

The Ohio National Guard Alumni Newsletter



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February 5, 2010

The Ohio National Guard webpage is: <http://www.ong.ohio.gov/>. Click on Community Outreach and then Alumni Relations to register for the data base and direct receipt of the newsletter. Please take a few minutes from time to time and explore the entire website, particularly the many recent news releases about your Guard.

Ohio Soldier to be Presented one of Nation's Highest Medals for Valor

Ohio Governor Ted Strickland will present the Silver Star Medal, the nation's third highest medal for valor, to an Ohio National Guard Soldier during a Feb. 6, 2010, ceremony in the Ohio Statehouse atrium. The public is invited to attend the ceremony which will begin at noon. Sgt. 1st Class Mark A. Wanner, a Special Forces medical sergeant with Company B, 2nd Battalion, 19th Special Forces Group (Airborne), will receive the medal for his actions May 31, 2009, during an engagement with Taliban forces in Eastern Afghanistan. He will be the first Ohio National Guard member to receive the medal since the Korean War.

Wanner is credited with saving the life of a fellow Green Beret during a joint raid on a Taliban compound. After noticing his teammate was wounded and lying near an enemy position, Wanner crossed open terrain to move him to safety. When his teammate collapsed due to the severity of his wounds, Wanner remained in an exposed position to render life-saving medical aid while using his own body to shield his wounded comrade as small arms fire impacted all around him. He continued to work on his teammate while coordinating suppressing fire until he could carry his fellow Soldier to safety.

Throughout the eight years of the Global War on Terrorism, only 23 National Guard members have been awarded the Silver Star Medal. Five were awarded posthumously.

Commemorative Ohio National Guard Service Medal. Section 5919.19 of the Ohio Revised Code, enacted in March, 2006, authorized the creation of a commemorative Ohio National Guard service medal. Former members of the Ohio National Guard who have been honorably or medically discharged or released from service in the Ohio National Guard are eligible, upon application, to receive the medal.

Eligible persons who desire to apply to receive the medal are required to submit to the Adjutant General's Department a copy of their NGB Form 22, Report of Separation and Record of Service, and a fee of \$16.62. Requests are sent to the J1 for Army and to HQ ANG for Air. The form for requesting the ONG Service Medal is available at the Alumni Affairs Website:

<http://www.ong.ohio.gov/AlumniTest.aspx>

Army Guard Soldier to be a Member of the 2010 Ohio State University Football Team. 2LT Bryan Corkery, 585th MP Company Rear Det OIC, participated in the OSU football combine last week as a walk-on, and was notified on Monday that he made the team. He is one of nine walk-ons (out of 70) selected. He was selected as a tight end.

2LT Corkery is a graduate of the Valley Forge Military Academy and has been a degree completion officer assigned to the 585th since May 2008. He is scheduled to graduate from OSU with a Bachelor's Degree in Dec 2010.

180th FW Airman Wins Air Guard State Award. Staff Sergeant Matthew Haas, 180th Services Craftsman, was recently selected as the 2009 Honor Guard Program Manager of the Year for the State of Ohio. "I am humbled to have earned this award and I appreciate our team's service and what we've accomplished together," said Haas, who will now compete in the Honor Guard Program Manager of the Year award at the National Guard Bureau level. Haas, a unit member since 2003 and full-time technician with the 180th Services Sustainment Flight, is responsible for managing 14 Honor Guard personnel, a \$2,500 budget and coordinates with the Wright- Patterson Air Force Base Honor Guard for various events. "It is a daunting task because the job entails providing military honors to those who have passed on, but it is a service that we need to provide," said Haas.

Haas, while deployed to Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar in 2007, volunteered to assist with mortuary taskings and provided military honors for transport which earned him Wing Commander recognition. Among his other key accomplishments, Haas was instrumental in developing a very informative power point presentation for the base populace to advertise and discuss the 180th Base Honor guard program, which helped to recruit five new members to the team this past year. Under his energetic leadership, the 180th Honor Guard members participated in 18 Color Guard ceremonies and 11 Honor Guard ceremonies to honor our veterans. Also under Haas, the 180th Honor Guard provided Color Guard services at several community events including the Toledo Mud Hens opening day, four Honor Flight of Northwest Ohio events honoring World War II veterans, the 2009 180th Dining Out, and a Toledo Rotary Club event.

OSU Military Appreciation Week: Men's and Women's Basketball, Hockey, and Wrestling. Please join us at The Ohio State University for a week of OSU sporting events. OSU will be honoring those who serve with discounted tickets for their families and friends. Each game or match will have special exhibitors relating to military branches. There will be many special features honoring Ohio's military members throughout each game or match. See Brutus Rappel in the Schott or check out the Hockey team's scarlet and grey digital camo jerseys!

What	When	Where	Cost
Wrestling: OSU vs. Michigan	2/5/2010 7pm	St John Arena	\$5.75
Men's Basketball: OSU vs. Iowa	2/7/2010 Noon	Schottenstein Center	\$13.75
Women's Basketball: OSU vs. Purdue	2/11/2010 7:30pm	Schottenstein Center	\$5.75
Men's Hockey: OSU vs. Alaska	2/13/2010 7pm	Schottenstein Center	\$5.75

To purchase Women's basketball, Wrestling or Ice Hockey tickets please go to:
<https://oss.ticketmaster.com/html/go.html?l=EN&t=buckeyes&o=6882571&g=3> Use PROMO CODE: MILITARY

To purchase Men's Basketball tickets please go to:
<https://oss.ticketmaster.com/html/go.html?l=EN&t=buckeyes&o=6882571&g=64>
Use PROMO CODE: MILITARY

No military ID is required. If you have any questions on any of these events please contact:
Operation: Military Kids, Youth Program Specialist, 2825 West Dublin Granville Road, Columbus, OH 43235, 614-336-7314 – Work, 785-313-3064 – Cell, or by email at
<http://www.operationmilitarykids.org/public/home.aspx> or <http://operationmilitarykids.ohio4h.org/>

Free Eyeglasses for Retirees. All military retirees, even TRICARE for Life recipients, may receive one pair of standard issue glasses each year from the Naval Ophthalmic Support and Training Activity. Visit the NOSTRA website: <http://www.med.navy.mil/sites/nostra/order/Pages/Retiree.aspx> and select the "How to Order-Retirees" link for more information. Family members and surviving spouses are not entitled to NOSTRA support. Learn more about TRICARE vision benefits at the TRICARE beneficiary portal <http://www.tricare.mil/mybenefit>.

Online TRICARE Plan Wizard. The Plan Wizard is an online tool that helps you understand which TRICARE options you may be eligible for. This wizard does not determine eligibility. Eligibility is determined by the uniformed services and reported to the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS). All eligible beneficiaries must have their eligibility status recorded in DEERS. When you go to the wizard at www.tricare.mil/mybenefit/home/overview/PlanWizard.jsp, you will be asked between 5 and 17 questions. After responding, you'll be shown a list of plans you may be eligible for. The Plan Wizard will not save your personal information. You will have to start at the beginning of this wizard for each family member, as each member's eligibility may differ.

E-mail Updates Deliver the Latest TRICARE News and Benefits. TRICARE beneficiaries can make staying current on their health benefits easy by signing up for e-mail updates and having the latest TRICARE news and health information delivered straight to their e-mail inbox. Subscribers can customize their account by choosing to receive as many or as few items as they like based on their beneficiary category or topics of interest. Subscribers can even decide when they would like to receive their e-mails. Creating an account is easy and secure at www.tricare.mil/subscriptions.

2010 Federal Budget and National Defense Appropriations Act Update. A key highlight was the cancellation of the TRICARE Standard In patient fee increases originally announced by the Pentagon. However, before signing the bill, Survivor Benefit Plan/Dependency and Indemnity Compensation offsets were eliminated, along with expanded Concurrent Receipt for Chapter 61 retirees. Under House and Senate budget rules, Congress must offset increases in mandatory spending with cuts in other entitlement programs or increased revenues. Although the House included offsets sufficient to authorize nine months, those offsets did not comply with Senate budget rules and could not be included. Listed below are a summary of highlights in the budget.

1. Increases funding for the VA by \$25 billion above the baseline over the next five years. The President's budget takes the first step toward increasing funding for the VA by \$25 billion during the next five years in order to expand the services veterans receive.
2. Dramatically increases funding for VA health care. This funding also enables the VA to create Centers of Excellence and provides additional Veteran-oriented specialty care in areas including prosthetics, vision and spinal cord injury, aging and women's health.
3. Restores health care eligibility for modest-income Veterans. The President's budget expands eligibility for the VA health care to non-disabled Veterans earning modest incomes.
4. Enhances outreach and services related to mental health care and cognitive injuries with a focus on access for Veterans in rural areas. VA will increase the number of Vet Centers and mobile health clinics to expand access to mental health screening and treatment in rural areas. In addition, new funding will help Veterans and their Families to stay informed of these resources and encourage them to pursue needed care.

Update Your Retired Pay File Information. If in receipt of or entitled to retired pay, mail to: Defense Finance and Accounting Service, U.S. Military Retired Pay, PO Box 7130, London, KY 40742-7130 Phone: 800-321-1080 or 216-522-5955; FAX: 800-469-6559 (put SSN on all pages). If in receipt of or entitled to Survivor Benefit Program or Retired Serviceman's Family Protection Plan Benefits mail to: Defense Finance and Accounting Service U.S. Military Annuitant Pay PO Box 7131 London, KY 40742-7131 Phone: 800-321-1080 or 216-522-5955; FAX: 800-982-8459 (put SSN on all pages). If a Retired Reservist not yet 60, mail to: U.S. Army Human Resources Command – St. Louis ATTN: AHRC-PAP-A 1 Reserve Way St. Louis, MO 63132-5200, Phone: 800-318-5298 or 314-592-0554; FAX: 314-592-0582 (ATTN: TLM9V49) (put SSN on all pages). Remember: You are responsible for updating your retired pay file information at DFAS-CL, using the KY mailing address above, within one year of the event if you marry, remarry, have a child, are widowed or divorced and need to make or update a Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) election.

Retiree Account Statement. DFAS decided to send the Retiree Account Statement (RAS) despite the zero COLA for 2010 because for many retirees the annual RAS is the only communication they receive from DFAS. More info about zero COLA is on the DFAS website, www.dfas.mil. The annual RAS includes additional information that is helpful to the member. It provides the member's prior and current values of their entitlements and taxes, member's beneficiary information, allotments, Paid Up SBP counter and remarks that the services want included. Due to an increase in the Federal Income Tax Withholding (FITW), most retirees will see a reduction in their net retired pay.

ONG Alumni Advisory Committee

A key objective of the Alumni Affairs initiative is to include alumni in the planning and direction of the program. To that goal we are asking for interested alumni to participate in the Alumni Affairs Advisory Council. This group will meet as needed to provide input and advice to the program staff. If you are interested in participating and willing to attend 2-3 meetings a year, please contact COL

(ret) Jim Chisman at 614-336-7336 or by email at james.chisman@us.army.mil. The first meeting will be held in early March.

ONG Association Updates

Buckeye Retiree Association. A large group of ONG retirees and alumni in southwest Ohio meet monthly at Sorrento's Restaurant, 8794 Reading Road, Cincinnati, OH 45215. The group typically meets the last Thursday afternoon of the month, except for November and December. They also host an annual reunion under the flag of the 147th Infantry Regiment the first Friday in October. This year will be the 17th annual event. All ONG retirees and alumni are invited to attend.

This Week in Guard History.

Feb. 2, 1945: Central Burma — Guardsmen of the 124th Cavalry from Texas launch a successful attack on Japanese positions on what became known as Knight's Hill. The regiment, part of the Mars Task Force, was the last horse-mounted unit in the U.S. Army and the only Guard ground maneuver unit to serve in Burma.

Having lost its horses prior to leaving the states, the unit was furnished mules to carry its supplies through the rugged mountains and jungles. During this engagement, 1st Lt. Jack Knight earned the Medal of Honor for personally wiping out two enemy pillboxes and, though blinded, led his platoon in destroying a third. He was killed in this last assault and the hill was named in his honor.

This week in Ohio Guard History

February 5, 1945. Second Lieutenant Robert Viale, Company K, 148th Infantry, is killed in Manila, Luzon after he shielded his men from an exploding grenade. The action which took his life was the last in a series of incredible personal heroic leadership actions he took during the intense combat of freeing the city of Manila. For his heroism he was awarded the Medal of Honor.

February 9, 1945. Private Joseph Cicchetti, Company A, 148th Infantry, is killed while rescuing wounded Soldiers in Manila, Luzon. Nearby, Company B Tech Sergeant Cleto Rodriguez and Private First Class John Reese Jr., kill 80 enemy soldiers at the Paco Railroad Station. Reese is mortally wounded while re-loading his weapon. All three men were later awarded the Medal of Honor for their heroism.

All four are remembered in perpetuity at Camp Perry Joint Training Center, where buildings and ranges have been named in their honor.

Changes of Command

Ohio Army Guard Medical Detachment, February 6, 2010. DSCC Building 11. Outgoing Commander, COL Terry Johnson, Incoming Commander, COL Brett Call, details to follow.

1-145 Armor Regiment, February 7, 2010, 1100, Stow Armory Drill Floor, 4630 Allen Rd. Stow, Ohio 44224. Outgoing Commander COL Jeffery Ziol, Incoming Commander LTC Corwin Lusk.

73rd Troop Command, April 11, 2010, 1400, Building 931 Rickenbacker. Outgoing Commander, BG Jack Lee, Incoming Commander, COL Deborah Ashenhurst.

147th Regional Training Institute, April 11, 2010, 1600, Building 931 Rickenbacker, 8208 S. Perimeter Rd, Columbus, OH 43217. Outgoing Commander, COL Dana McDaniel, Incoming Commander, COL Gordon Ellis.

Upcoming Events

112th Engineer Battalion Ball, Saturday, February 13, 2010, 1900, the Crowne Plaza Hotel Cleveland Airport. 7230 Engle Road, Middleburg Heights, Ohio. Registration and additional information is online at: <http://events.SignUp4.com/112engineerbattalionball2010>. or call 1LT Eric Holtzapple at (614) 336-6000 ext. 8753.

Retirement Luncheon for CW4 Dan Stevens, 112th Engineer Battalion, honoring over 40 years of service. February 18, 2010, 1130, at Damon's Restaurant, 17887 Bagley Road, Middleburgh Heights, Ohio. For questions and to register, contact SGT Deanna Zabala, 330-635-9071 or Deanna.zabala@us.army.mil or SPC Jessica Pace, 614-336-6000 ext 1745 or Jessica.pace1@us.army.mil

Ohio National Guard Association Winter Dinner Dance, Saturday, February 27, 2010, 1800, Villa Milano Banquet Center, Columbus. Details at: <http://www.ohionga.org/Winter%20Dinner%20Dance%20Page.htm>. Questions may be directed to CW5 James Markley, 614-336-6618.

1st Battalion, 148th Infantry, Viale Memorial Mess, Saturday, March 6, 2010, 1800, Holiday Inn French Quarter, Perrysburg, Contact SFC John Stockdale 28846 Tracy Road Walbridge, Ohio 43465, Off: 614-336-6671 or by email at John.Stockdale@us.army.mil.

Army Guard Officer Candidate School Dining Out, March 20, 2010, 1800, Fawcett Center, on the campus of The Ohio State University, details to follow.

37th Annual ONGEA Conference and Awards Banquet, Longaberger Alumni House, OSU Campus, Columbus, Ohio, May 8, 2010. Register on-line at www.ongea.org

Call to Duty Ceremonies

200TH REDHORSE Squadron and Det 1, OANG, 1600, February 28, 2010, Mansfield Senior High School, 124 N. Linden Rd. Mansfield, Oh 44906

196TH Public Affairs Detachment (Mobile), March 7, 2010, details to follow.

Operational Mentor and Liaison Team (OMLT 1.5), April 25, 2010, details to follow.

Welcome Home Ceremony

Operational Mentor and Liaison Team (OMLT 1.2). Wednesday, February 10, 2010, 1400, Reynoldsburg Methodist Church, 1636 Graham Road, Reynoldsburg, OH 43068

With sorrow we announce the passing of the following members of the ONG family:

MSgt (ret) Kevin Thomas, January 5, 2010, former member of the 178th FW.

Pamela K. Bracy, January 20, 2010, mother of SSG Richard Jones, RNCO of the 371st Signal Detachment, 371st Sustainment Brigade.

James Elledge, January 22, 2010, father of MSG (Ret) Candace Kline, employee of the Adjutant General's Department, Environmental Office.

Blanche Brown, January 23, 2010, grandmother of 1SG Bryan P. Brown, JFHQ and acting CSM for the PTAE-OH.

Helen M. Barber, January 23, 2010, mother of CW3 Joe Barber, Det 21 OSACOM.

SMSgt (ret), Ronald L. Harber, January 24, 2010, former member of the 178th FW

Carl J. King Jr., January 24, 2010, father-in-law of SGM (Ret) Jon Huff, Family Assistance Coordinator Supervisor for the Ohio National Guard Family Programs. Also, Rose Huff, the grandmother of SGM (Ret) Jon Huff passed away on January 22, 2010.

Thomas Millender, Jr., January 27, 2010, father of SSG Thomas Millender, JFHQ-J6.

SGT Heather M. Faehnle, January 30, 2010, 637th Chemical Company, 155th Chemical Battalion.

Benson Lewis, January 31, 2010, father of SSG Benjamin Lewis, BTRY A, 1-134th FA RGT and J1 MOB Office.

SFC (ret) Albert Tyhurst Jr, 31 Jan 2010, former employee of CSMS and a past AST in the 737th Maint Bn, Newark, WWII and Korea Veteran. Graveside services will be held Saturday, February 6, 2010, 1030, at Wilson Cemetery, Mt Vernon Rd, Newark, Oh.

Websites of Interest:

February 2010 Issue of Soldiers Magazine <http://www.army.mil/soldiers/>

January/February 2010 Issue of Airman Magazine: <http://www.airmanonline.af.mil/>

Where Are They Now?

Command Chief Master Sergeant (ret) Dick Smith

Command Chief Master Sergeant (ret) Dick Smith served as the ninth Air National Guard Command Chief Master Sergeant at NGB from 2004 until his retirement in 2009. Prior to going to NGB, Dick had an outstanding career in Ohio, primarily with the 179th AW, where in his final assignment there he served as Wing Command Chief. Prior to his selection for the NGB position, he served as the Ohio ANG Command Chief. When Dick retired from the military last June he went to work as a contractor for the Army National Guard. Later this month he will begin a new career with USAA, as the National Guard Program Manager. Dick plans to maintain his home in Ohio, as well as a new one in San Antonio, TX.

If you would like to be highlighted in the “where are they now” segment, or have other ideas for future newsletter content, please feel free to contact me at 614-336-7336, or by email at james.chisman@us.army.mil. The Ohio National Guard that proudly serves around the world today is a direct reflection of your service.

COL (ret) Jim Chisman
Alumni Affairs Coordinator
Government Contractor