

BUCKEYE GUARD

Spring 2000

A black UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter is shown hovering in a grassy field. The helicopter is viewed from a low angle, with its main rotor blades blurred from motion. In the foreground, a soldier in full combat gear, including a helmet and a tactical vest, stands with his back to the camera and his arms outstretched. The background consists of a line of trees under an overcast sky.

The Hawk has landed

Ohio Army Guard's Company A,
1-137th Assault Helicopter Battalion
augments 101st Airborne Division,
modernizes with UH-60 'Black Hawks'

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Photo by TSgt. Todd Cramer, 179th Airlift Wing

Survival of the fittest

Readying himself to parasail, Michigan Adjutant General Maj. Gen. E. Gordon Stump participates in Century Shark 2000, a combat water survival exercise for C-130 aircrew members of the Ohio, Michigan and Missouri Guard. For more, see pages 14-15.

BUCKEYE GUARD

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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. E-mail us at buckeye@tagoh.org.
Deadlines are:

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Summer, **May 15**
Fall, **July 15**

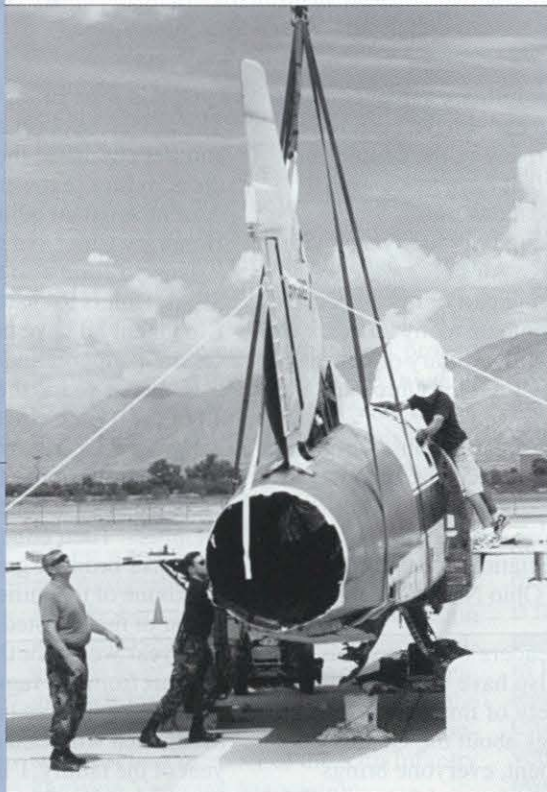


Photo by TSgt. Randy Dunham, 179th Airlift Wing

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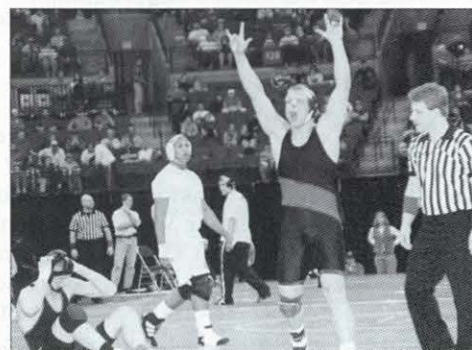


Photo by Steve Toth, Adj. Gen. Dept. Public Affairs Office

Ohio Army Guardmember and Marysville High School wrestler Ben Rings (arms raised) celebrates after winning the OHSAA Division I 189-pound state championship match.
See page 6.

ABOUT THE COVER: SSG Clint Byington guides a UH-60 'Black Hawk' into landing zone. Photo by SSG Diane Farrow, HQ STARC (-)

www.oh-tag.net.com

Log on to the Ohio National Guard website to learn more about the organization.

My 25 years in the ONG: many great memories



BY CCMSGT EARL LUTZ
COMMAND CHIEF MASTER SGT, AIR

As my military career comes to an end, I have been reflecting on many of the people and events that have made my 29 years so meaningful.

Although my four years with the active Air Force were an interesting part of my career, they can't compare to my 25 years with the greatest military organization in the world—the Ohio National Guard.

Yes, I wear the blue suit of the Air National Guard, but I have had the opportunity to work with

two great state command sergeant majors and a variety of other Army friends who have made my appreciation of the purple concept stronger everyday. We are the Ohio National Guard—Army and Air—and we are proud.

We all have worked for some great leaders who helped us progress through our careers. But we also have worked with and supervised others who have had a variety of impacts on our careers. Isn't that one of the great things about the Guard? Coming together in that team environment, everyone brings something that helps us meet those everyday and future goals—and as a result, the Guard keeps improving. Our people have the reputation of being dependable and getting the job done, which has brought us a great deal of respect. That respect has generated a great amount of pride in our members and in their participation.

What kind of feeling do you get when the alarm goes off and you know another drill weekend is upon you? Are you anxious to get there and meet the challenges awaiting you? Chief Master Sgt. Paul Lankford, a survivor of the Bataan Death March during World War II and a past commandant of the NCO Academy, once said, "We need to make our drill weekends so rewarding for our people that the best part of their drill weekend won't be the image of the base in their rearview mirror as they are leaving on a Sunday afternoon." Have you ever felt that way? My unit training assemblies have always been something which I look forward to every month.

In my 17 years at Springfield, I saw a lot of people come and go. But, I believe I learned something from each of them. I hope some of them feel that way about me.

In 1991, I was appointed the state senior enlisted advisor (SEA) and transferred to Headquarters, Ohio Air National Guard, in Columbus. I left the position in January 1995 and joined the 180th Communications Flight, Toledo. I returned to state headquarters in June 1996 for my second appointment as the SEA (now known as the state command chief master sergeant position). In my 7 1/2 years overall at headquarters, I have had the opportunity to work with countless great Ohio Guardmembers.

During my first term, I had the great fortune to work with

Chaplain John Ellington. He was Ohio's first Honorary Chief. The advice, support and friendship I received from him is another cherished memory. Another individual who supports the activities of the enlisted force is Maj. Gen. Paul J. Sullivan, current assistant adjutant general for Air. He is also an Honorary Chief and a great friend of the enlisted.

This position also has allowed me to work with our national SEAs. Chiefs Richard Moon, Ed Brown and now Gary Broadbent all have been strong supporters of Ohio. I appreciate their support and friendship over the last nine years.

In recent years, the SEA/CCM position has been added to all of the flying wings in the Air Guard. In Ohio we have four wing-level CCMs. Working together has helped the five of us to accomplish more for our units and state.

I have been so impressed with the strength of our enlisted members. Their educational level, dedication and professionalism have brought great respect to the enlisted ranks—the backbone of the military. In 1999, we celebrated a successful "Year of the Enlisted." This year we recognized the family, and next year we honor the employer. Where would we be without support from our families and employers?

The people have been great. There also have been many events that will remain with me always. With this being the year of the family, I'll start with mine. I remember how proud I was of my daughter when she became a distinguished graduate of the NCO Academy in Knoxville, Tenn. And last year, I was proud when my son became a member of the Ohio ANG. I need to recognize my wife, Patricia, for supporting my Guard activities and those of our two children.

I don't think any of the ceremonies I've attended over the years can compare to last year's Order of the Musket ceremony, during which the enlisted men and women of the OHANG presented the first Order of the Musket Award to our leader, Maj. Gen. John H. Smith, state adjutant general. It was a job well done.

In the last three years, I have witnessed our unit first sergeants build their annual state conference to a successful profes-

sional forum for all of them. In February, I had the honor to attend a first sergeant graduation and see Master Sgt. Michael Spillman of Springfield receive his diamond. What a great job first sergeants do for us. My thanks to all of you, both Air and Army, in these positions.

As I enjoy my retirement, I will remember my years with great pleasure and appreciation for having the opportunity to serve. It has been an honor to say I am an Ohio Guardmember. I look forward to hearing of the great successes the Guard will achieve in the years to come.

Good luck to you all. ■

"My unit training assemblies have always been something which I look forward to every month."

EDITOR'S NOTE: Lutz will retire June 30. Command Chief Master Sgt. Richard Smith of the 179th Airlift Wing, Mansfield, will be the new state CCM.

Researcher seeks to interview American Indian WWII vets

I am a person of American Indian descent. I am looking for help with my research for the Indigenous Peoples During World War II History Project. I want to correspond with any National Guard retired veteran of World War II who is of an indigenous ethnic heritage. This would include American Indian, Native Hawaiian, Chamorro, American Samoan, Metis, Inuit/Eskimo or Hispanic descent veterans. This also includes women who served in the National Guard as nursing, clerical or support staff.

In addition, I want to correspond with National Guard WWII veterans who encountered or had buddies who were of indigenous heritages. I'm also interested in National Guard WWII veterans of any ethnicity (men or women) who have memories to share. If there are any current National Guard veterans (now near retirement age) who had childhood memories of the 1940s, I'd like to hear from you.

Did any WWII National Guard veterans work with animals during the war, canine units, mounted (horses) or messenger pigeons? Did anyone have pet mascots?

Any response is greatly appreciated and can be sent to me at the following address: P.O. Box 315, Granite City, Ill. 62040.

ROBERT J. CLARK
PROJECT DIRECTOR

'Lest we forget,' association exists to remember 37th ID

Meuse-Argonne, Verdun, Flanders, New Georgia, Bouganville, Munda, Lingayen Gulf, Manila, Baguio and Cagayan Valley. All were famous battles of two great world wars in which men of the Ohio National Guard's 37th Infantry "Buckeye" Division

proved their superiority in hard-fought victories, won at a price, but each a major achievement toward ultimate peace.

The division, which served the nation in World Wars I and II, as well as Korea, returned to Ohio National Guard state status in 1954 and remained such until Feb. 15, 1968 when it was deactivated. The 37th served its country and state for more than 50 years. Currently, the lineage for the 37th is entrusted to the 37th Armored Brigade, while the division artillery lineage is with the 1-134th Field Artillery Battalion.

We are confident that the men trained by the 37th and assigned to other units, proved to all concerned that the Buckeye Division trained its men well. By the same token, there is little doubt that the 37th distinguished itself in accomplishing the missions assigned when the chips were down, some with their lives.

Lest we forget...the 37th Division Veterans Association has for 81 years perpetuated the heritage and legacy of the division and for 40 years has awarded college scholarships to its direct descendants (children, grandchildren, etc). To be eligible for the scholarship awards, an applicant's sponsor must be a member of the 37th Infantry Division Veterans Association.

As a result of old age, its membership is diminishing at an alarming rate, and younger members are needed to fill its ranks.

Soldiers who served in the division during any of its three periods of active duty (WWI, WWII and/or Korea) are eligible for full active membership.

Help us preserve the 37th's legacy by passing this information to any qualified former division soldiers you may come in contact with, so that they may become members of the 37th Veterans Association.

COL (RET.) CYRIL L. SEDLACKO
VICE PRESIDENT, 37TH ID VETS ASSN.

Hot weather safety especially important during AT season

Service members all over the world are called upon to operate in a variety of strenuous conditions. In particular, many have to cope with heat on a daily basis. A variety of medical conditions may plague these folks, including heat illnesses and overhydration.

Evaporation of sweat is the body's major mechanism for heat dissipation while exercising. Sweat is composed mainly of water, with a small amount of sodium. Dehydration robs the body of its ability to cope with heat stress, and increases the risk of heat illness. Heat cramps, heat exhaustion and heatstroke are all varying conditions of water and often sodium loss.

The flip side of dehydration is overhydration, or simply drinking too much water too quickly. When sodium is lost in sweat, and water is drunk as a replacement fluid, the sodium remaining in the blood can be diluted. This can lead to tissue damage in the body. Changes are most noticeable in the nervous system, where seizures, coma and even death can result.

Remember that hydration is an ongoing process. Waiting until exercise has begun to begin drinking is a little like jumping out of a plane and then thinking, "Well, I really ought to put on a parachute." It's too late. Good hydration is indicated by urinating a full bladder four times a day, urine that is light yellow (unless using vitamin or mineral supplements, which can darken the urine) and lack of thirst during exertion.

Exertional heat illnesses and overhydration remain a threat for anyone who must work in hot conditions, but they are very much preventable. These simple guidelines go a long way toward safe operations in the heat: Drink enough water throughout the day to cause the bladder to fill four times. Drink a full quart an hour (plus or minus a quarter quart) during heavy exercise in hot conditions, never more than a quart and a half an hour, and never more than 12 quarts a day. Do not skip meals if you can help it. Drink a sports drink whenever doing strenuous work in the heat for over an hour or if unable to eat regular meals. And put on a parachute before exiting an airborne plane.

MAJ (DR.) ERIC M. CHUMBLY
59TH MEDICAL WING, USAF

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION			
37 TH DIVISION VETERANS ASSOCIATION			
65 S. Front Street Columbus, Ohio 43215 (For Year Ending December 31, 2000)		Annual Association Dues \$15.00	
<input type="checkbox"/> New Member		<input type="checkbox"/> Renewal	
<input type="checkbox"/> New Address			
Name (Please Print)	Last	First	Initial
Address			
Street or Avenue			
City		State	Zip Code
Served with Company/Battery/Troop & Regiment			
Dates of Active Duty Service		Check: <input type="checkbox"/> World War I <input type="checkbox"/> World War II <input type="checkbox"/> Korean War	
Life Membership: World War I \$30.00, World War II \$125.00, Korean War \$125.00			



U.S. Air Force photo by SSgt. Angela Stafford

Secretary of the Air Force F. Whitten Peters, shown here during his Senate confirmation hearing in 1999, says the increased reliance on the reserve component has led to new missions, such as the scheduled transition of the 178th Fighter Wing, Springfield, to an F-16 training unit.

Air Guard, Reserve help overcome personnel shortages, EAF transition

The shortage of trained active-duty airmen and the current operations tempo have increased the Air Force's reliance on the Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve to help accomplish the mission and make the transition to an expeditionary aerospace force, said Secretary of the Air Force F. Whitten Peters.

"We are an integrated Total Force and rely on the critical contributions of our Guardsmen and Reservists," Peters said. "We have been moving a lot of what had been active-duty requirements into the Guard and Reserve to free up resources for other tasks."

Peters said the Guard and Reserve have been moving into less traditional roles at home. The ANG is transitioning to F-15 training at Tyndall Air Force Base, Fla., and to F-16 training missions at Kelly AFB, Texas, and Springfield-Beckly Municipal Airport, home of the Ohio Air Guard's 178th Fighter Wing.

Both Guard and Reserve instructor pilots are contributing to the primary pilot-training mission at specialized undergraduate pilot-training bases.

"Each of these forces—active-duty, Guard and Reserve—have unique and complementary characteristics that make the Air Force a strong and versatile team," Peters said. **AIR FORCE PRINT NEWS**

Some captains' DOR to change

Army officials announced they will review the records of about 5,000 Army Reserve and Army National Guard officers over the next year to adjust their dates of rank to captain.

The action affects reserve component officers who were considered for promotion from November 1997 to the present and found themselves subjected to promotion time-in-grade policy changes.

Depending on what mandatory promotion selection board consid-

ered them, an officer's date of rank may be adjusted by anywhere from two weeks to a year or more earlier than what it is now.

Army officials are administering the program in phases over the remainder of the calendar year and into next year. Affected officers in the first phase were scheduled to receive notification by early June.

Phases two and three of the program—affecting those officers originally considered under boards conducted from November 1998 through February 2000—are expected to begin later this year.

The issue prompting the date of rank review originated when the Army revised reserve promotion policies.

The revised date of rank will affect any pay and allowances received during the adjusted timeframe. It will also affect when officers will be eligible to be considered for promotion to major and for promotions during the remainder of their military careers. Officers who believe they are eligible under the first phase of this program only, and do not receive their application packet by June 15, should contact: Office of Promotions (Reserve Components), ATTN: TAPC-MSL-N (DOR), 9700 Page Avenue, St. Louis, Mo., 63132-5200. **ARMY NEWS SERVICE**

House declares American GI 'Person of the Century'

House representatives voted 397-0 April 10 naming American GIs as the "Person of the Century" in their Concurrent Resolution 282 with the Senate.

"Throughout this sad and bloody cen-

tury, it was the GI—the American citizen-soldiers—who left hearth and home, put his or her personal plans on hold, and traveled to every corner of the world to save the concept of democracy and preserve the value of freedom," said supporter Rep. Jim Kolbe of Arizona. **AMERICAN FORCES PRESS SERVICE**

Air Force Marathon on track for September at WPAFB

The fourth Air Force Marathon is set for Sept. 16 at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, and all finishers—including relay team members—receive a marathon medallion, patch, T-shirt and other souvenirs.

Besides the full marathon distance, there will be an Ekiden-style relay for runners who do not wish to run the entire course. The relay has four legs—five miles, seven miles, 7.5 miles and 6.7 miles. The team's total elapsed time determines the winners.

Registration fees postmarked before July 1 are \$35 for marathon entries and \$120 a team for Ekiden entries. Prices go up after July 1, and the final entry deadline is Aug. 31. For more information on the marathon, call (800)467-1823. Entry forms are available on-line at <http://afmarathon.wpafb.af.mil>. **AIR FORCE PRINT NEWS**

Regular-sized nametapes on Army parka get cold shoulder

A change in regulations standardizes the size and type of cloth nametapes and ranks authorized for the Extended Cold Weather Clothing System parka.

The change to Army Regulation 670-1 applies to regular Army, National Guard and Reserve soldiers wearing the ECWCS parka, more commonly called "GoreTex" among the ranks.

According to new Army guidance, nametapes attached to the ECWCS will be 1/2-inch wide and 3-1/2-inches long, with 1/4-inch block lettering. The nametapes will hold up to 14 characters and be attached to the pocket flap on the left side of the parka.

Cloth insignias of grade with Velcro fasteners are no longer authorized for wear. The only authorized cloth rank insignias are those that are sewn closed (like shoulder bars). The loops slip over the front tab of the parka the same way that shoulder boards slip over the epaulets on the green shirt and sweater. Soldiers may use pin-on insignias of grade if they desire.

After Sept. 30, no other sizes of nametapes will be authorized for wear on the ECWCS parka. **ARMY NEWS SERVICE**

Faces in the Guard



Pvt. Taylor C. Watson
Avenger Missile Crewmember
Battery B, 2-174th Air Defense Artillery, McConnellsville

Watson, of Crooksville, got his first taste of the military from a unique perspective. As a high-school junior last year, he was sentenced by a juvenile court to attend the Ohio Guard's TEAM (Teen Education and Motivation) camp for at-risk youth. The disciplined camp changed Watson's attitude; he contacted a recruiter and was sworn into the Ohio Army National Guard on Feb. 8. He'll attend basic training this summer.

Airman 1st Class Camille R. Gaskins
Information Management Specialist
179th Airlift Wing, Mansfield

With the help of the Ohio National Guard Scholarship program, Gaskins, a freshman at the University of Toledo, is majoring in pre-business/accounting, and also plays violin in the university orchestra. A lifelong resident of Mansfield and graduate of Madison Comprehensive High School, Gaskins joined the Ohio Air Guard in July 1998. She is an avid runner, and has participated in cross country and track.



Pfc. Melissa Thompson
Medical Specialist
Company C, 237th Forward Support Battalion, Columbus

A resident of Columbus, Thompson currently attends Ohio State University, where she studies animal science. She also works as an associate in a pet store. Thompson enlisted in the Guard in 1998, and utilizes the Ohio National Guard Scholarship Program, which pays 100 percent of a guardmember's tuition costs at a state college or university, or an equivalent amount at a private institution.

Chief Master Sgt. Jim Hickman
Systems Telecommunications Engineering Management Technician
220th Engineering Installation Squadron, Zanesville

In April 1999, the 41-year-old Hickman reached a milestone in his Ohio Air Guard career, attaining the esteemed rank of chief master sergeant. However, Hickman may have been more proud when he welcomed his daughter, Janelle, 17, into the Ohio Air Guard last November. Janelle joined the same unit her father had joined more than 20 years ago, becoming a member of the 220th's ground radio section.



Spc. Jason C. Luna
Combat Engineer
A Company, 112th Engineer Battalion, Wooster

A member of the Ohio Army Guard since 1997, Luna was born in Lewisburg, Tenn., and currently lives in Mansfield. A beneficiary of the Ohio National Guard Scholarship Program, Luna received his associate's degree in computer programming from Bradford Business School. In his civilian occupation, Luna is a data entry technician for American Freightways. His hobbies include hiking, rock climbing and rollerblading.

MANSFIELD

Command profile



Col. Richard Green
179th Airlift Wing

Age: 51.

Occupation: Commander, 179th Airlift Wing, Ohio ANG.

I grew up in: West Patterson, N.J.

When I was little I wanted to be: an architect—like my dad.

Friends and classmates in high school thought I was:

an athlete and a competitor.

My favorite time of year is: spring.

The one thing I treasure most is: my family.

My favorite junk food is:

Oreo cookies.

My biggest pet peeve is:

disorganization.

My favorite recreational activities are: golf and playing

Frisbee with my dog, Shep.

If I could travel back in time, I

would: like to have been an

explorer like Lewis and Clark.

If I won \$20 million in the lotto I

would: turn one of my

ideas into a business.

The older I get, the more I:

appreciate family, friends

and good health.

When I retire, I want to:

be healthy, enjoy my family,

travel and finally pursue some

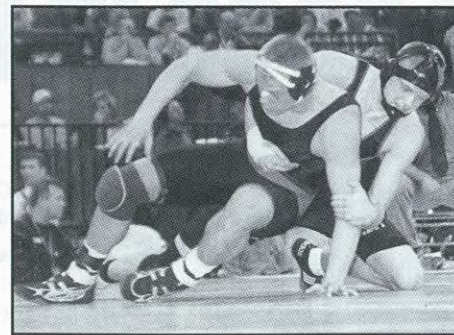
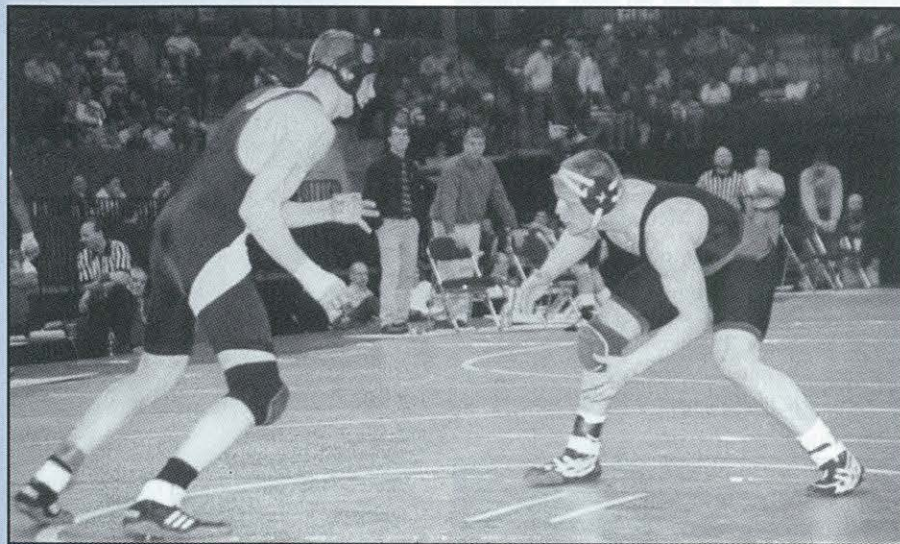
of those hobbies I enjoy.

If I could leave today's guardmembers with one piece of

advice it would be: Pursue your

dreams and be a good friend,

parent and partner.



LEFT: Marysville's Ben Rings (right) squares off against Erik Jones of Liberty Township Lakota East in their Ohio High School Athletic Association Division I 189-pound championship match, which Rings eventually won 4-3. **ABOVE:** Rings (left) prepares to escape from Jones.

Winning combination:

Wrestling with rigors of basic training helps guardmember to top of his sport, championship

Story and photos by Steve Toth
Adj. Gen. Dept. Public Affairs Office

To finish in second place isn't the worst thing that can happen. But it's not as good as first place. Just ask Ben Rings.

Last year, as a Marysville High School junior, Rings was runner-up in Division II at 189 pounds at the Ohio High School Athletic Association State Wrestling Tournament held at Ohio State University's Schottenstein Center. It was an impressive feat, but, it was short of his goal of winning a state championship.

Rings went on with his school year—going to class, participating in spring sports, and attending monthly drills with the Ohio Army National Guard.

It was not just another summer vacation for Rings. He enlisted in Mansfield's 5694th Engineer Detachment (Firefighting) in January 1999, and beginning last June attended basic training at Fort Knox, Ky.

Rings, looking for a way to help fund his future college education, enlisted to reap the benefits of the Ohio National Guard Scholarship Program, which pays 100 percent of tuition costs at state colleges and universities. With other Guard benefits, and the possibility of a partial athletic scholarship, he could also pay for his room and board, books and fees.

"I definitely (joined the Guard) for the 100 percent tuition," Rings said. "But I like it. It's fun...after the basic training."

It was during basic training that Rings went through a demanding physical regimen that would cause him to lose weight and become leaner, and in turn improve his cardiovascular fitness. He also was exposed to significant psychological stress courtesy of his basic training drill instructors.

"(Basic training) last summer helped me prepare for this season, definitely mentally," Rings said, "and it helped me keep my weight down."

Rings' wrestling coach, Len Andrews, said in previous years, Rings would come into football conditioning in the summer overweight and not in the best shape. "He came in 190 (pounds) this year, ready to play," Andrews said. "That Army training was perfect for Ben. It may not be perfect for everyone, but it was just right for him."

At the 63rd Boys State Wrestling Tournament, held March 2-4 at OSU, Rings got his chance to claim the title that had eluded him a year before. This year, competing in Division I (the large-school division), again at 189 pounds, Rings won all four of his matches in the tournament, capping a 38-4 season with a 4-3 decision over Erik Jones of Liberty Township Lakota East in the championship match. In the quarterfinals, Rings defeated the once-beaten defending Division I 189-pound champion, Alexander Lammers of Huber Heights Wayne.

Rings is just one of 42 high-schoolers (three school-size divisions, 14 weight classifications) crowned state champion each year in Ohio. "It's what all wrestlers dream of," Rings said after claiming his title.

This summer again will be a busy one for Pfc. Rings, who will attend Advanced Individual Training at Goodfellow Air Force Base, Texas, at a joint-service school to become a firefighter/crash rescue specialist.

Staff Sgt. Linda Young, 5694th readiness NCO, said many unit members have kept up with Rings' wrestling exploits the last couple years, and the unit leadership has allowed Rings to make up monthly drills on some occasions when weekend wrestling tournaments were on the same dates as drill.

"If he's that good at something and it's that important to him, it's in our best interest to support him," Young said. "He's a terrific kid, very mature for his age. He's a responsible soldier, and very dependable—and of course, he's very physically fit. I think he represents the National Guard well." ■



A match earlier in the tournament is halted momentarily for Rings to be treated for a cut on the bridge of his nose, as his coach, Len Andrews (right), looks on.



SGT Alan Troutman (left) and CPT Bob Cutajar from 1-137th Assault Helicopter Battalion return from a daylong training mission in Ross County last April.

Photo by SSG Diane Farrow, HQ STARC (-)

The Hawk has landed

Dual-tasking with 101st Airborne Division has Company A, 1-137th Assault Helicopter Battalion, modernizing with UH-60 'Black Hawk' helicopters

By Staff Sgt. Diane Farrow
HQ STARC (-)

They sling-load up to 8,000 pounds of cargo, cruise at about 173 miles per hour, wear an armor of Kevlar and are valued at approximately \$11 million.

While the "Black Hawk" (UH-60) is the standard utility helicopter in the active Army, it is a new force to be reckoned with in the Ohio Army National Guard. But by December 2000, 12 of these high-tech airframes are expected to replace the 15 "Huey" UH-1 helicopters assigned to Company A, 1-137th Assault Helicopter Battalion, located at the Army Aviation Support Facility #2 at Rick-

enbacker Army Enclave in Columbus.

Though its equipment will change, the unit's mission won't.

"Whether you ride a thoroughbred or a Clydesdale, the air assault mission remains the same," said Lt. Col. Rick Hall, 1-137th Aviation Battalion commander and facility commander for AASF #2. Hall said the primary objective of an aviation assault company is to insert and extract troops or equipment into or out of a designated landing zone at the precise time the ground commander needs them.

Since its activation in 1996, Company A has been tasked to support the Army National Guard's 38th Infantry Division in

Indiana. In late 1998, the unit was given an additional mission: augment 5th Battalion of the 101st Airborne Division, Fort Campbell, Ky. Ohio's Alpha Company was one of six National Guard units tasked to round out active-duty assault battalions nationwide.

And it's this "dual mission" that required the unit to modernize with Black Hawks, replacing its Hueys which are no longer fielded in the active Army.

Enhanced Capabilities

According to Company A Commander Capt. Wayne Thomas, the Black Hawk has several advantages over the UH-1—including improvements in speed and cargo lift capability. "It cruises at about 50 knots faster than the Huey," he said, explaining that Hueys top out at around 140 mph, while the A model of the Black Hawk can go as fast as 200 mph. "Its payload capacity is also considerably higher," he added.

"It will lift a humvee, with armor and crew, and run with it," affirmed Chief Warrant Officer Brad Anspaugh, Headquarters Company, 1-137th Aviation Battalion. Anspaugh, a full-time flight instructor at AASF #2, was one of the first pilots in

The Hawk has landed

the battalion to complete the Black Hawk initial qualification and instructor pilot course. He also said that the UH-60 is spacious enough to transport 11 soldiers and four air crew, and even more when configured without seats; the Huey can carry only seven passengers and a crew of three.

The warrant officer remarked that Black Hawks are much more complex and a lot more systems-heavy than Hueys, noting that everything interchanges from one side to the other.

"Everything's redundant. Everything has a back-up. That's the beauty of this beast," said Sgt. Alan Troutman, who trained on the UH-60 when he served in the Navy.

"In other words, we lose an engine, we've got one more; we lose a hydraulic system, we've got two more," Anspaugh explained.

"We could fly on one engine if we had to," Troutman added. A full-time police officer for Columbus, Troutman is one of Company A's standardization instructors and will train many of Company A's crew chiefs.

Several of the aircraft's critical components are armored to enable it to withstand multiple small arms hits, and its airframe is designed to progressively crush on impact to protect the crew and passengers in the event of a crash.

Deployment More Likely

Company A's alignment with the active duty not only brought Black Hawks to Ohio, it also increased the possibility of the unit's deployment.

Thomas, a traditional guardmember and full-time pilot for MedFlight in Worthington, said that while the unit was assigned Hueys, its chances of getting called up were slim to none. "Hueys are non-deployable. Now that we are getting Black Hawks, they (unit members) are realizing that they may go somewhere other than (Camp) Grayling.

"Once our folks get qualified, we'll spend about 36 months flying training missions, practicing formation flying and meeting flight time requirements before we'd be seriously considered for deployment," he said. "They (the Army) only want to send the most experienced to the front because

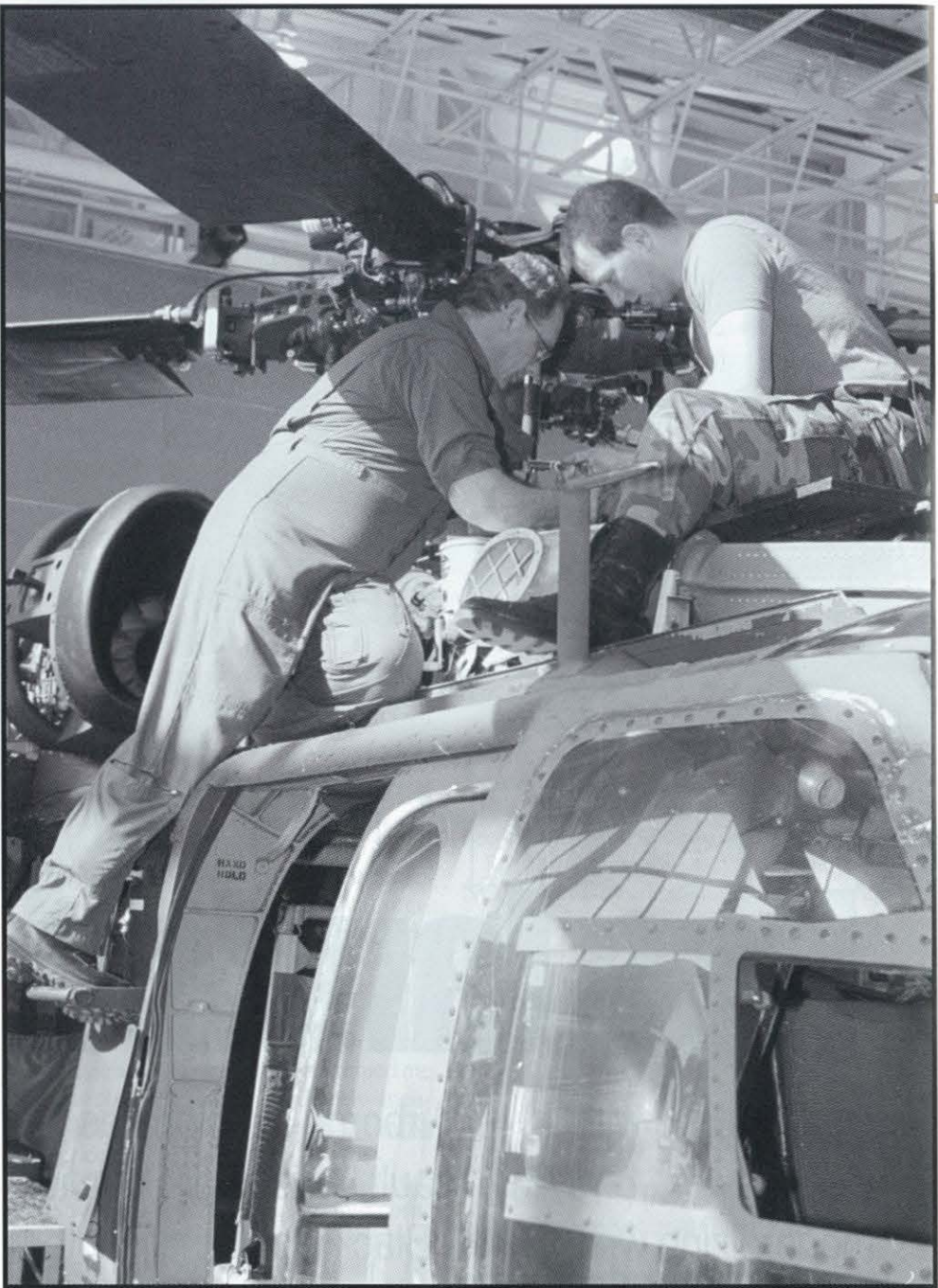


Photo by MSgt. Kim Frey, 121st Air Refueling Wing

the risks are so much higher."

Company A received its first Black Hawk in January from AASF #1 in North Canton, where it served as a training support aircraft assigned to Detachment 1, Co. D, 137th Aviation Intermediate Maintenance. In mid-February, the Virginia National Guard flew in three more of the airframes, and the unit expects to receive one more each month until all 12 are fielded. According to State Aviation Officer Col. Craig Ceneskie, Ohio will receive all UH-60As, but those will be replaced within the next two years with the more advanced UH-60L, which is flown by active-duty units.

SSG Ed Jenkins (left) and SSG Ed Sells install a hydraulic transfer module on a UH-60 'Black Hawk' helicopter during new equipment training conducted by instructors from U.S. Army Aviation Logistics School. Both are full-time federal technicians who maintain the aircraft assigned to Army Aviation Flight Facility #2, located at Rickenbacker Army Enclave in Columbus.

Because the qualification course for both models is the same, no additional training will be required of the pilots, crew chiefs or maintenance personnel when that transition takes place.

Training the Troops

Formerly trained on either Hueys or AH-1 "Cobra" attack helicopters, most of the pilots and enlisted members of Company A will be required to take some sort of qualification course on the Black Hawk.

For pilots, that means attending a six- to seven-week UH-60 initial qualification course at either Fort Indiantown Gap, Pa., or Fort Rucker, Ala. When they return to Ohio, they will need to follow up with at least two weeks of additional training by the instructor pilots at AASF #2.

"After the 'qual' course, they're qualified to fly, but they're not mission-trained," Anspaugh said. "When they come back, we train them up for our missions." The 20-year Guard veteran explained that the pilots have to fly the Black Hawk, know its systems and its limits, know emergency procedures and how to react in emergency situations. "Once they meet the readiness levels, they're signed off, and they go fly."

According to Thomas, Company A currently has seven or eight pilots qualified on UH-60s, including Chief Warrant Officer Lewis Meyers Jr. Meyers is also the only full-timer for the unit, an Active Guard/Reserve soldier whose duties frequently extend beyond his title of training officer.

"Lew is really the backbone of the unit," Thomas said. "He often works 12 hours a day—handling everything from payroll, unit administration, filing—and he still plans for unit training." And training is a cumbersome issue when reclassifying nearly an entire company of soldiers.

The majority of Company A's crew chiefs have to attend a seven-week UH-60 course, at either Fort Indiantown Gap or Fort Rucker. Sgt. Greg "Stooly" Branstool and Sgt. Ernie Washington were scheduled to go to school in May.

Stooly said leaving home is a hardship, but he realizes it's necessary to become a proficient UH-60 "crew dog" (crew chief). "The Black Hawk is larger, more high-speed and demands more attention than a Huey," he said. Stooly explained that while Hueys require only one crew chief,

Black Hawks need two to conduct pre- and post-flight checks, monitor fuel levels and instruments in flight, provide surveillance of air space and perform aerial gunnery operations when needed.

Thomas expects that by Oct. 1, 60 percent of his enlisted soldiers and 40 percent of his pilots will be qualified on the UH-60. By Oct. 1, 2001, he predicts the qualification level of the entire unit will be 95 percent.

The captain said his troops are excited about the new mission, training opportunities and possible deployment. "They look at it like 'why practice all the time, if you never get to play the game?'" He said Company A's 60-plus pilots and enlisted personnel are "top-notch, true professionals" ready to respond when called.

And, as noted by the battalion commander, that call may come sooner than

later with the unit's alignment with the 101st.

"We are part of their go-to-war mission," asserted Hall, "and this unit will be a go-to-war unit." ■

BELOW: CW3 Brad Anspaugh (left) and CW4 Terry Worstall run through a UH-60 preflight safety checklist as they prepare to depart from Ross County last April. RIGHT: SGT Greg Branstool checks his gear prior to a troop extraction/insertion mission.



Photos by SSG Diane Farrow, HQ STARC (-)

Living the Dream

CW2 Pat Durbin realizes boyhood dream of flying helicopters



As an eight-year-old, his dream was to fly helicopters. Now at the age of 34—after hard work, dedication and motivation—his dream has been realized.

“My dad and I were throwing the ball out in the yard, and a helicopter came directly over our house,” recalled Chief Warrant Officer Pat Durbin, a full-time Ohio Army National Guard helicopter pilot and training officer with Troop D, 2-107th Cavalry, based in North Canton. “I remember looking at it and saying, ‘Daddy, I’m going to fly those some day.’ He kinda laughed and blew it off.”

After graduating from Wadsworth High School in 1983, Durbin, then 19 years old, enlisted in the Air Force. He completed basic training and his technical school, becoming a plans and programs administrator, a position he served until the end of his three-year tour of active duty.

In 1986, he enlisted in the Ohio Air National Guard, where he served as an intelligence specialist with the 179th Tactical Airlift Group in Mansfield. It was there that he had the opportunity, as an enlisted airman, to compete for a pilot slot for the C-130 transport aircraft.

“Nineteen people applied, and only two received a slot,” recalled Durbin. “I was lucky enough to get one.”

“When I had the slot to fly C-130s, I knew I was just going to be at an altitude from point A to point B,” he said. However, the desire to stop, pop, jump up, hide and jing as a helicopter pilot caused Durbin to turn down the C-130 slot and transfer to the Army National Guard.

“In essence, I gave up my Air Force flying slot to apply for the Army’s flight program,” explained Durbin. “I left for Army Flight School in September of 1992 and graduated in October of 1993.”

The training and preparation for

“I remember looking at (a helicopter flying overhead) and saying, ‘Daddy, I’m going to fly those some day.’ He kinda laughed and blew it off.”

helicopter pilots is one of intensity. After passing the selection board to attend Fort Rucker’s pilot training school, the adventure begins. The first step for enlisted personnel is to complete a six-week warrant officer candidate’s course.

Once a warrant officer, about two to three months are dedicated to learning basic tasks and instrument panels of the training helicopters, which was the UH-1 “Huey” utility helicopter when Durbin attended Rucker in the mid-90s. Then training on the pilot’s primary aircraft (those flown at the pilot’s unit) begins, along with basic and advanced combat skills training. If assigned an aircraft with firing capabilities, the pilot completes gunnery skills training as well.

Once Durbin completed his initial phase training with the Huey, he began training on the AH-1 “Cobra” attack helicopter.

“You basically branch off into another aircraft, and I went the Cobra route,” he said. Durbin explained that Cobras are significantly different from Hueys, which he considers the “workhorse of helicopters.”

While Hueys seat pilots side-by-side in the traditional manner, Cobras are designed so that pilots sit one in front of the other. “The fuselage is a lot skinnier because it is a gunship,” Durbin said. “The skinnier it is, the smaller your silhouette is when they are firing at you.

“The Cobra has a lot of power,” he added. “It is very maneuverable, and you get to fire. You shoot 20mm guns, TOW (anti-tank) missiles and rockets. It is a very fun aircraft to fly. Basically, you get to relive the days when you were outside playing Army,” grinned Durbin, who together with his wife Lisa, raises two young children—Brooke, 6, and Pat Jr., 3.

“As long as I’m flying, I’m happy,” he said. Durbin started working full-time at the Army Aviation Support Facility #1, North Canton, in 1999. But the enjoy-

ment of flying for Durbin and other Guard pilots doesn’t come without constant training.

In fact, Guard pilots must meet the same requirements as their active-duty counterparts. They must maintain between 60 and 96 hours of flying time per year, and they are required to complete an annual test which is comprised of an instruments check ride, standardization ride and a written exam.

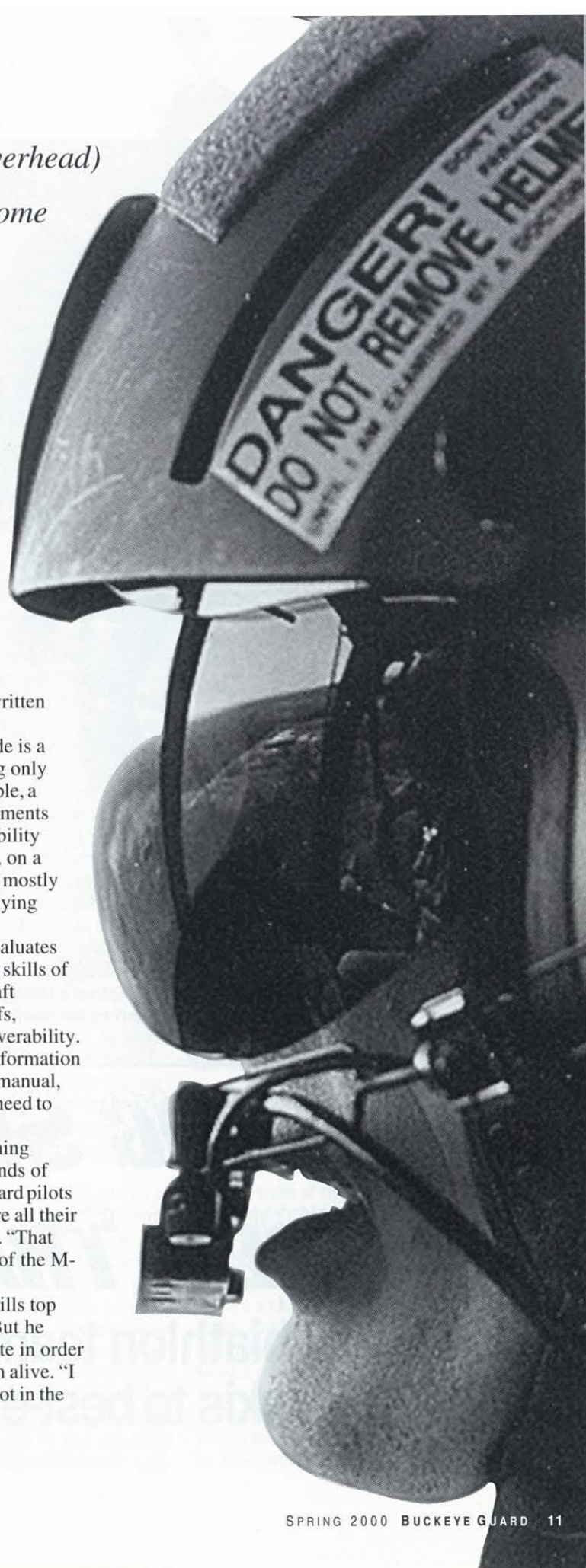
The instruments check ride is a test in which pilots fly using only their instruments. For example, a pilot would fly by his instruments if flying in clouds or no visibility weather. On the other hand, on a clear day, a pilot would rely mostly on his visualization of the flying area.

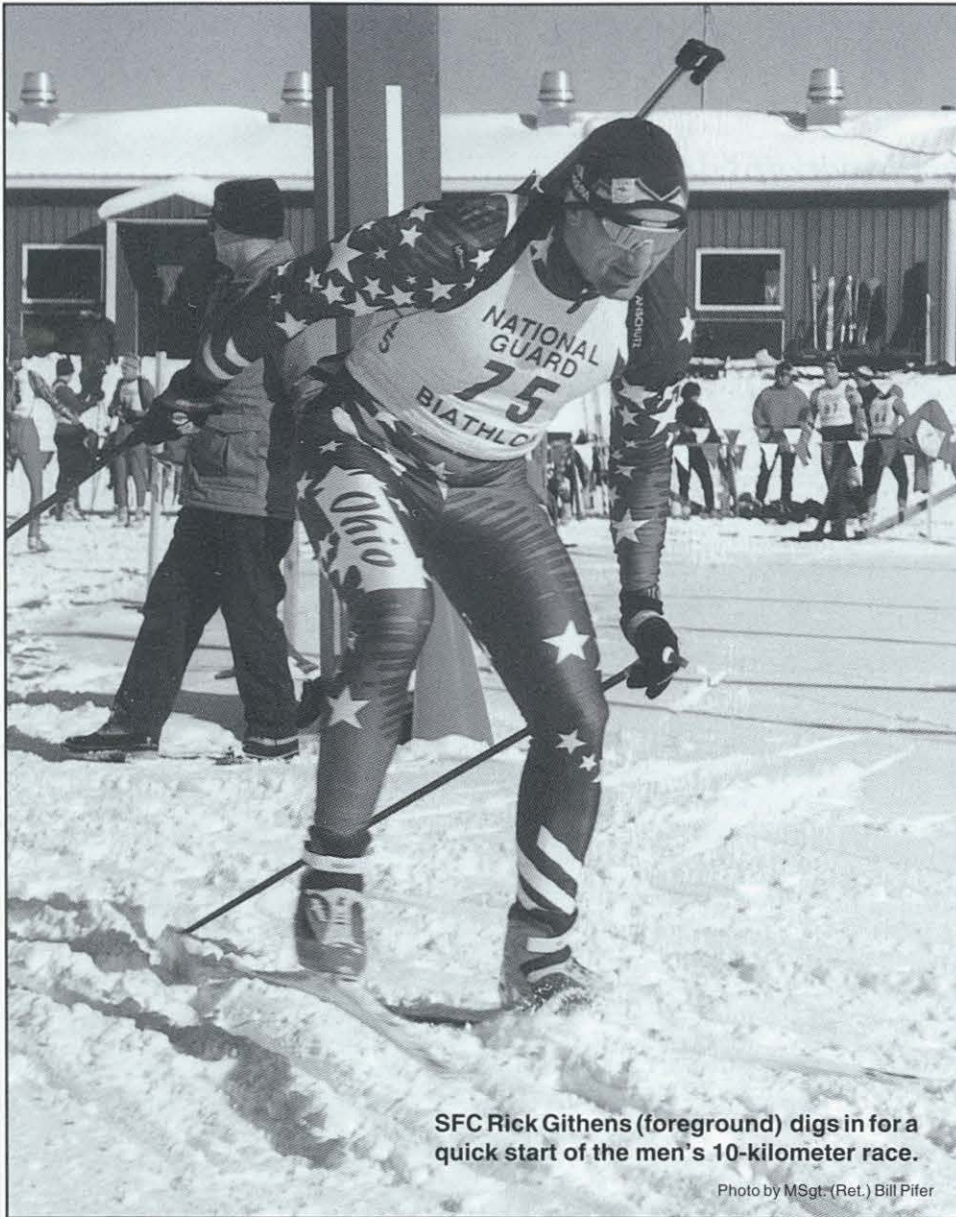
A standardization ride evaluates the basic combat and flying skills of the pilot, for instance, aircraft procedures such as take-offs, landings and overall maneuverability.

The written test covers information from the aircraft operator’s manual, specifically material pilots need to know to ensure safety.

Despite the rigorous training requirements and the demands of civilian life, Durbin said Guard pilots do what it takes to make sure all their Army requirements are met. “That shows the professionalism of the M-Day (traditional) soldier.

“You have to keep the skills top notch,” contends Durbin. But he happily accepts this requisite in order to keep his childhood dream alive. “I love telling people I’m a pilot in the National Guard.” ■





SFC Rick Githens (foreground) digs in for a quick start of the men's 10-kilometer race.

Photo by MSgt. (Ret.) Bill Pifer

Story by Steve Toth
Adj. Gen. Dept. Public Affairs Office

Skiing around a turn at 20 miles per hour with a rifle harnessed to your back is not the easiest of feats. Moving through a hilly, curvy, wooded course for distances of 7.5-20 kilometers in the fastest time possible, coupled with stopping at intervals to draw a rifle and shoot at 4.5-inch diameter targets 50 meters away comprise the sport of biathlon.

Competitors are timed during the race; time allowances are not given for stopping to shoot or falling down. A race will have an even number of shots with prone and standing shooting positions. An average race will have five or 10 shots prone then five or 10 shots standing. The targets are smaller in size during prone shooting, to make that position more challenging. Competitors are penalized for missing targets, with extra time or by having to ski an extra distance (150 meters), called a penalty loop.

The annual Chief, National Guard Bureau Biathlon Championships were held Feb. 12-20 at Camp Ripley, Minn. Teams from more than 25 states, Argentina, Chile, the active Air Force and a group of civilians comprised the field at the weeklong event, which consisted of 125 male and 27 female biathletes competing in sprint, individual, military patrol and team relay races.

The Ohio National Guard Biathlon Team collectively finished its best ever, placing eighth out of 25 teams that finished the competition without being disqualified for equipment or rules violations. It was Ohio's second top 10 finish in the event's history.

Team members consisted of Sgt. 1st Class Rick Githens and Spc. Aaron Rourke, both of Company B, 2-19th Special Forces Group, headquartered in Chagrin Falls; Tech. Sgt. Greg Rudl, of the 121st Air Refueling Wing, Columbus; Sgt. Heath Buckley, of Company B, 1-148th Infantry, Bowling Green; and Pvt. Sara Kellett, of the 323rd Military Police Company, Toledo.

Maj. Thom Haidet, commander of Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, State Area Command (-), Columbus, served in the role of team coordinator/head coach, as well as competitor. Master Sgt. Donna Rakes, also of HHD STARC (-), was Haidet's assistant coach; retired Master Sgt. Bill Pifer, formerly of the 200th Red Horse Squadron, Port Clinton, assisted as the team shooting coach. Pifer previously had competed or coached with Team Ohio from 1985 to 1994. Haidet said Pifer uses his

BRAVING SNOW COVERED TRAILS

Ohio's biathlon team shoots, skis to best-ever finish

vacation and other free time to support the team.

Capt. Larry Henry, of Company B, 2-19th SF Group, had been on the team previously, but was unable to compete this year because he was serving in Bosnia at the time of the competition.

"This year's team excelled due to hard work in the off-season and great support from the ONG leadership, including funding," Haidet said.

Team Ohio had two new competitors in the NGB Championships, and both biathletes excelled. Buckley placed first in the men's novice 7.5-kilometer race, while Kellett was second in the women's novice 7.5-km race. She also was first in the junior women's 7.5- and 15-km races.

The team of Haidet, Buckley, Rudl and Rourke placed ninth out of 23 teams in the 15-km patrol race; that same team also was eighth out of 25 teams in the 4-by-7.5-km relay race.

Rudl, who was competing in his sixth NGB Biathlon Championships, attributed better training and more abundant snow this past winter as

factors for the team's improvement over previous years.

"The big thing is we had enough snow to ski in, so we got a lot of snow time and that really mattered," he said. "In previous years, we didn't have enough snow (in Ohio).

"I also think I kept in better shape during the summer, by doing a lot of bike riding. It put me in better shape earlier in the season."

In preparation for this year's NGB Biathlon, the team went to West Yellowstone, Mont., last December, as well as spent several weekends training at Grayling, Mich., and at Chapin Forest, a park in the Cleveland area. Haidet also built a course on his in-laws' farm in central Ohio, with a competition range for team members to practice marksmanship.

"It's probably been the most physically challenging event I've done in my life," said Rakes, a consistent high-scorer on the Army Physical Fitness Test who competed in the NGB Championships in 1999. "You're using every muscle in your body. You have to be in great shape.

"It was fun training with the team—that's where the enjoyment was for me. Competing last year in the actual event was icing on the cake."

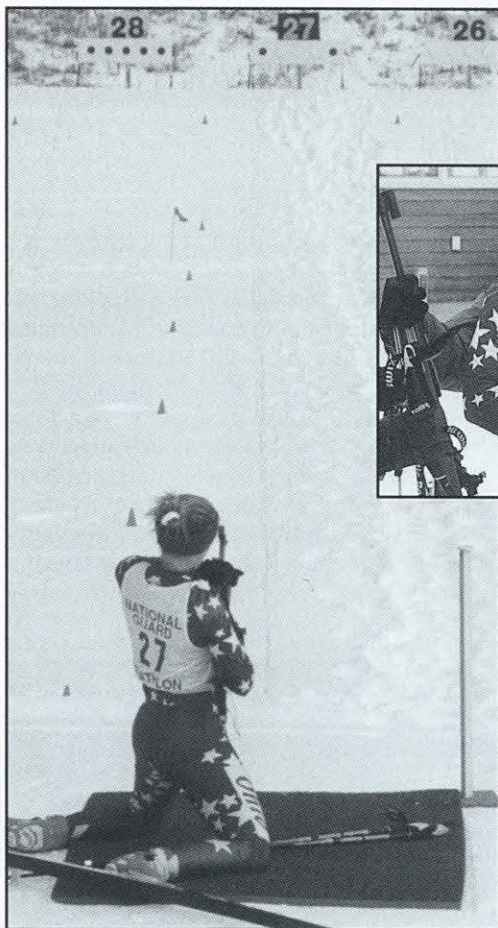
Physical stamina coupled with mental toughness is necessary for the biathlon. Endurance sports often can play mind games with even the most seasoned veterans. The level of competition also raises the stress. Several National Guard biathletes are of world-class caliber, and that fact isn't lost on Rudl, even after years of competing. "You're skiing alongside Olympic-caliber athletes. That thrill is something you've never experienced before," Rudl said.

Haidet said one of his next objectives as coach is to establish links between recruiters and units to actively enlist new and existing guardmembers to participate in both winter and summer biathlon. While it involves neither snow nor skis, summer biathlon embraces the same principles as its winter predecessor, sans the season-specific factors. Summer biathlon is a combination of cross country running and rifle marksmanship. Competitors run without rifles, however, leaving them at the shooting range, which is either 25 or 50 meters long.

Photo by SSgt. Robert Trubia,
158th Fighter Wing



TSgt. Greg Rudl cruises the course during the men's 20-kilometer individual race.



Photos by MSgt. (Ret.) Bill Pifer

ABOVE: PVT Sara Kellett completes her first prone shooting bout during the women's 15-kilometer individual race. ABOVE, INSET: After Kellett finishes one of her races, officials check in her Anschutz .22-caliber rifle.

Two summer biathlon competitions coming up are June 24 in Dayton and Aug. 26 in New Philadelphia. Haidet said people shouldn't be concerned whether to try out for the team if they have never skied before—that can be learned. He said he is looking for good athletes who engage in cardiovascular sports such as running, roller blading, swimming and mountain biking.

"It's a chance for someone to try a new sport, improve their marksmanship skills and build good esprit-de-corps as a team," Haidet said. "My goal is to give everyone an opportunity to excel."

For more information on becoming part of Team Ohio, contact Haidet at (614) 336-7133 or haidett@oh-arnng.ngb.army.mil. ■

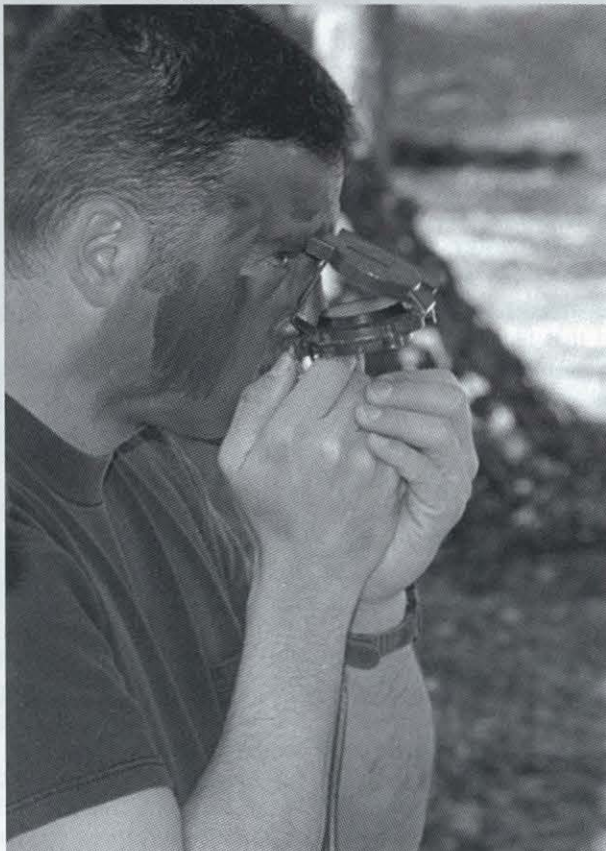
Survival of the Fittest

STORY AND PHOTOS BY TSGT TODD CRAMER, 179TH AIRLIFT WING



The young officer quickly sat upright on the edge of the life raft, surprised by the response from the C-130 pilot to his radio call for rescue. He had not expected a reply and was now somewhat uncertain how to respond.

With a little coaching from the raft instructor, the captain guided the C-130 to his location, and the aircraft soon was roaring in low and slow over the three life rafts bobbing in the clear ocean water. On the third pass, the big turbo-prop dropped three pararescue men from the 304th Rescue Squadron, Oregon Air National Guard, who drifted down to the waiting aircrews cramped inside their survival rafts.



This was part of Century Shark 2000, a two-day training exercise in combat and water survival for C-130 aircrew members of the Ohio, Michigan and Missouri Air National Guard. Organized by the 171st Airlift Squadron, Selfridge, Mich., the exercise was held at Sigsbee Point, near Key West, Fla., Feb. 11-12.

The training team consisted of a diverse mix of Air National Guard and active-duty





OPPOSITE PAGE, TOP: MSgt. Gregg Anton (left), 164th Airlift Squadron, Mansfield, works with trainees at a firecraft station. OPPOSITE PAGE, BOTTOM: MSgt. Chris Morehead practices shooting an azimuth at the land navigation station. LEFT: MSgt. Tom Jones, 164th Airlift Squadron, helps a trainee adjust his release straps at the 'hanging harness' station.

personnel from seven states, including six instructors of the 164th Life Support Section, 179th Airlift Wing, Mansfield, led by Master Sgt. Tom Jones.

Day one consisted of water survival training, where aircrew members went through eight training stations which demonstrated the most critical aspects of sea survival. During the "canopy crawl," service members had to find their way out from under a soggy parachute that just landed them safely in the water. Though it may not sound difficult, this event could go tragically wrong.

A more enjoyable part of the training was the parasailing station, which demonstrated proper wear of the harness, and exactly how and when to release a parachute as you near the water. With the use of a power boat, the "parachute drag" gave Century Shark participants the sensation of being pulled through the water by a parachute if they were unable to disengage the Koch releases before hitting water. The station also covered how to free themselves from the parachute safely.

Training in the Gulf of Mexico proved to be very realistic for the air crews of the 179th who are used to practicing water survival skills in a swimming pool. "Realistic training is the key to learning how to apply survival equipment and knowledge," said 179th Airlift Wing Vice Commander Lt. Col. Mark Stevens,

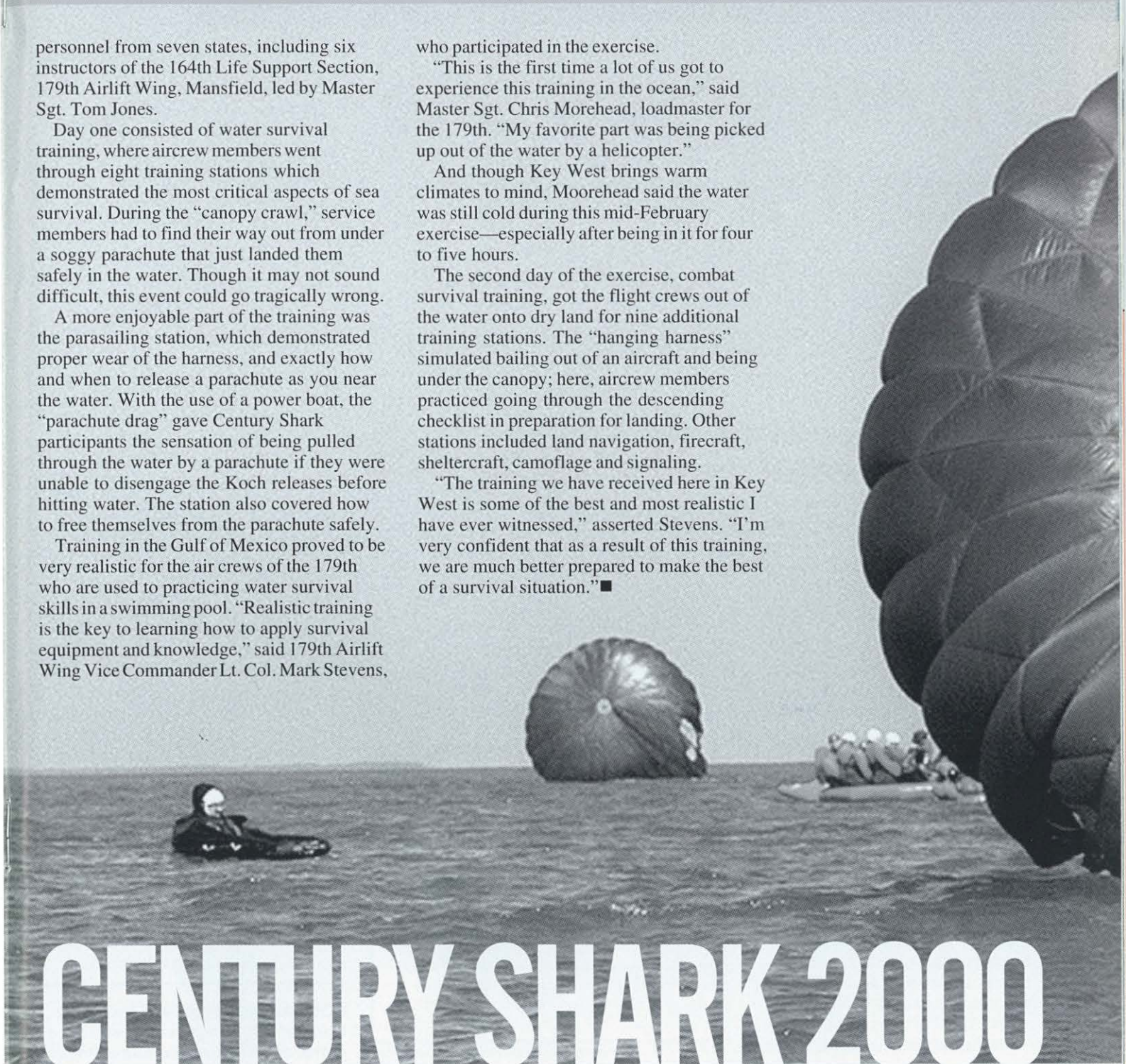
who participated in the exercise.

"This is the first time a lot of us got to experience this training in the ocean," said Master Sgt. Chris Morehead, loadmaster for the 179th. "My favorite part was being picked up out of the water by a helicopter."

And though Key West brings warm climates to mind, Moorehead said the water was still cold during this mid-February exercise—especially after being in it for four to five hours.

The second day of the exercise, combat survival training, got the flight crews out of the water onto dry land for nine additional training stations. The "hanging harness" simulated bailing out of an aircraft and being under the canopy; here, aircrew members practiced going through the descending checklist in preparation for landing. Other stations included land navigation, firecraft, sheltercraft, camouflage and signaling.

"The training we have received here in Key West is some of the best and most realistic I have ever witnessed," asserted Stevens. "I'm very confident that as a result of this training, we are much better prepared to make the best of a survival situation." ■



CENTURY SHARK 2000



GENE COLLINS WAS A MEMBER of the 37th Infantry Division during all three of its major campaigns during World War II—New Georgia, Bougainville and Luzon. This is the second of three articles highlighting his experiences. Collins, now 80, lives in Columbus and is an active member of the 37th Division Veterans Association.

HISTORY

Fighting war, one island at a time

‘Buckeye Division’ veteran shares wartime experiences

BY SGT ANTHONY C. MELDAHL, CO. C, 118TH AREA SUPPORT MEDICAL BATTALION

BOUGAINVILLE AND HILL 700

After the fighting on the island of New Georgia and a period of rest at Guadalcanal, the next action Gene Collins was to see took place on Bougainville, the last major island in the Solomon chain in the South Pacific.

Bougainville was a significant objective because it was located a mere 200 miles from Rabaul, a major Japanese military complex on New Britain. Up to this point, the air campaign against Rabaul was hampered by a lack of U.S. airstrips close enough to it. It was decided that just enough land and beachhead could be seized on Bougainville to put up three airstrips and a defensive perimeter. The rest of the island would be left to the Japanese. The airfields would be used for fighter aircraft escorting bombers heading to Rabaul; as emergency airstrips for bombers; and for cargo planes to bring in supplies and evacuate wounded.

The operation began Nov. 1, 1943,

when the 3rd Marine Division made an amphibious assault on Bougainville at Empress Augusta Bay. Eight days later the 148th Infantry Regiment and the 37th Cav Recon Troop of the “Buckeye Division” landed on the beachhead. The recon troop was immediately put into action reinforcing the perimeter of the 148th. Collins spent his first nights manning a position in the heavily wooded marshland of the perimeter.



Photo courtesy of Ohio Historical Society archives

“Soon after our arrival, Japanese bombers attacked at night. We nick-named these bombers ‘Washing Machine Charlies’ because of the sound they made,” Collins said. “Their engines ran rough, sputtering and popping like the old gas engine-powered washing machines of our time. One night I, along with the rest of the men of the Buckeye Division, were treated to a spectacular show. An American nightfighter aircraft had caught a Washing Machine Charlie as the latter was making its nightly bombing run over our perimeter. We watched as a red stream of tracers from the invisible nightfighter raked across the unsuspecting bomber. The Japanese aircraft burst into flames, dropped like a falling torch and exploded in the jungle just beyond the perimeter. This was followed by the roar of hundreds of soldiers cheering the nightfighter like a crowd at a baseball game.”

By the end of December, the Bougainville perimeter had been established, three airstrips completed and the entire 37th was in place. The 3rd Marine Division was replaced by Army troops from the Americal Division. The perimeter was a semicircular arc six miles wide and five miles deep, with a terrain of rugged hills covered with thick jungle. The key terrain barring enemy observation and direct fire on the airstrips was Hill 700, located in the center of the sector. The Buckeye Division had the mission of defending the western half of the perimeter, including Hill 700; the Americal Division had the eastern half.

From November 1943 to March 1944, Collins and the other men of the 37th Recon Troop conducted many long-range patrols behind enemy lines. They spent more than 60 days in enemy

BOUGAINVILLE 1943—Collins (right) leads a long-range reconnaissance patrol deep behind Japanese lines.

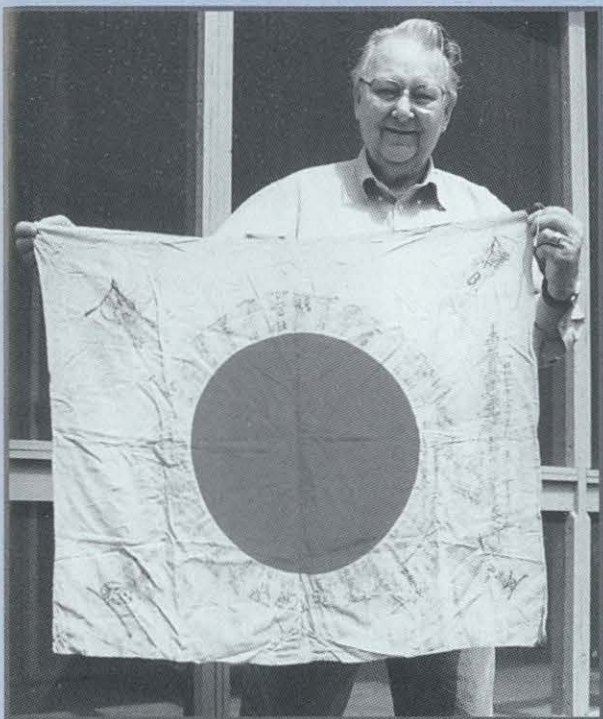


Photo by SGT Anthony C. Meldahl, Co. C, 118th ASMB

1999-Collins, at his Columbus home, displays the Japanese flag he took after the Battle of Hill 700.

on the hilltop. The Japanese broke through G Company's line and, by daybreak, occupied a 70-by-50-yard salient.

The 37th Cav Recon Troop had been in reserve and now was called into action.

"When the Japanese hit Hill 700 that night, it was the heaviest fighting I experienced in the war," Collins said. "In the evening they brought us up a road the engineers had carved out of the steep back slopes of Hill 700 to an assembly area. At midnight things were quiet, and we laid down to get some rest. Around one o'clock we were ordered to move up towards the crest of the hill. The slope was steep and climbing it was tough going."

Collins, with three other soldiers, worked his way up the hill, and came across an infantryman huddled by a tree. "I asked him where the front line was," Collins said. "He replied that he didn't know. Then I asked him, 'Well, where are the Japanese?' He pointed ahead and whispered, 'Right there!' Then he left. Suddenly there was some shouting, and the other three guys disappeared. One thing I knew for sure was that I was there all alone with about 50 yards of the front to myself.

"I felt a chill up my spine when I realized

"I yanked out the pin and lobbed the grenade....Instead of hearing the anticipated explosion...I was shocked to discover that the enemy had thrown my grenade back at me!"

that I could hear Japanese soldiers. They were a short distance away whispering to each other, right over the crest of the hill."

Collins reached into one of three bags of hand grenades he had with him and pulled one out. "I yanked out the pin and lobbed

the grenade over the crest of the hill," he said. "Time seemed to stand still. Instead of hearing the anticipated explosion from the enemy position, I was shocked to discover that the enemy had thrown my grenade back at me! It landed with a thud about 10 feet from me and exploded. I said to myself: 'Now, this isn't the way to do it.' Our grenades had a five-second fuse. So henceforth I'd pull the pin and give the fuse a couple of seconds to burn before I threw the grenade. Then the grenade would explode right after it landed. I never got one of them thrown back at me again."

Each time Collins heard Japanese soldiers whispering, he would lob a few grenades in their direction. After the detonation, he said he would often hear the wounded Japanese moaning. But, at the same time, the Japanese had picked up on the tracer-like trail created from the sparkling fuses of Collins' grenades.

"Soon Japanese grenades started falling all around me. Grenades fell and exploded all night. One landed three feet from me. I threw all 45 grenades I had with me. It seemed like that night would never end." By dawn, a company from the 145th Infantry made its way up the slopes from behind Collins. An officer told him to move back. The infantrymen had fixed bayonets and were ready to counterattack over the crest of the hill. "As I slid down the hill heading back to the road, I could hear them shouting a battle cry as they charged over that crest. I always regret not having witnessed that charge.

"Later that day, I was with a squad from the recon troop helping the infantry mop up. It was an appalling site to see. There were hundreds of dead Japanese littering the steep slopes. Their dead were stacked up four to five men deep on the barbed wire in front of our (positions)."

This is when Collins claimed a Japanese flag that he still has today.

The 37th repulsed eight Japanese divisional attacks on the perimeter March 9-23, 1944. By the end, Japan's 6th Infantry was virtually destroyed. ■

territory, reconnoitering and mapping over 270 miles of trails.

"We were expected to find out where the Japanese were and what was their strength," Collins said. "The only way to do that is to go out and make contact. We'd start shooting and see what happened."

The Japanese 6th Infantry Division had been moved up into the sector opposite Hill 700 and the adjacent Canon Hill. On March 4, more than 90 percent of the cav recon troop was out in front of the perimeter monitoring the approach of the Japanese. By March 8, Japanese artillery shelling caused the patrols to be called back into the perimeter.

The Japanese began their attack against Hill 700 during a torrential downpour of rain shortly after midnight on March 9. The 145th Infantry Regiment, comprised mainly of Ohio Guardmembers from the Youngstown area, was defending the ridge



Photo by SMSgt. Larry Wilson, 179th Airlift Wing

The F-100 sits disassembled on a flatbed truck, flown from Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Ariz., to Mansfield in three trips by a unit C-130 transport aircraft.

Mansfield welcomes return of the **Super Sabre**

Story by Tech. Sgt. Randy Dunham
179th Airlift Wing

The four-year marriage between the 179th and the F-100 fighter jet was over and a new romance began as soon as the first two C-130s eased onto the Mansfield-Lahm runway in early January 1976.

The fighter unit was becoming an airlift unit, so when the last F-100 taxied down the runway one month after the first C-130 arrived, no one expected to ever see another Super Sabre back on the flightline.

But another one soon will be greeting 179th visitors when they drive in the gate at Mansfield-Lahm Airport when the F-100 is placed next to the F-84 now on static display.

Sixteen members of the 179th, as well as a C-130 crew and one retired former crew chief, flew to Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, near Tucson, to dismantle and transport an F-100 back to Mansfield.

For most of the Mansfield senior enlisted force who went on the trip, it was a chance to relive fond memories.

"Everyone on this trip, we go way back," said Master Sgt. Ray Curatti, a former welder on the F-100 and current first sergeant for the maintenance squadron. "We have a history with the F-100 and couldn't pass on the opportunity to work on it again."

The majority of those who went to the "boneyard" were on personal time, either taking leave from technician jobs at the base or taking vacation from civilian jobs.

Master Sgt. Til Jones, who works in the

fuels section, went along because she wanted to be a part of bringing some history back to Mansfield. However, while she was there, she found some personal history of her own.

"I called my dad from the hotel to tell him what we were doing," she said, "and he told me he flew F-100s during Vietnam. I never knew that. I'm checking the tail number to see if he flew this one."

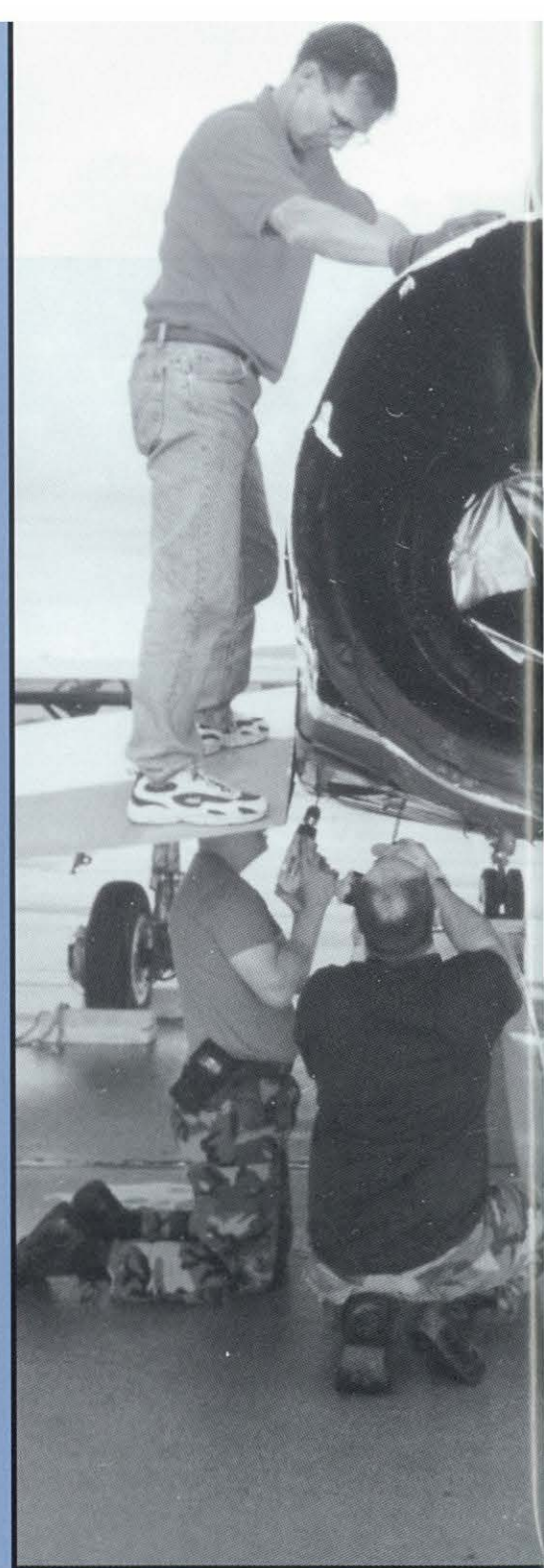




Photo by TSgt. Randy Dunham, 179th Airlift Wing

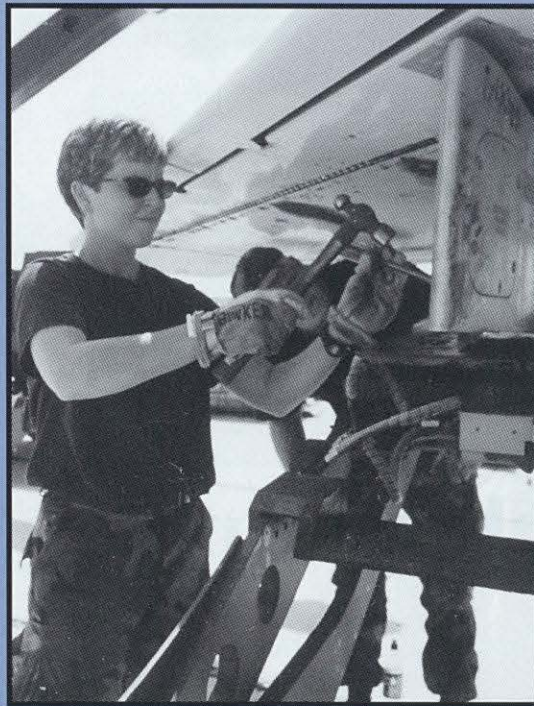


Photo by TSgt. Randy Dunham, 179th Airlift Wing

CENTER: Retired and current members of the 179th Airlift Wing work to remove the vertical and horizontal stabilizers from the F-100. **LEFT:** SSgt. Heidi Bunker removes screws from the rear horizontal stabilizer prior to disassembling the aircraft. **BELOW:** A crane lifts the vertical stabilizer off the fuselage of the F-100 and places it on the ground while members of the 179th steady the section.



Photo by TSgt. Randy Dunham, 179th Airlift Wing

As it turned out, Mansfield's "new" F-100 was not one Jones' father had flown, but working on the type of aircraft her father had flown meant a lot to her. "It was really cool talking to him about it and then being able to work on the aircraft," she said.

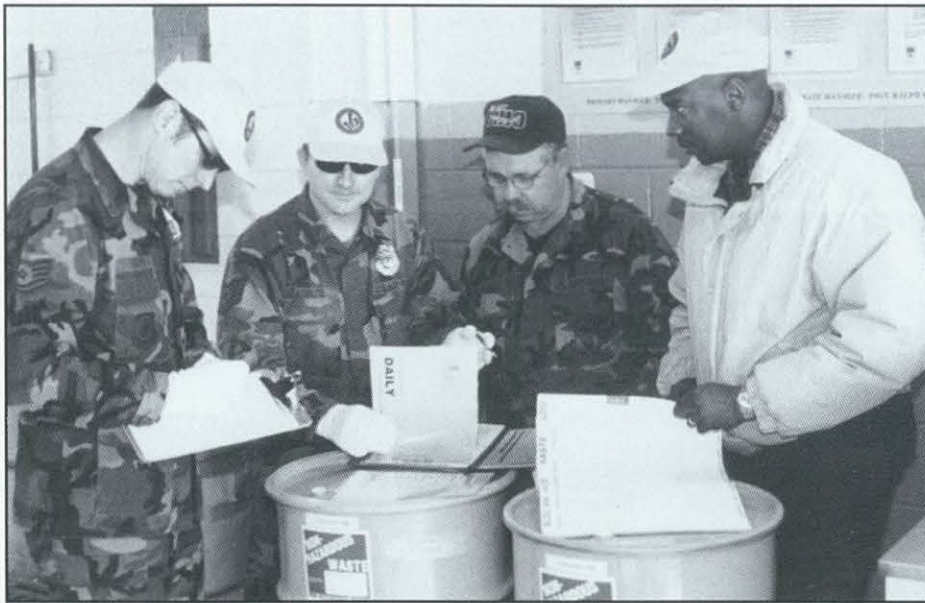
The idea of bringing an F-100 to Mansfield to put on static display was born during a Chief's Council meeting on base.

The chiefs had been tossing around the

possibility of getting a loaner F-100 to put alongside the F-84 currently on display to fill the gap in the unit's aviation history.

"Then we decided, 'what the heck, we ought not to borrow one, we ought to have our own,'" said Chief Master Sgt. Dave Cochran, an organizer of the trip. "I got word there was one available at Davis-Monthan, and we put the whole thing in progress."

Cochran placed a few calls to some people he knew, including his identical twin brother, Chief Master Sgt. Dan Cochran, who is with the state Air Guard staff in Arizona. Together, they came up with an F-100 that had originally been destined for another base in another state. As it turned out, the Mansfield crew was in the right place, at the right time. ■



LEFT: TSgt. Ralph Downs (third from left), satellite manager with the 121st Air Refueling Wing, undergoes a monthly hazardous waste inspection by TSgt. Joe Dixon (from left), TSgt. Keith Koblitz and LeRoy Edwards III.

Doing a clean-up job

121st ARW's base recycling plan earns state, national honors

Story by Master Sgt. Ealnor Grey
HQ, Ohio ANG

Photos by Master Sgt. Kim Frey
121st Air Refueling Wing

When it comes to an issue such as recycling, it's OK to use the same idea over and over again.

Members of the 121st Air Refueling Wing, located at Rickenbacker Air National Guard Base in Columbus, have worked diligently the past few years to execute the base recycling plan. A team effort has led to a significant reduction in hazardous waste produced while increasing the amount of materials that are recycled.

"To make a program successful, you need a buy-in from everybody that works at the wing," said Roger Jones, 121st federal environmental coordinator. "If there was no support here, there would be nothing special about our program. We have about eight environmental teams."

Last year, the unit continued what is becoming a regular occurrence—earning state and national recognition for its environmental efforts. In October, Gov. Bob Taft presented the unit with a Governor's Award for Outstanding Achievement in Pollution Prevention, one of just a few presented each year statewide.

The unit and some individuals received further recognition Feb. 8 during the Air

National Guard Environmental Training Workshop in Gulfport, Miss. There, the wing received the Annual Recycling Award for increasing the amount of materials being recycled from less than 20,000 pounds in 1993 to more than 346,000 pounds in 1998. Materials recycled at the base include used batteries, paper, cardboard, metal, wood, tires, fluorescent light bulbs, plastic bead blasting media, used oil, plastic compact diskettes, toner cartridges and antifreeze.

LeRoy Edwards III, a state environmental specialist at Rickenbacker, received two individual awards—the ANG Recycling Award for Individual/Team Excellence and the ANG State Environmental Employee Award. Within five months of when he began working in January 1998, Edwards effectively established a standard operating procedure enforcing both the Air National Guard and Environmental Protection Agency guidelines, according to Jones.

Edwards ensured the continued success of the environmental program by implementing the use of hazardous waste inspection teams, which serve as a check and balance system.

"We have 13 hazardous waste satellite accumulation points on base, and each has an assigned satellite manager," Edwards said. "Each location is inspected monthly, by a different inspection team, and the team members rotate roles between satellite manager and inspector to gain experience."

"The satellite managers are solely responsible for the daily and weekly documentation, container waste management and proper disposal of hazardous waste."

Edwards regularly conducts inspections throughout the base and in the buildings, looking for possible infractions of EPA, ANG and Defense Department regulations.

"Successful programs are accomplished by being well-organized and having devoted members," he said. "By our constant efforts, we've increased our recycling, reduced air pollution and hazardous waste."

In Gulfport, wing members Senior Master Sgt. Michael J. Lewis and Tech. Sgt. Janice M. Hunt received the Voluntary Environmental Achievement Award, for performing environmental activities above and beyond their normal work schedules.

Hunt is the team manager for the hazardous material pharmacy program. "We've had continuous improvement non-stop over the years...it keeps getting better," she said. "(Before), the customers on base were just customers—now they are players in the big team effort; they call me for training and want to know what is their responsibility."

Master Sgt. Kelly Ruff, bio-environmental team manager, also oversees occupational health issues for the wing. Ruff works directly with Hunt in authorizing use of hazardous waste material and determining if items could possibly be carcinogenic.

Ruff said his job has become easier over the years. "I go into the shops (now) and the people know what I'm doing, plus the senior leadership is supportive," he said.

"I'm very pleased at the total buy-in throughout the unit," said Brig. Gen. Lance Meyer, commander of the 121st. "That's what has made the base recycling program so successful." ■



Earl Thompson, an employee of Rumpke Waste Removal and Recycling, Inc., comes every Thursday to Rickenbacker Airport to pick up used paper for recycling.

2000 Family Readiness Conference largest ever

Story and photos by
Sgt. 1st Class Bob Mullins
HQSTARC (-)

The annual Ohio National Guard Family Readiness Conference is over for 2000—however, the need for continual preparation and the necessity for family support is not.

During a mid-April weekend, 351 volunteers came together with one mission in mind: find ways to better support Guard families. This gathering was the largest in Ohio's history, combining both Army and Air Guard family support groups for a joint conference.

Since the first shot was fired for freedom, military men and women have been asked to leave their families and put their personal lives on hold while traveling throughout the world to carry the torch for democracy. Being committed to the mission means putting the responsibility of the household with others.

The modern military now has realized the importance of providing assistance not only to the activated soldiers and airmen, but also to their families. Family readiness has gained momentum over the last two decades and is now a well-organized program which was tested more recently during Operations Desert Shield/Storm and other long-term deployments, and has been termed very successful.

"The family support organization's value is what will keep our soldiers and airmen strong and helps bring them the best of what we can do for each other," said Brig. Gen. Paul J. Sullivan, Ohio's assistant adjutant general for Air. A supporter of family readiness programs for a long time, Sullivan attended this year's conference.

National Guard Bureau has designated 2000 as the "Year of the Family," to emphasize the importance of the family members behind each guardmember. NGB provides guidance to each state's family readiness office,



ABOVE: Elisabeth Lehman, a 237th Forward Support Battalion family support group member, said: "We cannot be successful as a family unless we support each other." **RIGHT:** Lillian Collins displays her Molly Pitcher statuette given to her as the Adjutant General's Volunteer of the Year.

which in turn assists each unit family support group. The primary objective of the state program and subordinate unit support groups is to make the family aware of entitlements and benefits before and during activation, departure and return for the guardmember. If problems arise, the family support group is a point of contact between the family and the guardmember.

Family support is an all-volunteer organization that specializes in caring and giving.

Elisabeth Lehman is a family support group member with the 237th Forward Support Battalion, headquartered in Springfield. Lehman has a full-time job, and cares for her four children: Joel, 7; Amandah, 9; Hannah, 10; and Daniel, 11.

"Helping with the family assistance group is a priority. We cannot be successful as a family unless we support each other," Lehman said. Her husband, 1st Lt. Gary Lehman, is commander of Company A, 237th FSB.

Each unit has the responsibility to maintain a family support group. "If you are activated, the



necessary personnel are in place to assist you and your family. Depend on your family support group and the chain of command," said Col. Margaret Skelton, state family readiness officer. "Family support groups originate at each unit throughout the state.

Volunteers are always welcome and needed. It must be understood that what we all do will someday reflect on our own military families."

Those earning special recognition at this year's conference, held April 14-16 in Dublin, included the Adjutant General's Volunteer of the Year Award winner Lillian Collins, family support group chairperson for the 2-174th Air Defense Artillery (Avenger) Battalion, McConnellsville. Her husband is Master Sgt. David G. Collins.

The Adjutant General's Family of the Year Award was presented to Command Chief Master Sgt. Bernie Hagl, of the 121st Air Refueling Wing, Columbus, and his wife, Ila, for their involvement with the Ohio ANG Family Support Council.

Master Sgt. Orland Willis, of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1-147th Armor Battalion, Cincinnati, received the Adjutant General's Military Liaison Award. "Any soldier or airman who becomes a member of the National Guard has to plan to become a part of the Guard family, and the rest of us need to support that," he said.

"Over the past two decades, family and community relationships have changed enormously," said Maj. Gen. John H. Smith, state adjutant general. "It has become increasingly clear that we cannot ignore the importance of family readiness and its impact on the well-being of our soldiers, airmen and units.

"Family readiness is about addressing critical, family needs, if or when they (guardmembers) are mobilized." ■

EDITOR'S NOTE: For more information on family readiness programs, contact Chief Warrant Officer Carmen Coventry at (614) 336-7192, or coventrycc@oh-armg.ngb.army.mil.

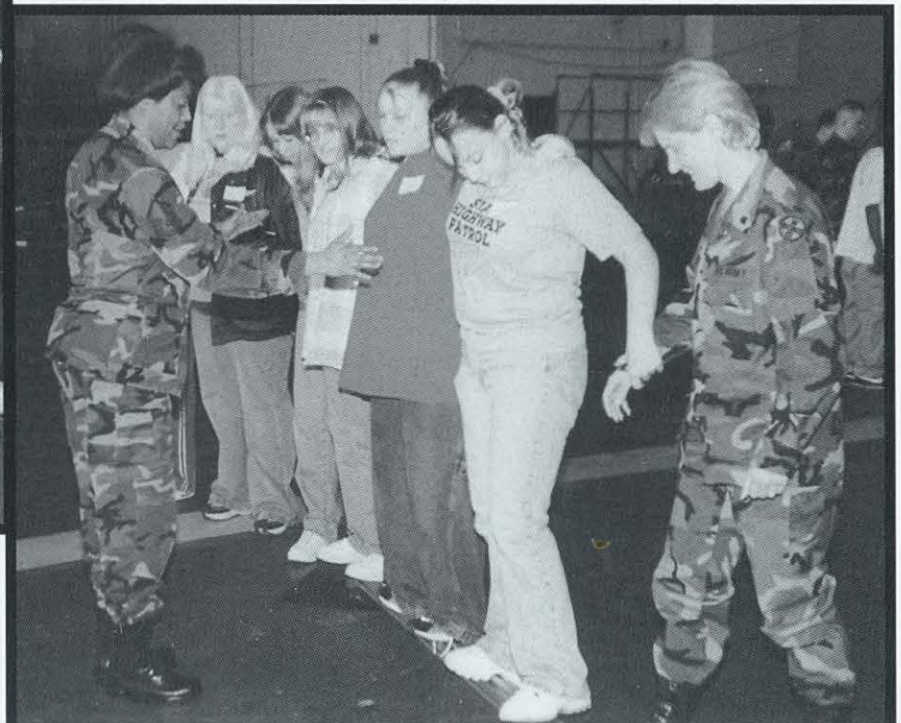


HIGHER

GROUND



Marion-Franklin High School students needed no paper or pencils for their final exam March 21 at Rickenbacker Airport, Columbus. Participants in the Ohio National Guard's ethics-based character education program, *Higher Ground*, the students culminated six weeks of guardmember-led classroom instruction with a low ropes team-building course. Students worked together to conquer exercises including the Boxed Spider Web, Blindfold Walk and Big Foot. For more information on this course and equipment, call 1st Lt. Phil McGonagill at (614) 336-6432 or e-mail mcgonagillp@oh-arng.ngb.army.mil. ADJUTANT GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE



Photos by Steve Toth
Adj. Gen. Dept. Public Affairs Office



Photo by OC Don Flowers, HQ STARC (-)

Sacred Heart Elementary fourth-grader Richard Skelton (right) chose to render a salute to BG Ronald G. Young, assistant adjutant general for Army, as a way to thank guardmembers for building a new art room at the school.

General improvement: Guard helps build art room at Coshocton-area school

Some of the top leaders in the Ohio National Guard visited Sacred Heart School in Coshocton Feb. 10 to help welcome a little culture to the building.

Maj. Gen. John H. Smith, state adjutant general, Brig. Gen. Ronald G. Young, assistant adjutant general for Army, and Col. Margaret Skelton, state family readiness program officer, cut the ribbon on the new art room for the school. The art room is located in what was an unimproved cellar.

The room was made possible through the Adopt-A-School program, through which the Ohio National Guard adopted Sacred Heart School back in 1992.

The 211th Maintenance Company, Newark, along with soldiers from Headquarters, State Area Command, Columbus; 737th Maintenance Battalion, Mount Vernon; and 73rd Troop Command, Columbus, donated six weeks of volunteer time to the remodeling of the cellar.

What was once a dark and unapproachable area is now a bright and colorful art room with restrooms and a tutoring area.

The guardmembers dry-walled the entire basement, fire-bricked the furnace, installed 700 feet of wiring, replaced heaters, added television and telephone hookups, and put in a drop ceiling to hide all of the exposed studs, wires and pipes.

The art room will eventually have its own kiln, which was donated by the Salvation Army of Mount Vernon.

Sacred Heart students thanked the Guard by singing familiar tunes with new words expressing their appreciation and present-

ing thank you cards to the guardmembers in attendance.

Members of the preschool each carried a letter of the phrase "thank you," that is until the student with the letter "k" decided he was too tired to stand in line anymore.

Young said the ceremony recognized what the National Guard is all about. "We want to help shape the leaders of tomorrow," he said.

Smith said he wants citizens to understand the duties of the National Guard. "We have a federal, state and community mission," he said.

This particular day, the Guard was on a community mission that benefited Sacred Heart and the future of the art world. LEAH NAIRN, COSHOCTON TRIBUNE

ONG offers training course to mentor at-risk youth

To better prepare soldiers and airmen who are interested in serving as volunteer cadre for discipline-oriented youth activities, the Ohio National Guard will provide a certified training course Aug. 20-Sep. 1.

The Rehabilitation Training Instructor Course (RTIC) is a two-week program taught by the U.S. Army Military Police School. It is designed to assist the National Drug Control Strategy by providing instructor training to federal, state and local agencies who have adopted a military-style "boot camp" program, similar to the Ohio National Guard's TEAM (Teen Education and Motivation) camp offered each summer.

The purpose is to provide a unique training opportunity not available elsewhere in the country by training selected staff in the art of drill instructor techniques.

Training will incorporate principles designed to maintain a constant level of stress, control and discipline needed to alter undesirable behavior. Topics include counseling, evaluation, leadership, discipline, drill and ceremony, physical fitness, gang awareness and methods of instruction.

For more information, contact 1st Sgt. Darrell Carson by phone at (614) 336-6381 or e-mail carsondw@oh-arng.ngb.army.mil. **1LT PHIL MCGONAGILL**, DRUG DEMAND REDUCTION OFFICE

Ohio could become satellite counterdrug training center

The Northeast Counterdrug Training Center (NCTC), located at Fort Indiantown Gap, Pa., was established in October 1998 to provide a no-cost counterdrug training and education center supporting the northeastern United States. The NCTC is managed by the Pennsylvania Counterdrug Program.

Law enforcement and demand reduction professionals attend free of charge, including room and board. The only expense to the student is the cost of transportation to NCTC. Often this cost can prevent students from attending, therefore the NCTC is working with the Ohio Counterdrug Task Force to establish a satellite center in Ohio. The most likely location will be Rickenbacker Airport, Columbus. This location offers both Army and Air training facilities ideally suited to host NCTC training.

Instructors for the courses are nationally recognized subject matter experts from law enforcement and demand reduction communities. Under the charter of the training center, law enforcement officials review all courses.

The training center is also negotiating with several colleges and universities to provide continuing education credits for NCTC courses. Courses offered include analytical techniques, basic Spanish for law enforcement, basic warrant execution, criminal street gang identification, domestic money laundering and grant writing. Courses are expected to begin in fiscal year 2001.

The Ohio Counterdrug Task Force recently conducted a practice evaluation of the New Jersey counterdrug program at the request of the New Jersey counterdrug coordinator. The purpose of the visit was to evaluate the New Jersey Program using the same criteria that the National Guard Bureau counterdrug office uses. The New Jersey program, while much larger than Ohio, conducts many of the same missions. The soldiers and airmen of the program were all first rate and enthusiastic. The "Garden State" counterdrug program passed the practice evaluation with flying colors.

The success of this event has spurred the interest of other states in the region. Wisconsin requested a practice evaluation as well, which was scheduled to take place this spring. **LT COL ROBERT BAYLOR**, COUNTERDRUG OFFICE



Courtesy photo

SGT Robert Rorick, of D Company, 137th Aviation Battalion, demilitarizes a UH-60 'Black Hawk' main rotor hub during annual training in Germany.

Helicopter maintainers test skills overseas in Germany

A team of 25 personnel from D Company, 137th Aviation (AVIM) Battalion, headquartered in Columbus, spent three weeks, from Jan. 29 to Feb. 19, in Mannheim, Germany, to support the active-duty 2-502nd Aviation Regiment.

The active unit's mission is to provide intermediate repair and maintenance for all Army helicopters assigned to units in the European Theater, which includes UH-60 "Black Hawks," CH-47 "Chinooks" and AH-64 "Apaches."

"The UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter maintenance and repair is Company D's primary mission," said Chief Warrant Officer William Crossley, who was the officer-in-charge. "This augments well with the regiment's workload of Black Hawks. The regiment counts on Guard units from the States to provide support with their ongoing mission in Europe."

Sgt. 1st Class Kirk Kmetko, the non-commissioned officer-in-charge, said "This is the best training one can get—working every day with an active Army unit. Your work results in helping the soldiers complete their missions in Germany, Bosnia and Italy." **SSG T.J. MILLER, D COMPANY, 137th AVIATION BATTALION (AVIM)**

Unit trains for NTC mission

Recent training for Alpha Company, 1-148th Infantry, Hillsboro, has been in preparation for the unit's return to the National Training Center (NTC) at Fort Irwin, Calif. Unit members will be part of the Red OPFOR (opposing forces) dur-

ing annual training in 2001. The unit was last at NTC in 1997.

During February drill, 60-80 soldiers worked with UH-1 "Huey" helicopters, conducting flight training for their aerial assault mission at NTC. They also practiced exiting the aircraft and assuming defensive positions. **SPC DAVE SCHULTZ, A COMPANY, 1-148TH INFANTRY**

Deadline nears for softball tourney

Entries are currently being accepted for the Ohio Air and Army National Guard State Softball Tournament, scheduled for June 24 at Fairfield Park in Fairborn.

Hosted by the 178th Fighter Wing, Springfield, cost for Army and Air Guard units to enter is \$140 per team. Play will be conducted in men's and co-ed divisions.

It is requested that entries be sent by June 11. For more information, call Senior Master Sgt. Chris Muncy at (937) 327-2305, Senior Airman Becky Muncy, (937) 327-2201 or Staff Sgt. Tony Morgan at (937) 327-2171. **SMSGT CHRIS MUNCY, 251ST COMBAT COMMUNICATIONS GROUP**

Joint leadership conference breaks new ground

It has been more than a decade since the Ohio Army and Air National Guard attended a combined leadership conference.

The Army and Air joined together to hear experts lecture on two common subjects—anthrax and diversity—at the Defense Supply Center-Columbus on Feb. 26.

It has been tradition that every year during the weekend of the Ohio National Guard Association Winter Dinner Dance, both the Air and Army Guard would have separate annual meetings. The Air Guard has a senior leadership conference, which includes both officers and enlisted members, and the Army Guard has a semi-annual commanders' call for senior-level officers.

This year, Air and Army officer and enlisted personnel attended a morning joint session to hear Dr. Martin Hugh-Jones, professor of epidemiology at the School of Veterinary Medicine at Louisiana State University, lecture on anthrax and Dr. Samuel Betances, senior consultant at Altshul Group Corporation United Learning, speak

on diversity. "Senior managers guiding their organization toward a more prosperous future are challenged to create a workplace climate in which diverse interest group members feel respected, empowered and rewarded for providing quality goods and service," Betances said.

About 150 officers and enlisted members attended. "I can safely say it's been nearly 15 years since we've had a combined meeting of this magnitude," said Maj. Gen. John H. Smith, state adjutant general.

During the joint session Col. E. J. Thomas, vice commander of the 121st Air Refueling Wing, received the ONGA Distinguished Service Award for helping to achieve the implementation of the Ohio National Guard Scholarship Program while he served as the chairman of the House Finance Committee in the state Legislature. **MSGT EALNOR GREY, HQ OHANG**

Nominations being taken for Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame

Since 1992, approximately 20 veterans a year are inducted into the Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame. Those chosen for this honor have made significant contributions by achieving excellence in their selected field or profession, or as volunteers for veterans or their community.

This Hall of Fame recognizes the contributions of veterans following their honorable service in the armed forces of the United States. While a person may have had a distinguished record in the military, that will not qualify them for entry into the Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame.

If you know of someone who might be worthy of consideration for the Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame, nomination forms may be requested by calling Coordinator Shannon Scherer at (614) 752-8941. All nominations must be postmarked by June 30. **SHANNON SCHERER, OHIO VETERANS HALL OF FAME**

37th ID Veterans Association planning annual get-together

The 82nd consecutive reunion of the 37th Division Veterans Association will be held Sept. 1-3 at the Comfort Inn, Austinburgh (Ashtabula area). The hotel is located at the intersection of state Route 45 and I-90, exit 223.

To make reservations call (440) 275-2711 no later than Aug. 15. For more information, call Secretary Nick Scarpa at (301) 843-6352 or President Don Sanfrey at (330) 898-4301. **COL (RET.) CYRIL SEDLACKO, 37TH ID VETERANS ASSOCIATION**

OHARNG will sponsor motorcycle run for charity

The Ohio Army National Guard will host a motorcycle run Sept. 30 to raise money for the Make-A-Wish Foundation. The run will begin in Marion, cover several towns in north-central Ohio and end in Mansfield. For more information, contact Sgt. 1st Class Charlotte Sheppard at (419) 534-8595 or sheppardca@oh-arng.ngb.army.mil. SFC CHARLOTTE SHEPPARD, DET. 4, HQ STARC

Ohio artillerymen honor patron saint with banquet

Officers, enlisted members and their guests from the 2-174th Air Defense Artillery Battalion, McConnellsville, and 1-134th Field Artillery, Columbus, came together Feb. 19 to honor the Patron Saint of the Artillery, Saint Barbara.

The celebration was held at the Officer's Club at DCSS in Columbus. This occasion marked the first-ever statewide celebration of the "Buckeye Redlegs" as an artillery community. All artillerymen with Army Reserve and National Guard field artillery or air defense artillery service were invited.

A formal ceremony followed dinner in which nine attendees were inducted into the Honorable Order of Saint Barbara: Maj. Gen. David T. Hartley; Sgts. 1st Class Cully J. Cannon and James M. Moore; 1st Lt. William M. Anderson; and Capt. John J. Erwin, Ralph MacCrum, Michael Y. Draper, Robert C. Fenstermaker and William S. Brewster. In addition, Linda Forrider and

Rebecca Arp were honored with the Artillery Order of Molly Pitcher for their outstanding contributions to the artillery community.

Retired Col. Cyril L. Sedlako, an Ohio Guard World War II and Korea veteran, was the guest speaker. Sedlako was inducted that evening into the Ancient Order of Saint Barbara.

This very special distinction was the first such award in Ohio. CPT RICK NIEHE, HHB, 1-134TH FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION



Courtesy photo

SSG Kevin Colwell, of Company B, 2-19th Special Forces Group, engages pop-up targets in Hogan's Alley, an advanced urban combat course at Blackwater Training Center, in Moyock, N.C.

Buckeye Guard tops in 1999

The Ohio National Guard again took top honors in the 1999 National Guard Bureau Media Contest conducted earlier this year. The *Buckeye Guard* won first place in the magazine category for the second year in a row. The magazine was then forwarded to the Department of the Army's worldwide Keith L. Ware journalism competition, where it placed second in its category. ADJUTANT GENERAL'S PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE

Special Forces unit trains to survive in hostile fire zones

"The minimum standard here is simple. *Never* miss the target. We are going to teach you to shoot faster and more accurately than you ever thought possible."

Those words were from Dale McClellan, former Navy SEAL and senior instructor at the Blackwater Training Center, in Moyock, N.C. Ten soldiers from the Ohio Army Guard's Special Forces company stood on the range and listened. Though some of them probably thought, "*Easier said than done*," by the end of the first day they would be believers.

In March, members of Special Forces Operational Detachment-Alpha, Company B, 2-19th Special Forces Group (Airborne), attended two weeks of training at this civilian-operated, tactical shooting school.

Blackwater Training Facility is officially approved for use by the U.S. Special Operations Command and regularly hosts active-duty U.S. Army Special Forces teams and Navy SEALs, as well as police SWAT teams from around the nation and world.

Company B, 2-19th SFG(A) is the first National Guard Special Forces unit to train at Blackwater.

During the first week of the course every minute of every day was spent on the range. SF soldiers fired a minimum of 500 rounds per man, per day through their M9 pistols and M4A1 carbines.

Sgt. 1st Class Rick Githens, the team's special operations medical sergeant said, "It was some of the best training I have ever received. Fast and furious, but very safe. I am much more confident in my ability to engage multiple targets quickly, accurately and consistently."

The big exam at the end of the first week was held in Blackwater's urban combat complex known as "Hogan's Alley." Soldiers had to run for time through a maze of buildings, rooms, alleys, stairs and rooftops. Junk vehicles littered the streets. Some targets could only be engaged by shooting underneath or through the car windows.

"The facilities were state-of-the-art, top notch and were far superior to anything normally available to us," said Staff Sgt. Kevin Colwell, special operations communication sergeant.

After their training at Blackwater, these soldiers are even more confident that they can accomplish their missions in hostile fire zones. For more information on the unit, call (614) 336-6477. SGT MARK SEXTON, COMPANY B, 2-19TH SPECIAL FORCES GROUP

Scouts snag Blue Streak bucks



Photo by SGT J.R. Lewis, HQ STARC (-)

Several members of Troop B, 2-107th Cavalry, Lebanon, including SGT Carl Campbell (second from left) and PV2 Randall Hawley (fourth from left), recently were presented with Blue Streak checks for amounts up to \$250 for helping recruit new members into the Ohio National Guard. Also pictured are Troop B 1SG Bill Belding (from left), unit recruiter SSG Mike Prows and CPT Jimmie Todd, Troop B commander.



Photo by MAJ Barb Herrington-Clemens, Camp Perry Public Affairs

In a ceremony at Camp Perry, Maj. Gen. John H. Smith (left), state adjutant general, congratulates SGT Crystal Felty (from left), SGT Chuck Gray and PV2 Steve Bradley of the 641st Quartermaster Detachment for winning the ROWPU Rodeo water reconnaissance competition at Fort Lee, Va.

Ohio Guard quartermaster soldiers among Army's best

Liquid Gold. H2O. Water. Thirsty soldiers gotta have it, and their best bet rests with teams competing in the annual ROWPU Rodeo.

Fort Lee, Va., hosted the John C. Marigliano Tactical Water Operations ROWPU Rodeo, where teams from all components of the Army competed and tested their working knowledge of Reverse Osmosis Water Purification Unit functions April 10-14. Preliminary competition took place Feb. 28-March 10 at Fort Bragg, N.C., with 31 teams competing, 11 from the reserve components. Six teams, including one comprised of members of the 641st Quartermaster Detachment, Kettering, emerged from Bragg to compete at Lee. At Bragg, the 641st team of team chief Sgt. Tony Stein, Sgt. Crystal Felty, Spc. Dave Nickerson and Pfc. Terry Jaynes placed second among reserve component teams to advance onward.

Today's modern Army relies on the ROWPU to purify brackish water and salt water. The ROWPU, resembling a large trailer, comes in a variety of sizes and uses a variety of chemicals and membranes to filter and purify water for consumption.

On the first day of competition, participants completed a difficult written exam and conducted reconnaissance of a creek bed at Fort Lee. The soldiers determined water quality and availability, and performed site laboratory tests in the same manner they would in a

contingency environment. In this competition, the 641st team of team chief Felty, Sgt. Chuck Gray and Pvt. Steve Bradley took honors as the best water reconnaissance team in the Army worldwide.

"It was a learning experience," Felty said. "I was happy with how we worked together, and we really did well at the recon." ARMY NEWS SERVICE/ADJUTANT GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE

180th airman saves boy from assault

When a 13-year-old Cincinnati boy walking to school one morning was attacked by an adult male, bystanders watched from their apartments and a nearby bus stop.

"No one did anything about it, and I thought there was a problem with that," said Senior Airman Glenn Walker, a stock controller with Toledo's 180th Fighter Wing.

So Walker, and his girlfriend, Tiffany Bond, came to the boy's rescue by calling the police, then bombarding the adult attacker with bricks, bottles, a broom stick and a trash can.

"At first glance, we thought it was two roommates fighting, but when I got closer and saw it was a little kid, that's when I got concerned," Walker remembered. "I asked the little kid if he knew the guy. 'No, please help me,' he said. I told Tiffany to call the police.

"The guy was sitting on the kid, punching him in the face while the kid was still calling for help. I found a broom handle and came back to the little kid. By that time Tiffany was behind me, and the guy started saying derogatory remarks to her and laughing at me. I hit him with the stick and she threw a bottle, and then she hit him with a trash can. But the guy kept coming at us.

"The brick, the bottle and the broom stick didn't affect him. It took three or four cops to contain him after they sprayed him with mace," Walker added.

Walker, a Toledo native and a 180th member since 1996, admits he's uncomfortable with the attention he's received since the heroic incident.



Walker

"I still don't think I did anything that big. I was just trying to help out."

Walker, 24, credits his parents for influencing him to help others. "I was told to always help others as best I can. I'm from the old school where it takes a village to raise a child. Everyone should help out," he said.

The Cincinnati Chamber of Commerce awarded Walker and Bond for their bravery. TSGT LORI KING, 180TH FIGHTER WING

Mansfield airmen honored at environmental conference

The 179th Airlift Wing, Mansfield, found itself in familiar territory at the annual Air National Guard Environmental Workshop, held Feb. 7-11 in Gulfport, Miss. This year, two 179th members—Tech. Sgt. Mark Heacock and Master Sgt. Randall Johnson, both of the wing engine/propulsion section—walked away with Environmental Voluntary Achievement Awards.

Heacock and Johnson spent countless hours assisting the wing environmental management office with the collection and processing of C-130 engine compressor washwater, which is classified as a hazardous waste. This engine washwater has presented serious problems and increased the hazardous waste generation for all C-130 units within the Department of Defense. The 179th was the first organization, DoD-wide, to implement a process to collect and treat this washwater, enabling the unit to reduce its hazardous waste generation by 70 percent. Both individuals also were instrumental in the planning and coordination of the wing's 1999 Earth Day Celebration. 1LT TROY A. CRAMER, 179TH AIRLIFT WING

Employer now sees National Guard in different light

A problem that many National Guard members face from time to time is a lack of understanding from their civilian employer. A citizen-soldier has a commitment to his or her employer, but there is also a serious commitment to Uncle Sam. Recently, members of Company E, 1-148th Infantry, Urbana, helped educate one such employer about the Guard.

Grove City resident Sherrie Perkins, manager of special programs for the engineering program management department of Qwest Communication in Dublin, was invited to spend a day at a weekend drill with unit members. Perkins said she did not understand why her employee, Capt. David Baird, also Company E commander, spent many

hours of his “free-time” working on National Guard-related issues.

Perkins started her day with a tour of the unit’s facilities and a brief history lesson on the 148th Infantry Battalion.

She later learned about the different individual weapons and weapons systems used by Army National Guardmembers, including the TOW (Tube-launched Optically-tracked Wire-guided) missile system, which is the primary deployment weapon used by Company E.

After completing a TOW fire mission on a computer simulator, Perkins was able to see that it takes highly developed skill and knowledge to be able to successfully operate the equipment.

Unit members explained the importance of employers supporting their employees who serve in the reserve components, especially during state emergencies when guardmembers are called to help with civil disturbances or natural disasters.

Perkins said the best part of her day “was four-wheeling in the humvee and the 901.” Humvees are the military’s four-wheel drive all-terrain vehicles, and a 901 is an armored personnel carrier equipped with a TOW missile system.

“(Drill) was nothing like I thought, everyone was very professional, and I couldn’t believe the amount of organization and planning that goes into a drill weekend,” Perkins said. “I understand now that this isn’t all play and what you are doing is serious business. I never really realized the true benefits to the state, but also the employers.

“You’re not only receiving training to defend your country and our freedom, but you also live by a set of values that is brought into the workplace which inspires others—values such as loyalty, integrity, and good solid work ethics, which can

influence others in the organization. The military also brings team building skills to the organization, which is vital to an employer’s awareness of the importance of the Guard.”

In addition to a new outlook on the National Guard and its soldiers, Perkins was given a certificate of appreciation for her visit. **SSG RALPH G. ROHNER III, COMPANY E, 1-148TH INFANTRY**

Lorain Southview JROTC cadets march to top of class

The third annual Junior ROTC Color Guard Competition took place Feb. 19 at Ohio National Guard Headquarters, Beightler Armory, Columbus.

Sponsored by the office of the state command sergeant major, the best high school drill teams from around Ohio once again vied for top honors. Nine schools participated—Lorain Southview High School (two teams), Colonel White High School (two teams), South High School, Western Hills High School (two teams), Live Oaks Career Development Center, Rayen High School, Kenton High School (two teams), Martins Ferry High School and West High School.

Defending champion Lorain Southview High School’s A Team—comprised of Cadets Michelle Rushinsky, Jessica Tomazic, Amanda Pruchnicki and Edwin Guzman—again took top honors in the competition.

Colonel White High School’s B Team placed second and, not to be outdone by their fellow cadets, Lorain Southview’s B Team was third.

The top three teams earned plaques shaped like the state of Ohio. Every cadet who participated received a certificate of excellence, signed by Ohio Army National Guard State Command Sgt. Maj. Michael O. Howley. He and Master Sgt. Tonya Minor, the event coordinator, personally visited each high school to formally present the plaques and speak to the cadets concerning their achievement.

The Ohio Army National Guard’s Southern State Honor Guard Team supported the competition. The Southern Honor Guard provided judges for the function. Staff Sgt. Jeffrey Smith was in charge of the judges—Staff Sgt. Tony Six, Staff Sgt. Keith Hambel and Spc. Steven Gastin.

Judges chose top placers using criteria published in Army Field Manual 22-5, *Drill and Ceremonies*. **MASTER SGT. TONYA MINOR, HQ STARC (-)**

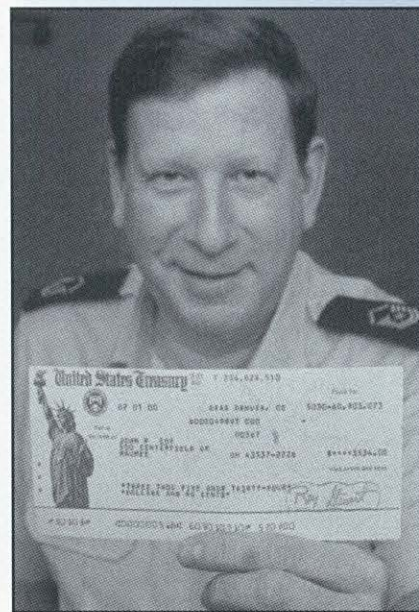


Photo by TSgt. Lori King, 180th Fighter Wing

MSgt. John Coy displays his \$3,534 check for saving the Air Force money.

Savvy Toledo guardmembers save Air Force big money

Two 180th Fighter Wing members recently saved the Air Force an estimated \$47,116 annually by discovering a \$2,500 discrepancy on a portable weigh station.

Master Sgt. John Coy and Tech. Sgt. Tandra Lipper divided a lump sum award of \$7,068, given through the Toledo unit’s suggestion program for a Zero Overprice challenge. The weigh station is used to weigh pallets for mobility flights. Lipper, a full-time technician and the funds manager for supply, researched the item and found a price discrepancy. She then turned the item paperwork over to Coy, the systems analyst and the Zero Overprice Monitor for supply. He then filed the discrepancy paperwork with the Defense Supply Center in Richmond, Va., a government supply warehouse.

The warehouse item manager agreed the item was overpriced by nearly \$2,500, according to the new price list that was out in February. Then the item manager estimated the number of the portable weigh stations that would be purchased this year throughout the Air Force. That quantity was multiplied by the net savings to get the amount of cash the Air Force would save in the following year. Monetary awards are based upon the amount saved in a one-year period. **SSGT JOE POIRIER, 180TH FIGHTER WING**



Photo by MSG Tonya Minor, HQ STARC (-)

State CSM Michael O. Howley (third from left), presents the Junior ROTC Color Guard Competition first-place plaque to Lorain Southview High School CDTs Jessica Tomazic (from left), Edwin Guzman, Michelle Rushinsky and Amanda Pruchnicki.

Conferences offer business opportunities to former, current military members

Hate your job? In a dead end career? Ever thought about working for yourself and running your own small business?

If you answered yes to any or all of the above questions, you may be a candidate for self-employment. Join your fellow veterans at one of the 2000 Veterans Mean Business conferences. This fall the Governor's Office of Veterans Affairs will offer its third annual series of conferences. Last year, about 250 veterans attended the Veterans Mean Business conferences in Cincinnati, Columbus and Cleveland. In addition to those three locations, this year's conferences will be offered in Dayton, Toledo and Canton-Akron as well.

These one-day conferences will provide valuable information on business planning, business financing and business management. Participants will be connected with a wide variety of resources to help determine if self-employment is right for them, and if so, what they need to do and what help is available as they prepare to launch their self-employment venture.

Dates and exact locations of the conferences will be announced later this year. The sponsors of the conferences are AMVETS, Small Business Administration (SBA), Service Corps of Retired Executives (SCORE), Governor's Office of Veterans Affairs, Ohio Bureau of Employment Services (OBES) and Department of Veterans Affairs (VA).

More information is available on the VA website, www.vba.gov/ro/central/cleve/index.htm. Links to all the sponsoring agencies are also available on the website. **GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF VETERANS AFFAIRS**

DFAS begins implementation of electronic pay services

Access to some financial and personnel record services is only a click away at the Defense Finance and Accounting Service Employee-Member Self-Service program.

The DFAS launched the E/MSS initiative in February for Defense Department civilians, retirees and beneficiaries; and this summer will do the same for active, National Guard and Reserve military members. The service will provide mili-

tary and civilian employees the option to make changes directly to their pay accounts in a secure electronic environment.

"This is a voluntary program that will allow members to take control of their pay accounts," said David Gruba, civilian pay and disbursing analyst at the Air Force Accounting and Finance Office in Denver. "It will save the customer time, and it will save the finance people time."

The service will be available via telephone and the Internet 24 hours a day. The E/MSS will allow members to update federal tax (W-4) withholding information; allotments; net pay electronic fund transfers; and changes in correspondence and home addresses.

Future services will add the ability to change e-mail addresses; make savings bond amount and address changes; request reissue of W-2s; request forms and publications; get pay certifications for retirees, and provide military pre-retirement requests. **AIR FORCE PRINT NEWS**

Some Ohio veterans' children eligible for college scholarship

Each year, the Ohio Student Aid Commission (OSAC) offers an educational scholarship program for children of deceased or disabled war-time veterans.

The program, called the "Ohio War Orphans Scholarship," must be used to pay for general and instructional fees only. The amount of the scholarship is determined by which institution of higher learning the student is attending.

For a student to be eligible, either parent must be a disabled veteran or a deceased veteran at the time of the application. If the veteran served only in the Ohio National Guard or organized reserves, the veteran must have been killed or have become permanently and totally disabled while at a scheduled training assembly, field training or active-duty for training. If the veteran is disabled, but not as a member of the Ohio National Guard or organized reserves, the veteran must have a 60 percent or greater service connected disability or must be receiving benefits from the Veterans Administration for a non-service connected total and permanent disability.

Several student eligibility requirements must be met at the time of application. The applicant must be at least 16 years old but has not reached his or her 21st birthday. The student must have resided in Ohio for the last preceding year, or if the parent

veteran did not reside in Ohio at the time of the enlistment, the student must have resided in Ohio for the last preceding five years. Applicants must be in financial need, as determined by the board, and must be recommended by a principal of a high school that he or she has attended.

The application deadline is not later than July 1 of each year, with funds being disbursed beginning with the fall term to approved scholarship recipients.

For more information, contact Joseph R. Lenhart, veterans service officer at 201 S. Willipie St.

Suite G-7, Wapokoneta, Ohio 45895, or call (419) 738-2813. **OHIO STUDENT AID COMMISSION**

New Air National Guard tuition program available

The new Air National Guard Tuition Assistance Program kicked off April 1.

This program is available to any ANG member or technician in good standing who has completed initial training and will have at least one year retainability upon completion of applicable post-secondary courses. However, the program is not retroactive.

Proper enrollment procedures must be followed in order for members to take advantage of the program.

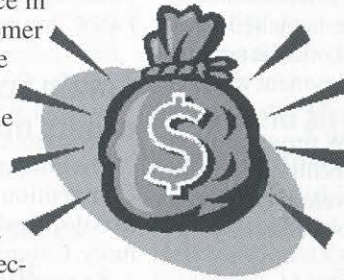
Qualifying courses include: distance learning courses from schools listed in the Defense Activity for Non-Traditional Education Support (DANTES) External Degree catalog, DANTES Independent Study catalog or the DANTES catalog of Nationally Accredited Distance Learning Programs.

Courses must lead to a certification, licensing, associate's, bachelor's or master's degree. Air Guardmembers may not use this program to fund doctorate or similar professional degrees.

Tuition Assistance is limited to \$1,000 per student per fiscal year, and will be reimbursed to the student upon successful course completion.

Tuition assistance will be reimbursed for 75 percent of tuition, or \$187.50 per semester hour, whichever is less. The program covers only costs related to tuition; it does not cover books and fees.

ANG members who are interested in the program should call their unit Community College of the Air Force representative or their base education and training manager. **THE STINGER, 180TH FIGHTER WING**





SPC Andrew Martin (from left), SGT Eric Mathewson, SPC William Latimer and PFC Jude Remy carry a 'casualty' to a landing zone.

MEDIC UP: Casualty evacuation exercise prepares battlefield lifesavers

Story and photos by
Sgt. J.R. Lewis, HQ STARC

The young private keeps his eyes fixed on the horizon waiting for the sound of a helicopter's rotor to cut through the morning sky. Below him, lying limp on a stretcher, a young man cries in agony—bloody, burned and confused. The wounded soldier weakly asks where he is, why he can't feel his hands or feet, can he please go home. A team of medics patiently work

on his wounds, trying to ignore the bullets that zip just above their heads and the shells that shake the earth with thunderous booms.

The scene is familiar to any war movie buff, but today's National Guard isn't exactly filled with combat-seasoned veterans as the men and women who served in Vietnam drift into retirement and stories of D-Day, Guadalcanal and the Argonne become as distant as Gettysburg, the Boxer Rebellion and Concorde. This is why realistic training is so vital for soldiers, especially those in charge of saving lives on the battlefield.

Medics from Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1-148th Infantry, Lima, headed to an empty field near the Allen County Airport with that idea in mind. During their March drill, the soldiers participated in a daylong casualty evacuation exercise aimed at sharpening skills most hope they will never have to use—picking up and treating wounded soldiers in a hostile environment, safely transporting them to a designated landing zone and loading them on a helicopter for evacuation.

Medic teams picked up "casualties"—either life-size dummies or fellow medics—and transported them to a battalion aid station. There, victims received medical attention from a physician's assistant, 2nd Lt. Mark Clutter, who also quizzed the medics on proper treatments for various injuries.

The casualties were then transported on stretcher by four-man medic teams to a designated landing zone where they were loaded onto a UH-1 "Huey" from D Company, 1-137th Assault Helicopter Battalion, Columbus. Scouts from HHC, 1-148th, also participated in the exercise, calling in the chopper, signaling pilots during take-off and landing, and providing LZ security.

According to Staff Sgt. Urlin Matthews, emergency medical team NCO and acting platoon sergeant, the soldiers used the training opportunity to improve their battlefield medical skills, despite the fact that such an exercise was new to most of the medics. "It's rare that we get this sort of training opportunity, but it's not going to be a rare thing," he said, alluding to the possibility of future exercises.

Staff Sgt. Scott Reynard, crew chief of the Huey used in the operation, said the training will help bridge the gap between medics and aircrews, which would help gel the stressful process of medical evacuation in times of need. He also noted that it helped the crew of the helicopter get a glimpse of the main thrust of their future role.

"We used to be an attack outfit," Reynard said. "We just came on-line as a lift outfit recently. We're now pulling a lot of tactical missions."

The training also benefited the young soldiers who had never taken part in a military exercise involving different types of units working toward a common goal, according to Spc. Joey Pruett, a field medic.

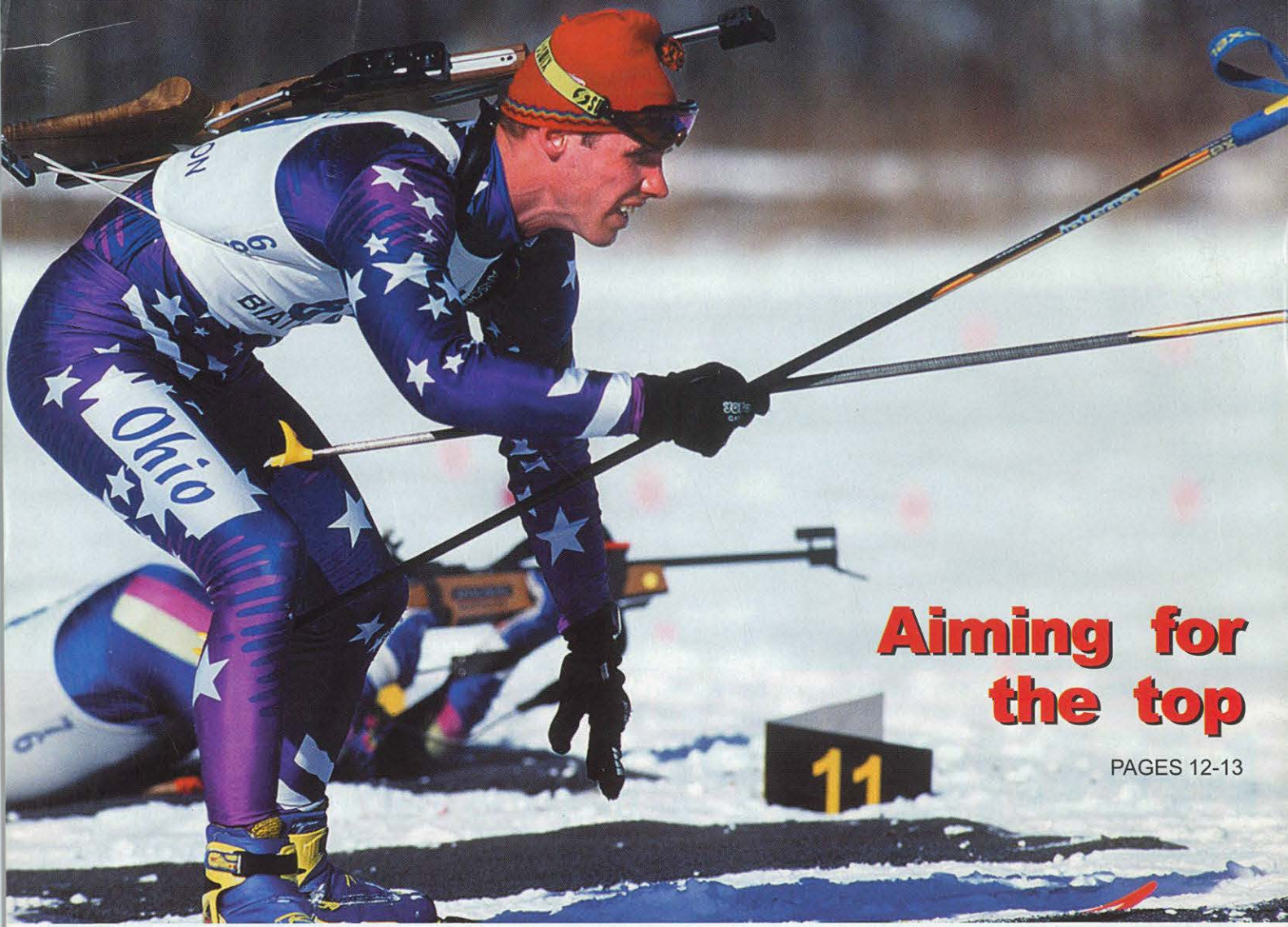
"This is great training. Everyone wants to be involved," Pruett said. "This is invaluable for the new guys. Some of them haven't even been to basic training yet."

Pruett also stressed the importance of hands-on training as a teaching tool.

"This exercise has combined a lot of training with the types of experience you can't get in a classroom," he said. "You don't realize you're working because you get so into it...you actually are having fun." ■



Using a fireman's carry, CPL Harold Strahm extracts a 'wounded' soldier from a transport helicopter.



Aiming for the top

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Photo by SSgt. Robert Trubia, 158th Fighter Wing, Vermont Air National Guard

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