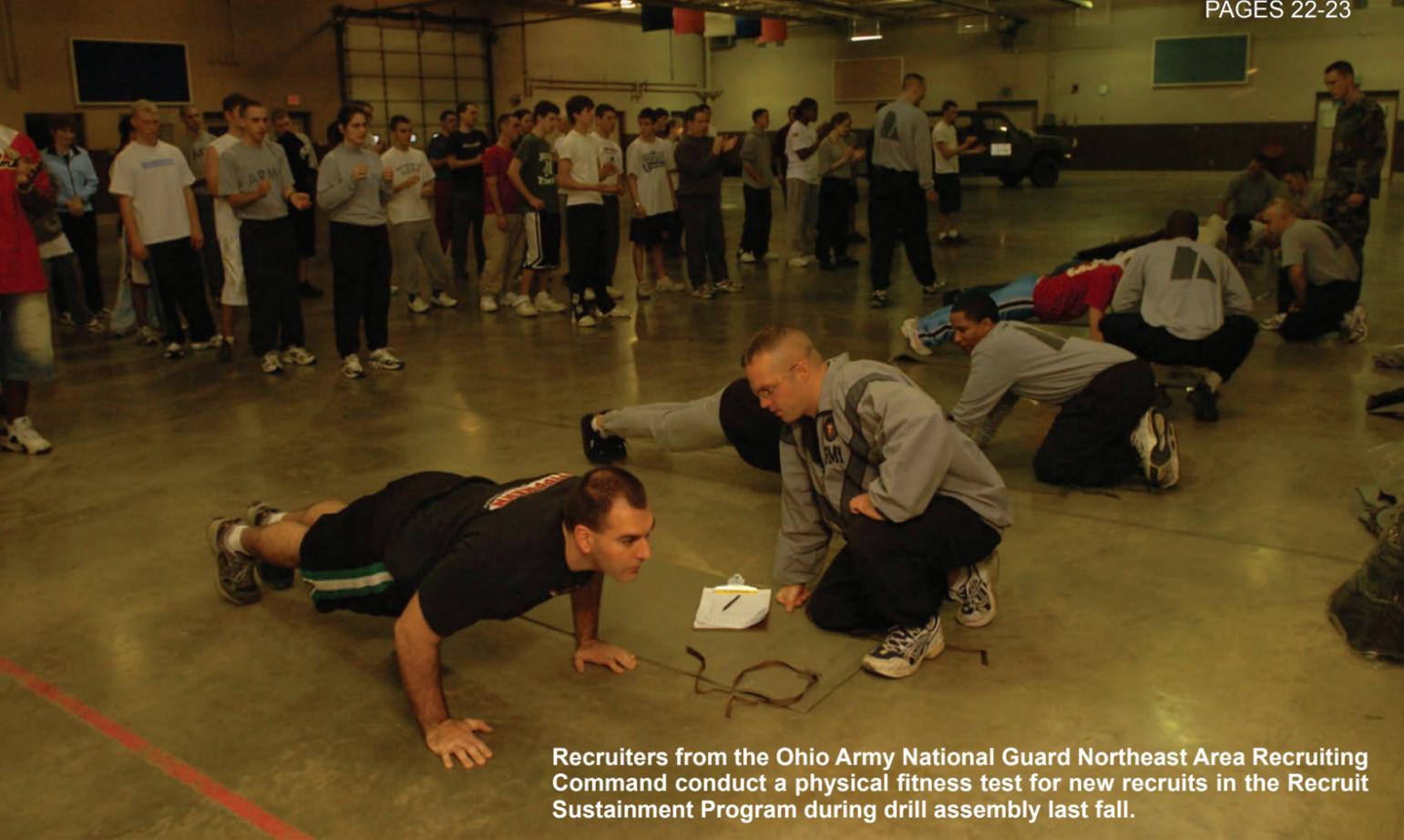


Preparatory program sets OHARNG recruits up for success

PAGES 22-23



Recruiters from the Ohio Army National Guard Northeast Area Recruiting Command conduct a physical fitness test for new recruits in the Recruit Sustainment Program during drill assembly last fall.

SGT KIMBERLY SNOW / 196TH MOBILE PUBLIC AFFAIRS DETACHMENT

BUCKEYE GUARD

The Ohio National Guard
2825 W. Dublin Granville Rd.
Columbus, Ohio 43235-2789
OFFICIAL BUSINESS

PRSR STD
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MAGAZINE OF THE OHIO ARMY AND AIR NATIONAL GUARD
SPRING 2006



TRANSFORMATION

promoting strength from within the guard recruiting assistance program



Take Control of Unit End Strength

Earn up to **\$2,000** for each new recruit who enlists and reports to Basic Training



Guard Recruiting Assistants can earn \$2,000 for each new recruit who enlists and reports to Basic Training.



Upon enlistment, the RA will receive an initial payment of \$1,000, with a second \$1,000 payment upon successful shipment to Basic Training.



The Guard Recruiting Assistance Program (G-RAP) is a contracted program designed for individuals who voluntarily apply online at www.GuardRecruitingAssistant.com to become eligible to serve as a part-time Recruiter Assistant (RA). The RA applicant will be verified and hired by a contractor, not the ARNG.

Note: exact payment timelines vary depending upon prior service/non-prior status and availability of training seats.

NATIONAL GUARD

RECRUITING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

BUCKEYE GUARD

Volume 29, No. 1

roll call

Spring 2006

The *Buckeye Guard* is an authorized publication for members of the Department of Defense. Contents of the *Buckeye Guard* are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, the Departments of the Army and Air Force, or the Adjutant General of Ohio. The *Buckeye Guard* is published quarterly under the supervision of the Public Affairs Office, Ohio Adjutant General's Department, 2825 W. Dublin Granville Road, Columbus, Ohio 43235-2789. The editorial content of this publication is the responsibility of the Adjutant General of Ohio's Director, Government and Public Affairs. Direct communication is authorized to the Editor, phone: (614) 336-7003; fax: (614) 336-7410; or send e-mail to buckeye@tagoh.gov. The *Buckeye Guard* is distributed free to members of the Ohio Army and Air National Guard and to other interested persons at their request. Guardmembers and their families are encouraged to submit any articles meant to inform, educate or entertain *Buckeye Guard* readers, including stories about interesting Guard personalities and unique unit training. Circulation is 19,000. Deadlines are:

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

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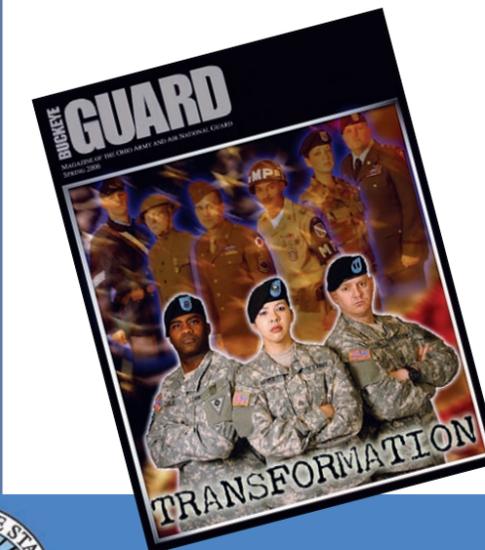
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PFC RYAN A. CLEARY / 196TH MPAD

State Sen. John Carey (from left); Chillicothe Mayor Joseph Sulzer; State Rep. John Schlichter; Capt. Donald Westfall, commander, A Company, 216th Engineer Battalion; and Maj. Gen. Gregory L. Wayt, Ohio adjutant general, conduct a ceremonial ribbon-cutting Jan. 14 to mark the opening of the Ohio Army National Guard's new \$6.55 million Chillicothe Readiness Center. For more on new facilities, see pages 13-15.



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ON THE COVER

TRANSFORMING INTO THE FUTURE: Current Ohio Army National Guard Soldiers represent Ohio Guardmembers throughout history to the present day, and into the next phase for the organization: front row, MSG Sheldon Chambliss (from left), 237th Personnel Services Battalion, SGT Yanira Nieves, Joint Force Headquarters-Ohio and CPT Christopher Call, Company B, 1st Battalion, 148th Infantry Regiment; back row, SSG Joshua Mann (from left), SGT Corey Taylor, SGT Daryl Scott, SGT Darrick Clay and SGT Karisa Myers, all of JFHQ, and CPT Jeremy Banta, 731st Troop Command Detachment. *Photos by Todd Cramer / Adjutant General's Department Photo Lab; Cover design by SSG Joshua Mann / Joint Force Headquarters-Ohio. For more on transformation and how it affects the Ohio Army National Guard, see pages 2, 7-10.*



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

Total copies printed: 19,000 Unit Cost: \$.431 Publication Date: 6/06

Change For The Better

by Brig. Gen. Matthew L. Kambic
Assistant Adjutant General-Army



Your leadership team is committed to leading and managing effectively the Ohio Army National Guard through transformation. It is a big job and will require everyone to remain flexible and work together as a team to make our organization the best it has ever been.

Over the next two years every Soldier in the Ohio Army National Guard will be impacted directly or indirectly by force structure turbulence created by Army Transformation. I have chosen to devote this article to answering four basic questions that are, or soon will be, on the minds of most of our Soldiers. These questions are: What is Army Transformation? Why is the Army transforming? What is modularity? What does it all mean to me (you the Soldier)?

WHAT IS ARMY TRANSFORMATION?

The Army Transformation Plan is an initiative that will extensively restructure the total Army (Active, Guard and Reserve). Modular Force Conversion is the implementation strategy that is designed to create an agile, capabilities-based force to meet the needs of the National Security Strategy and strengthen the Army's capability to fight the Global War on Terrorism. Prior to this transformation, the division was the centerpiece of the Army, ideally suited for major land campaigns against similarly organized forces. Although a powerful and capable force, the division is not the optimal structure for the threats of the 21st century.

To meet these new challenges and threats, the Army is transforming from a division-based force to a more flexible brigade-centric force. In the end, the transformed Ohio Army National Guard will be more modular, better equipped and more rapidly deployable to meet the challenges of the "no-notice, anytime, anywhere" environment we are currently operating in.

WHY IS THE ARMY TRANSFORMING?

The Army of today is very different from the Army of 1775. How did we get from there to here? We transformed. We transformed to meet the needs of the battlefield. We transformed because of technological advances. We transformed to remain a ready and relevant force. Today, the Ohio Army National Guard is converting from a Cold War legacy force into a more modular and agile force. This new force is designed to win the war today, while simultaneously posturing the Army and the Ohio Army National Guard for the challenges of the future. This new force will also allow the Ohio Army National Guard to perform not only its federal mission of providing combat forces, but to provide well-trained and well-equipped Citizen-Soldiers to our Governor and our fellow citizens.

The Ohio Army National Guard has gone through many of these transitions; from the forming of independent militia companies to the organization of the famous 37th Infantry Division and the post Gulf War force reduction of the early 1990s. In the end, the Ohio Army National Guard has always been, and will always remain, a ready and relevant force in the United States Army.

WHAT IS MODULARITY?

Modularity is the strategy the Army is using to transform from the Cold War, division-based force, to a more modular brigade-based force. This restructuring will result in brigades that are designed as modules which are self-sufficient and standardized as brigade combat

teams (BCTs). These BCTs will be more readily deployable and will provide increased combat power for the Army and combatant commanders in meeting global requirements. Today, "similar" units are not always structured or equipped the same way. Post transformation, every BCT will be organized and equipped the same way, ensuring that combatant commanders know exactly what they are getting. Moving to this smaller, self contained organization will create a "plug-and-play" capabilities-based model. It will also result in more evenly distributed burden-sharing throughout the National Guard.

Along with combat arms units, combat service and combat service support brigades will be organized into five types: combat aviation brigades, fires brigades, battlefield surveillance brigades, combat support brigades (maneuver enhancement) and sustainment brigades. The Ohio Army National Guard began the process of transforming in early 2006. More than 93 percent of our force will experience some degree of change over the next two years. At the forefront is the organization of two new modular formations: the 37th Infantry Brigade Combat Team and the 371st Sustainment Brigade. The 16th Engineer Brigade and the 73rd Troop Command will also be impacted by transformation.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO OUR SOLDIERS?

Transformation is all about how the Army can better prepare, equip and train Soldiers to accomplish the tough missions we give them every day. Your leadership team is committed to leading and managing effectively the Ohio Army National Guard through transformation. It is a big job and will require everyone to remain flexible and work together as a team to make our future organization the best it has ever been.

There is a home for every Soldier in the Ohio Army National Guard! Transformation will not reduce the number of Soldiers in the Ohio Army National Guard. However, some units will convert from one type of unit to another, for example, an infantry rifle company may become a military police company. These types of actions will require some Soldiers to reclassify into a different Military Occupational Specialty (MOS) or transfer to a new unit at a new location. Leadership at all levels will work

—continued on page 10

Former Buckeye still enjoys keeping up with Ohio National Guard happenings

I would really appreciate the opportunity of getting the *Buckeye Guard* magazine. Actually 23 years ago I was in the magazine for my wedding. My husband and I were both full-time recruiters for the Ohio Army National Guard, and our years are great memories. He retired in 1993 with 20 years, and I left the Guard to raise my family after 12 years, in 1988. Our oldest son was in the Ohio National Guard and served in Desert Storm.

After retirement Herb went into ministry full-time and we pastor in Iowa. Our son Matt has just joined the Iowa National Guard and is at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo. for (Initial Entry Training) and military police (Advanced Individual Training) school.

We would love to keep in touch with what Ohio is up to, as they were our family for many years.

HERB & JACCIE KENYON
IOWA FALLS, IOWA

EDITOR'S NOTE: *While the Buckeye Guard is routinely mailed out to current Ohio National Guardmembers and other select groups, anyone who requests it may receive a complimentary subscription to the magazine.*

Those planning to retire or separate must make a request via e-mail or conventional mail to continue receiving the magazine after they separate. Contact information for the magazine is listed on page 1.

Hurricane Katrina issue among best, says longtime reader, guardmember

I would have to say that the Fall/Winter 2005 issue of the *Buckeye Guard* is the best that I have seen and I've seen a few over the last 24 years. It tells such a great story of all the successes that we have had in the last year. Keep up the great work!

I always leave mine in the break room where I work, but how can we get this magazine out into the public? What a recruiting tool.

MSG JEFF LEWIS
737TH MAINTENANCE BATTALION
NEWARK

EDITOR'S NOTE: *The Buckeye Guard does go out to the public through Army and Air National Guard recruiters at various events, to select high schools and colleges, as well as through State of Ohio library system.*



From the "April 1983" issue of the *Buckeye Guard* (left): Proceeding under a saber arch by members of the 107th Armored Cavalry, SGT Jaccie Collette (right) is led down the aisle by SFC Harold Leone during her wedding to SSG Herbert J. Kenyon Jr.

Only in the National Guard: Airman gets opportunity to ski in Spain

Once again, my military service has taken me someplace that I've only read about.

As a member of the Ohio National Guard Biathlon Team, I was selected to compete in the VII Campeonato Nacional Militar de Esqui (The Seventh Spanish National Military Ski Championships) held March 6-10 in Candanchu, Spain.

The National Guard Sports Office, which runs the NG biathlon program, has been sending biathletes to this competition for years to promote good relations between foreign militaries.

They invited me based on my performance at the National Guard Biathlon Championships in February and—I must admit—a rather depleted biathlete pool right now due to deployments.

If you don't know or didn't watch the sport in the recent Olympics in Torino, biathlon

MSgt Greg Rudl competes for the National Guard in a Spanish biathlon.

combines cross-county skiing and target shooting with a .22-caliber rifle. Competitors ski over a hilly course, stopping periodically to shoot at five small targets in the prone and standing positions.

These championships are geared mainly for teams of the Spanish military (marines, army, navy, air force, mountain troops and La Guardia Civil—their National Guard), but as an international gesture of goodwill, they invite other countries (this year it was the U.S., Germany, France and Morocco).

The event consisted of four races: a 15-kilometer Nordic, a 20k biathlon, an Alpine slalom and on the last day, a 25k biathlon patrol, where a team of four ski together.

Competing for and representing the U.S. military was thrilling, but a close second was experiencing Spain's food and culture. In addition to racing, we interacted with our military counterparts, all in all a great week of international military sport, cooperation and understanding. How lucky I'd been to participate.

MSGT GREG RUDL
121ST AIR REFUELING WING
COLUMBUS

EDITOR'S NOTE: *The Ohio NG Biathlon Team is always looking for competitive endurance athletes in above-average cardiovascular shape. If you know how to Nordic ski or target shoot, you'll be ahead of the curve, but training can be provided. If interested, contact ONG Biathlon coordinator-coach, Lt. Col. Tom Haidet at (614) 270-5018 or (614) 336-7309.*

Traditional blue Army Service Uniform will become standard

WASHINGTON—Army service uniforms will be streamlined to one blue Army Service Uniform, the Army announced.

“We have all of these variations of uniforms—green, blue and white,” said Army Chief of Staff Gen. Peter J. Schoomaker. “It makes sense for us to go to one traditional uniform that is really sharp and high quality and which Soldiers will be very proud to wear. And that’s what we’ve done by adopting this blue Army Service Uniform that reflects simplicity, quality, utility and tradition.”

Many Soldiers already own an Army blue uniform (now to be called the Army Service Uniform) and may continue to wear it.

Improvements will be made to the fabric and fit. Reduction of the number of uniforms will reduce the burden on Soldiers for purchases and alteration costs.

Introduction in the Army Military Clothing Sales Stores should begin in the fourth quarter of Fiscal Year 2007. Introduction in the clothing bag should begin first quarter 2009. The mandatory possession date is expected to be fourth quarter fiscal year 2011.

A wear-out date for the Army Green Class A and White dress uniforms will be determined at a later date. **ARMY NEWS SERVICE**

New top Air Force enlisted leader born, raised in Buckeye state

SAN ANTONIO—Command Chief Master Sgt. Rod McKinley admits he was a bit nervous about becoming the 15th chief master sergeant of the Air Force. But it is not because the job is too tough or that becoming the Air Force’s top enlisted leader intimidates him, he said. It is the fact he is the next chief in the long line of those he calls “the great chiefs of our past” that humbles him.

“I just hope that I can live up to half of what they have accomplished in our Air Force,” he said.

The chief, from Mount Orab, Ohio, assumed the post July 1 from Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Gerald Murray, who retired after four years on the job. McKinley and his family discussed the move before he took the post. He is ready for the challenge, he said.

“I’m always real comfortable about any job I have in the Air Force,” the 32-year veteran said. “And I’ve lived by a simple philosophy: Whatever job the Air Force gives you, just to do the very best that you

possibly can.”

The chief said he has been himself since he joined the Air Force in 1974 with two of his hometown buddies. After basic training, the three went their separate ways, and the chief went on to become a medic.

After a break in service, he rejoined the Air Force and today is the only one of the trio who made the military a career.

McKinley takes on his new role as the spokesman for the Air Force enlisted corps at a critical time in the service’s history.

That fact is not lost on the chief, who likes to come across as a self-professed “country boy from Ohio.” But one conversation with him dispels that image. He is an Air Force professional who knows what he must do to help the Air Force achieve its three top priorities.

“That’s wining the War on Terrorism, taking care of our Airmen and recapitalizing our inventory,” he said. **LOUIS A. ARANA-BARRADAS / AIR FORCE PRINT NEWS**

No conflict between warfighting, non-traditional missions, Rumsfeld says

WASHINGTON—Supporting non-traditional missions and humanitarian crises doesn’t detract from the defense mission, but rather, builds important relationships around the world, strengthens capabilities and fills vital needs, Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld said here recently.

With the National Guard making up just 19 percent of the U.S. military force in Iraq, the Guard has the assets available to support the recently announced border security mission, he said.

“What is wrong—and I can’t find anything wrong—with a plan that on an interim basis, temporarily, we would provide 6,000 out of 450,000 people who will be doing it on their active duty for training for two weeks?” Rumsfeld said. “They will go down there (and) do exactly what they do in their training. And they are not going to be out with guns, standing on the border, shooting at people trying to come across the border. They are not law enforcement.”

Rather, Rumsfeld said, guardmembers will support the U.S. Border Patrol as it beefs up its force and moves its own members from support to operational jobs. **DONNA MILES / AMERICAN FORCES PRESS SERVICE**



McKinley

National Guard among most capable of nation’s forces, chief says

WASHINGTON—Over the past year, the National Guard has demonstrated not only its ability to be the nation’s “minutemen” and respond to calls immediately, but also its ability to sustain several different missions at once, the chief of the National Guard Bureau said here recently.

“It is a different National Guard than existed five or six years ago,” Army Lt. Gen. H Steven Blum said at a Congressional hearing of the Commission on the National Guard and Reserves. “It is not only not your grandfather’s National Guard, it’s not your older brother’s National Guard. It’s not the same National Guard that existed on the 10th of September, 2001.”

Since the War on Terrorism began, the National Guard has sent Soldiers and Airmen to Iraq and Afghanistan to participate in all aspects of combat, support and training, Blum said. When Hurricane Katrina hit the Gulf Coast in August 2005, the Guard produced 50,000 servicemembers in a little more than a week to respond to that disaster while still maintaining its contributions to the War on Terrorism, Blum said. On Sept. 2, 2005, when President Bush visited New Orleans, the National Guard had more than 135,000 Soldiers and Airmen deployed in Mississippi, Louisiana, and around the world, he said.

“It was probably the Guard’s finest hour,” he said. **SGT SARA WOOD / AMERICAN FORCES PRESS SERVICE**

Runners can sign up now for 2006 USAF Marathon in Dayton area

WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Ohio—The official U.S. Air Force Marathon will be held here Sept. 16, along with a Sports and Fitness Expo Sept. 14-15. Runners from all over the world are expected to participate. This year’s festivities include a two day

Sports and Fitness Exposition located in the Ervin J. Nutter Center at Wright State University, gourmet pasta dinner, race-day awards ceremony and a post-race festival beginning

immediately after the first runner crosses the finish line. World renowned long distance runners Bill Rodgers and Alberto Salazar will sign autographs, conduct clinics, speak at the gourmet pasta dinner and participate in the races on Saturday. The USAF Marathon website—www.usafmarathon.com—has training tips for all levels of runners and instructions for entering the race. **AIR FORCE MARATHON NEWS RELEASE**



Some form of TRICARE now available to all guardmembers

The federal government recently increased benefits for TRICARE, the military insurance program for servicemembers and their families. On Dec. 18, 2005, Congress passed the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2006. Contained within the legislation is a provision for every member of the National Guard access to TRICARE healthcare coverage on a cost-share basis by category.

The categories are as follows:

■Group 1:

Those members who have been called up to active duty for 90 days or more can participate in TRICARE Reserve Select. Those eligible under this category will pay 28 percent of the premium, with the Department of Defense (DOD) paying the other 72 percent (this category is the exact same category as found in last year’s bill; nothing has changed, other than a premium increase).

■Group 2:

Those members of the National Guard who are unemployed or cannot access healthcare coverage because their employer does not offer it can participate in TRICARE Standard. TRICARE Standard is a fee-for-service plan. Those eligible under this category will pay 50 percent of the premium, with DOD paying the other 50 percent.

■Group 3:

Those members of the National Guard who are employed and are currently participating in their employer’s healthcare coverage but would like to participate in TRICARE instead of their employer’s healthcare plan can participate in TRICARE Standard. As stated above, TRICARE Standard is a fee-for-service plan. Those eligible under this category will pay 85 percent of the premium, with DOD paying the other 15 percent.

Service on Title 10 (federal active duty) is a requirement for those qualifying

for Group 1 coverage. There is no Title 10/active-duty service requirement for Groups 2 or 3. Simply being a traditional guardmember qualifies a person for coverage under TRICARE Standard. At this time, the Department of Defense has not released any numbers or cost amounts associated with the premium costs of Groups 2 and 3. The Department of Defense must complete work on premium amounts and implement this new program for Groups 2 and 3 by Oct. 1.

Legislature creates award to recognize former ONG members

The Ohio Legislature recently honored former Ohio National Guardmembers by enacting legislation that created the Ohio National Guard Service Medal. State Rep. Bill Seitz (R-Cincinnati) proposed the legislation after being contacted by one of his constituents, Albert J. Messemaker, who suggested that the State of Ohio create a service award to recognize all former guardmembers who served honorably.

Any former guardmember who received an honorable or medical discharge is eligible to receive the medal but must pay for it at his or her own expense, which is estimated at a cost of \$15.50. The medal is 1½ inches in diameter and the front bears the Adjutant General’s Department seal and two stars distinguishing the rank of the major general. The reverse side has an etched outline of the State of Ohio and the words “Ohio National Guard Service Medal.” There is also space beneath the text so the medal can be personalized. It is attached to a 30-inch scarlet and gray ribbon so it may be worn around the neck. The medal and information about how to obtain it will be available later on this summer. Visit the Ohio National Guard website, www.ohionationalguard.com for future updates. **GG**

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

legislative look with johann klein



COLUMBUS

Command profile



BG Jack E. Lee
73rd Troop Command

Age: 56

Full-Time Position: special assistant to the adjutant general
Hometown: Ada, Ohio
Family: Tina, wife of 26 years; son, Rob, and his wife, Jackie, and two granddaughters

When I was younger, I wanted to: be a Soldier like my Dad

Most recent achievement: having the privilege to lead more than 2,500 servicemembers in support of Hurricane Katrina relief operations last September in Louisiana and Mississippi

The last good movie I saw was: *Star Wars: Revenge of the Sith*

The book I’m reading is: *In the Company of Soldiers*

Heroes: My Dad, a 40-year veteran of the 148th Infantry, who was the unit first sergeant. He took care of his boys/Soldiers while enforcing the Army standards and being a role model

Nobody knows I’m: a Jimmie Hendrix and hard rock fan

I’m better than anyone else at: nothing, but I have a passing knowledge of a lot of things and have learned to empower the people that know how to do their jobs

My biggest pet peeve is: Naysayers/negative people

The three words that best describe me: quiet but effective

If I could leave today’s guardmembers with one piece of advice it would be: Be technically and tactically proficient in your duty assignment; live and support the Army Values; and prepare your family for mobilization, for you never know when you will be called to serve our state or country; and have fun

Three jobs keep Toledo Airman occupied

By Senior Airman Janet Dougherty, 180th Fighter Wing

Wearing three occupational “hats” has Master Sgt. Jamie Paxton quite busy, to say the least.

“I am very stressed but extremely happy,” said Paxton, who fills two full-time positions—one as a full-time federal technician at the 180th Fighter Wing as a flight services specialist, and the other as president of Paxton Demolition—finds herself working about seven days a week to manage both functions.

DIVERSITY

“I work 10 hours a day, Monday through Thursday at the 180th and work Friday, Saturday and Sunday for Paxton Demolition,” she said. In addition to the two full-time positions, Paxton also has a third job serving as the traditional first sergeant for the fighter wing section at the 180th.

While Paxton Demolition, a Toledo-based company, has been in business only five years, the Paxton name has earned an outstanding reputation in the community. “My husband, Billy, is the third generation of the Paxton family name running a demolition business,” she said. “The family has been providing demolition services for over 40 years and our specific business generates over a half million dollars in project work annually.”

As the company president, Paxton provides the management and administration for the operation, while her husband does the job bidding and actual demolition work. “I do all the administrative work including the banking and billing functions,” Paxton said. “I enjoy it, but everything is ‘on fire’ with a lot of last minute projects,” she said. “The work alone takes about 15 to 17 hours a day, and at times is accomplished in some very dangerous situations.”

Paxton said the company mainly provides commercial and residential demolition services. “We tear down houses, strip malls, and basically gut these types of buildings,” she said. “Some of the work is subcontracted to us by a builder that has been hired for construction work,” Paxton said. Business can also be awarded to the company as a minority business through the “Women’s Business Enterprise,” which Paxton recently applied for and received status as a WBE. “Ten percent of all projects must be awarded to WBE companies, and we get a better opportunity as a WBE for this work.”

Paxton served as a 180th full-time Active Guard/Reserve (AGR) Airman for 11 years, from 1992 to 2003, before making the decision to leave her AGR position and to assist her husband with

establishing the demolition business. She returned to the 180th as full-time technician and traditional guardmember in 2005. “After those two years, I realized how much I missed the Air National Guard and got back in,” Paxton said.

Paxton was quick to point out that her military experience greatly assists her as the company’s president. “All of my military experience comes into play at the company,” she said. “We have continuity folders and checklists for everything we do, and my letters and memorandums are developed off my military experiences.”

In addition to three to four additional employees, dependent upon the project work, Paxton Demolition is truly family-owned, and even receives significant support from Jamie’s oldest child, daughter Kodie. In 2005, Paxton deployed to Southwest Asia with the 180th, leaving behind the duties of company president to the

15-year-old. “We prepped her for about two months prior to my departure by working with her last summer and by taking her out on excavation projects,” Paxton said. In addition to running the business, Kodie took care of her 10-year-old sister, Summer, and newly adopted brother Ricklee, a nephew of Paxton’s whose adoption was finalized just prior to her deployment. “She was spectacular at not only running the business but also our house-

hold. I will have no worries when she is on her own.”

Kodie, a junior at Mason High School in Erie, Mich., holds a 3.8 grade point average, is a swimmer and plays volleyball at her school. “When I feel overwhelmed by it all I think of what my daughter did this past summer,” Paxton said, adding that Kodie plans on joining the Air National Guard when she finishes high school.

Paxton, recently named 180th Fighter Wing First Sergeant of the Year, knows first-hand what it is like to leave a business on a deployment and what employers can experience. “My husband is very supportive of me in the Guard and I could not do what I do without his support. As a small business, I fully understand the impact of what it means to leave for the Guard (deployment), and my family is very supportive.”

As for the future, Paxton doesn’t plan to change much with her business, and also will continue to develop in her military career. “I absolutely love my full-time technician and first sergeant positions,” Paxton said. “I want to make chief master sergeant; that is my goal.” **CG**



A Paxton Demolition crew member cleans up building rubble from a recent project site.

J. Paxton



Return of the 37th Infantry Division
Shoulder Sleeve Insignia highlights
2007 Army changes

TODD CRAMER / ADJ. GEN. DEPT.

Story by Staff Sgt. Joshua Mann, Joint Force Headquarters-Ohio

“It’s about their risk assessment; their scan of the environment. The threat has changed.”

The “their” that Brig. Gen. Matthew L. Kambic, Ohio assistant adjutant general for Army, is referring to is the Department of the Army—the driving force behind the largest transformation Army-wide since the end of World War II. This transformation will not only reorganize the active component, but also modernize and reorganize the Army Reserve and Army National Guard.

Since Operation Desert Storm, the Army has been committed to a series of operations that have intensified since the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks on the United States. Wartime missions and circumstances have forced the Army to adapt to enemies and conditions decisively and quickly. That the enemies are increasingly resorting to unconventional warfare testifies to the effectiveness of these changes in Army and joint conventional fighting forces.

The result of this transformation initiative, known as modularity, will be an operational Army that is larger, more powerful, flexible and more rapidly deployable. Modularity will transition the Army from a Cold War, division-based force to a more modular brigade-based force.

It will transition the Army National Guard from a “legacy force,” or a strategic reserve, into a ready and relevant force that will have the same units and the same equipment as the active Army.

“Right now we’re a force provider,” said Maj. Gen. Gregory L. Wayt, Ohio adjutant general. “When we provide a force to a combatant commander, they all look different, and this is going to make sure everything looks the same so that the combatant commanders know what they are getting.”

These modular forces are being designed around the brigade combat team (BCT) concept. Restructuring from a division-based to a brigade-based force will result in brigades that are designed as modules that are self-sufficient and standardized, creating a “plug-and-play” concept.

The impacts of transformation in the Ohio National Guard are dramatic—93 percent of Ohio’s units will be impacted in some way. At the vanguard in Ohio is the formation of two new modular units:

the 37th Infantry Brigade Combat Team and the 371st Sustainment Brigade. The biggest impact will occur in the 16th Engineer Brigade, as 50 percent of the current engineer formations—the 512th and 612th Engineer Battalions, will be inactivated. Elements of 73rd Troop Command will also see some reorganization and growth in its units.

“The plan is complex,” Kambic said. “The planning was challenging, and we spent months working through the various options and courses of action.”

The planning began in late 2004 when word came down of the Army’s blueprint for modularity. As Ohio National Guard leadership began laying out the force, priorities were placed on maintaining readiness and shrinking the lines of communication in commands.

“We knew that maintaining readiness was essential,” Kambic said. “So, for example, every (future) engineer formation in the state is currently an engineer formation; we went to great lengths to match up as many capabilities we already earned with the future force.”

However, in order to get commands regionally closer together, some units will convert from one branch to another. The 1st Battalion, 148th Infantry, for example, currently has companies spread out over Ohio. As a result of transformation, those companies will all be stationed in Northwest Ohio.

Actions such as these will require some Soldiers to qualify into a different military occupational specialty (MOS) or transfer to another unit. However, there will be no reduction in the Ohio National Guard force with this transformation, and Soldiers will have the ability to work with their chain of command to find the best option for their future.

“There is a position for every Soldier in the State of Ohio. Our Soldiers who are displaced by a unit inactivating or being relocated are going to have an option about

their career,” Kambic said. “Their service to the Ohio Army National Guard is as important in this newly transformed Ohio Guard as it was in the old Guard.”

Both Kambic and Ohio’s senior enlisted Soldier, Command Sgt. Maj. Bill Gilliam, said a key to making this transformation successful is the ability of Soldiers to remain agile and rely on their leadership to assist them in making tough decisions related to their futures.

The impacts of transformation in the Ohio National Guard are dramatic—93 percent of Ohio’s units will be impacted in some way by transformation.

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“The best thing for a Soldier to do is just do what they feel in their heart and listen to their unit leadership. Their leadership has a broad spectrum, they know what’s going on to the left and to the right of them, and they know where the Soldier would be best suited to transfer,” Gilliam said.

Gilliam added that with the constant change in force structure, a Soldier with just one MOS throughout their military career will be the exception. A Soldier that may be a military police (MP) officer one day could bounce into the infantry or vice-versa, something that may aid a number of individuals as they progress through the ranks.

“Sometimes their type of unit had a cap on their NCO (noncommissioned officer) level, going to a new unit, an engineer unit or to an MP unit, may improve the NCO levels to where they can actually gain a promotion out of it,” Gilliam said.

The face of the National Guard in Ohio has changed dramatically over the years from early formations of independent militia companies to the organization of the 37th Division and the heavy formations of the Cold War. Yet, every time reorganization has occurred, Ohio Soldiers have adapted to the change. An example of this is the recent reorganization of the 1st Battalion, 147th Armor into the 1st Battalion, 174th Air Defense Artillery, which currently has a majority of its Soldiers going through training to deploy as MPs to provide force protection at installations in Europe.

It is a strong model that Kambic hopes the remainder of the state follows.

“If the rest of the state embraces transformation the way that battalion, its leaders and its Soldiers did, we will be widely successful and won’t miss a beat,” he said.

Another key factor in the decision process was to analyze Ohio’s infrastructure, in concert with the stationing decisions. Currently, Ohio has an average armory age of 46 years—10 years older than the national average. Recent additions in Bowling Green, Chillicothe, Woodlawn and Coshocton have set the standard for future readiness centers in Ohio. However, it was determined that there was too much infrastructure for the amount of money received by the state and federal government to maintain those buildings. In order to offset those financial deficiencies, the plan in Ohio is to sustain certain properties into the future while building new, multi-unit facilities every year, and at the same time closing two or three older facilities. It is a plan that Wayt thinks will not affect Ohio’s ability to respond to a state mission when needed.

“When we do a state mission, the whole state reacts to whatever the call is, it’s just not based on a community facility. And when we do it, we react in a joint environment with the Air Guard and Army Guard,” Wayt said. “There are not many states that have the capabilities we have to respond to anything in the state of Ohio.”

Not only are the formations going to look like the active Army, but these modular units will field the same equipment as their active counterparts—a much-needed improvement for Ohio, which has been given a low priority on equipment from leadership

in Washington for a number of years; many times fielding equipment that was already obsolete. As the National Guard remains a dual-mission force, the equipment buys associated with transformation are going to make Ohio more relevant, not only for the warfight, but for homeland security and the state mission as well.

Even though most units began the process of transformation in late 2005, the effective date for completion is Sept. 1, 2007. The intent is to have any units crossing command lines transferred to the gaining command by this September. The following



SSG JOSHUA MANN / JFHQ-OHIO

Ohio Army National Guard force structure will have a different look beginning in Fall 2006, as major changes include stand-up of two new brigade elements.

year will be spent sending Soldiers to reclassification schools, as well as individual and small unit training. The “look like tomorrow today” idea is something Gilliam said can assist displaced Soldiers.

“The best things we can possibly do are be proactive and get the Soldiers, before they actually start to transition, in a MOSQ course of what the unit is going to become,” Gilliam said.

Gilliam stressed that this transformation is about more than just how units look. “It’s not just the transformation of the unit itself, it’s a transformation with uniform policy, and it’s a transformation with our education system. It’s for the betterment of the

Guard, for the betterment of the Army and for the betterment of the warfight. This is a time to take the Soldiers to the next level.”

“What we need to tell our Soldiers is: ‘Don’t be afraid of change, embrace it,’” said Kambic, who added this transformation is a direct reaction to the big success that the Army has experienced in deploying the National Guard. “Our Soldiers should be very proud of the fact that they have been able to do things that generations of guardsmen have not, and that is earn the trust and respect of our country, our political leaders and our Army.”

OHARNG will undergo largest force structure change in nearly 40 years

By Staff Sgt. Joshua Mann
Joint Force Headquarters-Ohio

Highlighted by the organization of the 37th Infantry Brigade Combat Team (BCT) and the 371st Sustainment Brigade, the force structure in Ohio Army National Guard will see its largest transition since the 1968 inactivation of the 37th Infantry Division. Although most units will continue to serve under their current designation, this transformation will allow Ohio to return some historic designations to the force structure. Ensuring that the legacy of those who served previously continues in today’s modern Ohio National Guard.

The 37th Armor Brigade will transform back to its roots as infantry—formerly the 73rd Separate Infantry Brigade, when it becomes the 37th Infantry BCT in 2007. Once the transformation is complete, the 37th BCT will be one of the 34 Infantry, Armor and Stryker Brigade Combat Teams in the Army National Guard, and the centerpiece of modularity.

Organic to the 37th BCT will be two infantry battalions (the 1st Battalion, 148th Infantry and 1st Battalion, 125th Infantry, Michigan Army National Guard), as well as a fires battalion (the 1st Battalion, 134th Field Artillery), an armored reconnaissance squadron (the 1st Squadron, 126th Cavalry, Michigan Army National Guard) and the 237th Brigade Support Battalion. A new element of the 37th BCT will be the 37th Brigade Special Troops Battalion, which will be comprised of engineer, signal and military intelligence companies.

One of the most anticipated changes associated with this transformation is the return of the historic 37th Infantry Division’s patch to the uniforms of the 37th BCT. The 37th Infantry Division has a proud history of service in both world wars and the distinction of being the only National Guard division in World War II to maintain the same commanding officer, Maj. Gen. Robert S. Beightler, throughout the war.

“There’s so much history in our state about the 37th Division,” said Maj. Gen. Gregory L. Wayt, Ohio adjutant general. “This is going to ensure that tradition lives on in our Soldiers today, and they

understand the tradition that they came from. I think it’s an honor for those that went before us, that our modern day Soldiers get to wear that patch.”

Added 37th Division Veterans Association Secretary/Treasurer Cy Sedlako: “The return of the 37th Division patch has been long looked for by the veterans of the division. The veterans are honored and pleased that the patch will be on the uniforms of the 37th Brigade Combat Team.”

Two other Ohio units, the 1st Battalion, 145th Armor and 2nd Squadron, 107th Cavalry, will be assigned to the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 28th Infantry Division from Pennsylvania. However, they will be under the day-to-day command of the 37th BCT. The 1-145th Armor will be transformed from the 1st Battalion, 107th Cavalry as a maneuver battalion. This new, combined arms formation will bear the lineage and honors of the 145th Infantry and consist of two tank companies, two infantry rifle companies and an engineer company.

For most of the 73rd Troop Command, the changes will be minor. “We’re going to retain a lot of our structure; it’s just going to be modernized,” said Brig. Gen. Jack E. Lee, commander, 73rd Troop Command.

Both the 437th Military Police Battalion and 155th Chemical Battalion will each add a company. Changes also occur to the aviation community, as the 1st Battalion, 137th Aviation adds one company and key aviation maintenance and support units are reorganized. The 112th Transportation Battalion Headquarters will reorganize from the 731st Troop Command Detachment and continue to oversee the five transportation companies in Ohio.

The biggest change to troop command will occur as the 371st Corps Support Group transitions into the 371st Sustainment Brigade; one of the five types of support brigades in the modularity plan. This new formation will

—continued on page 10



SSG JOSH MANN / JFHQ-OHIO

“The plan is complex, the planning was challenging. But I am convinced, we have done what is right for the Ohio Guard for the long term in creating formations that are going to have the highest readiness that we’ve ever achieved.”

**Brigadier General
Matthew L. Kambic**
Assistant Adjutant General for Army



TRANSFORMATION

perform many of the key combat service support functions that the support group accomplishes now.

The organization of the 371st is based on specific operational plans and has two organic units, an early entry element and signal detachment. Also assigned are the 211th Maintenance Company and the newly formed 684th and 285th Medical Companies. Finally, the 237th Personnel Services Battalion will transition into the 237th Human Resources Company and the 337th and 437th Human Resources Platoons.

Lee added that although some designations will go away, the function in which they served will remain. "It's going to be a little different in that we lose the 737th Maintenance Battalion Headquarters, but that's rolled into the sustainment brigade so we don't really lose that function," he said.

The most significant changes occur in the 16th Engineer Brigade, with two of the current engineer battalions inactivating. However, many of the individual companies will transition into new engineer formations as others transition to engineer formations of the 37th BCT.

Another considerable change is the switch from fixed battalions of organic, lettered companies to flex battalions, similar to the current 512th Engineer Battalion. The Headquarters of the 112th and 216th Engineer Battalions will remain, with the addition of a forward support company for each. However, numbered engineer companies, with specific skill sets, will be assigned to each

headquarters depending on the need of the mission, something Col. Alan Rogers, of the 16th Engineer Brigade, said will benefit combatant commanders in the field.

"Those battalion headquarters will be generic and have the capabilities to provide command and control to a lot of different elements," Rogers said. "You can plug in those headquarters where needed and then put the appropriate resources underneath them."

Rogers said that with the current structure, a battalion may have specific resources, such as vertical construction, spread over various companies. Modularity will consolidate those resources into one vertical construction company. Other modular formations include horizontal construction, sapper, mobility augmentation companies and firefighting, survey, concrete and asphalt teams.

Ohio's engineer battalions have distinguished themselves in Iraq and Afghanistan, receiving numerous citations and being recognized by a number of senior Army commanders. Rogers acknowledged it may be difficult for some Soldiers to see their organization's colors cased only months after returning from combat. However, he is confident

that the Soldiers will accept the challenge.

"I have to believe that's going to be difficult for them, but at the same token they are good Soldiers, they did a great job and we believe that they will continue to be great Soldiers and still want to support the Ohio Guard and move onto another mission that they can do equally as well," he said. **AG**



OHARNG HISTORICAL HOLDINGS

Transformation of the Ohio Army National Guard also includes a multiyear plan to replace out-of-date armories, such as the one in Eaton (above), with versatile state-of-the-art facilities (see pages 13-15).

Change For The Better

—continued from page 2

Command focus

with each Soldier to minimize the challenges of transformation and take into account the impact on all Soldiers and their families. The Soldier still remains the most effective, flexible and important asset the Ohio Army National Guard possesses.

No full-time member of the Ohio Army National Guard will lose their employment if they are willing to accept retraining, and in some cases, relocation. Where positions are eliminated through force structure action, new opportunities will be presented to affected employees. The goal of the Human Resources Office is to realign and redistribute the full-time workforce throughout the transformation process to help achieve the highest level of readiness in units across the state. Human Resources goals include:

- Minimizing Permanent Change of Station (PCS) that impacts both Soldiers and their families.
- Realigning the workforce to like-type units (MOS and grade) to the greatest extent possible.
- Provide as much stability in the workforce as feasible.
- Work directly with the chief of staff and the MSC admin-

istrative officers to position full-time employees as quickly and efficiently as possible.

There is a comprehensive plan to deal with all impacts related to transformation. The Army Executive Council (Ohio Army National Guard Senior Leader Team) completed a review of all stationing, activation, inactivation and conversion actions associated with transformation. A complete and detailed plan has been developed to lead our Soldiers and manage our equipment and facilities through the challenges of transformation.

I have complete trust in our leaders and our Soldiers to meet the challenges of transformation. We continue to have the number one state in the nation in terms of readiness. That is a direct reflection of the professionalism, dedication and commitment to our fellow team members. I am counting on those traits to see our organization through transformation with the same level of readiness we enjoy today. That end state will require the best efforts of us all. We have a good plan that is fully coordinated and synchronized. Now it's time to execute. Nothing left to do but "get 'er done!" **AG**

MG Gregory L. Wayt (left), Ohio adjutant general, congratulates Combat Action Badge recipients MAJ Joe Gabriel (from left), SGT Kimberly Snow, SGT Matthew Metter and SPC Darnell Blanks.



STEVE TOTH / ADJ. GEN. DEPT. PUBLIC AFFAIRS

CAB ceremony honors four Ohio Guard Soldiers

Story by Steve Toth
Adjutant General's Department
Public Affairs

COLUMBUS—They are four individual Soldiers with diverse military experiences, but a common thread that bonds them.

They are all warriors who have served in the Global War on Terrorism. They have seen and engaged the enemy in the execution of their missions, in defending themselves and their fellow Soldiers.

During a Feb. 2 ceremony at Beightler Armory in Columbus, Maj. Joe Gabriel of Joint Force Headquarters-Ohio, Sgt. Kimberly Snow of the 196th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment, Sgt. Matthew R. Metter of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 37th Brigade Combat Team, and Spc. Darnell J. Blanks of Detachment 1, Company B, 216th Engineer Battalion, were awarded the Army Combat Action Badge by Maj. Gen. Gregory L. Wayt, Ohio adjutant general.

The Combat Action Badge (CAB) was approved by the Army Chief of Staff in May 2005 with a retroactive date to Sept. 18, 2001. The Soldier that receives the CAB must not be assigned or attached to a unit that would qualify the Soldier for the Combat Infantry Badge (CIB) or Combat Medical Badge (CMB).

According to information provided by the Department of Army, the CAB is



U.S. ARMY PHOTO

The Army Combat Action Badge.

intended for Soldiers who personally engage, or are engaged by the enemy. It is not intended for every Soldier who served in a combat zone or imminent danger area.

"Churchill once said that 'there is no more exhilarating moment for a man other than when he is being shot at.' I fully concur," said Gabriel, who served with the Army Reserve's 346th Tactical Psychological Operations Company (Airborne) from March 2003 to March 2004 in Baghdad, Iraq. "It definitely changed my outlook on life knowing that someone was trying to take me away from my family."

Specific criteria provided by DA said the Soldier must be performing assigned duties in an area where hostile fire pay or imminent danger pay is authorized; in addition, the Soldier must be performing satisfactorily in accordance with the prescribed rules of engagement. Attacks by mortars, rockets, rocket-propelled grenades, improvised explosive devices, suicide bombers and other

projectiles qualify a Soldier for the CAB.

Snow, who served around Ba'qubah, Iraq with the 196th from February 2004 to February 2005, said she encountered "many instances of both direct and indirect fire, many of which I knowingly walked into. Fallujah was perhaps the most memorable, but there was another time when I was walking toward the TOC (Tactical Operations Center) and heard a rocket come whistling in. I was nearly paralyzed when I heard that whistling. I was caught in the open so I simply hit the ground. I watched it impact about 50 feet away. I took a moment to collect myself, got up and ran for cover."

As of late May, more than 700 Ohio Army National Guardmembers have earned the CAB, according to statistics provided by the Ohio National Guard personnel directorate (J1). As of that time frame, units with the highest amount of Soldiers receiving CABs include the 1485th Transportation Company (115) and Headquarters (87), B (85) and C (83) Companies, 216th Engineer Battalion.

The award itself is a silver (or black subdued for utility uniforms) badge two inches in width overall, consisting of an oak wreath supporting a rectangle bearing a bayonet surmounting a grenade. The bayonet and grenade are associated with active combat, while the oak wreath symbolizes strength and loyalty, according to information provided by DA. **AG**

WARFIGHTER

SOLDIERS TEST METTLE IN ARMY MILITARY POLICE COMPETITION

By Cadet John Bacon, 323rd Military Police Company

Three Soldiers from Toledo's 323rd Military Police Company tested their skills against their peers at the U.S. Army Military Police Corps' annual Warfighter Challenge competition last September at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo.

Teams consisting of one noncommissioned officer and two enlisted Soldiers (grades E-4 and below), from both active and reserve component units, competed in a six-day mentally and physically challenging battle for supremacy.

Team No. 57—composed of the 323rd's Sgt. Nathaniel Gallimore, Spc. Chet Engle and Spc. Mason Reich forged through 10 events that tested their minds, bodies and most of all, their wills to succeed.

On the competition's first day, Warfighter competitors were awakened at midnight to head out to a 7.3-mile orienteering (land navigation) course. Each team had to find five geographical points and answer two questions at each point. By mile four of the course, the MPs had already soaked their Battle Dress Uniforms with sweat due to the intense humidity and the 60-pound rucksacks, fully loaded to include a 25-pound sand bag for extra weight.

Just hours after finishing the nighttime course, the sun rose and so did another test. At this part of the contest, teams took a written exam, then moved to a timed rope rappelling course followed by a 50-meter timed Humvee push. Roughly an hour after Team 57 finished these tasks, they took on a 500-meter Physical Endurance Course (PECS Course) in which they jumped over walls, climbed ropes, ducked through tunnels and performed various other team exercises, to include a simulated patient litter carry through obstacles.

On the second day of the competition, warfighters were again awakened at midnight to compete further, after only four hours of sleep. The teams were tested in warrior tasks (common skills) with



ABOVE: The 323rd Military Police Company's SPC Mason Reich (from left), SPC Chet Engle and SGT Nathaniel Gallimore competed in a variety of competitive events (RIGHT, TOP AND BOTTOM) during the Army Warfighter Challenge.

hands-on challenges and tasks.

After all the teams had finished, they made their way to an elevated-altitude physical fitness test. It started with a 10-kilometer run/walk in Load Bearing Vest (LBV), Kevlar helmet and chemical protective mask while carrying a simulated M-16 rifle (rubber duck) through a mostly uphill course in the mountains of Fort Leonard Wood. The hike included two river crossings and a

READINESS

30-meter mud pit. When the team made it across the second river, they were given three minutes of rest and then proceeded to conduct a 2,000-pound ammunition carry. Warfighters had to carry 1 ton of

sand divided into 18 ammo containers across a 25-meter course, without letting any of the containers touch the ground. As soon as they were finished, Team 57 did elevated push-ups for two minutes, directly followed by elevated sit-ups for two minutes. After a short break, the warfighters hopped on buses and went to the weapons range. There, competitors zeroed their weapons and then ran 500 meters before firing M-4 machine guns from a standing unsupported position, then ran another 500 meters and fired again from the kneeling unsupported position. After that, the teams ran another 500 meters and shot their M-9 pistols from the standing unsupported position, only to run another 500 meters and shoot the M-9 from the kneeling unsupported position while wearing their protective masks. The final event for the day involved the Soldiers being blindfolded, then tasked with assembly and disassembly of the M-9 and M-4; they then removed their blindfolds to conduct assembly and disassembly of the MK-19 rifle.



On day three, competitors were given five hours of sleep before the final event—a 15-mile road march through the foothills of Fort Leonard Wood, again wearing full gear and a fully-loaded ruck sack. An unplanned added challenge was a pouring rain that began just prior to the start of the road march. Most teams made it throughout the

road march in less than five hours. While Team 57 did not finish among the top teams, the 323rd Soldiers who competed in the Warfighter Challenge gained valuable experience, tested their limits and learned what it takes to make it to the top for the 2006 competition. **SG**



SSG EDWIN CORTES / 323RD MP COMPANY

INFRASTRUCTURE

Maj. Gen. Gregory L. Wayt, Ohio adjutant general (from left); former Woodlawn Mayor Susan Upton Farley; current Woodlawn Mayor David Terrell; and U.S. Rep. Steve Chabot conduct a ceremonial ribbon-cutting Jan. 14 to mark the opening of the new Woodlawn Training and Community Center in suburban Cincinnati.



DOUBLE TAKE: Grand opening of two new facilities marks historic day for OHARNG

By Pfc. Ryan A. Cleary
196th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Jan. 14, 2006 proved to be a doubly historic day for the Ohio Army National Guard as it marked the grand openings of two new facilities constructed for Ohio's Citizen-Soldiers, and the communities which host them while they train each month.

Ohio National Guard leaders, as well as local, state and federal officials, were at public ceremonies to open readiness centers in Chillicothe and the Cincinnati suburb of Woodlawn.

In Chillicothe, Maj. Gen. Gregory L. Wayt, Ohio adjutant general, and Chillicothe Mayor Joseph Sulzer, along with other local officials, snipped the ceremonial ribbon with pride at the opening of the Chillicothe Readiness Center.

"This is a great facility, and congrats to the Ohio National Guard," Sulzer said. "It is an important part of our community."

Col. William R. Radford, state facilities management officer, said the facility was built specifically for the battalion. Radford indicated that the Chillicothe facility is a model for future Ohio National Guard readiness centers, which will be built with the needs of modern Army National Guard units in mind, and preferably

with 15-20 acres to expand on, he said.

"I think it's going to get us into the next century. And the way that the community is involved with us is outstanding," said Capt. Donald Westfall, commander of Alpha Company, 216th Engineer Battalion.

The newly constructed \$6.55 million, 32,000-square-foot facility features a library and learning center, multiple classrooms, administrative areas, full-service kitchen and fitness center with a state-of-the-art workout area.

Buildings for vehicle maintenance and Soldier barracks have been constructed for further use by the 216th and other government agencies.

Later that day, in the Cincinnati suburb of Woodlawn, Wayt and Mayor Raymond Terrell, along with other area officials and elected representatives, took part in a ribbon cutting to open the new Woodlawn Training and Community Center.

The innovative facility not only houses many recreational activities for members of the community, but also serves as home to the Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 216th Engineer (Combat Heavy) Battalion, and the Headquarters, A and B

Batteries for the 1st Battalion, 1-174th Air Defense Artillery Regiment.

"By combining our resources, we now have a 112,000-square-foot building to support both the community and Ohio's National Guard," Terrell said. "We're extremely excited about the opportunity to pull the community together, and it's been a wonderful relationship working with the community and the Ohio Army National Guard."

The \$13 million training and community center was funded by local, state and federal monies. The facility hosts the Village of Woodlawn administrative offices as well as five Ohio Army National Guard units, with ample vehicle storage, maintenance facilities, recruiting offices, five supply offices and classrooms, two gymnasiums, an exercise room, locker rooms and a full kitchen capable of supporting more than 700 Soldiers during a drill weekend.

At the end of the day, it was clear that the Ohio Army National Guard units and the communities which host them will benefit from these two premier, state-of-the-art facilities. **SG**

History gives way to progress

By Master Sgt. Lee Trompeter Burgy
555th Air Force Band

A thorny-branched, 62-foot tall Osage Orange tree once stood firm in the ground at Camp Sherman near Chillicothe. The site of a recently opened readiness center for A Company, 216th Engineer Battalion, the 150-year-old tree unfortunately had to be removed to make way for the new facility.

Prior to the tree being cut down in late 2004 so construction could progress, Ross County native and Korean War veteran Blain Richardson had been looking after the campus and facility for more than 35 years. What began for him as a part-time summer job (the post is closed in late fall and winter) became a labor of love.

"The Hedge apples of the Osage Orange trees are not poisonous and are native to states like Oklahoma and Texas," Richardson said in an interview prior to the tree's removal. "This (was) a male tree because only the female type trees are able to bear the fruit."

Following his enlistment as a cook in the Army from 1958 to 1960, he returned to the area and took a job as a highway patrol license examiner. Army National Guard Col. Kermit Patchen, an officer at

Camp Sherman, asked him to help out by mowing the lawn.

"I'm still helping out," Richardson said with a laugh at the time.

Richardson said it takes two people 16 hours per week to mow the entire complex. On hot summer days, he often eats his lunch under the shade of another prominent Maclura Pomifera (Osage Orange) that stands front and center to the campus' many trees.

Among the many special features of Camp Sherman, Richardson noted the majestic rolling hills that form a backdrop to the main campus.

"That is the inspiration for the Great Seal of the State of Ohio," he said.

Richardson said he also has enjoyed helping schedule rifle range and grounds visits, including one visit a few years ago by some of President Clinton's Secret Service agents, who "zeroed weapons in zero weather," he said. He advised them to return in the summer, when the massive Osage Orange tree would have been in full bloom.

"The wages aren't high but this work is relaxing and gratifying, as long as it doesn't interfere with my fishing time," he said. "I guess I will just keep helping out until they kick me out." **BG**



Camp Sherman employee Blain Richardson stands near an Osage Orange tree which subsequently had to be removed to make way for a new Ohio Army National Guard readiness center for the local Chillicothe engineer unit.

When two new Ohio Army National Guard facilities were unveiled to the public in January (see article on page 13), it capped a monumental 12-month period for ONG military construction, marked by the opening of four major facilities within the state overall.

BOWLING GREEN TRAINING AND COMMUNITY CENTER

■ **LOCATION:**
Bowling Green,
Wood County

■ **OPENED:**
August 2005

■ **COST:**
\$11.3 Million

■ **SIZE:**
82,082 square feet,
on 16.7 acres

■ **FEATURES:**
Two regulation-size
hardwood basketball courts; 4,300-square-foot fitness area; elevated running track; classroom space; commercial kitchen with banquet facilities for up to 500 people

■ **TENANTS:**
B Company, 1-148th Infantry; Wood County MRDD; City of Bowling Green



OHARNG FACILITIES MANAGEMENT OFFICE

COSHOCTON READINESS CENTER

■ **LOCATION:**
Coshocton,
Coshocton County

■ **OPENED:**
March 2005

■ **COST:**
\$3.9 Million

■ **SIZE:**
26,000 square feet,
on 17 acres

■ **FEATURES:**
State-of-the-art
maintenance bay
that allows Soldiers to work on vehicles in a fully
enclosed environment; recruiting office; classrooms; fitness room

■ **TENANT:**
Detachment 2, 1485th Transportation Company



OHARNG FACILITIES MANAGEMENT OFFICE

CHILLICOTHE READINESS CENTER

■ **LOCATION:**
Camp Sherman
(near Chillicothe),
Ross County

■ **OPENED:**
January 2006

■ **COST:**
\$6.55 Million

■ **SIZE:**
32,029 square feet

■ **FEATURES:**
Multiple classrooms; library and learning center; administrative offices; full-service kitchen; state-of-the-art fitness area

■ **TENANT:**
A Company, 216th Engineer Battalion



OHARNG FACILITIES MANAGEMENT OFFICE

WOODLAWN TRAINING AND COMMUNITY CENTER

■ **LOCATION:**
Woodlawn,
Hamilton County

■ **OPENED:**
January 2006

■ **COST:**
\$13 Million

■ **SIZE:**
112,000 square feet
on 17 acres

■ **FEATURES:**
Multiple classrooms; two gymnasiums with hardwood floors; administrative offices; vehicle storage and maintenance facilities; recruiting office; state-of-the-art fitness areas

■ **TENANTS:**
Headquarters Service Company (HSC), 216th Engineer Battalion; A, B, Headquarters and Headquarters Batteries, 1-174th Air Defense Artillery Battalion; Village of Woodlawn



PFC RYAN A. CLEARY / 196TH MPAD

THE WAR WITHIN

MILITARY

New programs provide help after the homecoming for Ohio's servicemembers and their families

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

During the Civil War, it was called "Soldier's heart" or "nostalgia." World War I through Vietnam, the condition by which servicemembers would exhibit irritability, depression, guilt and flashbacks upon returning was called "shell shock."

For many years, medical professionals debated the actual cause of these symptoms. Before long-term cases were studied, many clinicians believed that a traumatic event was not enough to cause these problems. Some suggested malingering or attributed the symptoms to pre-existing neurotic conditions.

It wasn't until the early 1980s that post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) became a fully recognized and diagnostic term.

In truth, PTSD is a new name for an age-old condition.

It is now accepted that war, by its very nature, creates severe psychological impact on people in very real and very lasting ways.

According to the American Psychiatric Association, PTSD can occur in people who have experienced or witnessed life-threatening events.

People who suffer from PTSD often relive the experience through flashbacks or nightmares. They are typically overwhelmed by memories and sensations of battle and may feel panicky, isolated, angry or depressed. "These symptoms are very real," said Col. Stephen C. Ulrich, Ohio National Guard state surgeon and a family doctor in New Lexington. "In some cases, these symptoms can be severe enough to have a significant impact on the servicemember's daily life."

Master Sgt. Crystal Cockerell, who deployed in February 2004 to Iraq as a food service specialist with the Ohio Army National Guard's 216th Engineer Battalion, knows the symptoms all too well. "I was prepared to deploy and thought once in theater, I would be assigned to a mess hall," said the 10-year veteran of active-duty before joining the National Guard.

However, in Iraq, many of the services provided to Soldiers are contracted out to private companies. That meant that Cockerell and other members of her section were tasked to perform their secondary missions of supporting convoy patrols. Those missions included traveling along some of the most dangerous stretches of highway on earth.

"We knew how dangerous it was because we saw burned-out trucks and the awful damage that other vehicles sustained," Cockerell said. "The missions were difficult but we did our jobs. I just could not understand why they kept trying to destroy all the good work the engineers were doing," added Cockerell with a bit of frustration in her voice. "We were there to help."

The 216th sustained heavy losses during their deployment; 27 members of the unit were wounded in action and three were killed, including Pfc. Sam Bowen, who was traveling in a convoy when his vehicle was struck by a rocket propelled grenade on July 7, 2004.

"When I heard that Sam was killed, it hit me very hard," Cockerell said. "We had become good friends during the deployment and would write to each other's spouses to let them know we were doing well and taking care of each other." Guilt, frustration and anger were just some of the emotions that Cockerell began to feel shortly thereafter.

As bad as things were for Cockerell, she could not imagine that things would get worse.

A month later, Cockerell was riding in a convoy of trucks along a road near Samarra, when it happened. "It was the loudest noise I have ever heard in my life," she said. "I remember a searing sensation all over my body and looking at the heat burning circles in the glass as the windshield melted." Cockerell's 2½-ton truck had been struck by an improvised explosive device (IED). Shrapnel from the explosion ripped through her legs and shards of bomb fragments and glass shredded her hands and face. "I just remember the faint sounds of people yelling and flames all around," she added

with a trembling voice.

After the attack Cockerell does not remember much, but accounts of the incident record her being transported to a field hospital where she received treatment for lacerations to her face, neck and legs. Although she could not walk for a while, she knew she was lucky to be alive.

Cockerell is one of the nearly 5,700 men and women who have cleared routes of IEDs, delivered supplies, patrolled sectors and provided medical support under life-threatening conditions. Since the Global War on Terrorism began, more than 50 units from all across Ohio have served in Operations Iraqi Freedom, Enduring Freedom and Joint Guardian. The men and women of the Ohio National Guard have answered that call to duty in record numbers and many of them have witnessed unspeakable traumatic events.

"People read or hear about the Global War on Terror and think that it is some sort of slogan or advertising campaign," said Command Sgt Maj. Verna Henderson, who deployed to Iraq with the 216th Engineer Battalion. "In reality, the Global War on Terror is just that...war. We ask young men and women to put themselves in harm's way. They are exposed to life-altering experiences and many of them are never the same after."

As soon as Cockerell was well enough to travel she was transported back to the United States for further medical treatment and rehabilitation.

"I was getting medical treatment for my physical injuries, but didn't think I needed to see someone about all the stuff that was going through my head," Cockerell said. "At the time I didn't know what was going on, I just knew that things were not right."

What Cockerell did not know was that her flashbacks, nightmares, feelings of isolation and irritability were all symptoms of PTSD. The traumatic effect that war has is not discriminating; men, and women, young and old alike can be affected by their experiences and develop PTSD. According to a study published in July 2004 in the New England Journal of Medicine, as many as one in five veterans will return from the war in Iraq with PTSD or related mental health conditions.

"In theater we could keep a watchful eye on our Soldiers. When one of our own was wounded or killed in action we tapped into available resources such as combat stress teams and chaplains to help Soldiers deal with their grief," Henderson said. "But Soldiers are reluctant to seek mental health treatment because of the stigma associated with it."

Once Soldiers return home, they must decide whether or

not to seek the services of mental health professionals. In Cockerell's case her deteriorating home and work life were the catalyst for seeking assistance. Cockerell recalled, "Coworkers said I was different; my kids noticed a change; and my husband said I was distant. It was a very confusing time for me."

After getting past the stigma, Cockerell began working with a local mental health provider to confront her feelings of remorse, guilt and isolation. "I have finally accepted that I have PTSD and, although I don't think I will ever be the same, I am better-equipped to deal with my feelings," she said. "People need to understand that it is OK to get help."

For Ohio's returning servicemembers, that help is available. "We recognize that not just Ohio National Guard Soldiers, but any servicemember exposed to war is forever changed," said Maj. Gen. Gregory L. Wayt, Ohio adjutant general. To address the specific needs of servicemembers, the Ohio National Guard has forged partnerships with agencies like the Ohio Department of Mental Health, Ohio Department of Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services, veterans centers, Ohio Association of County Behavioral Health Authorities and Ohio Council of Behavioral Healthcare Providers.

Ohio's TRICARE-approved behavioral health providers along with professionals in the state's behavioral healthcare system are trained to treat military personnel returning from combat. "We participated in training workshops with agencies who want to provide assistance," Wayt said. "We helped them examine the in-depth issues that affect returning servicemembers."

A look at the numbers reveals an alarming fact. According to a recent study, researchers have found that nearly two-thirds of Iraq veterans who "screened positive" for PTSD and other psychiatric disorders do not seek treatment.

"I urge anyone who may be feeling a bit different, to get past the stigma, call someone and get some help. Your life may depend on it," Cockerell said. **AG**

IMPORTANT RESOURCES

If you or a servicemember you know is having difficulty readjusting to daily life or may be exhibiting symptoms of PTSD, please contact one of the agencies listed below.

Ohio VA Medical Facilities:

Brecksville.....440-526-3030
Chillicothe.....740-773-1141
Cincinnati.....513-861-3100
Columbus.....614-257-5200
Dayton.....937-268-6511
Toledo.....419-259-2000
Wade Park.....216-791-3800

VA Benefits.....1-800-827-1000

VA Tele-Nurse (Ohio).....1-888-838-6446

Military One Source.....1-800-655-4545

VA Center Readjustment Counseling Service.....513-763-3500

Ohio Resource Network (ORN) Referral Helpline for Substance Abuse Services.....1-800-788-7254 (option 2)
Available 24 Hours/Day, 7 Days/Week

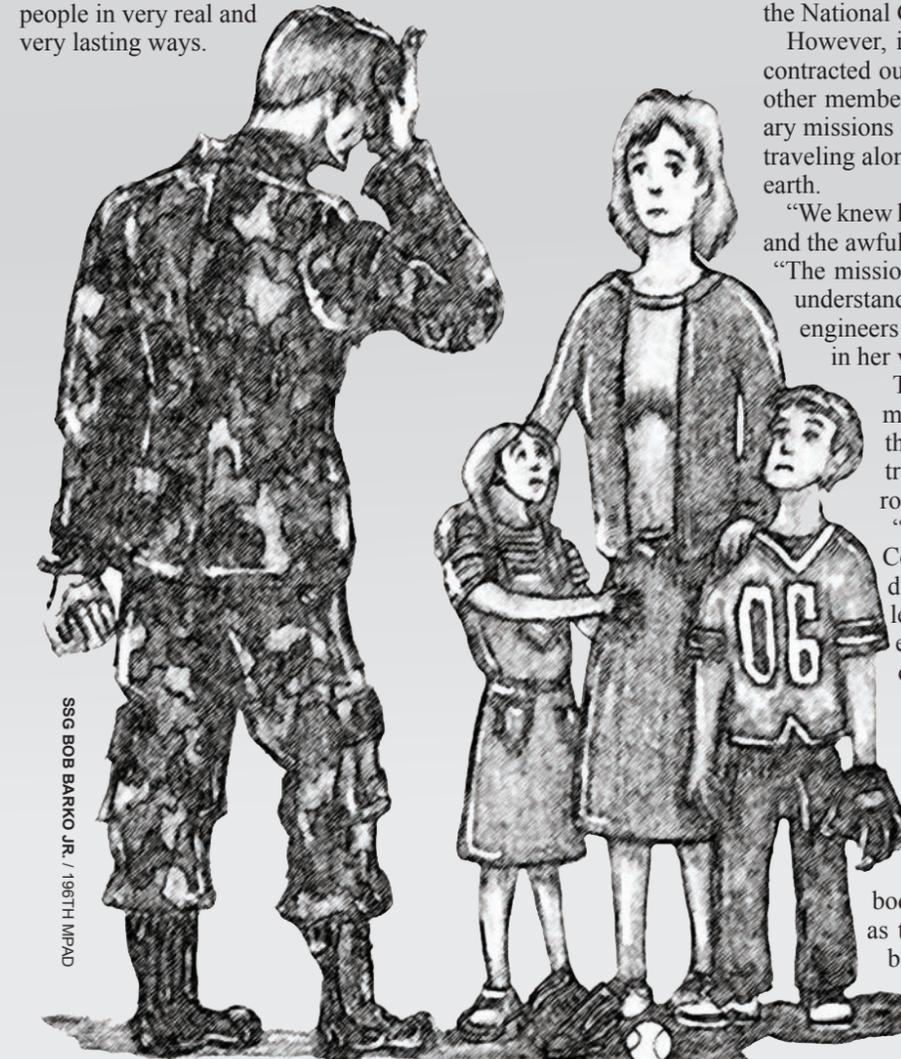
State of Ohio Mental Health Referral Helpline.....1-877-275-6364
(1-877-ASK-ODMIH) Available M-F, 9 am to 4pm

Substance Abuse Treatment Facility Locator.....<http://www.findtreatment.samhsa.gov/facilitylocator.doc.htm>

Mental Health Facilities Locator.....<http://www.mentalhealth.org/databases/>

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) Referral Helplines
.....1-800-662-HELP (4357)
.....1-800-662-9832 (Spanish)
.....1-800-228-0427 (TDD)
Available 24 Hours/Day, 7 Days/Week

Sources: Ohio National Guard; Department of Veterans Affairs; Ohio Department of Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services; and Ohio Department of Mental Health



SSG BOB BARKO JR. / 196TH MPAD

After surviving an IED attack while deployed to Iraq, Ohio Army National GuardMSG Crystal Cockerell (right) benefited from programs established to help servicemembers transition back to everyday life after returning home.



1LT CHARLES L. WILKINS III / 216TH ENGINEER BATTALION

G-RAP

Recruiting referral program pays big dividends for enterprising Soldiers, Airmen



TODD CRAMER / ADJ. GEN. DEPT.

PV2 Matthew Maddux (second from left), was the first Ohio National Guard Soldier to get \$2,000 through the Guard Recruiting Assistance Program (G-RAP). MG Gregory L. Wayt (left), Ohio adjutant general, and BG Matt Kambic (right), assistant adjutant general for Army, present a ceremonial check to Maddux to recognize him as Ohio's first successful recruiting assistant. Also pictured is recruiter SGT Sonny Hernandez (center) and Maddux's enlistee, PV1 Marc Smurr (fourth from left).

“Achieving Strength from Within” is the core principle behind the National Guard’s new nationwide recruiting initiative, formally known as the Guard Recruiting Assistance Program, or G-RAP.

Contracted by Docupak, Inc., G-RAP is a voluntary program designed for National Guard Soldiers and Airmen who wish to serve as part-time recruiter assistants (RAs). Docupak facilitates the program for the National Guard and verifies RA applicants. Once hired, the RAs cultivate quality potential Guardmembers from within their own communities.

The program, initially available only to Ohio Army National Guardmembers, offers a \$2,000 incentive to those who actively recruit new servicemembers.

The Army Guard’s first official enlistment under the G-RAP initiative was generated

by Pvt. Matthew Maddux, a member of the 324th Military Police Company in Middletown. Maddux helped to recruit Pvt. Marc Smurr into the unit. For his efforts, Maddux received a check for \$1,000 when Smurr enlisted, and another \$1,000 when Smurr shipped off to Initial Entry Training (IET).

STRENGTH MAINTENANCE

Prior to leaving for IET, Smurr secured two G-RAP enlistments of his own, and will potentially earn up to \$4,000 when they ship to IET.

Since the initiative kicked off in December 2005, more than 2,100 Ohio Army National Guardmembers have registered and been trained as G-RAP recruiters. They have produced more than 650 leads and helped to enlist more than 90 Soldiers.

The Army Guard’s success with the program attracted the attention of Ohio Air National Guard officials, who adopted the program in early April. They also are showing success with the program, and since early April, have recruited 383 RAs, who have generated 86 leads and enlisted eight new Airmen.

Maj. Todd Audet, from the Port Clinton-based 200th Red Horse Squadron, enlisted the first new Airman through G-RAP on April 28. Senior Airman Ashley Schmidt, from the Toledo-based 180th Fighter Wing, has already enlisted two new Airmen through the program.

Chief Master Sgt. Wes Smith, recruiting and retention superintendent for the Ohio Air National Guard, explained the Air Guard’s interest in the program.

“The numbers had been dropping for

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the National Guard as a whole,” Smith said. “We saw how successful the program was for the Army and thought we’d try it out. So far, it’s been working. I think it’s going to be a real advantage for the Air National Guard.”

The G-RAP program operates under a premise borrowed from corporate America, which holds that current employees make the best ambassadors—especially when they are rewarded financially.

“I think \$1,000 to \$2,000 is a small and well-deserved price to pay to our great Soldiers who spend their time and energy to help us gain quality new members,” said Brig. Gen. Matthew L. Kambic, Ohio’s assistant adjutant general for Army. “Who knows more about the qualities and traits necessary to join the fold than the Soldiers in all of our diverse units around the State.”

G-RAP is only one of several initiatives responsible for a major turnaround in recruiting efforts.

With the nation’s seventh largest Army National Guard, Ohio is currently 10,500 members strong and ranks fifth in recruiting nationwide.

“The Ohio Army National Guard is over 100 percent of its authorized strength,” Kambic said. “People are signing up in record numbers.”

Ohio’s recruiting numbers reflect a favorable nationwide trend in recruiting and retention. According to the National Guard Bureau figures for April, Ohio Army and Air Guard end strength were 96.8 percent and 98.5 percent respectively. Retention figures for Army and Air Guard were 110.2 percent and 98 percent respectively.

“We’ve been able to sustain a tremendous amount of momentum going into 2006,” Kambic said. “In (Fiscal Year) 2005 we recruited over 1,500 Soldiers. In 2006, we’re nearly halfway there.”

Since Oct. 1, 2005, the Ohio Army Guard has recruited more than 660 new Soldiers and the Air Guard has recruited more than 320 new Airmen. With current enlistment bonuses of up to \$15,000 for Air Guard and \$20,000 for Army Guard enlistments, along with the Ohio National Guard Scholarship Program which pays 100 percent tuition at state-sponsored universities, the trend is expected to continue.

“G-RAP is just another great tool that we have to encourage our Soldiers to take a greater personal interest in bringing solid, potential candidates into the Ohio Army National Guard,” Kambic said. “You’ve heard the saying that every Soldier, re-



COURTESY PHOTO

SrA Robert Clubbs (second from right) received an first Ohio Air National Guard G-RAP award incentive check for helping to recruit prior service enlistee Charles Wiley (third from left), pictured with his family. Also pictured is Col Dewey Perkins, 200th RED HORSE Squadron commander.

ardless of their MOS (military occupational specialty) is a rifleman. Well, we also say that every Soldier has a job of being a recruiter as well. Everywhere they go and whatever civic groups or professional organizations they are part of, there is a potential to talk about the Ohio National Guard and invite good people to join our ranks.” **8G**

—Sgt. Kim Snow, 196th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment and Steve Toth, Adjutant General’s Department Public Affairs.

G-RAP helps launch successful year for Army, Air recruiters

The shining stars of Ohio Army and Air National Guard recruiting (figures as of May 31, 2006):

- Ohio Army National Guard recruiter Sgt. Sonny Hernandez from Dayton recruiting is ranked second in the nation and is currently vying for the Army National Guard’s top spot. Hernandez reached 247 percent of his yearly goal of 23, enlisting 57 new recruits as of May 31, 2006. He is on pace to reach his personal goal of at least 80 new recruits for the year.
- OHARNG recruiter Staff Sgt. Kevin Hollenbacher from Toledo recruiting reached 160 percent of his yearly goal of 15, with 24 new recruits as of May 31.
- OHARNG recruiter Staff Sgt. James Miller from Southeast recruiting reached 144 percent of his yearly goal of 16, with 23 new recruits as of May 31.
- Ohio Air National Guard recruiter Master Sgt. Craig Conner from Springfield recruiting enlisted 44 new Airmen, reaching 81 percent of his yearly goal with four months remaining in the fiscal year.
- OHANG recruiter Tech. Sgt. Lawrence Wright from Columbus recruiting enlisted 36 new Airmen, reaching 75 percent of his goal with four months remaining in the fiscal year.
- OHANG recruiter Tech. Sgt. Matthew Michael from Toledo recruiting enlisted 31 new Airmen, reaching 86 percent of his goal with four months remaining in the fiscal year. —Compiled by Sgt. Kim Snow, 196th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment



TODD CRAMER / ADJ. GEN. DEPT.

A delegation of Ohio Army National Guard leadership displays awards received at a May 4 ceremony at the Pentagon, as a Special Category winner (National Guard) in the 2006 Army Communities of Excellence competition. The win netted \$750,000 from the Army.

OHARNG again earns top ACOE honor

The Ohio Army National Guard (OHARNG) was selected by the Department of the Army as a Fiscal Year 2006 Army Communities of Excellence (ACOE) Special Category winner. The ACOE award recognizes the OHARNG's effort in improving overall performance and capabilities.

Maj. Gen. Gregory L. Wayt, Ohio adjutant general and Brig. Gen. Matthew L. Kambic, assistant adjutant general for Army, accepted the award from Army Chief of Staff General Peter Schoomaker at a May 4 ceremony at the Pentagon to recognize winners in the competition.

"We are extremely proud of this accomplishment," Wayt said. "It recognizes years of hard work and effort by every Soldier in the OHARNG and our goal of maintaining an effective, quality organization."

In addition to the award, the Ohio Army National Guard received \$750,000 to be used toward improving the quality of life of OHARNG

employees and Soldiers. The Ohio Army National Guard successfully competed against 27 other states and installations to win the Special Category, a separate division to allow the National Guard to compete in the ACOE.

The ACOE Program uses the Army Performance Improvement Criteria (APIC) as the basis for evaluation in the ACOE awards competition. The APIC provides a framework for in-depth organizational assessment and measurement for continuous improvement efforts and is closely aligned with the Malcom Baldrige National Quality Award Criteria. The criteria include several modifications to reflect the military environment.

"This recognition shows that

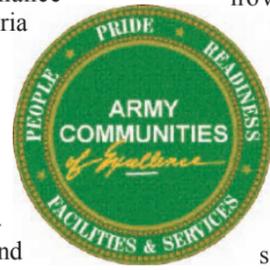
we are not only listening to our Soldiers, but we're taking their suggestions on how to run this organization and putting them into action," Kambic said.

The OHARNG's ACOE submission was evaluated by a team of APIC-certified examiners. The submission explains how the OHARNG functions and presents the results achieved using recognized business practices. The APIC examiners evaluated and scored the submission in the seven APIC Categories (leadership; strategic planning; customer focus; measurement, analysis and knowledge management; human resources; process management; and business results).

Based upon the examiners' recommendation and review

of Ohio Army National Guard practices, Ohio was selected for a site visit. During the three-day visit, a team of examiners investigated various items in the state's submission and verified the accuracy of the state's self-assessment. Examiners then submitted the results to a board of senior examiners who validated the entire process and made the final award determination.

The OHARNG has submitted an ACOE self-assessment annually since 2002 and has received numerous awards including the National Guard Bureau (NGB) "Rookie of the Year" in 2002. The organization was also recognized as the NGB's overall winner in 2003, 2004 and 2006. In 2005, the organization was awarded First Place Gold Division as the NGB's entrant to compete in the Department of the Army competition. The OHARNG was awarded the Department of the Army's Special Category winner in 2003 and 2006.—Adjutant General's Department Public Affairs **AG**



Ohio Air National Guard units mark many organizational successes stateside, overseas

The following is a round-up from various Ohio Air National Guard units of significant achievements during the past 12 months.

178th Fighter Wing

Ohio Gov. Bob Taft May 27 presented the Springfield-based 178th Fighter Wing the Outstanding Unit Award (OUA) for exceptionally meritorious service from Jul. 15, 2003 through Jul. 14, 2005.

"This is an outstanding achievement for the members of this wing," said 178th FW commander Col. Richard Lohnes. "This award acknowledges the members for all their hard work, outstanding performance, continuous excellence in production and dedication to the mission."

Over the two-year period, the 178th trained 82 F-16 pilots in six different courses, supported 170 individual mobilizations, flew more missions than any other like unit during the period with no accidents and successfully completed its first Air Education and Training Command Operational Readiness Inspection. Awarded for exceptionally meritorious service that clearly sets the unit apart from similar units, the unit last received the award in 1978.

123rd Air Control Squadron

An inspection team from the Air Combat Command (ACC) conducted a Unit Compliance Inspection (UCI) of the 123rd Air Control Squadron in April 2006. One of 14 like organizations to be rated, the 123rd met or exceeded standards in more than 90 inspected areas, and was only the second to complete the inspection and be found in full compliance.

"Quite simply, the results of this inspection are the product of a lot of hard work," said Capt. Jeff Wyatt, chief of maintenance. "If I had to pinpoint why the squadron did so well, it would have to be persistence. Nothing can take the place of persistence."

Conducted once every four years, the UCI assesses a unit's compliance with and adherence to public law as well as Air Force, Air National Guard, Department of Defense and ACC policies and directives.

179th Airlift Wing

The Air Mobility Command Inspector General in March 2006 awarded the 179th Airlift Wing an "excellent" rating during the unit's Operational Readiness Inspection (ORI).

The ORI came on the heels of a two-year activation supporting Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom, in which the unit logged more than 5,000 hours of accident-free



MSGT CLIFFORD FULTON / 178TH FIGHTER WING

SSgt Dallas Root (third from left), a 178th Fighter Wing member and Ohio State Highway Patrolman, receives the Ohio Cross from Gov. Bob Taft (fourth from left), as Col. Paul McClelland (from left), OHSP commander, MG Gregory L. Wayt, Ohio adjutant general, and Col Richard Lohnes, 178th FW commander, look on. See article on page 27.

flying in Iraq and Afghanistan.

"The Inspector General stated that it was the best unit seen in over two years including active duty and reserves," said wing commander Col. Mark Stephens. "This is no small feat."

The 179th was recently removed from the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) list and placed in an enclave status, allowing the base to remain open and eligible for future flying missions. Stephens attributed the removal to strong community support and the determination of wing and state leadership.

The unit supported Task Force Buckeye following Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, flying more than 291 tons of cargo, and supplied clergy, medical, aerial port, civil engineering and public affairs support in Mississippi and Louisiana.

121st Air Refueling Wing

From January through April 2006, 85 Airmen from the 121st volunteered for deployments up to 120 days in support of Operations Iraqi Freedom, Enduring Freedom and other contingencies in locations all over the world including Iraq, Kuwait, Afghanistan, Kyrgyzstan, Diego Garcia, Europe and South America.

Nearly 250 Airmen from the 121st Air Refueling Wing were involved in relief efforts following Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Personnel from the 121st also worked

with American Red Cross, FEMA and Columbus Regional Airport Authority during Operation Provide Comfort, to prepare for the arrival and care of displaced hurricane victims.

180th Fighter Wing

The 180th Fighter Wing deployed more than 300 Airmen to southwest Asia with Aerospace Expeditionary Forces (AEF) from Aug. 1 through Sept. 30, 2005, providing aerial support throughout the Central Command Region. They logged 2,600 hours with 370 sorties.

Throughout 2005, the wing deployed additional personnel to support operations in Germany, Israel, Kuwait, United Arab Emirates and Iraq, as well as hurricane relief operations on the U.S. Gulf Coast.

200th RED HORSE Squadron

The 200th Rapid Engineer Deployable Heavy Operations Repair Squadron Engineers (RED HORSE) was awarded the Meritorious Unit Award for its 2005 deployment to Iraq, where they completed more than \$14 million in construction projects.

The first Air National Guard unit mobilized to work directly for the Army, from January through July 2005, the 200th became the first RED HORSE Squadron to complete Army Power Platform Training, designed to teach Army convoy and weapons tactics.

—Compiled by Sgt. Kim Snow, 196th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment **AG**

GETTING A RUNNING HEAD START

Recruit Sustainment Program gives new Ohio Army National Guard recruits an advantage over their counterparts

PV1 Michael T. Patterson, of Magnolia, participates in small unit tactics training at a Recruit Sustainment Program drill assembly last fall at the North Canton Armory.

By Sgt. Kimberly Snow
196th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Experience. College money. Job training. Pride. Their reasons for enlisting are as diverse as the recruits themselves. What they hold in common is a “leg-up” over their fellow future basic trainees from other states.

More than 50 new recruits gathered last November at the North Canton Armory for their one-weekend-a-month drill assembly. But instead of reporting to their new units, they reported to their recruiters.

The troops are participating in the recently restructured Recruit Sustainment Program (RSP), a new take on an old idea.

STRENGTH MAINTENANCE

Capt. Robert H. Paley administers the program, which helps integrate recruits into their new role as Soldiers and prepare them for Army basic combat training, now known formally as initial entry training (IET). His enthusiasm for the program is evident in the smile he wears as he passionately talks about where the program has been and where it is going.

“We’re really excited about (the program),” he said. “Our goal is to make it the benchmark program in the country. That’s a lofty goal, but I think we can be the best in the nation.”

Although the RSP has been around in concept—by names such as “pre-basic”—for many years, recent innovations and an active interest on the part of Ohio National Guard leadership have taken the program to a whole new level, Paley said.

The recently restructured program sees the recruits through three phases.

In red phase—indoctrination—newly enlisted troops report to the RSP for their first drill. They receive introductory briefings and attend classes on Army values, personal finance and military customs and courtesies.

Recruits enter white phase during their second drill assembly. The longest phase, the troops continue to receive classroom instruction and hands-on training in basic Soldiering skills.

In blue phase, recruits attend one final drill assembly before shipping out. They go to Columbus with their recruiters to meet with the RSP battalion staff and receive a physical fitness assessment and overall evaluation to ensure they’re ready to report for IET.

Pvt. 1st Class Brad A. Shaffer of Canton, a split-option Soldier assigned to D Company, 1-148th Infantry, participated in the RSP program. Shaffer graduated from basic training in August 2005 and is scheduled for the infantry advanced individual training (AIT) course in July at Fort Benning, Ga., where Shaffer will be trained in his chosen military occupational specialty (MOS).

Although Shaffer said he’s glad he’ll never have to repeat basic training, RSP prepared him for what to expect. He said the emphasis on teamwork and leadership was particularly helpful.

“I knew more than anyone in basic training,” Shaffer said. “It taught me everything—claymores (mines), map reading, throwing grenades, squad movements, reaction to flares, M-16s (rifles). Some of the other Soldiers went

SFC James Youngdahl (right) calls cadence as he marches new Ohio Army National Guard recruits from the Recruit Sustainment Program back in from a one-mile run during drill assembly at the North Canton Armory.



through (an RSP) too, but you could tell which programs were better than others.”

Prior to recent improvements in the RSP, training pipeline losses—a statistic that tracks recruits from signing to actually shipping—ran as high as 40 percent, meaning close to half of total Ohio Army National Guard recruits would “drop out” or be dropped for various reasons even before making it to basic training. The losses were tough on recruiters who had to cover the same ground twice, Paley said.

Since May 2005, the attrition rate has decreased to about 10 percent, exceeding all expectations and causing a lot of excitement. It also saves the Army money, at a time when resources need to be utilized prudently.

Paley attributes the turnaround to the hard work and determination of the entire recruiting team and particularly, to the vision and innovation of Lt. Col. Jerry Rees, head of the OHARNG Recruiting Command.

“It’s his baby,” Paley said with a laugh. “I’m just babysitting.”

The most crucial change in the RSP has been to put the program completely in the hands of the recruiters, who have a vested

interest in seeing the recruits through the process, Paley said.

Gone are the days where new troops see their recruiter only as long as it takes to enlist them and send them to their unit. In fact, new troops are now assigned to the recruiting command and do not report to their units until they return from initial entry training.

Individual recruiters act as squad leaders to their new recruits, preparing them both mentally and physically for the challenges they will soon face.

This day, training began with a modified Army Physical Fitness Test, called the APFT for short.

“Come on, guys!” shouted Sgt. 1st Class James Youngdahl. “I just had a private do 74 push-ups in one minute! All this excitement and we still have sit-ups to do. Yeah! Alright troops!”

The recruits, in varying levels of physical fitness, urged one another on and responded to Youngdahl’s enthusiasm by clapping their hands and shouting encouragement to their fellow recruits. The goal of the morning’s test was to diagnose and make recruits aware of their own fitness levels and to familiarize them with Army physical training, Youngdahl said.

Back in the classroom, Sgt. 1st Class Terry Carpenter began by asking the new recruits why they enlisted.

“For the job training and experience,” replied one recruit.

“College money,” another simply stated.

“I enlisted because coming here filled me with a sense of pride,” said another. **86**



SFC Terry L. Carpenter delivers an initial counseling to recruits reporting for their first drill assembly with the Recruit Sustainment Program at the North Canton Armory.



SPC HUGH MARTIN / HHC, 1-107TH ARMOR

CPL Brian Speer (standing), of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1-107th Armor, instructs fellow unit member PFC Stephen Sommers at the Stow Armory before the unit conducted range fire at Camp Perry.

Armor Soldiers perform weapons qualification on shores of Lake Erie

CAMP PERRY—They arrived at the armory around 5 a.m., well before dawn. After a quick formation and roll call, the Soldiers of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1-107th Armor loaded onto buses and headed to Camp Perry near Port Clinton.

While at Camp Perry during the sunny, but chilly weekend last November, the Soldiers conducted Individual Weapons Qualification (IWQ) along with other training. From about 8 a.m. until dusk, shots could be heard from the M-16 rifle range. Soldiers shot at pop-up targets from the prone, unsupported position and prone, supported position from the foxhole. A few of the tankers in the company shot at the pistol range. Here, they fired at pop up targets ranging from 10 to 25 meters.

The Soldiers also utilized the computerized Engagement Skills Trainer, or EST. While on this virtual firing range, they conducted night fire and firing while wearing a protective mask. Along with the pistol and rifle ranges, some Soldiers participated in the shotgun range and a practice range for the M-203 grenade launcher.

After the long day on Saturday, Soldiers again rose at 5 a.m. on Sunday morning for PT (physical training). For most Soldiers, this was their first training weekend at Camp Perry since returning from Iraq. **SPC HUGH MARTIN / HHC 1-107TH ARMOR**

Workshop keeps unit representatives updated on important EO issues

RICKENBACKER AIR NATIONAL GUARD BASE, Ohio—The 121st Air Refueling Wing was the setting for the Equal Opportunity Representative (EOR) Training Workshop conducted by

the Ohio Army National Guard Personnel Directorate, Equal Opportunity Branch.

During the two-day event, conducted April 22-23, about 85 Soldiers were briefed on topics encompassing fraternization, sexual harassment and assault, ethnic observations, diversity, religious accommodation, and EO laws and regulations.

“The classes teach Soldiers to become EO representatives,” said Sgt. Maj. Atriel Henderson, state equal opportunity specialist for the Army and Air National Guard. “They become the eyes and ears for the commander and the first line of defense for any EO issues.”

Throughout the weekend, the group participated in role-playing exercises and discussed EO policies and procedures to solve the scenario.

“The workshop has given me the tools to handle real-life EO issues, especially since I have never been involved in any,” said Sgt. Al Huerta, a medical sergeant with Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 2-107th Cavalry.

While registering, each Soldier was given a binder containing the slides of all the presentations, list of EO publications and regulations, EO forms, case studies and the contact information for the OHARNG Equal Opportunity advisors.

“Ohio is one of the top states in addressing and preventing EO complaints,” said Lt. Col. Edward Moore, state equal opportunity officer. “This type of education and training is key to unit cohesion, readiness and the success of every mission.” **SFC NANCY MCMILLAN / 196TH MOBILE PUBLIC AFFAIRS DETACHMENT**

Viale Memorial Mess again draws infantrymen, friends from all parts

LIMA—The 1st Battalion, 148th Infantry Regiment, Ohio Army National Guard, held its annual Viale Memorial Mess March 18 at the Holiday Inn here. One hundred and sixty people attended the event, held in honor of 2nd Lt. Robert M. Viale, who received the Medal of Honor during World War II as a member of Company K, 148th Infantry Regiment.

Brig. Gen. Jack E. Lee, commanding general, 73rd Troop Command, was the keynote speaker for the evening. Lee enlisted in the 1st Battalion, 148th Infantry Regiment in 1968 and was its commander from 1994 to 1997. Past 37th Brigade Combat Team commander, Col. James Green, and current 37th BCT commander, Lt. Col. Richard Curry, as well as the 1-148th commander, Major Douglas Morrow, also made remarks.

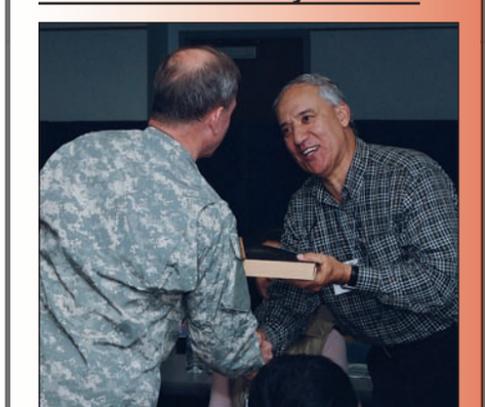
Lee presented two Soldiers with the Order of St. Maurice Award for distinguished service to the infantry community. The award, offered by the National Infantry Association, was presented to retired Col. Dan Snyder and 1st Sgt. Rodney G. Rose, a member of the Xenia based Company A, 1st Battalion, 148th Infantry Regiment. Snyder served as commander of the 1st Battalion, 148th Infantry Regiment and the 1st Battalion, 166th Infantry Regiment in the 1980s as well as various positions in the 73rd Separate Infantry Brigade.

Rose has served in the Ohio National Guard since 1983 and has been the first sergeant at Company A since 2003, recently serving in Kosovo.

In addition, five Soldiers were recognized for their recent service in support of Hurricane Katrina relief. The Army Commendation Medal was awarded to Capt. Craig Brunner, commander, Company E, 1st Battalion, 148th Infantry Regiment, Urbana; Capt. Christopher Call, commander, Company B, 1st Battalion, 148th Infantry Regiment, Bowling Green; 1st Sgt. Gregory Durenberger, first sergeant, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 148th Infantry Regiment, Lima; and 1st Lt. Eric Pugh of Venedocia, support platoon leader, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 148th Infantry Regiment, Lima.

The Ohio Commendation Medal was also presented to Pvt. 1st Class Andrew Mertz, assistant gunner, Company E, 1st Battalion, 148th Infantry Regiment. **SSG JOSHUA MANN / JFHQ-OHIO**

WEB PEEK: A friendly welcome



STEVE TOTH / ADJ. GEN. DEPT. PUBLIC AFFAIRS

MG Gregory L. Wayt (left), Ohio adjutant general, presents a gift to one of the U.S. Department of State Foreign Service Nationals who visited the Adjutant General's Department this spring as part of an Ohio government tour. For more on the visit, log onto www.ohionationalguard.com.

UPAR Conference schools Soldiers in how to ply public affairs craft

COLUMBUS—Nearly 100 Soldiers representing most of the state's National Guard units gathered at the Defense Finance and Accounting Service Center (DFAS) March 11-12 for the 2006 Unit Public Affairs Representative (UPAR) Conference. Soldiers from the Columbus-based 196th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment taught classes on media relations and media escort, basic photography and videography, story writing and other topics aimed at schooling unit representatives in basic public affairs techniques.

“The conference is important to give the UPARs some of the basic skills necessary to convey the stories and accomplishments of the Ohio National Guard,” said Capt. Marshall Jackson, 196th commander. “Telling our stories helps to gain the trust and cooperation of our communities.”

As more and more National Guard units prepare for and return from deployments throughout the world, a strong foundation in public affairs is more important than ever before.

Brig. Gen. Matthew L. Kambic, Ohio assistant adjutant general for Army, stressed the importance of public affairs at the unit level, referring to the UPAR as a combat multiplier.

“To establish and maintain the goodwill and public acceptance essential for your unit to be combat ready and succeed, you have to exercise an element of public affairs,” he said. **PFC RYAN A. CLEARY / 196TH MOBILE PUBLIC AFFAIRS DETACHMENT**

Pistol matches at Camp Sherman draw out best marksmen in Midwest

CHILLICOTHE—The fog begins to lift over the pistol ranges at Camp Sherman as the 83 competitors make their way from their barracks to the firing lines.

It is the second day of this regional and state pistol competition, with Army and Air National Guard teams from Ohio, Michigan, Indiana and Illinois participating in the events.

“Indiana is the host state for the regional

match,” said Staff Sgt. Jane Friend, an NCO with the Ohio Army National Guard Small Arms Readiness Training (SART) team, which hosted the state matches. Indiana also provided personnel and support for the range.

Four of the six states in the region participated in the event, Friend said, adding that Wisconsin and Minnesota did not compete.

Unlike the individual events of the first day, the Gen. George S. Patton Jr. Combat Pistol Match is a team event where strategy is of the utmost importance, according to Lt. Col. Michael K. Clites, a National Guard Marksmanship Training Unit officer and distinguished pistol marksman from the Arkansas Air National Guard.

In this event, each team must complete a two-mile run in less than 25 minutes, rest for three minutes once the last team member has finished the run, then at a distance of 50 yards get a minimum of seven hits and at 25 yards get six hits, Clites said.

The teams also competed in the Falling Plates match, where at distances of 25 to 50 yards, the team members rush to the line, secure their weapon and a magazine, load and fire until the last of six metal plates is knocked down. The team to knock all its plates down in the shortest time wins. In the event of a tie, remaining rounds are counted to determine the winner.

Aside from being fun for the competitors, the competition enhances combat survivability, said Sgt. Maj. Todd Friend of Joint Force Headquarters. Because of the presence of both Army and Air Guardmembers, it also gives both branches a chance to learn from each other.

In the course of the two-day competition, more than 27,000 rounds were spent. A listing of Ohio winners follow.

State Command Chief Master Sgt. Christopher Muncy match winners were: first place, Capt. Michael A. Hrynciw III, 200th RED HORSE Squadron; second place, Sgt. Benjamin D. Wenger, E Company, 1-148th Infantry; third place, Sgt 1st Class Jeffrey Greene, 838th Military Police Company.

State Command Sgt. Maj. William Gilliam Match winners were: first place, Hryn-



CDT ZACHARY R. FEHRMAN / 196TH MPAD

First Lt. Bret A. Gould, captain of the Illinois National Guard team, oils the slide on his pistol before the Gen. George S. Patton Combat Pistol Team Match at Camp Sherman.

ciw; second place, 1st Lt. Louis E. Longhenry, Detachment 2, 38th Infantry Division; third place, Sgt. 1st Class Sharon L. Whitescarver, 135th MP Company.

Greene won the Chief of Staff, Col. Alfred C. Faber Match; Whitescarver garnered the Maj. Gen. Gregory L. Wayt Top Gun Award.

The Maj. Gen. “A. J.” Feucht Match winner was the 220th Engineering Installation Squadron team, which consisted of Tech Sgt. Jeffery Hooper, Master Sgt. Matthew Eynen, Sgt. Joshua Benson and Tech. Sgt. Darrin White; second place went to the 200th RED HORSE team of Hrynciw, Capt. Steven Parsons, Staff Sgt. Gregory Finding and Staff. Sgt. Edwin Nagel; and placing third was the team from E Company, 1-148th Infantry, which was manned by Wenger, Sgt. Jeffery Brinley, Sgt. Eric Doerznerbacher and Sgt. Peter Swebilius.

The Gen. George S. Patton Jr. Team Match winners were: “The Deadeyes” from 1486th Transportation Company, with Sgt. 1st Class Richard A. Bartlett, Staff Sgt. Thomas Butler, Staff Sgt. Daniel Studer and Sgt. 1st Class Rick Gruver in first place; runner-up honors went to 135th MP Company team of Whitescarver, Staff Sgt. Lee F. Oliver, Spc. Richard L. English and Pvt. 1st Class Cedric C. Pompey; finishing third was the 200th RHS team of Hrynciw, Parsons, Finding and Nagel.

For more information on future competitions, contact Staff Sgt. Jane Friend, of the Ohio National Guard SART team, at jane.friend@us.army.mil. Air Guardmembers should contact Master Sgt. David Krutsch at david.krutsch@ohmans.af.mil. To watch a broadcast news piece on the state matches, long onto www.ohionationalguard.com. **CDT ZACHARY R. FEHRMAN / 196TH MOBILE PUBLIC AFFAIRS DETACHMENT**



TODD CRAMER / ADJ. GEN. DEPT.

The Ohio State University Athletics Director Gene Smith (left) receives an eagle statuette from Maj Gen Harry "A.J." Feucht, Ohio assistant adjutant general for Air, to commemorate Smith's speech as part of African-American History Month.

OSU's Smith speaks to Ohio National Guard on importance of teamwork

COLUMBUS—As Gene Smith will tell you, he has had the opportunity to be "the first African-American (insert achievement here)" for quite a few things.

"I've had a number of those experiences in my life, so it is indeed an honor when I have the opportunity to reflect and share in the celebration of African-American History month."

Smith, athletics director at The Ohio State University in Columbus, was the speaker for this year's Ohio National Guard program recognizing African-American History Month, conducted Feb. 7 at the ONG's Joint Force Headquarters at the Robert S. Beightler Armory in northwest Columbus.

Smith was named OSU athletics director in April 2005 after spending nearly five years as AD at Arizona State. Prior to that, he served as AD at Iowa State and Eastern Michigan. When he was named to the Iowa State job in 1993, he was the first African-American AD in the then-Big Eight (now Big 12) Conference. Even 13 years later, Smith said there are only nine African-American ADs out of 123 NCAA Division I-A athletic departments.

"I feel privileged an honored to be the athletic director at The Ohio State University," Smith said. "I am here in an unbelievable situation—director of athletics at the largest (NCAA) Division I-A program—900 student-athletes, 36 varsity sports and a \$91 million budget."

Smith's talk focused on the several similarities between the composition and operations of the Ohio State athletics program and the Ohio National Guard, one that starts with statistics and dollar figures, but ends in a more tangible resource—development of people to accomplish organizational goals greater than each

individual. There are more than 15,000 Citizen-Soldiers and Airmen in several different types of Army and Air National Guard units, with a multimillion dollar state and federal budget.

"Our mission is to create an environment for student-athletes to be successful," said Smith, who noted that the top goals of the program are for student-athletes to accomplish things that will help them throughout life—earn their degree, foster a winning attitude and develop as people and potential leaders. "I believe in leadership, ultimately. People are all that matter," he said. "The business that I am in, and the business that you are in, is about people."

Smith said his administrative and coaching staffs assess talents and skills of student-athletes, and decide how to develop people, personally and professionally, for the good of his organization, very similar to what military leaders do at all levels.

"Life is about relationships, moving people toward a common goal," he said. "Put all your differences aside. It does not matter where you come from or what you believe in—it's about working together to get it done."

With the help of his wife, Sheila, it was a lesson that Smith learned first-hand some years ago when he was being courted at Iowa State, a job he declined four times before finally accepting it.

"I asked my wife, 'why in the world would they hire a black guy in Iowa?'" said Smith, supporting a stereotype about rural populations' attitudes toward minorities. "She said, 'you're being just as racist as the people you think are racist.' She was right, I was judging people based on the color of their skin."

In his seven years at Iowa State, Smith said he never had one issue and felt nothing but welcomed wherever he went.

"Whatever you do (in life), as a team, you come together and you do your job," Smith said. "Everyone has a role—we have to accept those roles and take the responsibilities that are assigned to you."

According to Maj. Gen. Harry "A.J." Feucht, assistant adjutant general for the Ohio Air National Guard, this year's African-American History Month celebration was especially poignant with the recent deaths of two historical figures in America's civil rights movement—Rosa Parks, catalyst for the Montgomery, Ala. bus boycott in the 1950s, and Coretta Scott King, wife of the Rev. Martin Luther King. At the culmination of the program, Feucht presented Smith with an Ohio National Guard Minuteman statue in gratitude for him speaking at this year's event. **STEVE TOTH / ADJ. GEN. DEPT. PUBLIC AFFAIRS**

Ohio Air National Guardmember top graduate in his basic training class

LACKLAND AIR FORCE BASE, Texas—Airman 1st Class Nathan McWherter was selected March 16 as the top honor graduate of his Air Force Basic Military Training class of more than 600 new Airmen.

This was an immense accomplishment, as McWherter had to achieve greater than a 98 percent academic average over two comprehensive tests; had to exceed all physical fitness standards (the AF fitness standards now exceed or are equal to all other branches); had to pass all red-line inspections; and receive his Military Training Instructors' recommendation.

A chosen few are selected Basic Military Training honor graduates. With this selection the member is awarded an Air Force ribbon that they will be able to wear their entire career. Of these chosen few, McWherter was the top



McWherter

honor graduate. McWherter went onto his AF Technical School to become an NDI (Nondestructive Inspection) apprentice for the 121st Aircraft Maintenance Group.

McWherter is the son of Ohio Air National Guard Lt. Col. Larry McWherter of Joint Force Headquarters. **CCMSGT CHRIS MUNCY / HQ, OHANG**

Employer goes above and beyond for fallen Army Guardmember's family

COLUMBUS—Tim Fyda, President and CEO of Fyda Freightliner in Columbus, was recently recognized for his outstanding and generous contributions to the family of Sgt. 1st Class Dan Pratt, of the 211th Maintenance Company, Newark.

On the morning of Nov. 3, Fyda received an e-mail from Pratt while Pratt was serving with his deployed unit in Iraq. The e-mail was one of excitement and a sense of accomplishment. Pratt was writing his employer to let him know about his many accomplishments, his desire to be home with his family and how he couldn't wait to return to his full-time job at Fyda Freightliner (Austintown Division) where he worked as a mechanic.

Fyda could not have known that Pratt would die of a heart attack that evening, only a month before the 211th was to return home.

Fyda is a big supporter of the National Guard and Reserve. During Pratt's deployment, Fyda stayed in touch with the family and provided support to Pratt's wife. Following Sgt. 1st Class Pratt's death, Fyda quickly offered help to the Pratt family by setting up a very gener-

ous educational trust fund for the family's two children and covering the cost of the reception that was held at the Austintown Armory following the funeral. Fyda and his company have also been there for Pratt's wife, Linda, in her time of loss by directing her to financial counseling resources and keeping in touch with the family.

"It's employers like you that make the difference in our organization," said Brig. Gen. Matthew L. Kambic, Ohio assistant adjutant general for Army, as he presented a National Guard Minuteman statuette to Fyda. "It's obvious to me that you care a lot about your employees."

Fyda was also presented with the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve "My Boss is a Patriot" Award for his generous support to Sgt. 1st Class Pratt and his family. **73RD TROOP COMMAND PUBLIC AFFAIRS**

Airman receives Ohio Cross

SPRINGFIELD—Staff Sgt. Dallas Root, a member of the 178th Fighter Wing and an Ohio State Highway Patrolman, was awarded the Ohio Cross May 20 at the Springfield Air National Guard Base.

Root received the Ohio Cross for his actions while he was on duty with the State Highway Patrol, on Feb. 24, 2005. During a

High-flying honors



PHOTO COURTESY OF MAJ ANTHONY DGIACOMO

SSG Gary Sarver (left), a CH-47 flight engineer from Company G, 137th Aviation (Heavy Helicopter) is presented with the Air Medal by BG Jack E. Lee, 73rd Troop Command commander. Sarver won the prestigious medal, along with 17 of his fellow Company G Soldiers, for flying combat missions in Iraq while attached to Company C, 193rd Aviation, Hawaii Army National Guard. Sarver flew more than 300 combat flight hours while deployed. His most notable mission was flying Saddam Hussein to his arraignment in Baghdad, Iraq.

patrol, he saved the life of a victim whose vehicle crashed into a frozen pond on Interstate 71 in Warren County.

The medal he received, the Ohio Cross, was established on Sept. 7, 1995. Since its inception, there have been only eight other Ohio National Guardmembers awarded the Ohio Cross.

The Ohio Cross may be awarded to any member of the State of Ohio military forces (National Guard or Reserve) who distinguishes himself/herself by gallantry and selfless service at the risk of his/her life. The Ohio Cross is the only award that must be presented by the governor or the adjutant general.

"I am honored to receive this award, but I did what any other trooper would have done in the same situation," Root said.

Maj. Gen. Harry "A.J." Feucht, Ohio assistant adjutant general for Air added: "Staff Sgt. Root is a true hero. He displayed the courage, ability and selflessness that are the hallmarks of service in the National Guard and Highway Patrol. The citizens of Ohio should rest easier knowing that Sgt. Root and his colleagues in the National Guard and Highway Patrol stand ready to respond at a moment's notice, no matter what the threat."

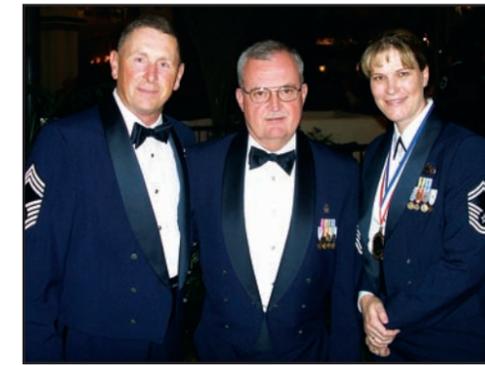
Root also has received the O.W. Merrell Meritorious Service Award (highest award of valor an Ohio State Highway Patrolman can receive), the Superintendent's Citation State of Ohio's Law Enforcement Distinguished Medal of Valor, Warren County Award of Valor (Earl Butts award), Hamilton County Safety Commission Award, the International Association of Chiefs of Police, and the Division of State and Provincial Police 2005 Trooper of the Year for the North Central Region.

Gov. Bob Taft, commander-in-chief of the Ohio National Guard, presented the award to Root during the ceremony in Springfield. **ADJ. GEN. DEPT. PUBLIC AFFAIRS**

French earns nationwide acclaim recognition for teaching prowess

MONTGOMERY, Ala.—Senior Master Sgt. Caroline French, base education and training manager at the 121st Air Refueling Wing, Columbus, received the Air National Guard's Airman Leadership School Flight Chief of the Year award here Jan. 30 at the College of Enlisted Professional Military Educations (EPME) awards banquet.

French was recognized for her work with two classes at Rickenbacker ANG Base during Summer 2005. Thirty-eight students were able to graduate the 30-



COURTESY PHOTO

SMSgt Caroline French (right), of the 121st Air Refueling Wing, along with CMSgt Rudy Dalton (left), 121st ARW acting command chief, and CCMSGT Dick Smith, command chief of the Air National Guard, celebrate French receiving the ANG's Airman Leadership School Flight Chief of the Year award.

day in-resident course and not have to go in a temporary duty (TDY) status.

"Personally, I feel pretty honored to have been thrown into the situation almost by accident, and to then receive such recognition," French said. "At our graduation banquet, it was exciting to see the senior airmen so proud of their accomplishments, and to see their realization of the significance of PME (Professional Military Education) and why it's so important to one's military career. I'm excited to be part of the process." **CCMSGT CHRIS MUNCY / HQ, OHANG**

Toledo Security Forces manager gets Bronze Star medal for Iraqi actions

TOLEDO—Chief Master Sgt. Charles Aliff of the 180th Fighter Wing, Toledo, was awarded the Bronze Star medal Feb. 24. Aliff, a member of the 180th Fighter Wing for more than 20 years, served as the expeditionary forces manager for the 407th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron at Ali Base, Iraq.

As the senior enlisted member for the largest squadron of the 407th Expeditionary Air Group, he managed a staff of 40 personnel in support of the defense of Ali Base, a unified installation consisting of 8,000 Army, Marine, Italian and other coalition forces. In addition, Aliff monitored the morale and welfare of the enlisted force and ensured that the intent and directives of the commander were carried out.

The 180th Security Forces manager, Aliff has also supported Operation Noble Eagle, Operation Enduring Freedom, Checkered Flag, Joint Task Force Bravo, Operation Northern Watch, Buckeye One, Operation Cornerstone and Operation Iraqi Freedom. **180TH FIGHTER WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS**

GUARDMEMBER BENEFITS

New program offers alternative to obtain warrant commission

The Army National Guard is running a pilot program designed to evaluate, train and graduate technical warrant officers in order to fill a large number of vacancies within the 54 states and territories.

The Warrant Officer Candidate School-Reserve Component, or WOCS-RC, is intended to give enlisted Soldiers holding the rank of sergeant and above the chance to complete the training necessary to become warrant officers.

It gives them another option to become a warrant officer without having to spend 33 straight days attending the reserve component Warrant Officer Candidate School at Fort Rucker, Ala.

"Some employers say, 'You get one week end a month and two weeks a year and that's it,'" said Maj. Scottie Moore, an Army Guard training officer at the Training and Doctrine Command (TRADOC) at Fort Monroe, Va. "Through this program, they get the same training to the same standards they would get at Fort Rucker, only presented in a different way."

The Army Training System Course is split into three phases:

Phase 1, distance learning, is designed to test applicants. It tests Soldiers' military knowledge including common tasks and warrior skills. Students can take these courses on the Internet at home or at a National Guard distance learning center.

After successfully completing the DL phase, candidates spend the next five monthly drills in Phase 2 which is offered at 13 regional training institutes across the country, including one for Ohio Army National Guardmembers conducted by the 145th Regiment at Rickenbacker Army Enclave in Columbus. They attend classes dealing with operations, military history and leadership.

Finally, warrant officer candidates attend Phase 3, a rigorous, field intensive two-week course where they test their warrior skills, physical and mental abilities and other advanced Soldier training using real war scenarios within a contemporary operating environment. The

phase is wrapped up with a traditional 12-mile tactical road march.

After completing the final phase, graduates will be appointed as warrant officers in the Army National Guard or Army Reserve. Once appointed, warrants must complete their designated Warrant Officer Basic Course within two years. During that course, they learn advanced technical skills in their field as well as supervisory skills and techniques specific to warrant officers, setting them apart from the generalist, strategic officer.

Noncommissioned officers in grades E-5 and above who want to apply must meet several criteria, including: be between the ages of 18 and 46; score 110 or better on the General Aptitude Area Test; and meet certain medical, security and licensing requirements depending on their specific military occupational specialty.

For those in Ohio who have questions or want more information, call Chief Warrant Officer 5 Dale Fincher, state command chief warrant officer, at (614) 336-7265. **TSGT GARY HICKS**

/ NATIONAL GUARD BUREAU

Earned Retirement Opportunities Act provides help to combat veterans

An act signed into law May 29 by President Bush solves a conflict in the tax code by allowing servicemembers who serve in a combat zone to contribute to their individual retirement accounts, according to Defense Department officials.

The Heroes Earned Retirement Opportunities Act amends the Internal Revenue Code to allow servicemembers to include tax-exempt combat zone pay in determining the allowable income tax deduction for contributions to retirement savings plans.

The tax code requires a certain amount of taxable income for someone to be qualified to deduct contributions to retirement plans, Fenton said. Servicemembers who received tax-exempt pay in combat zones were running into trouble because their taxable income wasn't high enough, so they were either prevented from contributing to their retirement accounts, or they were facing tax penalties for doing so.

The "Heroes Act," as it's been dubbed, makes an exception to the rules about retirement accounts for servicemembers in combat zones. The Heroes Act is retroactive for two years, so anyone who has served in a combat zone in the past two years can fix tax problems or make contributions they may have missed due to this problem. Servicemembers have three years to fix problems from the past. The Internal Revenue Service will be issuing more guidance in the future. **SGT SARA WOOD** / AMERICAN FORCES PRESS SERVICE

America Supports You: service helps deployed families stay connected

Connect and Join is a 24-hour a day, 7-day-a-week Internet-based communications company providing a safe, secure way for families and deployed servicemembers to stay in touch.

America Supports You is a Defense Department program highlighting grassroots and corporate support for the nation's servicemembers and their families.

"Connect and Join is life at home, re-created for the families and the deployed serving," founder Linda Dennis said.

The site offers suggestions for projects that families can make and send to their loved ones via the mail, as well as archival tools to make scrapbook pages to keep after a servicemember has returned home. It also includes a calendar system, which Dennis considers a key element.

"It allows you to journal every day," she said. "It's the family refrigerator. It's a re-creation of life at home that allows you to put all those little missed moments, keep them dear, just by using a calendar format."

With security being a top priority for the group, each registration is limited to five users, including the family editor, the deployed servicemember and three others of their choosing. Each site is unique to the family using it, and cannot be viewed by anyone else.

"They choose their own username and their own user password," Dennis said. "And from then on, it's between the Soldier, the (servicemember) serving our country and their family back home. It's not for public viewing. It's all between the Soldier, the family and the friends."

Registration codes can be obtained by calling 1-888-729-9828. There is a fee for the service after an initial 90-day trial period. **AMERICAN FORCES PRESS SERVICE**

ONGSP APPLICATION DEADLINES

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

It is the responsibility of each individual student-guardmember to hand deliver or mail a completed application to the **Ohio National Guard Scholarship Program** Office, located at the Adjutant General's Department, 2825 West Dublin Granville Road, Columbus, Ohio 43235-2789, by the deadlines listed above.

This must be done prior to each term a student attends school. You may also renew your application online at www.ongsp.org.

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

STEVE TOTH / ADJ. GEN. DEPT. PUBLIC AFFAIRS



RIGHT: BG Matthew L. Kambic (left), Ohio assistant adjutant general for Army, presents the seniors on the Coldwater High School Football Team with a "Tour of Champions" trophy Jan. 23 to recognize the school's 2005 Division IV state championship.

ABOVE, LEFT: Several volunteers who have been key to the success of the Ohio National Guard Family Readiness Program were recognized at April's state conference in Columbus, including Judy York (left), 180th Fighter Wing, Toledo, and Carolyn Arnold, 121st Air Refueling Wing, Columbus.



OC NICK ROZANSKI / OHARNG RECRUITING MARKETING



PFC RYAN A. CLEARY / 196TH MPAD

ABOVE: SFC Freddie Dixon (second from right), operations NCO with the 237th Personnel Services Battalion, receives the Meritorious Service Medal during a retirement celebration marking his 31 years of military service. Dixon, who officially retired April 30, was joined by 237th PSB CSM James Barker (from left), 73rd Troop Command CSM David Collins, Lillian Collins, Dixon's wife, Kim, and LTC Steve Stivers, 237th PSB commander.

STEVE TOTH / ADJ. GEN. DEPT. PUBLIC AFFAIRS



RIGHT: Dr. Gene Harris, superintendent of Columbus Public Schools, was the featured speaker during a Women's History Month program in March hosted by Joint Force Headquarters, at Beightler Armory in Columbus.

Guard Snapshots



ABOVE: Sheri Judd (from left), administrative assistant to the director of Civilian Marksmanship Program; Deborah Boyle, programs manager for the Civilian Marksmanship Program; Gary Anderson, director of the Civilian Marksmanship Program; BG Matthew L. Kambic, Ohio assistant adjutant general for Army; Retired COL Richard Dreiman, assistant quartermaster general for the Adjutant General; and COL James H. Chisman, base commander, Camp Perry Training Site, participate in a ceremony in which the CMP presented the Ohio National Guard with a check for \$190,000 to conduct infrastructure improvements at Camp Perry.

SPC JEFFREY MCKALIP / HHT, 2-107TH CAVALRY



ABOVE: Five Soldiers from Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 2-107th Cavalry, Hamilton, extended their enlistments earlier this year in a group ceremony. Pictured are SPC Garret Carter (from left), SPC Eric Leavitt, SPC Anthony Vinnedge, SPC Charles Amos and SSG John Rushing.

U.S. AIR FORCE PHOTO



LEFT: The 13,000th graduate from the Air National Guard Academy of Military Science (AMS) at McGhee-Tyson Air National Guard Base, Tenn., is from the 179th in Mansfield. Second Lt Nicole Ashcroft (third from left) is currently the wing's public affairs officer.