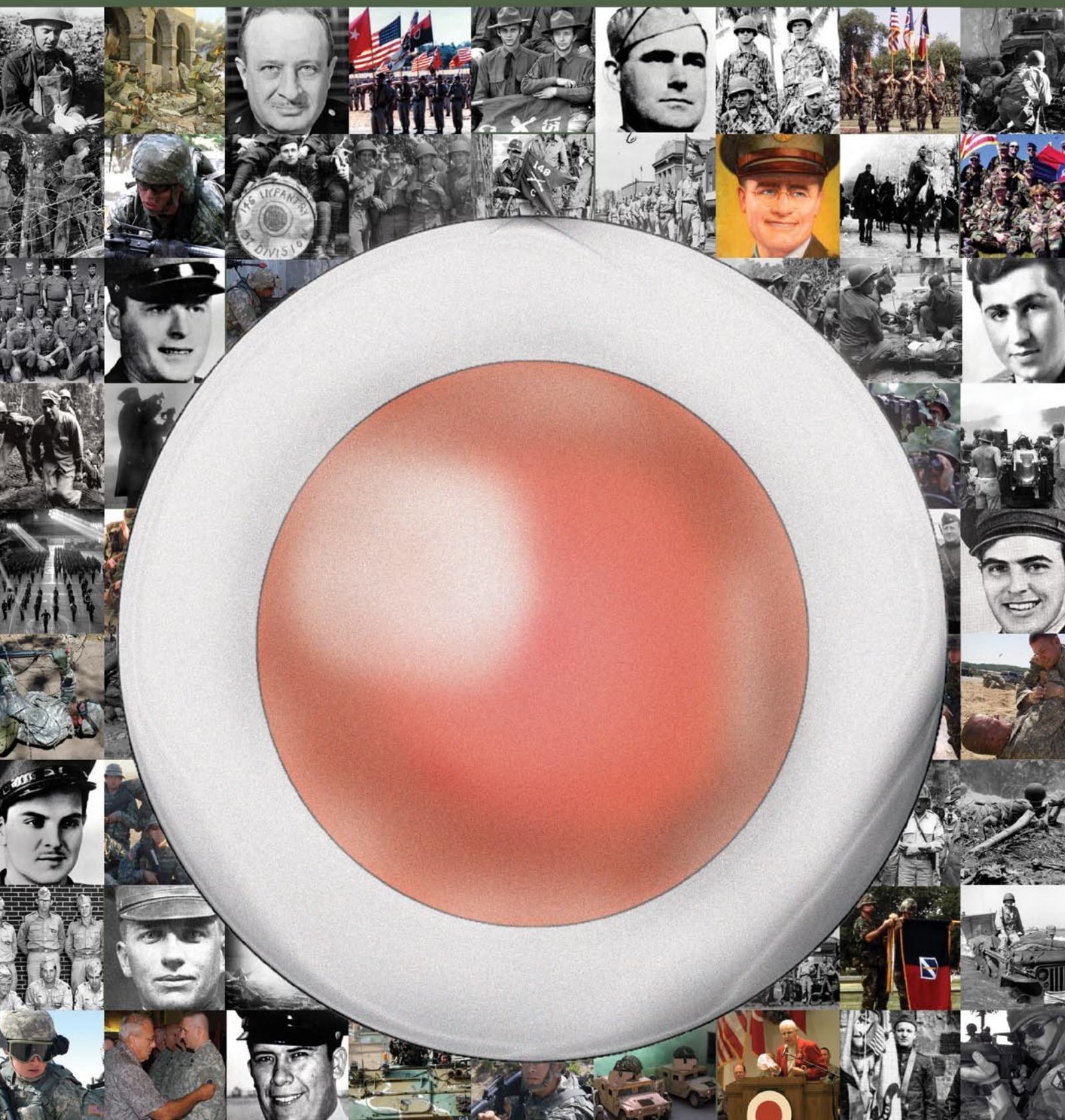
BUCKEYE GUARD

Magazine of the Ohio Army and Air National Guard
Winter 2008

THE 37TH MARCHES ON

Buckeye Brigade Combat Team's deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom another chapter in proud history

Pages 14-15



LINEAGE LINK UP

122nd ARMY BAND

STATION: Columbus

MISSION: To provide music that promotes troop morale, unit esprit and civil/military relations in support of military operations; and augment local security forces when combat intensity reaches the point that the use of the band in its music mission is impractical.

DATE & PLACE OF BIRTH: 1 June 1944, Bougainville, Solomon Islands

PARENT UNIT: 37th Infantry Division Band

CAMPAIGN CREDIT: World War II - Northern Solomons, Luzon (with arrowhead)

AWARDS: Meritorious Unit Citation (Army), Streamer embroidered BOUGAINVILLE

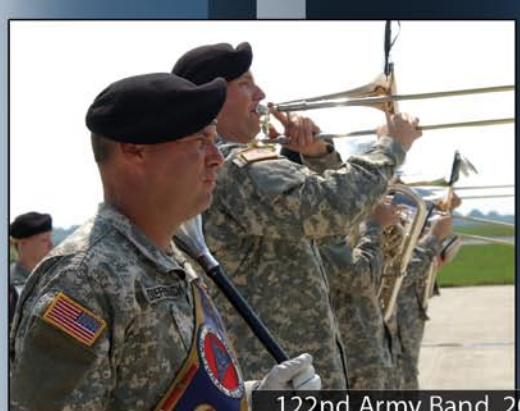
Philippine Presidential Unit Citation, Streamer embroidered 17 OCTOBER 1944 TO 4 JULY 1945

Approved by The Institute of Heraldry, the 122nd Army Band is entitled to heraldic band regalia. The baldric is worn by the drum major across his body and dates back to the 17th century. It was designed to allow the leading drummer to place his sticks into the loops should he need to signal the drummers with his sword.

In addition, the drum major carries a heraldic mace, used to convey commands or signals to the marching band. Both the baldric and mace for the 122nd Army Band (left) are symbolic of the State of Ohio. *Staff Sgt. Carl Diefenbach (above) wears the baldric and carries the mace for the 122nd Army Band during the pass in review ceremonies at Camp Grayling, Mich. in 2005.*

37th Infantry Division Band, 1967

122nd Army Band, 1975



122nd Army Band, 2005

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Adjutant General
Maj. Gen. Gregory L. Wayt

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

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

Command Sergeant Major, Army
Command Sgt. Maj. William L. Gilliam

Command Chief Master Sergeant, Air
Chief Master Sgt. Christopher Muncy

***BUCKEYE GUARD* STAFF**

Director, Government and Public Affairs
Dr. Mark Wayda

Editor
Mr. Steve Toth

Editorial Assistants
Maj. Nicole Gabriel
Sgt. 1st Class Kimberly D. Snow

Graphics Support/Historical Content
Staff Sgt. Joshua Mann

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

SPC LEROY ROWSER / 196TH MOBILE PUBLIC AFFAIRS DET.

Ohio Army National Guard 2LT Philip Van Treuren, a member of the 837th Engineer Company, Lorain, takes his commissioning oath during the 147th Regiment (Regional Training Institute) Officer Candidate School Class 54 graduation last August at Defense Supply Center Columbus. Whether candidates opt for the traditional or accelerated programs, OCS is a mentally, emotionally and physically challenging path to becoming a commissioned officer in the Ohio Army National Guard. *For more on commissioning programs, see pages 8-10.*

FEATURES

11 Reflective of the times
Strong Ohio-Serbia partnership more important than ever for growing Eastern European democracy.

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ON THE COVER

OHIO NATIONAL GUARD'S STORIED 37TH WRITES ANOTHER CHAPTER IN ITS HISTORY: Starting with its activation as the 37th Division in 1917 for duty in World War I, through service in World War II and Korea, Ohio's 37th Infantry Brigade Combat Team now carries the flag during its yearlong overseas deployment in 2008, supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom. The photos in the cover montage span the entire history of the 37th to the present day, including photos of Maj. Gen. Robert S. Beightler (top row, third from left), who commanded the 37th during the entirety of its World War II service, as well as eight 37th members who have received the Medal of Honor. ***Cover design by Staff Sgt. Joshua Mann*** */ Joint Force Headquarters-Ohio. See pages 14-15 for photos of 37th IBCT Soldiers preparing for their current overseas mission.*

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

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Ask yourself: Who is your Wingman?

by Chief Master Sgt. Christopher Muncy
State Command Chief Master Sergeant, Air

SSG KIMBERLY SNOW / ADJ. GEN. DEPT. PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The toughest part of my job is learning we've lost another great Airman or Soldier. Whether in the Middle East or another Air Expeditionary Force deployed area, in some unit across the country or back here at home, losing one is losing too many. The loss of any National Guard, active-duty or reserve Soldier, Sailor, Airman or Marine is devastating.

We are in a business that forces us to confront the possibility of losing friends, comrades-in-arms, Wingmen and battle buddies. While a lot of jobs and professions are tough, what other employer requires you to swear an allegiance to a piece of paper—the U.S. Constitution—and in the contract's first paragraph, makes you promise to give your life in its defense against all enemies foreign and domestic?

Think of that. I know it's probably not first on your list and many of you may still feel insulated from it, but ladies and gentlemen, you are in the Profession of Arms. It is our basic doctrine, it is what we do. To be effective in that regard, we need every one of you to remember your Wingman and the Wingman program. Losing a hero in battle is devastating, but losing a Guardmember to something other than battle can be even more tragic—and something that we need to work diligently to prevent. For you, not only does this involve watching, talking and listening to your friends and comrades in arms, but also looking for signs of stress and worry to prevent needless losses of our precious Airmen and Soldiers to issues like suicide or addiction.

Our state family readiness office and your wing program managers offer refrigerator magnets listing help lines along with the phone number of another deployed unit member's family, so that even your families have Wingmen and battle buddies when you are all deployed—someone they can call to check on you or to reach out to a friend. Or maybe you have the Military Onesource magnet on your refrigerator. The toll-free number is available 24/7/365 for all of our Citizen-Soldiers and -Airmen and their families to call for support and assistance. Do you have either of these on your refrigerator? We cannot afford to lose any Airmen or Soldiers! Each is more valuable than any piece of hardware, weapon or aircraft—much more valuable.

It may be sacrilege to say in the Air Force and Air National Guard, but I'm not in awe of aircraft. I'm in awe of the Airmen that help those instruments of war to fly, fight and win. Enlisted or officer, deployer or enabler, member or family, I am in awe of every single one of you and all that you do.

Col. Mark Bartman was speaking at the dedication for the 180th Fighter Wing logistics readiness complex in Toledo, which is now the Lt. Col. Kevin "Sonny" Sonnenberg Complex, named in honor of the Ohio ANG pilot who died in combat this past summer near Balad Air Base, Iraq. He quoted the third stanza in the Airman's Creed to reflect upon who Lt. Col. Sonnenberg was and what he stood for; it is what every Airman should stand for and why you are all the most valuable assets we have. It is why you must watch, listen and help your fellow Airmen. See if the third stanza fits you: "I am an American Airman, guardian of freedom and justice, my nation's sword and shield, its sentry and avenger, I defend my country with my life."

The fourth and last line reminds you of your Wingman's charge, of your oath to the Constitution and the people of the United States, and to each other. It reads, "I am an American Airman; Wingman, Leader, Warrior. I will never leave an Airman behind, I will never falter, and I will not fail." BG

.

COURTESY PHOTO

CMSgt Christopher Muncy

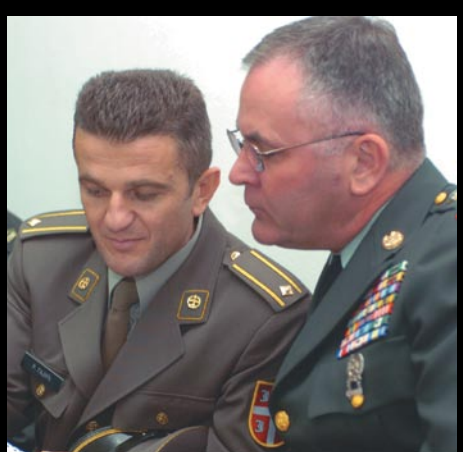
COURTESY PHOTO

SSG KIMBERLY SNOW / ADJ. GEN. DEPT. PUBLIC AFFAIRS

CSM William L. Gilliam

COURTESY PHOTO

SSG KIMBERLY SNOW / ADJ. GEN. DEPT. PUBLIC AFFAIRS



Our Soldiers, NCOs keep meeting challenges, raising bar

by Command Sgt. Maj. William L. Gilliam
State Command Sergeant Major, Army

During a recent deputy director meeting, Maj. Gen. Gregory L. Wayt, the adjutant general, asked his senior leaders to describe 2007 in one word. As Ohio's senior noncommissioned officer for Army, my word was "WOW!" which earned a few snickers until I said that I was serious. "Wow," as defined in the dictionary means "a striking success." How could we describe this past year any differently?

With everything we have been doing, from our homeland security/homeland defense and Global War on Terrorism missions to readiness issues and transformation, our plate has been full to overflowing. Not only are we doing an outstanding job on these strategic imperatives, we have just deployed our largest single-unit combat mobilization since World War II. The 37th Infantry Brigade Combat Team is currently at their mobilization station training up for a yearlong mission in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and our 371st Sustainment Brigade is right behind them, preparing to head out for their second deployment.

Every time Maj. Gen. Wayt, Brig. Gen. Matthew L. Kambic, the assistant adjutant general for Army, and I travel to meet our deployed Soldiers and Airmen, we are told about your outstanding performance and professionalism. We have the best troops, and without a doubt, the very best noncommissioned officers I have seen in my military career. I have watched as our NCOs have focused on key issues including evaluation reports, military education and military occupational qualification, and I have seen those statistics improve month by month, setting new standards. As Brig. Gen. Kambic says, transformation is a call to action, to manage effectively the change associated with our force structure and to ensure we always maintain ready units for any mission assigned. You have proven you are up to the task.

I now challenge Ohio's NCOs to work together within your organizations to tackle "strategic communication," the process through which diverse elements work together to speak with one voice to communicate a unified message. As communicators and Ohio National Guard representatives we must work toward this common goal by engaging the general public and the media, by making on-the-spot corrections to the record when we witness misinformation, by pushing stories about our Soldiers up the chain so leaders can get them out to the world, and by instilling a sense of responsibility in our Soldiers when it comes to being informed about the big picture of what the Ohio National Guard and our Army is doing. This is a great opportunity for each company-level unit public affairs representative (UPAR) to assist his or her commander.

Soldiers of today's Army face greater ethical challenges than ever before, both on the battlefield and in everyday life. I further challenge every NCO to mentor your Soldiers to live up to the Soldier's Creed, Warrior Ethos and Army Values. Our values are not merely phrases for how we should act; they define who we are, what we do and what we stand for. They are our standards for behavior, not only in the Army, but in any ordered society. I am proud to serve with each and every member of the Ohio National Guard. Your talent and contributions are what make our team so special. **OG**

Building relationships can have real, lasting effects on unit readiness

reaching
to communitiesto employers
OUT

Russell P. Galeti Jr.

One of the most important functions of community outreach is communication. As we attempt to establish lasting relationships with people throughout the state, tell the story of the Ohio National Guard and champion our causes, we must be effective and accurate communicators in every regard.

An often-overlooked component of that communication is the internal aspect—ensuring that every commander, Soldier and Airman truly understands the benefit that could be realized from effective community outreach. In short, that benefit is the same benefit which every function of this organization strives to achieve: ready units.

It is natural to be skeptical of such a vague concept as "outreach," traditionally shunned by the military as a "soft skill" and seen as a detractor from military operations. The difficulty of quantifying outreach versus the attractiveness of reporting the successes of man-hours spent performing maintenance, rounds expended, crews qualified or sorties flown cause personnel to avoid it altogether, or consider it as an afterthought. At times, a lukewarm public reception to the brave few in uniform who do try to reach out will also discourage further efforts. We cannot be discouraged from reaching out to any communities and circles in which our Soldiers and Airmen live, work, learn, volunteer or worship. Also, we must not be dissuaded from the belief that outreach is indeed a vital contributor to our readiness.

It is imperative that a base commander must balance his or her resources to complete whatever mission is at hand; man-hours of maintenance may have an immediate impact on mission completion, but conducting a base tour may not. What happens when several years down the road, five or six teens that went on a base tour with their scouting group end up joining that same wing, heavily influenced by years of sustained outreach to their communities and the relationships that facilitated that outreach? All it takes is a little imagination when thinking of the second- and third-order consequences of our actions (or inactions), and commanders can easily discover how outreach (or lack of) may be affecting their organizations currently.

When a team leader has to leave his or her theater of operations to tend to a disrupted family life, what could a supportive network of Ohio National Guard champions have done to come together around that family and keep that Soldier or Airmen in his or her job? How could a tradition of effective community outreach in that area have prevented a unit in a combat zone from losing such a valuable leader, and having to reallocate its resources to make up for his or her absence? It has happened—in our organization!

Conversely, how has the quality of our organization been increased when a regionally-influential executive, who has met our leaders, attended our employer functions, and has since become a most enthusiastic champion of the Guard? He uses his organization's facilities to host Ohio National Guard events and uses his contacts to publicize them and serves as a conduit to thousands more in his community. I defy a commander to make the case that such an influential and energized Ohio National Guard champion cannot, in some way, affect his or her organization's readiness for the better when second- and third-order consequences are taken into account.

As the Community Outreach Task Force progresses, I invite our Soldiers and Airmen to tell us about relationships that they or their organizations have cultivated in their communities. It's impossible for every battalion or squadron not to have at least one successful partnership, forged over time, with a business, school or community organization. Send fellow community leaders to the Adjutant General's Town Hall Meeting Series (see below), to find out how they can enhance relations with the Ohio National Guard by directing support to the home front. Brag to us about that partnership and we will help you make the most of it, by letting you know about opportunities for orientation flights, open houses and training visits available to your point of contact. Everything this organization does serves to increase readiness, including community outreach. To learn more, please contact me at 614-336-7419 or *russell.galeti@us.army.mil.*

Russell P. Galeti Jr. is the public information officer for employer and community outreach with the Adjutant General's Department, and an infantry platoon leader with Company A, 1st Battalion, 145th Armored Regiment.

OPERATION: O.H.I.O.

(OHIO HELPS ITS OWN)

TOWN HALL MEETINGS: A CALL TO ACTION

Tuesday, April 1
7-9 p.m.
Owens Community College
Performing Arts Auditorium
30335 Oregon Road
Perrysburg, Ohio 43451

Tuesday, April 15
7-9 p.m.
Kettering Government Center
3600 Shroyer Road
Kettering, Ohio 45429

Tuesday, May 20
7-9 p.m.
First Church of God
3100 Princeton Road
Hamilton, Ohio 45011

National Guardmembers will benefit from new stronger laws

legislative look with johann klein

In the last several months, both the U.S. Congress and the Ohio General Assembly have passed historic measures that benefit the men and women of the Ohio National Guard. In the 2008 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), Congress included a number of provisions that not only improve conditions for Guardmembers, but also empower the National Guard within the Department of Defense and ensure that the senior leadership of the National Guard will have a stronger voice when advocating for Citizen-Soldiers and -Airmen. On Jan. 28, President Bush signed the bill into law. The bill's provisions include the following:

- A 3.5 percent pay raise for all servicemembers.
- Language from the Wounded Warrior Assistance Act to improve support for wounded troops and their families, including providing increased treatment closer to home rather than at the base from which they deployed.
- Lowering of the eligibility age for retirement by three months for each 90 days a Guardmember serves on certain types of active duty. The active duty must be served after the NDAA was enacted, and eligibility cannot be reduced below 50 years of age.

- Authorization of $650 million for miscellaneous equipment for the Army National Guard and $150 million for Air National Guard. Previously, National Guard and Reserve Equipment Appropriation money has been appropriated without authorization.
- Increased end strength for the Army National Guard to 351,300 and to 106,700 for the Air National Guard.
- Designating the National Guard Bureau (NGB) a joint activity of the Department of Defense. Previously, it was a joint bureau of the Army and the Air Force.
- The chief of the NGB becomes a principal advisor to the secretary of defense through the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.
- Upgrading the position of the chief of NGB increases from a three-star to a four-star general.

The Ohio General Assembly has also been busy enacting benefits for Guardmembers. On Dec. 20, Gov. Ted Strickland signed House Bill 372 into law. Most importantly, the bill exempts all retired military personnel pay from the state income tax beginning on Jan. 1, 2008. Therefore, although retirees must pay state income tax when they file this year, it will be the last year they have to do so. Ohio now joins the majority of other states that do not tax military retirement income. The bill also:

- Prohibits discrimination based on military status with respect to the Ohio Civil Rights Act and various other anti-discrimination laws regarding employment and work-related issues, housing and real estate acquisition, health care and insurance.
- Requires the attorney general to appoint a staff member of the consumer protection division to expedite certain cases or issues raised by a person, or the person's immediate family, who is deployed on active duty.
- Exempts from certain probate fees the estate of a decedent who died while in active service as a U.S. armed forces or National Guardmember serving in a combat zone.
- Requires a state or local licensing agency to renew an expired occupational or professional license or certificate held by a member of the National Guard or the Reserve that expired because of the member's service.
- Extends the 20 percent credit available to certain military persons on civil service examinations to any member of the National Guard or a reserve component of the U. S. armed forces who has completed more than 180 days of active duty service pursuant to an order of the president or an act of Congress.

To learn more about the tax portions of these bills, visit the Ohio Department of Taxation website at: *www.tax.ohio.gov/divisions/ohio_individual/individual/military_tax_provisions.stm.*

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

SPRINGFIELD

Command profile

Col Mike Roberts
178th Fighter Wing

Age: 48

Full-Time Position:
178th FW commander

Hometown: Savannah, Ga.

When I was younger, I wanted to:
fly fighters in the Air Force

Most recent achievement:
passed 3,000 flight hours on the F-16 Fighting Falcon

The last good movie I saw was:
Band of Brothers

The book I'm reading is:
The Constitution in Exile, by Andrew Napolitano

My favorite recreation activity:
anything that involves a boat on the water

The one thing I treasure most:
freedom

Heroes: every U.S. combat veteran

I'm better than anyone else at:
American history

My biggest pet peeve is:
whining and complaining without offering a solution or a better idea

If I could leave today's Guardmembers with one piece of advice it would be:
Don't wait for tomorrow

NATIONAL GUARD BUREAU

Army National Guard shoulder sleeve insignia, including the Ohio Army National Guard's 371st Sustainment Brigade (bottom row, sixth from left), decorate the No. 5 Chevrolet that Dale Earnhardt Jr. drove to a seventh-place Nationwide Series finish Feb. 26 in California.

Earnhardt drives toward success with National Guard's No. 88, No.5 cars

CHARLOTTE, N.C.— Dale Earnhardt Jr. said he hopes to learn more about the National Guard as he drives its sponsored race cars at NASCAR's top auto racing competitions this year.

"It's going to be a yearlong introduction of myself to the Guard...how I can be an asset to them," Earnhardt said earlier this year.

This year, Earnhardt is driving the National Guard co-sponsored No. 88 Sprint Cup Series car and will co-drive the Guard's primary-sponsored No. 5 Nationwide Series car with Landon Cassill. This is also the first year Earnhardt will drive under the Hendrick Motorsports (HMS) banner.

HMS owner Rick Hendrick said he is also excited about Earnhardt's Guard sponsorship. "He is a huge spokesman for the Guard," Hendrick said. "I think it's good to see the folks in uniform at the track. We owe them a lot, and we appreciate what (they) do to keep us free so we can go do this stuff."

Earnhardt said he is optimistic about racing with HMS, and he is working with other HMS drivers in their preparations. As far as seeing Guardmembers at the track this year, he said that's a fun part of his race day.

"Lord knows what they have been up to or what they have been doing or what their responsibilities currently are, but for them to be at the race track and for us to be able to show them what we do and see some excitement in their faces, especially when we do well, it's a lot of fun to have them along," Earnhardt said.

More popularly referred to as "Junior" by race fans, Earnhardt is one of the nation's most popular sports figures with 17 Sprint Cup wins and two Nationwide Series championships. The National Guard is co-sponsoring the No. 88 Sprint Cup team with Mountain Dew/Amp, which means Earnhardt will drive one of two Sprint Cup cars throughout the year: either the white and blue National Guard car or the white and green Mountain Dew/Amp car.

Sprint Cup Series auto racing is NASCAR's highest-level, most popular competition. NASCAR's second-highest auto racing competition is the Nationwide Series. Log on to *www.ngb.army.mil/features/NASCAR*, for current news, race results and photos.**TSGT MIKE R. SMITH** / NATIONAL GUARD BUREAU

DOD directive contains political activity rules for servicemembers

WASHINGTON—A revised Defense Department directive provides sharper definition of what servicemembers may and may not do within the political realm, particularly running for political office, a senior U.S. military officer said here in March.

The new version of Directive 1344.10, titled, "Political Activities by Members of the Armed Forces," became effective Feb. 19 and replaces the previous version issued in August 2004, said Army Col. Shawn Shumake, director of legal policy within the Office of the Undersecretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness. It was formulated with input from all the military services, he said.

The upcoming 2008 U.S. general elections will feature a bevy of former military members, retirees and current military reservists running for elected office, Shumake explained. In fact, the revised directive contains two sections that discuss candidacy and campaigning issues pertaining to members of that group, he added.

However, under certain circumstances, some reserve-component members can run for or hold elective political office, Shumake said. Yet, there is "a right way and a wrong way to do that," he emphasized, noting two new sections within the revised directive address political candidacy and campaigning issues.

The directive outlines specific rules pertaining to cases of regular, retired and reserve-component servicemembers holding elective or appointed office within the U.S. government, Shumake said, including elected positions with state, territorial, county or municipal governments.

For more on Department of Defense Directive 1344.10, "Political Activities by Members of the Armed Forces," go to *www.dtic.mil/whs/directives/corres/pdf/134410p.pdf.* **GERRY J. GILMORE** / AMERICAN FORCES PRESS SERVICE

New Air Force campaign: 'Above All'

WASHINGTON—The Air Force has a new advertising campaign to recruit the next generation of Airmen as well as better inform people about the Air Force mission: "Above All."

"The new slogan is admittedly a bold one, but so are Airmen." said Col. Michael Caldwell, deputy director of Air Force public affairs. "This campaign accurately portrays Airmen and how they're executing the Air Force mission to ensure the security and safety of America now and in the future."

The "Above All' campaign will be prominent on television, in print and, of course, in cyberspace. In addition to being shown at several sporting events, "Above All" ads will be seen in magazines and during commercial breaks on many top-rated commercial and television news and entertainment programs, Caldwell said.

The latest "Above All" ads are on *www.airforce.com.* **SSGT J.G. BUZANOWSKI** / SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Guard Soldier posthumously awarded Medal of Honor for Korean service

WASHINGTON—Master Sgt. Woodrow "Woody" Wilson Keeble, a former North Dakota National Guardmember, was posthumously presented with the nation's highest military award March 3 by President Bush.

Keeble is the first full-blooded Sioux Indian to be awarded the Medal of Honor.

Keeble's Medal of Honor was awarded for action near Sangsan-ni, Korea, on Oct. 20, 1951. It was awarded for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity, at the risk of his life, above and beyond the call of duty.

With more than 83 grenade fragments in his body from previous combat, Woody single-handedly charged a hill, took out several machine gun nests and killed 16 enemy troops. "Woody" died in 1982 at age 64. **SSG JIM GREENHILL** / NATIONAL GUARD BUREAU

Ohio National Guard Family programs announce dates for 2008 Hero Camps

The Ohio National Guard Family Readiness Office and Operation: Military Kids are proud to announce the dates and locations for their first six Hero Camps for military youth ages 6-18. These one-day camps are designed to build resilient youth who are better prepared to handle life stresses before, during and after deployment as well as provide opportunities for youth to connect with other military youth in a fun and educational environment.

In addition to the youth program, parents will have the option to participate in the new S.T.R.O.N.G (Steady, Trained, Resilient, Ohio National Guard) Family adult workshops that will be held concurrently at the same locations. The adult tract will be focused on providing parents ideas and essential tools for keeping their family fun, strong and resilient. Parents can drop their kids off for the day or stay and participate in their own fun and informative workshop.

Target Audience: dependents or siblings of any military service members, ages 6-18 and their parents. Each camp is structured to support up to 100 military children. Members of any military service component and branch may participate in these camps.

Locations and dates:

- May 3 at Camp Palmer for Region 5 in Fayette, Ohio
- May 31 at Camp Christopher for Region 1 in Bath, Ohio
- Sep. 6 at Camp Graham for Region 3 in Clarksville, Ohio
- Sep. 13 at Camp Wesley for Region 4 in Bellefontaine, Ohio
- Sep. 20 at Canter's Cave for Region 2 in Jackson, Ohio
- Oct. 18 at Camp Ohio for Region 6 in St. Louisville, Ohio

Camp activities will vary by location but all will be team building and activity-based. Traditional camp activities such as archery, low ropes confidence courses etc., along with basic first aide and other classes.

There is a $5 registration fee to cover camp T-shirts.

Please direct questions to Sue Ann Carroll at 614-336-7456 or go to *www.ohionationalguard.com/family/.*

LTC ROBERT BRAMLISH
FAMILY READINESS PROGRAM OFFICE

Many full-time job opportunities available for Guardmembers

If you are interested in being part of the full-time staff and are currently in the National Guard, now is a good time to start looking. There are currently a multitude of job openings throughout the state to include Active Guard Reserve (AGR), federal technicians and temporary technicians (with tours ranging from three to 12 months).

Jobs vary greatly and include positions such as: supply sergeants, human resource specialists, readiness noncommissioned officers (NCOs) and training NCOs, a wide variety of maintenance technicians and several specialty fields. The largest concentration of job openings are in the maintenance arena and include general and specialized mechanics, production controllers and supervisors.

Other specialized fields include medical, legal, instructors, financial, information technology and auditors.

Now is the time to join the ranks of the full-time force, start a wonderful career with great benefits and make the Ohio National Guard a better organization.

There are several ways to learn about the job openings. The easiest method is by logging on to *www.ohionationalguard.com* and scrolling down the left side to "Jobs."

You may also visit the nearest readiness center to view job postings or talk to your full-time unit representatives and chain of command.

LTC STEVE HESS
HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICE

HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHT

Buckeye Soldiers in the White House

During the Civil War three future presidents—Rutherford B. Hayes, James A. Garfield and William S. McKinley—served in Ohio regiments. In addition to those presidents, relatives of the commander in chief have also served with distinction in the Ohio National Guard. President George W. Bush's great-great uncle, BG Harold Bush, served from 1894 to 1935. The 107th Cavalry Regiment was home to three generations of President Garfield's relatives. However, the most distinguished presidential son is MAJ Webb C. Hayes (right), who served for many years as quartermaster sergeant in Cleveland's Troop A. During the Spanish-American War, Hayes was wounded at San Juan Hill and later, as a lieutenant colonel in the Regular Army, he was awarded the Medal of Honor for leading a rescue party in the Philippines. *Submitted by Staff Sgt. Joshua Mann, OHARNG Historian*

COURTESY OF R.B. HAYES PRESIDENTIAL CENTER

Air Force-sponsored instant message program keeps families in touch

Friends and family members can keep in touch with Airmen anywhere in the world through an instant messaging program available from the Air Force Portal. Every Airman is permitted up to five guest users through the Friends and Family Instant Messaging Service.

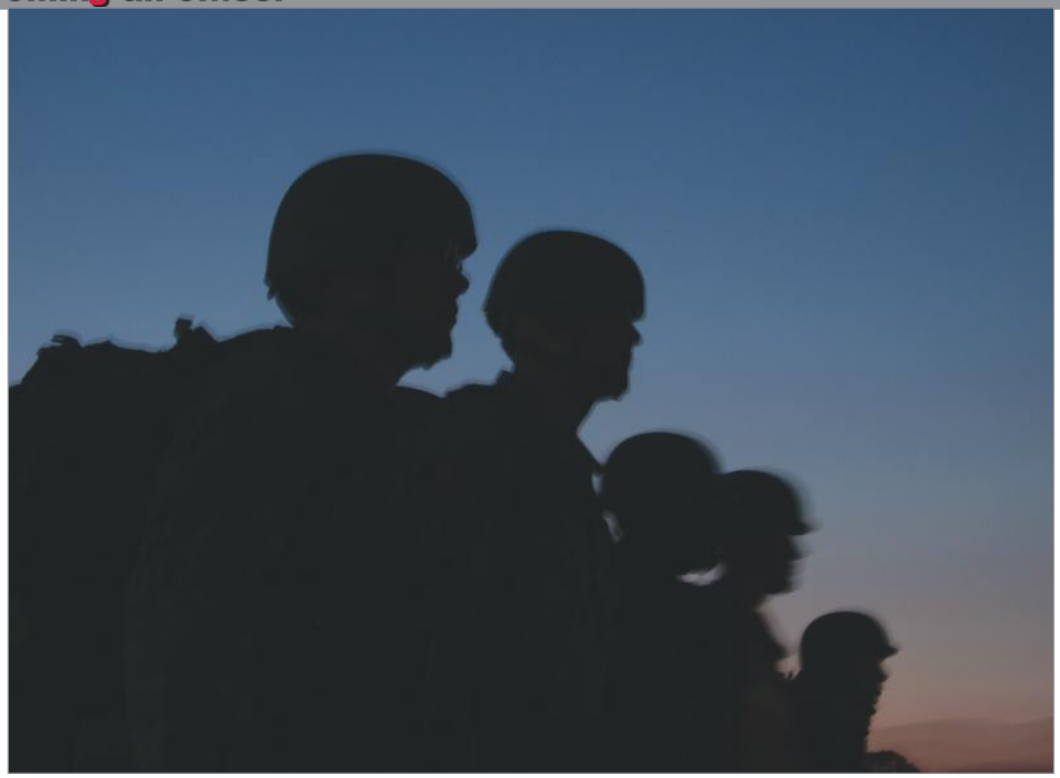
To register a guest, follow these steps:

- Log in to the Air Force portal *(https://www.My.Af.Mil)*
- In the upper right hand corner, click on the "my profile" tab
- Then click on the "manage ffim" tab
- Click on "add an account"
- Fill out the required information (name, e-mail address) and read the user policy
- Click on "register"

Two e-mails will then be sent automatically to the friend or family member's address. The first contains the individual's username; the second will be a temporary password. The guest then has 24 hours to log in to the portal and create their own unique password, which they will use from that point on.

AIR FORCE PORTAL

Officer Candidate School: The Buck stops here



PHOTOS COURTESY OF FORT MCCLELLAN OCS

Officer candidates move out swiftly after a pre-dawn formation during accelerated OCS.

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

There is a plaque that reads "The Buck Stops Here" in the 147th Regiment (Regional Training Institute) Officer Candidate School (OCS) barracks at Rickenbacker Army National Guard Enclave in Columbus, Ohio. OCS candidates presented this plaque to Maj. Jeffrey Buck, senior OCS TAC (Teach, Assess, Counsel) cadre at the 147th Regiment as a sign of respect.

"The buck stops here" derives from the phrase "pass the buck," which means passing the responsibility to somebody else. In poker, a buckhorn handled knife was used as a button in frontier days to show whose turn it was to deal. If a player did not want to deal he could pass the responsibility (buck) on to the next player.

In many respects, OCS is about dealing. The candidates cannot pass the buck and still make it as an officer. They have to deal with physical strain, mental challenge and emotional stress. They deal with land navigation, infantry exercises, physical fitness tests, leadership reaction exercises and most of all they deal with the TACs.

"A TAC is someone who is a captain or above or an E-7 (sergeant first class) or above who is seasoned in the military, who can mentor a student and say, 'When I did this, this is what I did, and it would be better if you did it this way,'" said Maj. Tim Maples, battalion executive officer, senior TAC and full-time training officer at the 2nd Battalion, Officer Candidate School at Ft. McClellan, Ala.

TACs manage officer candidates much the way a drill sergeant would handle Soldiers at basic training. Traditional course candidates indicated they began seeing TACs more as mentors toward the end of phase two. Phase three is known as the mentor phase.

"You are working more with those Soldiers one on one," Maples said. "Soldiers also feel more comfortable coming to you and asking questions."

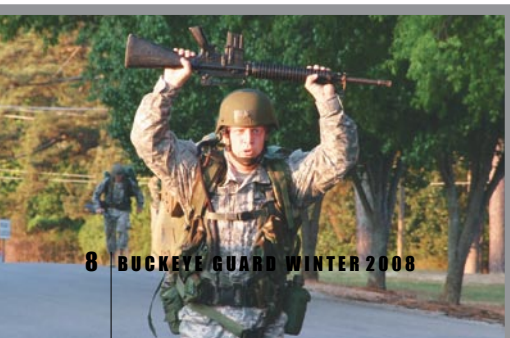
"There's a big difference between phase three and the other training," said Officer Candidate Philip Van Treuren. "Here in phase three we're treated more as second lieutenants than as officers in training. I think that that respect allows us to conduct our missions as second lieutenants and really get a feel for what it's like when we're doing this in actuality."

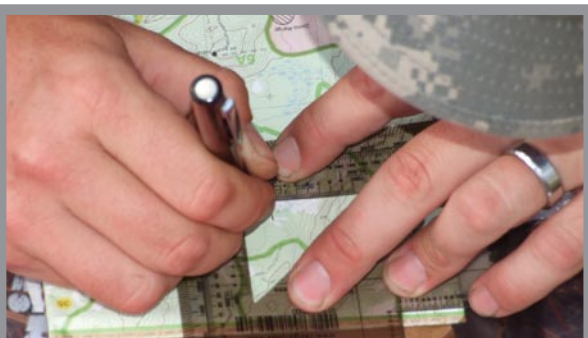
Candidates have the choice between traditional and accelerated coursework. The traditional course consists of four phases over 18 months. Phase zero is an orientation of basic Soldier skills. Phase one is a two-week instruction of land navigation, field leadership,cover operations and training management. Phase two makes up the majority of traditional OCS training as 12 months in drill status. In phase three candidates go through a field leadership exercise, combat water survival training, leadership reaction course, confidence course and a tactical exercise.

Ohio National Guard officer candidates are offered two accelerated OCS classes per year, where they attend a consecutive 57-day course that includes phases one through three. The first is held January through March and the second, from June through August. In the accelerated course, phases one and three are held at Fort McClellan, while phase two is held at Fort Indiantown Gap, Pa.

Class 54 of Ohio's 147th Regiment traditional OCS recently traveled to Fort McClellan for phase three, coordinated by 2nd Battalion, 200th Regiment.

"The 200th is the subject matter expert on OCS for the country," Maples said. "There's a training schedule that we follow that's from the course management plan, and a program of instruction that's from our proponent school in Fort Benning, Ga., that accredits us. It's also outlined from the National Guard Bureau, and we follow each one of those tasks."





Other states National Guards offer support, in the form of TACs, medics and administrative specialists.

"We display teamwork, pull all those resources together and make it work," Maples said.

Fort McClellan, which was significantly downsized in 1999, sits in a tree-filled valley of the Choccolocco Appalachian foothills. A section of the fort is now home to the Alabama National Guard Training Center. Candidates develop leadership skills in the forests of Alabama, with its patches of sun, rolling hills, swamps, holes, dead trees, snakes, ticks, poison ivy, sumac and briar patches. TACs speak over locusts, while candidates listen, enduring the heat and humidity.

"The environment of Alabama makes training more realistic," Maples said. "No, it's not the terrain of Iraq or Afghanistan, but it still gives them a more realistic effect when they're going out on the ground and conducting a mission versus sitting in a classroom and talking about it."

The outdoor training is fast-paced and focused on leadership.

"There's not a minute that is wasted here at OCS. That takes them from early morning until late at night," Maples said.

One leadership skill that is highly stressed throughout OCS is communication.

"You have to talk," Maples said. "You have to pass information from the highest to the lowest and from the lowest to the highest. We push for them to communicate, to make sure that everyone is involved, so that the mission can be accomplished."

"You need to be a good communicator to be a good leader," Van Treuren said. "If you can't communicate your own plans, then you can't expect your Soldiers to follow your orders."

Most of the Ohio Soldiers at OCS this year went through the traditional route to becoming an officer, having more than a year to develop camaraderie. They were largely split apart in Alabama and mixed with the rest of a class of 306 from across the United States. When traditional Ohio candidates would see each other, they would smile, shake hands if time allowed and tell one another to stay motivated.

"The most memorable experience was our phase two operation at our RTI in Rickenbacker and the 12 months that I spent with the other candidates there," Officer Candidate Douglas Franz said. "It gave us a lot of time to bond together, learn about each other and to pull information from each other."

"The camaraderie that you build within your group is really amazing," Van Treuren said. "We haven't just trained, we've also made friends. We're confident in each others' abilities as well. You need that kind of meshing in order to be successful at OCS. The relationships that you build are important both for now and your future career."

Candidates choose to become officers for an array of reasons, but all must accept that they are stepping into a leadership role. In going through OCS, they accept the deal to not "pass the buck."

"These students are here because they want to make a difference," Maples said. "They want to do their part in the Global War on Terrorism."

"I chose to become an officer candidate because I wanted to be a leader," Van Treuren said. "That sounds like a cliché answer, but it's the right answer."

At OCS, candidates work long days to learn to be leaders and TACs work long days to mold them into leaders.

"The best part of my job is seeing the finished product," Maples said. "I had a lieutenant who graduated recently say, 'We're getting shot at a lot; we're taking some casualties, but the best training I've ever received, that prepared me for combat, was OCS. Please, sir, keep doing what you're doing; push them harder. Make them understand that what you're training them to do there will pay off in the end.' That's when the long hours, the hard work, and all of the organizing pays off.

"If a Soldier is out there who has college time and thinks they have the leadership skills to be a second lieutenant, I'd like to challenge them to come to OCS. This is a challenging program; this is the most challenging thing that I've ever done in my military career. It's definitely hard, but I guarantee you—it will be worth it."

College ROTC offers alternative route to gain commission

The Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) is one of the best leadership courses in the nation and is currently offered at 13 host colleges and universities and 26 satellite schools in Ohio. ROTC is an elective curriculum taken in tandem with required college coursework. The coursework is designed to provide the skills, training and experience necessary to lead Soldiers in combat. At its culmination, cadets earn the distinctive gold bar of a second lieutenant.

Current Guardmembers may join ROTC thru the Simultaneous Membership Program (SMP). Completion of Basic Combat Training and Advanced Individual Training fulfill the Basic Course requirements and allow Guardmembers to enroll directly into the Advanced Course during their junior year, although many cadets choose to participate in ROTC Basic Course during their freshman and sophomore years. Upon contracting into ROTC, SMP cadets are non-deployable for the duration of their undergraduate education. This joint venture allows them the opportunity to enhance leadership skills through close partnership with a platoon leader or platoon sergeant.

ROTC offers many unique financial incentives for cadets who participate in the Simultaneous Membership Program, with potential annual earnings totaling $16,308.80. Incentives include advancement to E-5 for pay purposes ($241.88/MUTA 4), the Montgomery GI Bill ($309/month) and GI Bill Kicker ($350/month) for those who qualify, a monthly stipend between $300-500 dependent upon academic standing, yearly Federal Tuition Assistance of $4500, and the Ohio National Guard Scholarship Program.

In addition, cadets may contract for an ROTC scholarship, which pays uncapped full tuition at any ROTC participating school. Dedicated Army National Guard (DedARNG) scholarships are available to ensure placement in a National Guard unit upon commissioning.

SMP participants may be offered training opportunities for Airborne, Air Assault and Mountain Warfare schools thru the ROTC department.

Newly-commissioned officers may be eligible for the $10,000 officer accession bonus, depending upon the critical needs of the Army National Guard at commissioning.

For additional information, contact 2nd Lt. Stefanie Kuntz or 1st Lt. Bruce Hubert at (614) 376-5018 in the Officer Strength Force.

Accelerated OCS anything but 'life in fast lane'

By 2nd Lt. Russell Galeti
Company A, 1st Battalion
145th Armored Regiment

PHOTO COURTESY OF FORT MCCLELLAN OCS

Under the watchful eyes of OCS TACs, Russell P. Galeti (top of frame) and other candidates perform push-ups.

When advertisements use the term 'accelerated', usually for things like sports cars and high-speed Internet, it typically gives a sense of swiftness or flight to whatever is being sold. As I stood, sweat-soaked and sunburned, in a pre-dawn formation at Fort McClellan, Ala., one morning last June, absolutely nothing seemed accelerated about my situation.

During the Army National Guard's eight-week Accelerated Officer Candidate School (AOCS) rogram, at McClellan and Fort Indiantown Gap, Pa., I learned the hard way the truly deceptive nature of the term 'accelerated.'

Designed to mold Soldiers—selected by their commanders for leadership potential—into new second lieutenants in the Army National Guard, AOCS is not for those needing time to brush-up quickly on their Army Warrior Tasks or leadership abilities.

Even for an infantry staff sergeant and combat veteran like me, the conditions proved rugged and exhausting, designed to push candidates to their breaking points to ensure they would be ready to handle similar pressures inherent in leading a platoon in combat. I quickly learned I was expected to shed my cynical tongue-in-cheek attitude and encourage cooperation among my peers if any of us expected to make it to graduation.

The bleary, hot and humid conditions of an Alabama summer, combined with less than four hours of nightly sleep, twice-daily physical training, mile-long runs in full combat gear to and from classrooms and constant physical and mental stressors such as special attention from black-hatted TAC (Training, Advising and Counseling) Officers served to figuratively disassemble even the most confident candidates.

Taking the same curriculum from the 14-week federal OCS program and condensing it into eight weeks by lengthening the duty day and eliminating any time off, ceremonies and details, candidates were evaluated on the full spectrum of duties for any Army officer. From an intense week of two to three land-navigation courses per day, to written exams given only an hour or two after the subject's introduction, timed road marches with full combat gear and rucksacks, peer evaluations, the Army Physical Fitness Test and the Combat Water Survival Test, candidates have to stay at the top of their physical and mental games for the entire length of the course in order to graduate.

At first, many candidates could not understand the dogmatic adherence to so many ridiculous tasks which constituted the "OCS environment." Over time, it became evident that every demand had a teaching point behind it. Spouting off "Sir, Officer Candidate Galeti" at the start of every single sentence when addressing a TAC not only immediately ensured proper courtesies, but would also eventually instill proper radio communications practices in candidates.

Meticulously-rolled T-shirts would fly through the air during frequent and brutal barracks inspections, that were never intended for candidates to pass. TAC officers needed candidates to accept that even the most honest Soldiers will, at times, either intentionally or unintentionally, put forth a substandard product in an attempt to just get by. The lesson inherent in those inspections was not how to roll a T-shirt, but to show the future officers how exacting they themselves must be when inspecting the weapons, vehicles, equipment and Soldiers with which they would soon be entrusted.

As I trudged through the least accelerated and most strenuous eight weeks of my life—surpassing even infantry school or a tour in Iraq—I was surprised that the largest challenges of the course were not published on any training schedule. Instead, the most valuable lessons were carefully crafted and possibly unintended, revealed to each candidate individually, at his or her moments of greatest weakness.

Candidates largely tended to look to former combat-arms NCOs for motivation and leadership, but every Soldier's drive flagged throughout the eight weeks, to include these go-to leaders. It was at these times that even the quietest and most unassuming candidates would step up and take charge with a surprising boldness.

Another overwhelming lesson that can only be taught to candidates under the exceptional pressures of AOCS is the thousands of moving parts to every operation—stated and implied tasks and subtasks to be executed. Most candidates have never faced so many tasks to execute at once, with both willing and unwilling subordinates. It is incumbent upon the aspiring officers to prioritize the countless tasks and decide which ones require direct attention and which may be delegated.

The most humbling lesson for a Soldier like me, and the most difficult lesson for stressed-out candidates to accept, is that even under optimal circumstances, not all of the moving parts of their operation will reach completion. Faced with impossible time constraints and oft-unwilling student-subordinates, every subtask left uncompleted is a crushing blow which the vociferous TAC officers unfailingly bring to the candidates' attention.

In my mind, the eight weeks of carefully-designed confidence-building and confidence-crushing trials could easily be summarized by the assertion that there are a thousand moving parts to everything the Army attempts to do, and no one leader is going to execute them all correctly and on-time unless he or she can describe their intent to their subordinates, train their subordinates, trust their subordinates and then check on their subordinates.

In a decade of service, I have seen many platoon leaders come and go, and initially assumed AOCS would be an inane exercise in brass tacks and shrimp forks, at best. I could not have been more wrong. I almost bypassed such valuable training based on this assumption, and will be forever grateful I ultimately did not. Instead, I came away from Fort McClellan with valuable lessons about my personal limits as a leader, a newfound confidence in my leadership and interpersonal abilities, and a new respect for the fact that outstanding leadership can come from each and every American Soldier if the right combination of purpose, motivation and direction are applied to him or her. The greatest result of my time at AOCS was a balanced confidence in my own shortcomings and abilities, as well as a newfound confidence in those Soldiers who are the heart and soul of the organizations we officers are privileged to lead. BG

EDITOR'S NOTE: *Galeti graduated from OCS in August 2007.*

SFC KIMBERLY SNOW / ADJ. GEN. DEPT. PUBLIC AFFAIRS

MG Gregory L. Wayt, Ohio adjutant general (reflected on left), discusses the wreckage of a U.S. Air Force F-16 "Fighting Falcon" that crashed in northwest Serbia in 1999, with COL Petar Cornakov, a member of the Serbian general staff, during a tour of the Serbian Air Force museum in Belgrade. Wayt and a delegation of about 40 Ohio troops visited Belgrade and Nis as part of the State Partnership Program. The visit was the largest such exchange since the partnership began about a year and half ago.

REFLECTIVE OF THE TIMES: Strong Ohio-Serbia partnership integral for burgeoning democracy

Story by Sgt. 1st Class Kimberly D. Snow
Adjutant General's Department Public Affairs

BELGRADE, Serbia—Despite the nine-hour red-eye flight, Maj. Gen. Gregory L. Wayt wore a warm smile as he descended from the Ohio Air National Guard KC-135 Stratotanker aircraft early Sept. 15 and embraced his good friend, Lt. Col. Gen. Zdravko Ponoš, chief of Serbian Armed Forces.

Though just over a year had passed since their initial meeting, the two greeted each other as old friends, a term they often use to describe one another. In fact, both routinely refer to the National Guard Bureau's State Partnership Program, which brought the two men—and the two militaries—together, as the State "Friendship" Program.

"This is the culmination of the first year with a great program," Wayt said. "When we began a year ago, our goal was to make this partnership the best of all 56 state partnerships. There's no doubt we've done that."

Through September 2007, the Ohio National Guard and the Serbian Armed Forces conducted 21 exchanges, four in the United States and the remainder in Serbia. The most recent was the largest to date, with about 40 Ohio Soldiers and Airmen traveling to Serbia for a weeklong exchange of information and ideas between each country's special forces, medical, joint task force, air and public affairs personnel.

"This has truly been an historic week, and I'm really proud of it," Wayt said. "I asked General (Mladen) Cirkovic (Serbian Land Forces commander in chief) when the last time this many U.S. Soldiers were on Serbian soil. His recollection was World War II."

From the moment the delegation landed in Belgrade, personnel from each of the functional areas quickly met up with their Serbian counterparts. While the largest single delegation—a small unit exchange consisting of 16 Soldiers from Company B, 2nd Battalion, 19th Special Forces Group—immediately departed for southeastern Serbia to link up with their counterparts in the Nis-based 63rd Parachute Battalion, the bulk of the delegation remained in the Serbian capital.

Throughout the week, delegation members in Belgrade conducted and received informational briefings, toured military and government facilities, shared ideas and began planning future cooperative efforts. The delegation also was treated to cultural tours and official events including a Sept. 15 graduation ceremony of the Serbian military academy. The ceremony featured an introduction of the first class of female military academy cadets, a group of more than 30 that included four student pilots.

While Wayt met with high-level officials, the rest of the delegation members conducted their own exchanges. Col. Terry Johnson, commander of the Ohio Army National Guard Medical Detachment, visited the three major military hospitals in Serbia during his visit and discussed with his counterparts the expanding role of military medical personnel with particular emphasis on civil-military operations.

ALL PHOTOS THIS PAGE BY SFC KIMBERLY SNOW / ADJ. GEN. DEPT. PUBLIC AFFAIRS

LEFT: Members of an Ohio National Guard delegation visit a monastery in Krusedol, Serbia. ABOVE: Members of a graduating Serbian Officer Candidate School class march past Serbian and ONG officials. BELOW, TOP: LtCol Greg Schnulo, director of staff for Air, Joint Force Headquarters, Ohio National Guard, looks inside a Russian-made MiG-21 supersonic jet fighter aircraft during a visit to the Serbian Air Base at Batajnica. BELOW, BOTTOM: SSG Daniel M. Dixon (right), a member of Company B, 2nd Battalion, 19th Special Forces Group, renders a salute to Serbian President Boris Tadić, who greeted ONG Soldiers who participated in a joint airborne jump with Serbian paratroopers.

"The Serbian military also does civil-military cooperation and now we have ideas about how to marry these processes," Johnson said. "We're moving quickly from the realm of ideas to action. I think our cooperation is only limited by our imagination."

Brig. Gen. Jack E. Lee, Joint Task Force 73 commander, and his senior enlisted Soldier, Command Sgt. Maj. Christopher Glauner, also met with their Serbian counterparts who were conducting a war exercise at their joint operations center based on what they learned from Ohio's response to Hurricane Katrina.

Meanwhile, Lt. Col. Greg Schnulo, director of staff, Air Joint Force Headquarters, and the KC-135 flight crew from the Columbus-based 121st Air Refueling Wing, toured the Serbian 204th Air Base at Batajnica. Their objective was to assess differences and similarities between the Serbian and U.S. Air Forces and to look for opportunities to export additional training, Schnulo said. The airmen discussed challenges specific to their units, particularly maintenance issues related to aging aircraft.

"We had much to share, especially as our aircraft are also getting older," Schnulo said. "We are often constrained by regulations on maintenance and we are very impressed with the Serbian air force's resourcefulness and would like to learn from that."

Finally, the two public affairs delegations not only exchanged information, they coordinated on a Sept. 20 joint press conference in Nis and produced photo and video products together throughout the visit. They also planned further coordination, including a potential Serbian public affairs delegation visit to Ohio to integrate the staffs in a number of events, including a joint information center exercise with other civil agencies in Ohio, said Mark Wayda, Ph.D., director of government and public affairs for the Ohio National Guard.

"We're already moving beyond exercises as we've made plans moving forward. We will be creating content for each others' websites, we'll publish each others' news and we'll share products and resources. This partnership has already begun to make our agencies better." BG

1LT AARON TESTA / 196TH MOBILE PUBLIC AFFAIRS DETACHMENT

SFC KIMBERLY SNOW / ADJ. GEN. DEPT. PUBLIC AFFAIRS

ABOVE: Serbian soldiers conduct hand grenade training during 2007 Ohio Army National Guard annual training at Camp Grayling, Mich. RIGHT: MG Gregory L. Wayt, Ohio adjutant general, and Lt. Col. Gen. Zdravko Ponoš, chief of Serbian armed forces, meet at the U.S. embassy in Belgrade.

Looking back: Ohio-Serbian partners celebrate anniversary

Story courtesy of Serbian Ministry of Defense public relations department

BELGRADE, Serbia—A recent Ohio National Guard visit to Serbia marked one year of successful cooperation and joint training as part of the State Partnership Program.

The members of the Ohio National Guard delegation consisted of about 40 officers, noncommissioned officers and civilians, who paid a visit to our armed forces Sept. 15-22. The delegation, led by Maj. Gen. Gregory L. Wayt, Ohio adjutant general, divided into six teams (Air Force, Joint Task Force, Special Forces, public relations, medical and noncommissioned officers). The itinerary was developed around training these special teams together, a concept that will continue during future exercises as part of the Serbia-Ohio military cooperation.

The Ohio National Guard's visit was part of the State Partnership Program within the Status of Forces Agreement (SOFA) signed on Sept. 7, 2006, by Serbian President Boris Tadić and U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice. The September visit marked one year of successful cooperation efforts, which included 21 activities, both in Serbia and Ohio. Our Ohio counterparts held our Army in high esteem, as evidenced when our team assisted with the planning of the joint exercise held in Ohio in June 2007 (Ohio Army National Guard annual training at Camp Grayling, Mich.).

The latest activity, the largest and widest in scope so far, continued the education and training initiated a year prior in order to establish and uphold cooperation between the countries, with the goal of sharing of experiences of American forces and our observations of their operations. In turn, this effort will better prepare the Serbian armed forces for joint operations, exercises and peace missions with other armies of the world.

The Special Forces joint training demonstration Sept. 20 at Nis Air Base was the closing event and was attended by U.S. Ambassador Cameron Munter, Wayt, Tadić, Dragan Šutanovac, Serbian defense minister and Lt. Col. Gen. Zdravko Ponoš, chief of Serbian Armed Forces general staff, and his associates.

The joint training exercise was conducted at Nis Air Base Sept. 16-19, 2007, with 34 members of the SAF 63rd Parachutist Battalion and 16 Ohio National Guardmembers. During the training sessions the Nis battalion paratroopers explained to their Ohio colleagues the operation of personal weapons, after which they performed a firing exercise with automatic rifles and pistols. They also performed a static-line jump and exchanged information on survival and search and rescue techniques. The members of the Serbian 63rd Parachutist Battalion received accolades from their Ohio National Guard counterparts on their professionalism and exemplary execution of the training.

On Sept. 20, 2007, the members of the 63rd Parachutist Battalion and the Ohio National Guard's Special Forces demonstrated joint tactical activities at the Nis airfield. The training of Special Forces at the parachutist training ground, the outdoor survival techniques and search and rescue procedures were closely observed by Sutanovac, Munter, Ponoš, Wayt and other guests. In his address to the press following the exercise, Ponoš announced that these activities would continue in the following year.

"The Ohio-Serbia State Partnership Program started a year ago, and to date Serbian Armed Forces and the Ohio National Guard have realized a total of 21 activities: the exchange of small units, the development of the NCO corps and the organization of the reserve corps," Ponoš said, reminding the guests that the first exercise was carried out in Ohio in June this year with 16 SAF members.

On this occasion, Ponoš reiterated that there was another Serbia-American Agreement within the International Military Education and Training Program, which focused on education and training and during previous months, 20 members of our armed forces had been educated and trained in the United States.

"Our idea was to continue with the exchange of small units next year, while at the same time connecting similar organizations such as nuclear, biological, chemical warfare and similar units within the State Partnership Program with Ohio," Ponoš emphasized. "This year we have done so much more than other countries have done within their respective state partnership programs."

Wayt thanked his hosts for their hospitality.

"When we first started with this Program, General Ponoš and I set a goal—to make this partnership the best of all 56 partnerships the U.S. has established with other countries. Now we can safely say that no other country has had such a scope of activities as Ohio has conducted with Serbia. At this moment, the members of the Ohio National Guard are at the Nis Air Base, where they are exchanging experiences with the members of Serbian 63rd Parachutist Battalion and learning from each other. And this is what we have actually done this year—we have learned from each other." OHG

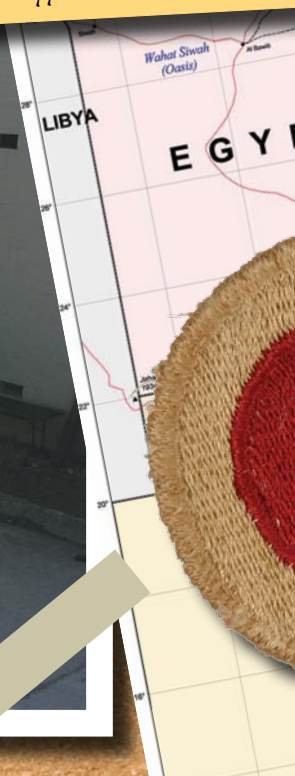
37TH IBCT HERO BOARD

Ohio Gov. Ted Strickland greets PV2 Alfreda Bracewell and her daughter during the Jan. 5, 2008 deployment ceremony for the Headquarters Company, Special Troops Battalion, 37th Infantry Brigade Combat Team. Photo by James A. Sims II, Adjutant General's Department Public Affairs

ABOVE: Soldiers of Company D, 1st Battalion, 14[illegible] sit Jan. 3, 2008, at the State Theater in Sandusky, [illegible] ceremony. Photo by SFC Kimberly D. Snow, Adjutant [illegible] Public Affairs.

LEFT: COL Gordon Ellis, 37th Infantry Brigade Combat [illegible] (standing), talks with Soldiers before a cordon and search [illegible] Texas. The 37th IBCT is deploying in support of Operation [illegible] by MAJ Michael Berry, 37th IBCT public affairs.

BELOW: Soldiers of Company A, 237th Support Battalion, [illegible] prepare to recover a vehicle after a simulated IED [illegible] operations training at Fort Hood, Texas. Photo by SGT [illegible] Company A, 237th Support Battalion.



COL Richard Curry, 37th Infantry Brigade commander, speaks during a send-off ceremony in Austintown. Photo by SFC Kimberly Snow, Adjutant General's Department Public Affairs

37th IBCT Soldiers board an airplane at the 180th Fighter Wing in Toledo to head to Fort Hood, Texas. Photo courtesy of the 180th Fighter Wing Multimedia Center

...th Infantry Regiment, ...y for the unit's sendoff ...t General's Department

...t Team deputy commander ...rch exercise at Ft. Hood, ...ation Iraqi Freedom. Photo

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For more on the 37th Infantry Brigade Combat Team's deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, go to:

http://www.ohionationalguard.com/37th%20BCT/37%20bct_index.htm

Protecting the nation's

180th Fighter Wing takes on homeland defense mission

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

Photos by Tech. Sgt. Beth Holliker
180th Fighter Wing Multimedia Center

TOLEDO—As many people settle down for the evening by turning down the lights, turning back the sheets and getting comfortable with a good book, the alert pilots of the 180th Fighter Wing are reviewing final mission data and preflight checklists and thinking about in-flight scenarios to keep America safe from hostile aircraft.

Beginning in August, one of our nation's most critical homeland defense missions—Air Sovereignty Alert (ASA)—will be the responsibility of the Ohio Air National Guard's 180th Fighter Wing, located at Toledo Express Airport in Swanton. The ASA mission, in support of 1st Air Force and the North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD), is part of Operation Noble Eagle.

With headquarters at Tyndall Air Force Base, near Panama City, Fla., 1st Air Force has the responsibility of ensuring the air sovereignty and air defense of the continental United States. In support of that mission, fighter wings across the country—and now the 180th in Ohio—will maintain alert aircraft, pilots and crews 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year.

"This is an important mission," said Col. Mark Bartman, 180th Fighter Wing commander. "If aircraft encroach upon restricted airspace or don't have proper clearance, it then becomes our job to go up and intercept the potential threat."

The ASA mission in the Great Lakes region was originally assigned to the Michigan Air National Guard's 107th Fighter Squadron, stationed at Selfridge Air National Guard Base near Detroit. However, as part of the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) findings, the 107th is transitioning airframes from the F-16 Fighting Falcon to the A-10 Thunderbolt. The Thunderbolt is a single-seat, twin-engine jet aircraft with the primary mission of providing close air support (CAS) for ground forces, but is not the primary airframe for the ASA mission.

The F-16 is perfectly suited for the ASA mission because it is a compact, highly-maneuverable airframe with a proven record in air-to-air combat, Bartman said.

"From an operational standpoint it made sense for our wing to assume the mission," Bartman said. "We are just 45 miles south of Selfridge and have a unit that is fully capable of supporting the ASA mission while continuing to deploy jets as part of our normal Air Expeditionary Force (AEF) rotations."

Because the wing is required to maintain normal operations while supporting the ASA mission, the entire base must be engaged. The phrase "one team, one fight" is a mantra that resonates throughout all areas of the wing.

Unit members project a quiet confidence in their abilities when discussing the upcoming mission, which will operate at the base out of temporary facilities until permanent ones can be built in about five years. Many in the unit credited the capable and experienced team of civil engineers and safety personnel that quickly responded to the need for temporary facilities.

Construction of temporary aircraft hangars, shelters and crew quarters is set to begin in April and should be completed in early June. Once construction is complete, personnel from 1st Air Force will visit the wing to conduct an operational assessment, said Lt. Col. Steve "Spock" Nordhaus, ASA commander.

Homeland defense and homeland security are not new to the

CITIZENS FROM ABOVE

ABOVE: F-16 Fighting Falcon aircraft from Toledo's 180th FIghter WIng patrol the skies. BELOW: A 180th pilot prepares for the upcoming mission from the cockpit.

Ohio National Guard. Ohio's Soldiers and Airmen have been performing a variety of missions both on the ground and in the air since the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks on American soil, including support to the U.S. Border patrol and commercial airport security.

According to information provided by 1st Air Force, since Sept. 11, 2001, ASA aircraft have flown more than 48,267 sorties and have been diverted from patrols or scrambled from airstrips more than 2,130 times in response to threatening activities.

To respond to alerts, the wing must have aircraft on standby, meaning the fighters are fueled, prepped and loaded with ammunition and missles at all times and can launch at a moment's notice.

"Without giving away operational secrets, our area of responsibility is far reaching," Nordhaus said. "We can have jets in the air within minutes of notification and can cover a good portion of the Midwest quickly thereafter."

Over the past year, pilots from the 180th have been traveling to Selfridge Air National Guard Base to work and train with pilots from the 107th. They hope to use what they learned back in Ohio.

"It was very interesting to see how the process works," Nordhaus said. "The pilots take turns pulling alert duty anywhere from eight to 24 hours at a time and they, along with on-call maintenance crews, are sequestered in facilities complete with kitchen, living and sleeping quarters."

An alert system similar to a traffic light tells pilots and maintenance crews how to respond when an alert horn sounds. A green light means that pilots are to get airborne as soon as possible; green and yellow signals crews to prepare the fighters, but hold in the hangar; and a red light signals them to stand down.

Behind the scenes, maintainers spend hours making sure the aircraft are always mission-ready.

"Our team consists of crew chiefs and weapons-load personnel who understand the critical nature of our mission," said 38-year veteran Senior Master Sgt. William Gummow, chief of maintenance. "We need to be on top of our game 24/7, and turn these jets around very quickly after each mission."

Once certified, the 180th will keep the mission for the foreseeable future.

"Each unit member continues to work toward making this mission successful." Bartman said. "Our goal is to be 'best seen to date.'"

FAR LEFT: TSgt Terry Copic, a crew chief with the 180th Fighter Wing, inspects an F-16C Fighting Falcon after a mission. LEFT: Crew members and pilot prepare for a sortie before dawn.

AROUND THE OHIO AIR NATIONAL GUARD

SFC KIMBERLY SNOW / ADJ. GEN. DEPT. PUBLIC AFFAIRS

MajGen Harry "A.J." Feucht (left), Ohio assistant adjutant general for Air, is briefed by SSgt. Marvin Jimerson (far right), a basic military training instructor stationed at Lackland Air Force Base.

Back to basic(s) for OHANG leaders

By 1st Lt. Holly Caldwell
Joint Force Headquarters-Ohio

LACKLAND AIR FORCE BASE, Texas—During an adventurous and nostalgic week in mid-December, a group of Ohio Air National Guardmembers took advantage of a rare opportunity to go back to basic military training.

About 40 Airmen from the state's Joint Force Headquarters and various wing training, recruiting and retention posts visited Lackland Air Force Base, near San Antonio, Texas, to attend their annual force management workshop.

The visit included briefings and question-and-answer periods with subject matter experts in training and schools, G-RAP and other recruiting and retention "hot topics." The highlight, however, was a visit to the 737th Training Group, where the Ohio Airmen received a tour of student training and living areas, including a land and water-based obstacle course, a student demonstration of dissembling and re-assembling an M-16 rifle and, finally, lunch with individual trainees.

One trainee, Airman Basic John Wissler, confirmed the old adage that some things never change. "I look forward to chow, showers and sleep!" he said.

Current training topics include improvised explosive device training, warrior skills, Air Force history, core value concepts, the obstacle course, M-16 familiarization, nuclear, biological and chemical warfare training, combat skills and Airmanship skills. Beginning in November 2008, the course will be extended to 8 1/2 weeks from 6 1/2 weeks. The expanded curriculum will incorporate combat skills including forward operating base drills, combat medical skills, public and media relations training and cultural awareness, culminating in a four-day field exercise simulating air and ground attacks.

"Jobs are now outside the fence, war skills training is coming into play and is more important than ever," said Maj. Gen. Harry "A.J." Feucht, Ohio's assistant adjutant general for Air. "It is clear that the Airmen of today are being developed into the warriors of tomorrow."

First Dutch F-16 class graduates

By Airman 1st Class Amy N. Adducchio
178th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

DAYTON—"Flying is a way of life. In the last eight months, we've experienced a new way of life," said Royal Netherlands Lt. Gen. J.H. de Jong at the first Dutch initial qualification course graduation ceremony Dec. 15 at the Mandalay Banquet Center here.

In addition to the five American student pilots, eight Dutch student pilots from the Royal Netherlands 306th Detachment, located at Springfield Air National Guard Base, completed their initial training for the F-16 fighter jet.

The American and Dutch national anthems were scheduled to start the evening's ceremony, and after the "The Star-Spangled Banner" was played, all waited for the "het Wilhelmus" to follow. However, the program encountered an error when attempting to play the anthem. As if on cue, the Dutch in attendance began proudly singing their national anthem.

After a celebratory dinner, Lt. Col. Joseph W. Schulz, the 178th Fighter Wing chief of programs and scheduling and the evening's master of ceremonies, introduced Col. Richard L. Lohnes, former commander of the 178th, who expressed his sentiments.

"I'm very proud to be standing here," Lohnes said.

After searching a year and a half for a new mission for Springfield, and facing all the changes and challenges to accomplish it, he is proud to see success in this mission.

"(It is) nothing less than remarkable," he said. "The Americans and Dutch will defend freedom. They will trust each other in the air and be better men, better F-16 fighters, better warriors."

Maj. Gen. Gregory L. Wayt, Ohio adjutant general, noted the historical significance of the first graduating class.

"It was one of my proudest days when the 306(th's Detachment_ flag came to Springfield," Wayt said. "The U.S. is never going to fight again by themselves."

Wayt expressed his pride toward the graduates and instructed them to go forward for peace around the world.

MSGT STEPHANIE J. LAPLANT / 178TH FIGHTER WING

The first class of Dutch students from the 306th Detachment, Royal Netherlands Air Force, graduated from the initial F-16 qualification course taught by 178th Fighter Wing staff.

Ohio recruit has hand in 'Patriot Chopper' design

ABOVE: PFC Joseph S. Scheibe (right), a recent Ohio Army National Guard recruit, sits with CW3 David Vasquez next to the National Guard 'Patriot Chopper.' Scheibe and Vazquez were two of four troops whose ideas were selected in a national contest and incorporated into the motorcycle's final design.

Story and photo by
Sgt. 1st Class Kimberly Snow
Adj. Gen. Dept. Public Affairs

One of the Ohio Army National Guard's newest Soldiers already has left a lasting mark on the organization at a national level.

Pfc. Joseph E. Scheibe, who is assigned to the Newton Falls-based 1192nd Engineer Company, was recently featured on The Learning Channel's popular television series "American Chopper" after his design for the National Guard "Patriot Chopper" motorcycle was selected as one of four winners in a national design contest.

Scheibe entered his design while drilling with the Recruit Sustainment Program (RSP) in the Green-based Company E, Recruiting and Retention Command, after some prodding by Northeast Recruiting Sgt. Maj. Scott E. Hutt.

"Sergeant (Major) Hutt came over and said 'The Guard's going to build a bike,'" Scheibe said. "And he said, 'I know you can do it. So get it done.' So I said 'Hooah!'"

After mulling it over, Scheibe decided on a design concept highlighting both aspects of the traditional Guardmember—both the citizen and the Soldier—he said.

The new recruit, who had not yet even left for basic training, submitted his design and soon after, left for a family vacation. While he was away, his recruiter, Sgt. Matthew Locker, received the call that Scheibe's design had been chosen.

In August, Scheibe and two of the three other contest winners, Chief Warrant Officer 3 David Vasquez of Colorado and Sgt. 1st Class Matthew Billet of Georgia, visited the Orange County Chopper fabrication shop in Montgomery, N.Y., where they filmed the first part of the show. The fourth winner, Rich Crawford of Illinois, was deployed in support of the Global War on Terrorism.

"Those guys are really fun. They were pretty pumped up about the bike. They are so patriotic," Scheibe said. "(Paul Teutel) Senior looks all intimidating, but he's a really nice guy. (Paul Teutel) Junior really thought the wheel design with the spearheads was cool. And Mikey (Teutel) was great, he really lightened the mood."

During the visit, they got to see a draft of the final design and witness part of the production process. They also got to spend some time with the central cast of "American Chopper," the boisterous Teutel family.

A month later, Locker accompanied Scheibe, along with Scheibe's wife, Melissa, to the Army National Guard Readiness Center in Arlington, Va., where they again met up with the Teutel family to film the second part of the show and finally were able to witness the fruit of their collective labors.

The bike's final design incorporated several of Scheibe's concepts, including chromed grenades along the front tube, an M-4 rifle attached to the side and his personal favorite, spearhead-shaped wheels, with the words "paratus preliator" which translates from Latin to "prepared warrior."

Scheibe, 37, reported for basic combat training in October and in mid-January reported for advanced training at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo. After completing AIT, Scheibe was scheduled to return to his unit in March and resume attending civil engineering classes at Stark State College. **8G**

THE FIGHTER:

Young 'Soldier' Inspiring To Many Who Meet, Know Him

Sgt. 1st Class Kimberly Snow
Adj. Gen. Dept. Public Affairs

Dennis Channel Jr. is the picture of an American hero, from the green beret pulled down smartly over his closely-cropped hair to the desert combat boots encasing his marching feet. However, at only 4 feet 4 inches tall and about 65 pounds, "Bubba," as those closest to Dennis affectionately refer to him, is a bit smaller than the average Soldier. But then, he is only in the fourth grade. He is a child like no other—and like every other. At the tender age of 11, he is in a fight for his life. But many days, one would never guess it.

A rough start

Born with a cleft palate and diagnosed with astrocytoma—a cancerous brain tumor—at 5 years old, Bubba has seen more hospital rooms than any child perhaps should ever endure. He bears the scars of 11 surgeries, has lost and regrown his hair following numerous chemotherapy and radiation treatments, and tolerated extreme weight gain and loss due to hormone therapy.

"They gave him five years. That was more than six years ago," said his mother, Shawna. "We call him our walking miracle."

Today, his mischievous grin, deceptively healthy appearance and positive outlook make it hard to imagine the preteen is fighting for his life.

"He's always so positive," Shawna said. "Sometimes I find our roles are reversed. Sometimes when I'm having a tough day, I look to him for inspiration."

Like many boys his age, Bubba loves riding his go-cart, playing with his friends and especially wrestling with his brother, Kile. He attends classes at his local elementary school along with Kile, 9, and his sister, Tasha, 6. Although radiation and chemotherapy treatments kept him away from his peers at Millersport Elementary School for more than a year, he now attends classes half days when he is not sidelined by the severe headaches that sometimes accompany his illness.

The patriot

Although in many respects he is like any kid his age, his father, Dennis Channel Sr., a former Regular Army troop, raised Bubba to carry himself with the confidence and respect of a Soldier. When questioned, his reply is consistently followed by "sir" or "ma'am." He displays a level of patriotism and stoicism rare even among the ranks of combat-hardened veterans—which is perhaps why many of them, including his friends in the Ohio National Guard, react so strongly to him.

"He was 4 or 5 when the (World Trade Center) towers fell," Shawna said. "He watched it on TV. That was when he got into the military. He quit playing with his other toys and all he wanted to do was be a Soldier."

When he is feeling well enough to attend school, Bubba usually wears the Army Combat Uniform, complete with rank and Special Forces patches, given to him by Soldiers from the Fort Campbell, Ky.-based 5th Special Forces Group during a visit to the post this summer.

"One of the kids at school said, 'Why do you wear that?' Cause I like the Army and I support the troops!" Bubba said earnestly. "One of the other kids tried to take my flag off my jacket. I about kicked his butt!"

Last spring, after surviving a particularly rough, experimental treatment, Bubba's uncle, Steve Channel, a former military police officer, awarded him the latest addition to his uniform—a patch on his right shoulder sleeve. The patch had been sent to him from a friend serving in Iraq after learning of Bubba's battle with cancer. A right sleeve patch is a badge of honor among Soldiers, signifying they have served in a combat zone.

Bubba's room, dubbed "the bunker," houses the rest of his vast military memorabilia collection. Signed letters and photographs from several high-ranking officials including President George W. Bush dominate one wall.

"He's sort of become a celebrity. I don't know how half of these people hear about Bubba," Shawna said. "Some of these things just show up here."

His outspoken love of country and the U.S. military is almost immediately apparent to everyone he meets and as a result, he has been unofficially adopted by individuals and units from all branches of service—most recently, the Ohio National Guard.

Pilot for a day

After learning about Bubba through letters and e-mails from the offices of U.S. Reps. Patrick J. Tiberi (Ohio's 12th district) and Zack Space (Ohio's 18th district), Ohio National Guard officials arranged a "Pilot for a Day" visit Oct. 23 for Bubba and his family at Rickenbacker Air National Guard Base. They spent the first half of the day with Airmen from the 121st Air Refueling Wing and the second half with Soldiers from 1st Battalion, 137th Aviation Regiment.

As they approached the base's main entrance to begin their visit, an electronic billboard out front displayed the greeting, "Welcome to the

BELOW: Dennis Channel, Jr. looks out the rain-covered window of a Columbus Police Department helicopter. BELOW, CENTER: CW3 Harold R. Burke Jr. (from left) explains usage of survival gear to Kile and Dennis Channel. BELOW, OPPOSITE PAGE: Strapped into a parachute harness trainer, Dennis Channel gets an idea of some of the training Air National Guard pilots undergo.

SFC KIMBERLY SNOW / ADJ. GEN. DEPT. PUBLIC AFFAIRS

SFC KIMBERLY SNOW

121st ARW. Welcome Dennis Channel." Once inside, Senior Master Sgt. Rich Coots, a life support specialist with the 121st, presented Dennis with a flight suit and jacket complete with a personalized The Ohio State University Buckeyes nametape (just like all the pilots he met that day wear) and unit patches, along with a VIP badge. Coots hauled out his Air Force survival equipment and explained each item's use, letting the kids wear and try out the equipment. As a special treat, he put Bubba in a harness and set him up in a parachute trainer. Bubba hung suspended from the apparatus, a huge grin disappearing beneath the tinted visor of the flight helmet as he gave everyone an enthusiastic thumbs-up.

After touring the facility and crawling through a KC-135 Stratotanker aircraft used for mid-air refueling, the group broke for lunch. Master Sgt. Kevin Colwell, operations noncommissioned officer for Company B, 2nd Battalion, 19th Special Forces Group, and Staff Sgt. Steven Clemente, the unit's training NCO, learned of Dennis' visit and arranged to meet the group for lunch. Colwell, who suffered the loss of his 4-year-old son, Austin, to Spinal Muscular Atrophy two years earlier, quickly bonded with Bubba and invited him and the Channel family back to observe an airborne operation they would be conducting at their next drill assembly.

The family returned to the base to spend the second half of their day at the Army Aviation facility, touring the hangar, climbing around in Black Hawk helicopters and checking out the weapons and equipment. Despite a dreary, rainy morning and afternoon, the weather cleared up just enough for the day's highlight. Although military regulations prohibited a flight in a military aircraft, Chief Warrant Officer 3 Adam Worthington, who is also a helicopter pilot for the Columbus Police Department, arranged to fly his CPD helicopter onto the base and offered Dennis a ride as honorary "copilot."

A day with the Green Berets

Bubba and about a dozen family members returned to the base Nov. 4 to watch the Special Forces troops prepare for and jump from a CH-47 Chinook cargo helicopter. Colwell, the assigned jumpmaster for the day's mission, brought them into the hangar to watch as the men suited up, packed their parachutes and conducted safety briefings and inspections, then took them out to tour the helicopter and meet the crew.

As the mission time approached, they were shuttled out to the drop zone to get a first hand view of the operation. They approached just as the first group of jumpers was exiting the helicopter. As they exited the bus, their heads automatically tilted back and they peered upward, eyes squinted, trying to focus on the small dots in the sky above them. Gradually, the dots grew larger and began to take shape as the paratroopers drew closer and finally began dropping onto the grass around them.

As one troop, Master Sgt. Rodney Goss, landed nearby, Bubba strode confidently up to him and extended his hand. "Good job," he said. "You did a really good job!"

The Special Forces paratrooper broke into a wide grin and extended his hand, engulfing Bubba's tiny hand with his own. "Thanks, buddy!" he replied.

A Soldier's heart

Back at home a few weeks later, the Channels spend a lazy Sunday afternoon decorating for Christmas and mentally preparing for Bubba's next round of treatment scheduled for Dec. 18, just a week shy of Christmas. The gamma knife surgery—which doesn't use a surgical blade at all, but rather a precise dose of radiation—will pinpoint 201 laser beams at a new tumor in his brain, hoping to stop it in its tracks. They expect the outpatient treatment will allow Bubba to be back in the comfort of his "bunker" the same day.

Although Bubba receives most of his treatment at Children's Hospital, all radiation treatments are administered at The Ohio State University's James Cancer Center. While undergoing radiation treatments, the patient must lie still; this can be difficult, especially for a young child. During these treatments, Bubba found that singing cadence helps to keep his mind occupied. Often, the nurses and health care staff sing along, Shawna said.

Bubba is suffering a headache today, but won't complain. That's a problem, Shawna says—his doctors have told her that they need to watch him closely because he often won't complain until the pain is nearly intolerable.

"He tells us to look on the bright side," Shawna said. "He said he talked to God and He told him, 'God gave me this cancer as a gift so I can touch people's lives.' He was 5 or 6 when he first said that."

Despite the challenges, Bubba's extended family remains hopeful and optimistic, and is determined to follow a simple piece of advice.

"His doctor told us 'It's not the quantity, but the quality that's important. So go live life,'" Shawna said.

For more information or to send a message of support, visit Bubba's website at *http://www.caringbridge.org/visit/dennischannel*

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

Dennis Channel, Jr. watches Ohio Army National Guard Special Forces Soldiers descend during an airborne jump in December at Rickenbacker Air National Guard Base.

Family readiness a top priority for Ohio National Guard

For Lt. Col. Robert "Buck" Bramlish and his staff, families are their business. The Family Program director for the Ohio National Guard, Bramlish manages the statewide program aimed at easing the strain of military life on Ohio's military families.

For years, during an extended period of relative peace and few Ohio National Guard deployments, the program simmered on the military backburner. But in 2001, when Ohio units began deploying in support of the Global War on Terrorism, the need for a better, more in-depth program became apparent.

As units began receiving mobilization orders, families scrambled to prepare for the unexpected separation and ensuing challenges. Many servicemembers were cross-leveled—pulled from one unit to deploy with another—creating additional challenges for both the servicemembers and their families.

"We realized our servicemembers sacrifice a lot, but it didn't hit home until we started these deployments," Bramlish said. "Sometimes the information and support infrastructure weren't there. There were no teams that really understood or embraced family readiness. It existed—it was somewhere on the list—but not necessarily at the top."

Bramlish inherited the revamped program from Chief Warrant Officer 3 Carmen Davis, whom he credits for getting it off the ground. Since that time, the program has taken off, expanding in the past three years from a full-time staff of 7 to 36 today, reflecting the importance Ohio's adjutant general, Maj. Gen. Gregory L. Wayt, places on families, he said.

One of the largest comprehensive family level programs in the country, it serves all branches of service, including active and reserve components. It has partnered with numerous veterans and service-related organizations to help serve all of Ohio's servicemembers and has been selected for several federally-funded pilot programs bringing more than $1.5 million in resources and support to Ohio's Military Families since January 2005.

New to the program is a completely revamped and expanded youth program, as well as all manner of resources including community outreach, activities, marriage enrichment seminars, counseling, interactive web sites and camps. The program's central component is a beefed-up version of the traditional unit-level family support group, which aims to connect with families at the beginning of a Soldier's or Airman's career rather than waiting for a deployment. He said it is really aimed at helping families help themselves.

"Family readiness groups are at the center of the Family Readiness Program," Bramlish said. "Besides networking with other families, FRGs teach families about the unit's missions, resources available to families, provide a conduit of information from the commander to the families, help prepare families for separation and later review and reintegrate."

STEVE TOTH / ADJ. GEN. DEPT. PUBLIC AFFAIRS

During last year's sports-themed state Family Readiness Conference, LTC Robert "Buck" Bramlish (left) praises the efforts of his staff (in background) in helping Ohio's Soldiers, Airmen and their Families.

When families do not know what to expect, they can feel powerless, Bramlish said. So informing military families about the role their servicemembers play—what they actually do in the Guard—is important in bringing them into the fold.

"People want to understand, so we need to tell them," Bramlish said. "If the spouses and children haven't been informed as to why we do the things we do, why our troops go where they go, how can we expect their support?"

Also, if servicemembers know their families are informed, prepared and have safety nets at home, they will be more confident and effective on the battlefield.

While unit-level programs need not be all-encompassing, they should, at minimum, provide a clearinghouse for benefits and resources. One of those resources is the Joint Family Readiness Council, which Bramlish said is the state program's true key to success.

Comprised of wing family program coordinators and regional volunteers—mainly military and parents—the council meets every other month and helps plan the annual state Family Readiness Conference. Council members also attend town hall meetings and deal directly with units to find out what is working and what is not. Their research led to the realization that the Family Readiness Program was not supporting the children of deployed servicemembers as well as it could, Bramlish said. To that end, the state youth coordinator decided to produce a series of videos aimed at highlighting their special challenges.

The program recently partnered with Operation: Military Kids, an organization that sponsors events such as Camp Kelley's Island on Lake Erie, which won the 2007 National 4H camp award.

Sgt. 1st Class John Durant from the 147th Regiment (Regional Training Institute), who has served in the National Guard for nearly 20 years, joined his three children at the 2006 camp. Durant, who also served as a youth minister for more than eight years, said the camp was well-organized and offered him the opportunity to understand what the kids of deployed parents go through. He also said this is the first time he felt the National Guard was reaching out to his family.

"I was especially touched when we were doing the flag-raising ceremonies each morning," he said. "To see all the kids standing at attention, saluting the flag, and realizing that many of the children's parents were overseas defending our country brought tears to my eyes. I've thought about retiring after 20 years of service to spend more time with my family but when the National Guard shows their support of families through excellent programs like this, I've made up my mind to stay a little longer." BG

The 2008 state Family Readiness Conference will take place April 4-6 at the Columbus Marriott Northwest. This weekend Conference will offer Family Readiness Group and military leaders advanced training that will provide them with tools to run an effective family program.

—Compiled by the Adjutant General's Department Office of Public Affairs

Top Troops Army & Air

The best Soldier, Airman and noncommissioned officers in the Ohio National Guard for 2006 were selected and announced during calendar year 2007 by the offices of the state command sergeant major (Army) and state command chief master sergeant (Air). They are regognized below for their outstanding achievements. Notable among the six winners is that Tech. Sgt. Michael Keller of the 179th Airlift Wing, Mansfield, was named the 2006 Noncommissoned Officer of the Year for the entire Air National Guard (see article below). Top Soldiers and Airmen for 2007 were boarded and selected earlier in 2008 and will be featured in an upcoming issue of the Buckeye Guard.

SOLDIER OF THE YEAR

SPC Greg K. Harris
Soldier of the Year

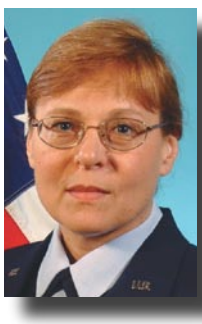
Troop A,
2nd Squadron
107th Cavalry Regiment
Xenia

NCO OF THE YEAR

SFC Robert A. Woodard
NCO of the Year

147th Regiment
Regional Training Institute
Columbus

SENIOR NCO OF THE YEAR



SMSgt Dena M. Drum
Senior NCO of the Year

178th Fighter Wing
Springfield

FIRST SERGEANT OF THE YEAR

MSgt Kevin W. Moore
First Sergeant of the Year

220th Engineering
Installation Squadron
Zanesville

AIRMAN OF THE YEAR

SrA Ryan M. Ray
Airman of the Year

123rd Air Control Squadron
Blue Ash

NCO OF THE YEAR

TSgt Michael L. Keller
NCO of the Year

179th Airlift Wing
Mansfield

Keller earns national NCO of Year honors

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Tech. Sgt. Michael Keller, a C-130 loadmaster for the 179th Airlift Wing in Mansfield, was selected as the Air National Guard's Noncommissioned Officer of the Year. Keller beat out 53 other candidates, one from each state in the union, plus Puerto Rico, Guam, the U.S. Virgin Islands and the District of Columbia. He was recognized during formal ceremonies here the week of Aug. 5-9.

In December 2006, Keller was selected as the Outstanding NCO of the Year from the Ohio ANG, beating out 10 other candidates from the four Ohio ANG wings, plus the Ohio ANG geographically separated units.

A member of the OHANG since November 1997, Keller was activated in December 2003 to support Operation Iraqi Freedom, and remained activated until May 2006. During this time period, Keller was deployed overseas for more than 460 days, flying in and out of austere locations in both Iraq and Afghanistan. He amassed 676 combat flying hours and 452 combat sorties during this time frame. He also conducted seven combat airdrops, delivering critical ammunition and supplies to troops on the ground. Keller and his crew were recognized for one particular flight in which the aircraft landing gear failed to extend and became jammed in the wheel well. The crew was able to troubleshoot the problem and safely extend and secure the gear for landing, saving the 59 passengers on board from potential harm.

Keller attended the Air National Guard NCO Academy at Keesler Air Force Base, Miss., in September 2006, earning distinguished graduate status as well as the commandant's award.

STATE COMMAND CHIEF MASTER SERGEANT'S OFFICE

SFC NANCY MCMILLAN / JOINT FORCE HEADQUARTERS-OHIO

SGT Antwon Morris, of the 337th Personnel Detachment examines an M-9 pistol Jan. 26 during a Military Weapons Training Team course in Columbus.

OHARNG Master Weapons Training Team trains troops on weaponry, safety

COLUMBUS—To be a member of this team, it takes knowledge, understanding and a great respect for both weaponry and safety. It takes preparation, education and a two-year commitment to an important task—becoming a member of the Master Weapons Training Team.

"The primary mission of the team is to build a corps of subject-matter experts who, at the end of their obligation, will return to their unit and help build the marksmanship program from within," said Master Sgt. Alan Whittaker, noncommissioned officer in charge of the MWTT program.

The course is open to all Soldiers, preferably sergeants (E-5) who plan to stay in the National Guard beyond the two-year training, but all enlisted troops are welcomed.

"This is the second rotation of Soldiers to go through this training," said Whittaker, a Mansfield resident assigned to Joint Force Headquarters, Ohio. "The course starts with six months of classroom work—instructing Soldiers on the M-9, M-16 and the M-249 rifle. Also during that time, the students will attend the Range Leadership Safety Course at Camp Perry."

The Soldiers are taught basic and combat marksmanship skills including disassembly, inspection, cleaning, lubrication, preventive maintenance and reassembly of the three firearms. Proper handling, firing position, safety and function checks; loading, unloading and clearance checks; malfunctions, stoppages and corrective actions are also part of the curriculum.

"It is critical that Soldiers know how to handle a weapon, especially one with live rounds," said Crooksview native Staff Sgt. Steven Yoder, one of the primary course instructors. "As Guardmembers, we typically get ammo once a year. And too often, Soldiers get complacent and that can lead to accidents."

To further enhance the training, students attend the Total Army Instructor Training Course and the Small Arms Machine Gun Course for one and two-week periods, respectively, later in the training.

The troops become proficient in spotting weak safety habits, weapon malfunctions and firing flaws during preliminary marksmanship instruction and range fire. Corrections are made professionally so as not to undermine troops and cause a loss of self-assurance in the weapon system.

"We want every Soldier to be safe and confident while handling their weapon," said Yoder, from the 147th Regiment (Regional Training Institute), "especially in a combat area."

"Our main goal is to train future instructors," said Delaware native Sgt. 1st Class Andrew Loeffler, the program's assistant NCOIC from Joint Force Headquarters-Ohio. "We equip them with the knowledge to assist and help other Soldiers stay safe and qualify." **SFC NANCY MCMILLAN** / JOINT FORCE HEADQUARTERS-OHIO

Northeast Ohio community turns out to support state's military families

MEDINA—A crowd of more than 100 people gathered March 5 at the Medina Performing Arts Center to participate in a town hall meeting organized by the Ohio National Guard.

The meeting was the first in the organization's Operation: O.H.I.O. (Ohio Helps Its Own), six statewide events intended to help individuals and organizations marshal their efforts in support of families of deployed or deploying military members.

"We are very fortunate that since the beginning, Ohioans have been enthusiastic supporters of our servicemembers and their families," said Capt. Katie Enochs, assistant director of the Ohio National Guard Family Readiness Program. "Our efforts in these town hall meetings are focused on helping to channel that enthusiasm."

Nearly 16,000 of Ohio's 29,000 reserve component troops serve in the National Guard. In the years since the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, the Ohio National Guard has deployed more than 13,000 men and women in support of the Global War on Terrorism.

"Every time one of our troops deploys, they leave behind loved ones—a child, a spouse or a parent—who are making their own sacrifices, and who may need assistance," said Maj. Gen. Gregory L. Wayt, Ohio adjutant general. "Providing support for the families left behind alleviates one very important potential source of distraction. The troops can then focus on performing their missions safely and effectively."

The National Guard will be hosting additional town hall events throughout the state over the next several weeks in Perrysburg, Hamilton and Kettering. The dates and locations of those events can be found at the bottom of page 4 of this magazine or the "Operation: O.H.I.O." link on the Ohio National Guard's website at *www.ohionationalguard.com*. **DR. MARK WAYDA** / ADJ. GEN. DEPT. GOVERNMENT AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Ohio National Guard first to receive new biological detection system

KETTERING—Soldiers from the 637th Chemical Company gathered Jan. 12 to display and demonstrate their newest weapon in the fight against terrorism—the Joint Biological Point Detection System.

The JBPDS is the most advanced biological threat detection and identification system in the world. The event officially marked its inception into the National Guard.

Standing room only

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

CW3 Robin Kessler, commander of the 122nd Army Band, conducts the halftime performance before more than 66,000 people during the Cleveland Browns-Seattle Seahawks contest Nov. 4 in Browns Stadium.The performance was the band's first at a major professional sporting event, and unit members prepared for months. Songs the Ohio Army National Guard's band performed included "America the Beautiful" and "The Army Song."

"This is the first time the National Guard has had this capability," said Air Force Col. Daniel Berry, joint project manager for biological defense. "And since the National Guard takes care of both civilians and military members, they now have the fastest response times available because of the Biological Integrated Detection System."

The 637th, which comprises the agent identification and decontamination piece of Ohio's Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and high-yield Explosives (CBRNE), Enhanced Response Force Package (CERFP), is the first chemical unit in the National Guard to receive the BIDS-JBPDS. They now have seven four-man teams operating the system and are ready to put it to use.

"We were picked because of our strong readiness and our performance at Vigilant Guard (a May 2007 training exercise)," said Brig. Gen. Jack Lee, commander of the 73rd Troop Command. "What it boils down to is the capabilities we can bring to the citizens of Ohio and the United States."

"Whether you have thousands who die or zero depends on your detection ability; and you have the best," Berry said. "Ohio is now on the forefront of chemical detection and protection."

The BIDS-JBPDS can detect and identify up to 10 agents at once and its broad catalog of other threats offer protection to both civilians and military members both at home and abroad. It features an onboard generator, sealed rear passenger compartment and global positioning systems which communicate and track other BIDS-JBPDS units. They are completely automated and fully mobile.

"Almost instantaneous detection is a great capability for us as it can potentially save lives," Lee said. **SPC RYAN A. CLEARY** / 196TH MOBILE PUBLIC AFFAIRS DETACHMENT

ACOE award brings life-saving technology to units statewide

COLUMBUS—Last year, the Ohio Army National Guard earned $750,000 for its entry in the Army Communities of Excellence (ACOE) program for training year 2006. The ACOE focuses on a quality environment and excellence in facilities and services.

As a result of this prestigious recognition, a portion of the award was granted to the state safety office for the purchase of 125 Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs), which are computerized medical devices that can check a person's heart rhythm. They can recognize a rhythm that requires a shock and can advise the rescuer when a shock is needed. AEDs use voice prompts, lights and text messages to tell the rescuer the steps to take.

These devices are being installed in 84 OHARNG facilities across the state. In January, full-time representatives from each of these facilities were trained and certified on the AEDs. The safety office is also developing a training plan that will enable traditional Soldiers to become certified. **MAJ ED MIKULA** / OHARNG SAFETY OFFICE

Soldiers learn critical skills during recent CLS course

CHILLICOTHE—When Soldiers train and conduct missions, medical situations can arise.

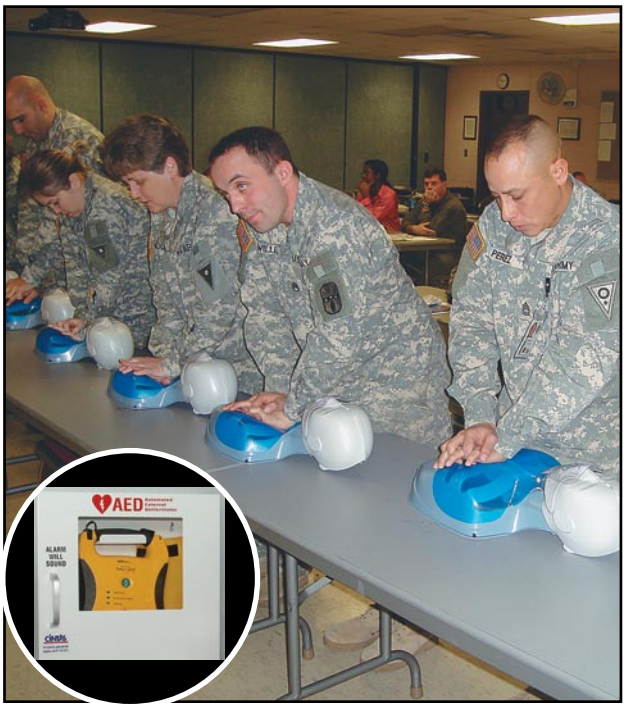
Depending on the remoteness of their location, help could be minutes or hours away. To minimize the time it takes for a Soldier to receive care—and potentially save a life—the Army trains Soldiers to be medical first responders, known as combat lifesavers, or CLSs in Army shorthand.

Soldiers from the Chillicothe-based 1194th Engineer Company, Tarlton-based 811th Engineer Company and the Portsmouth-based 1191st Engineer Company took part in a combat lifesaver training class during the January 2008 drill weekend at the Camp Sherman Readiness Center.

Master Sgt. Michael Linn, the senior instructor for the class, is responsible for ensuring all students are trained to the standard. The class includes training in many areas including how to treat a heat casualty and how to administer an IV.

"Medical attention may be a while away or not readily accessible," Linn said. "The Army wants to try to provide the quickest first aid possible. The faster that aid can be provided, the more lives that are able to be saved. CLSs are able to help treat the wounded until medics arrive."

"This class was an eye opener. It helped to show that this is extremely serious and nothing like what is in the movies," said Pfc. Jason McCarley from Jackson. "There is nothing Hollywood about medical treatment. The training was done very well. I feel very confident in my abilities if I had to use them." **SPC BRIAN JOHNSON** / 1194TH ENGINEER COMPANY



MAJ ED MIKULA/ OHARNG SAFETY OFFICE

Ohio Army National Guardmembers receive first aid training instruction in January on operation of the new Automated External Defibrillators (inset), which are being placed in 84 OHARNG facilites statewide.

Buckeyes honor Ohio's veterans during military appreciation day

COLUMBUS—Several dozen Ohio National Guardmembers were provided a rare treat Nov. 10 as The Ohio State University honored them with a military appreciation day during the Buckeyes' final home football game of the 2007 regular season.

The Buckeyes hosted military members from all branches including 42 men and women—all who have been deployed overseas in support of the Global War on Terrorism—representing Ohio National Guard units from throughout the state. University officials provided each with special seating directly behind the south end zone in the more than 100,000-seat stadium and recognized their contributions to community, state and nation throughout the afternoon.

At the end of a competitive first quarter, the Ohio troops marched onto the field and received a thunderous standing ovation by more than 102,000 appreciative fans. In between cheers and applause, pre-recorded "shout-outs" from deployed troops were broadcast on the Jumbo-Tron throughout the afternoon.

"We have great seats and we couldn't ask for more!" said Air National Guard Master Sgt. Timothy M. Deady of the Springfield-based 178th Fighter Wing. "Go Bucks!" **SPC DIEGO J. ROBLES** / 196TH MOBILE PUBLIC AFFAIRS DETACHMENT

SGT CALEB CLARK / COMPANY F, RECRUITING & RETENTION BATTALION

SGM Scott Hutt (back row, left) and 1SG Ricky Beadles (back row, right) present retired CW3 Jack Reppart (back row, center)with a $2,000 check Feb. 23, for his 11th recruit enlisted through the Guard Recruiting Assistance Program (G-RAP). Also pictured are PV2 Drew Russell (front row, left) and PVT Levi Simmons, two of 11 Soldiers Reppart helped to enlist through G-RAP.

Retiree earns Ohio's 2,000th G-RAP enlistment, total now over $4 million

NEWTON FALLS—As a recruiting assistant for the Guard Recruiting Assistance Program, retired Chief Warrant Officer 3 Jack Reppart loves to talk to people about the Ohio Army National Guard.

His efforts have paid off nicely, for himself and for the Guard, as Reppart's most recent enlistment pushed total earnings from Ohio's recruiting assistants (RAs) to more than $4 million.

Reppart, who retired from the National Guard in 2006, has helped enlist 11 recruits and earned $22,000 to date. He currently ranks second for all Ohio RAs in total enlistments.

Reppart attributes his success to his enthusiasm for the National Guard.

"I love talking to people about how great the Guard is! The first thing I do whenever I meet someone is ask, 'How old are you?' When I know they might be qualified for military service, I immediately say 'let me tell you about the Guard.'"

Launched in 2005, the Guard Recruiting Assistance Program (G-RAP), offers RAs the opportunity to earn income by identifying well-qualified men and women for service in the Army National Guard. RAs receive up to $2,000 for enlisting prior servicemembers or for each new recruit who enlists and reports to basic training. With more than 2,000 total enlistments and more than $4 million paid out to RAs through G-RAP since the program's inception, the Ohio Army National Guard currently ranks second nationally, with nearly 5,000 active RAs. **SFC TRACY BALLOG** / OHARNG RECRUITING AND RETENTION MARKETING

269th chief retires after 36 years

SPRINGFIELD—Chief Master Sgt. Glenn M. McConkey of the 269th Combat Communications Squadron retired Dec. 31, after serving for more than 36 years.

McConkey was instrumental in establishing the High Frequency Radio Net for the state of Ohio and for subsequent net technology insertion improvements. He was the lead for the State of Ohio during year 2000 computer compliance communications activities and was a key focal point and technical expert for the Air Force for high frequency, UHF and satellite radio programs and deployed capabilities. **269TH COMBAT COMMUNICATIONS SQUADRON PUBLIC AFFAIRS**

Former OHARNG state command sergeant major Oxley passes away

ASHTABULA—Retired Command Sgt. Maj. William T. Oxley Sr., 77, of Ashtabula, former Ohio Army National Guard state command sergeant major, died Feb. 16 in his hometown.

A veteran of the Korean War, Oxley joined the Ohio Army National Guard in 1954 serving with the 137th Tank Battalion, 137th Armored Regiment and 107th Armored Cavalry Regiment. In 1983 he was selected as the second state command sergeant major by Maj. Gen. Raymond Galloway, then-adjutant general. Oxley left as the state's top enlisted Soldier in 1986 and retired from the Guard in 1988. He is survived by his wife, Marilyn, and two children. **SSG JOSHUA MANN** / JOINT FORCE HEADQUARTERS-OHIO

Oxley

121st ARW journalist leads Ohio in 2007 NGB Media Contest awards haul

COLUMBUS—The goal of every member of the National Guard is to be ready to answer the state and nation's call at a moment's notice.

For Tech. Sgt. Dan Clare, a member of the 121st Air Refueling Wing, that call meant telling the Air Force's story on behalf of the largest combat wing in Iraq.

In September 2007, he deployed to Balad Air Base where he was assigned as the noncommissioned officer in charge of news production at the 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing public affairs office.

Clare

As a result of his efforts over the course of his Air Expeditionary Force cycle, the sergeant garnered numerous awards for print journalism and photography, to include being named the 2007 Air National Guard Print Journalist of the Year in the National Guard Bureau Media Contest.

Clare's coverage of the war consistently received national attention. His article and photographs of the first A-10C Thunderbolts to use precision engagement from Al Asad Air Base, Iraq, chronicled a historic evolution in combat capabilities for Air National Guard and active duty aircraft and pilots.

In the National Guard Bureau media contest, Clare placed in seven categories.

In addition to being named the print journalist of the year, he was the first place finisher in news writing. He also took the top prize for his series titled "Combat Nurses," which has been published throughout the Air Force and in numerous civilian publications.

Also winning for the 121st Air Refueling Wing were Senior Airman Jordon McWherter and Staff Sgt. Douglas Nicodemus for their video documentary, "Rodeo 2007."

Ohio had nine individual or group winners on the Army side: second place, magazine-format publication, *Buckeye Guard*; first place, feature article, Spc. Eunice Alicea Valentin, 196th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment; third place, feature article, Sgt. 1st Class Kimberly Snow, 196th MPAD; second place, photojournalism, Spc. Diege J. Robles, 196th MPAD; first place, television news report, Spc. Steven R. Engle, 196th MPAD; first place, television feature report, Engle; third place, television feature report, SPC Michael Schmidt, 196th MPAD; first place, local television newscast, *Eye On Ohio*, 196th MPAD; and first place, "Rising Star" for new NGB broadcaster, Engle. **SRA KRISTIN CRAIN** / 121ST AIR REFUELING WING **AND ADJ. GEN. DEPT. PUBLIC AFFAIRS**

'Two sergeants and a truck' deliver holiday miracle to fellow Guard family

MARIETTA—On a gray, misty winter morning this past December, a four-vehicle convoy consisting of a Humvee and three 2 1/2-ton trucks loaded with appliances, clothes, food, furniture and Christmas presents departed the Rickenbacker Army Enclave in Columbus bound for Marietta, 120 miles away.

The convoy, quietly organized by a couple of noncommissioned officers from the Ohio Army National Guard Recruiting and Retention Battalion, was delivering an early Christmas miracle to the unsuspecting family of a fellow Ohio National Guard recruiter whose new house burned down on Thanksgiving eve, just one day after moving in.

Although the fire took with it all of their personal possessions, the family of Sgt. Robert Burris spent Thanksgiving at a relative's house profoundly thankful that they were alive and well. But Burris and his wife, Meredith, could not help but wonder what Christmas would be like for their three young children, Trey, 4, Olivia, 2, and Giovanni, 1, after such a devastating loss and no place to call home. They agreed they would have to cancel Christmas this year and make the most out of a very tough situation.

To make matters worse, Burris was forced to leave his family in the care of relatives as he departed for a previously scheduled Army leadership course less than a week later. The Burris family sorely needed a "Christmas miracle," Meredith said during an interview in early December. Little did she know, a miracle was already in the making.

As the Burris house continued to smolder on Thanksgiving day, Sgt. Maj. Donald Henline sent out a force-wide e-mail appeal to the 250 members of the Recruiting and Retention Battalion to try to garner support for the Burris family.

"They need everything from small appliances to furniture to clothes…and anything else the mind can imagine," the e-mail read.

Staff Sgt. Gray Hutchinson, a personnel sergeant for Recruiting and Retention Battalion Headquarters in Columbus, read Henline's e-mail Nov. 26 and as he reached for the mouse to close the e-mail, he thought "Poor guys… What if this was my family?"

He lifted his finger off of the mouse and swung his chair around to face Sgt. Jason White, who had just read the same e-mail, and had turned to face him, too.

"We have to do something about this now!" White said.

"Absolutely," Hutchinson agreed.

The two sergeants forwarded Henline's message to everyone they thought could help. For three weeks, donations and offers to help poured in from all over the world—including Iraq. Local businesses got involved to help with the larger items the Burris family would need. White contacted the MAP Furniture Bank in Columbus, and a few days later, a couple of 2 1/2-ton trucks were loaded to capacity with more than 50 pieces of household goods and furniture including bed frames, an entertainment center, lamps, refrigerator, stove and even a large screen TV. Value City Furniture donated the mattresses for the entire family.

While Burris was at Warrior Leader Course, Meredith told Hutchinson the Red Cross had found the family a suitable home to live in and that Dec. 10 would be their move-in date. Determined to ensure the family would not move into an empty house, Hutchinson and White set an aggressive delivery plan into motion with just a few days to pull it all together.

On Dec. 10, just 21 days after the Burris family house burned to the ground, "Operation Two Sergeants and a Truck" embarked from Rickenbacker Army Enclave bound for Marietta. In fact, two sergeants and a truck had become 14 Soldiers and nine trucks, after the four-vehicle convoy from Columbus was joined by an additional five vehicles—all filled to capacity with donations from around the state—as they reached the Marietta outskirts. Marietta law enforcement, alerted to the mission, escorted the vehicles to the Burris' new house with Santa Claus in the lead vehicle

It was not the pitter-patter of reindeer hooves on the roof but the rumbling of Army vehicles that got the Burris children's attention. Peeking out over the window sill, their eyes lit up when Santa stepped out of the Humvee, threw a gift-laden bag of toys over his shoulder, and approached their front door. "Ho-Ho-Ho!" he boomed as he began handing the children toys. "I'm here to give you back some of the toys you lost."

As Hutchinson and White approached the nearly empty house, Meredith met them at the front door. When she saw the street lined with Army trucks filled to capacity along with the 14 Soldiers who volunteered their time to help, tears of joy and gratitude flowed uncontrollably. The house, the emptiness of which reminded Meredith of just how much the fire had taken from her family just three weeks earlier, was immediately transformed into a new home, making it a good holiday after all. **CPT ROBERT PALEY /** OHARNG RECRUITING AND RETENTION COMMAND

251ST COMBAT COMMUNICATIONS GROUP PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Col Michael E. Welsh (left), vice commander of the 251st Communications Group, and his wife, Pichi, smile for a photo during Welsh's retirement dinner.

Springfield communications group vice commander Welsh says farewell

SPRINGFIELD—Col. Michael E. Welsh of the 251st Combat Communications Group retired Dec. 31 after serving more than 26 years in the military.

He was instrumental in supporting nation building joint task forces in Central and South America during the early 1990s and served as the lead planner of the largest tactical communications architecture deployed and sustained continuously over a 12-month period.

During the past three years, Welsh has served as the National Guard Bureau/A6 director of global communications, NGB/A6 representative to New Mexico supporting southwest U.S. border operations and as the Headquarters, 8th Air Force/A3, serving as the U.S. Air Force Cyber Command director of operations at Barksdale Air Force Base, La. **251ST COMBAT COMMUNICATIONS GROUP PUBLIC AFFAIRS**

Hammond newest general officer in Ohio Army National Guard

COLUMBUS—Witnessed by a gathering of about 200 people, Col. Glenn C. Hammond III pinned on the single-star rank of brigadier general Jan. 6 during a ceremony at Bush Armory, home to the 16th Engineer Brigade.

Hammond

As commander of the 16th Engineer Brigade, Hammond oversees about 1,300 Soldiers with diverse subordinate units that include combat and construction effects engineer units. **16TH ENGINEER BRIGADE PUBLIC AFFAIRS**

Free tax services still available to those who have yet to file 2007 returns

COLUMBUS—Military Onesource will once again provide free tax preparation services to military service members and their families during this tax season, through the H&R Block TaxCut program.

Those eligible for the program are active duty, Guard and Reserve (regardless of activation status), spouses and dependent children (authorized in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS)), family members handling the affairs of a deployed servicemember and severely injured servicemembers or family members handling their affairs.

To take part you must register by going online to Military Onesource at *www.militaryonesource.com.*

The Ohio Society of Certified Public Accountants is once again sponsoring "Operation CPA" in partnership with the Ohio National Guard and Ohio's Inter-Service Family Assistance Committee.

CPAs from throughout Ohio have volunteered their time and expertise to prepare 2007 tax returns free of charge for deployed Ohio residents this filing season.

Military personnel who are Ohio residents currently deployed outside of the state will qualify for free preparation of their 2007 individual or joint local, state and federal personal tax returns.

To take part in Operation CPA, qualified service personnel or their spouse or family member may call The Ohio Society of CPAs toll-free at 888-959-1212 or e-mail *cpanswers@ohiocpa.com.* Military personnel will be matched with a CPA volunteer from their area. **ONG FAMILY READINESS PROGRAM OFFICE**

AAFES teams with America Supports You to offer free music for troops

DALLAS—From the brass bands of the civil war to the portable MP3 players of today, music never goes out of style for American troops.

Recognizing that tunes have always been integral to morale, more than a dozen of the biggest names in country, rock, pop and R&B are teaming up with the Army & Air Force Exchange Service and America Supports You to deliver a special gift to troops this holiday season—a free compilation of songs produced exclusively for Soldiers, Airmen, Sailors and Marines.

"Grammy-nominated, platinum-selling singer/songwriter John Ondrasik of Five for Fighting approached us about this project a few months back after learning of AAFES' extensive presence in Operations Iraqi and Enduring Freedom," said AAFES' Chief of Communications Lt. Col. Dean Thurmond. "While initial conversations focused on delivering a physical CD to PXs and BXs in the contingency theater, we quickly came to the conclusion that offering the songs through AAFES' secure website was probably the best way to ensure everyone in uniform had an opportunity to receive this special gift."

After examining all available delivery options, Ondrasik, America Supports You and AAFES decided to offer the songs from "CD For The Troops" to military members and veterans with valid military IDs for download through *www.aafes.com* for free. Tracks on the CD include:

- Billy Joel - "Scenes from an Italian Res taurant"
- Brooks & Dunn - "Keep on Swingin'"
- Five for Fighting - "100 Years"
- The Fray - "How to Save a Life (acoustic)"
- Gary Sinise and the Lt. Dan Band - "Sweet Home Chicago"
- Goo Goo Dolls - "Feel the Silence (remix)"
- Jewel - "Hands"
- Josh Groban - "February Song"
- Los Lonely Boys - "Heaven"
- Melissa Etheridge - "Come to my Window"
- Montgomery Gentry - "My Town"
- The Neville Brothers - "Brothers"
- Sarah McLachlan - "Wintersong"

"Ever since I played the concert for New York City in 2001, I've continued to build relationships with our servicemen and women," Ondrasik said. "These experiences have left me humbled by the integrity, humility and courage of the men and women in uniform. Furthermore, their families, who are without loved ones for years at a time, have dignity that is only eclipsed by their sacrifice...Music can be a powerful aid to the morale and mental well being of our military and their loved ones. It is, in my opinion, the least we can do. There would be no songs of consequence without Soldiers whose sacrifice secures our freedom." **AAFES COMMUNICATIONS**

Reserve Pay for 4 Drill Periods

Unofficial Copy (Effective **Jan. 1, 2008**)

YEARS OF SERVICE

Grade	<2	2	3	4	6	8	10	12	14	16	18	20	22	24	26
O-8	1166.52	1204.68	1230.08	1237.16	1268.80	1322.84	1333.96	1384.16	1398.52	1441.80	1504.32	1562.04	1600.56	1600.56	1600.56
O-7	969.28	1014.32	1035.16	1051.72	1081.68	1111.32	1145.56	1179.72	1214.00	1321.64	1412.56	1412.56	1412.56	1412.56	1419.72
O-6	718.44	789.24	841.04	841.04	844.24	880.44	885.20	885.20	935.22	1024.48	1076.68	1128.84	1158.52	1188.60	1246.92
O-5	598.88	674.64	730.16	759.28	759.28	776.76	815.08	843.20	879.52	935.16	961.60	987.80	1017.48	1017.48	1017.48
O-4	516.76	598.20	638.08	647.00	684.04	723.76	773.20	811.76	838.52	853.88	862.80	862.80	862.80	862.80	862.80
O-3	434.32	515.04	555.92	606.08	635.08	666.96	687.60	721.52	739.12	739.12	739.12	739.12	739.12	739.12	739.12
O-2	392.52	447.08	514.92	532.32	543.24	543.24	543.24	543.24	543.24	543.24	543.24	543.24	543.24	543.24	543.24
O-1	340.76	354.64	428.68	428.68	428.68	428.68	428.68	428.68	428.68	428.68	428.68	428.68	428.68	428.68	428.68
O-3E	0.00	0.00	0.00	606.08	635.08	666.96	687.60	721.52	750.08	766.48	788.80	788.80	788.80	788.80	788.80
O-2E	0.00	0.00	0.00	532.32	543.24	560.56	589.76	612.32	629.12	629.12	629.12	629.12	629.12	629.12	629.12
O-1E	0.00	0.00	0.00	428.68	457.84	474.72	492.04	509.04	532.32	532.32	532.32	532.32	532.32	532.32	532.32
W-5	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	834.84	877.20	908.72	943.76
W-4	469.48	505.08	519.56	533.84	558.40	582.68	607.28	644.36	676.80	707.68	732.92	757.56	793.80	823.52	857.48
W-3	428.72	446.64	464.92	470.96	490.16	527.96	567.32	585.84	607.24	629.32	669.00	695.84	711.88	728.92	752.12
W-2	379.40	415.28	426.32	433.96	458.56	496.80	515.72	534.40	557.20	575.00	591.20	610.48	623.20	633.32	633.32
W-1	333.04	368.80	378.52	398.88	423.00	458.48	475.04	498.20	521.00	538.92	555.40	575.48	575.48	575.48	575.48
E-9	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	567.28	580.12	596.32	615.40	634.56	665.40	691.44	718.88	760.76
E-8	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	464.36	484.92	497.64	512.88	529.36	559.16	574.24	599.92	614.16	649.28
E-7	322.80	352.32	365.80	383.72	397.64	421.60	435.08	459.08	479.00	492.60	507.08	512.72	531.56	541.68	580.26
E-6	279.20	307.20	320.76	333.92	347.68	378.68	390.72	414.00	421.16	426.36	432.44	432.44	432.44	432.44	432.44
E-5	255.84	272.96	286.12	299.64	320.68	342.76	360.72	362.96	362.96	362.96	362.96	362.96	362.96	362.96	362.96
E-4	234.52	246.52	259.68	273.04	284.68	284.68	284.68	284.68	284.68	284.68	284.68	284.68	284.68	284.68	284.68
E-3	211.72	225.04	238.64	238.64	238.64	238.64	238.64	238.64	238.64	238.64	238.64	238.64	238.64	238.64	238.64
E-2	201.32	201.32	201.32	201.32	201.32	201.32	201.32	201.32	201.32	201.32	201.32	201.32	201.32	201.32	201.32
E-1>4	179.60	179.60	179.60	179.60	179.60	179.60	179.60	179.60	179.60	179.60	179.60	179.60	179.60	179.60	179.60
E-1<4	166.12	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

ONGSP 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.

COURTESY PHOTO

SFC KIMBERLY SNOW / ADJ. GEN. DEPT. PUBLIC AFFAIRS

ABOVE: SSG James M. Thrasher, a UH-60 Black Hawk crewmember assigned to the Ohio Army National Guard's A Company, 1st Battalion, 137th Aviation Regiment, assists his crew Oct. 31, during the extraction of a downed Columbus Police Department helicopter.

ABOVE: Recruiters from Cleveland-based Delta Company, Ohio Army National Guard Recruiting and Retention Battalion, get a photo with Cleveland Browns quarterback Brady Quinn at the Cleveland Auto Show. Pictured are PVT Johrdan Knowles (from left), SGT John Matczynski, Quinn, SGT James Wilson Jr. and PV2 Shannan Dinya.

Guard Snapshots

RIGHT: SGT Marshall Knowlton holds his son, Dylan, for a few more moments as his unit, the 583rd Military Police Detachment, prepares for deployment at a Jan. 25 ceremony in Youngstown. The 583rd was mobilized in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and will conduct security operations. BELOW, RIGHT: Dr. Leon McDougle (left), assistant dean for diversity and cultural affairs at The Ohio State University, receives an eagle statuette from MG Gregory L.Wayt, Ohio adjutant general, after McDougle spoke to members of the Ohio National Guard Feb. 20 at the state headquarters, as part of Black History Month. BELOW: Col Samuel C. Heady was officially promoted to brigadier general during a Jan. 18 promotion ceremony at Rickenbacker Air National Guard Base. Members of Heady's family attended the event, including his wife, Rebecca, daughter, Jennifer (shown putting on his shoulder epaulets), and granddaughter, Julie. Heady's career in the Ohio Air National Guard began in 1971 when he enlisted with the 121st Tactical Fighter Wing as a weapons loader. He served 10 years in the enlisted ranks and attained the rank of technical sergeant. He received a direct commission to first lieutenant in 1981.

PFC SAMUEL BEAVERS / 196TH MOBILE PUBLIC AFFAIRS DET.

SSGT DOUGLAS NICODEMUS / 121ST AIR REFUELING WING MULTIMEDIA CENTER

TODD CRAMER / ADJ. GEN. DEPT. PHOTO LAB

Ohio National Guard Soldier has hand in National Guard chopper design

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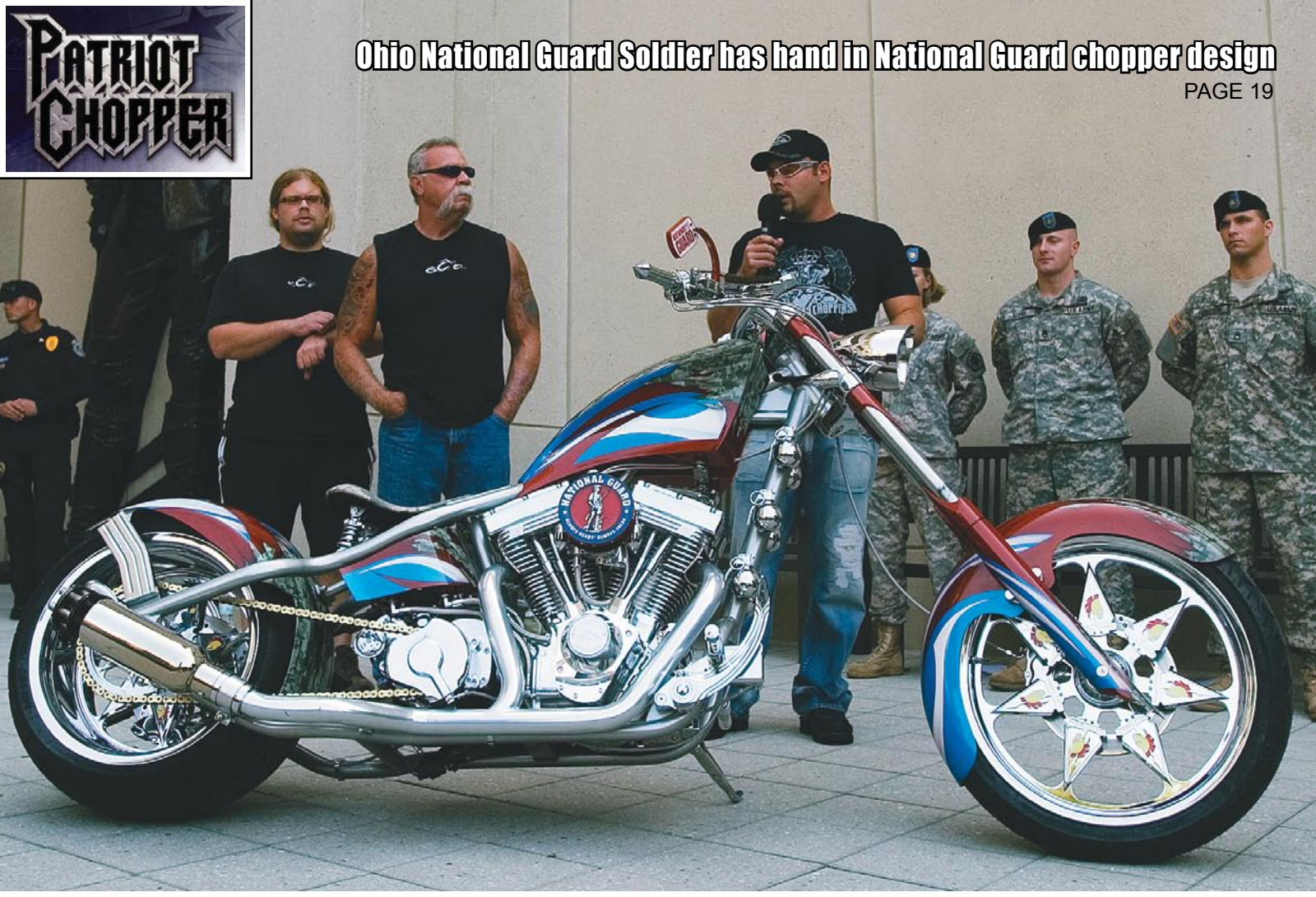

SFC KIMBERLY SNOW / ADJ. GEN. DEPT. PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Mikey Teutul (from left), Paul Teutul Sr. and Paul "Paulie" Teutul Jr., of The Learning Channel's popular television series, "American Chopper," unveil their new "Patriot Chopper" motorcycle, commissioned by the National Guard and designed by National Guard troops during a ceremony last fall at the Army National Guard Readiness Center in Arlington, Va. PFC Joseph S. Scheibe, a recent Ohio recruit, was one of four troops whose ideas were selected in a nationwide contest and incorporated into the motorcycle's final design.

BUCKEYE GUARD

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