

ALUMNI NEWSLETTER



OHIO NATIONAL GUARD

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Ohio Air National Guard team helps ensure medical readiness during exercise in Korea

By Staff Sgt. Sara Csurilla, 51st Fighter Wing

OSAN AIR BASE, Republic of Korea— Nearly 40 Airmen from the 121st Medical Group from Rickenbacker Air National Guard Base, Columbus, Ohio recently trained here to team up with members of the 51st Medical Group.

The team, made up of doctors and medical technicians, came to Osan for two reasons: to help Airmen from the 51st MDG train and to set up an Expeditionary Medical System.

"We're here for EMEDS training and to help exercise and inventory the EMEDS here for the 7th Air Force and the 51st MDG," said Col. Michelle Gavin, 121st MDG commander.

The 51st Fight Wing has three core missions: defend Osan, execute combat operations and receive follow-on forces. As the 40 Airmen from the Ohio ANG arrived in the middle of Exercise Beverly Bulldog 13-02, members of the 51st MDG used the opportunity to realistically train on receiving those follow-on forces.

"We used this visit to practice receiving those bodies," said Col. Rawson Wood, 51st MDG commander, and 7th AF surgeon serving for all Air Force medical forces on the Korean Peninsula. "It allowed 40 members to arrive to the base under contingency operations and get in-processed and then to arrive in the MDG and reinforce the approximately 300 Airmen serving in the hospital. It was really key to receive these forces in the middle of the exercise to practice one of our three core missions."

After in-processing and providing support to the 51st MDG, the team headed to Suwon Air Base, just a few miles north of Osan to a set up an EMEDS.

"(We're setting up EMEDS) to ensure this could be a functioning system in case something happened here on the Korean peninsula that it needed to be used in a contingency operation," Wood said. "So if something was to happen on the peninsula where they needed to set up a hospital very quickly, and the equipment wasn't inventoried and maintained then it wouldn't be ready."

As part of setting up the EMEDS, the 40-man team built a tent from the ground up that would be used to house the temporary hospital, tested and inventoried more than 1,000 pieces of equipment worth more than \$1 million and ran through a few training scenarios to ensure the faculties were functional.

"I'm really enjoying being here and doing this mission," said Senior Airman Megan Betts, 121st MDG technician. "We are a part of (the Ohio National Guard) Homeland Response Force back home, and we do a lot of EMEDS training there, but coming out to Korea and training really helps with getting a feel for being in different environments."

The group of Guard members stayed for more than a week and took advantage of their time here by doing as much training as possible and experiencing South Korea to fully understand how important it is to be prepared and trained because something could happen here at any time.

"(My favorite part about this mission) is the teamwork and I love the capability that I can look at almost 40 professionals who I've never met before and not just by the uniform they wear, but by their capabilities and their past experiences I know that these are medics who I would trust to care for me or any of my loved ones in peacetime or contingency time," Wood said.



Medical technicians from the 121st Medical Group work on a simulated patient as part of a training scenario at Suwon Air Base, Republic of Korea, Feb. 19, 2013. More than 40 Airmen from the 121st MDG traveled from Rickenbacker Air National Guard Base, Columbus, Ohio, to train and help inventory and set up an Emergency Medical System. (U.S. Air Force photo/ Staff Sgt. Sara Csurilla)

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Ohio National Guard units currently deployed

Air units:

121st Air Refueling Wing
 123rd Air Control Squadron
 178th Fighter Wing
 179th Airlift Wing
 180th Fighter Wing
 251st Combat Communications Group
 269th Combat Communications Squadron

Army units:

Joint Force Headquarters
 Military Advisory Team - 1
 Military Advisory Team - 2
 Det. 21
 323rd Military Police Company
 HHB/174th Air Defense Artillery Brigade
 837th Engineer Co.
 1487th Transportation Co.

As of March 19, 2013, approximately 777 Ohio National Guard Airmen and Soldiers are deployed

Ohio National Guard support to organizations and special events

As a result of federal government financial constraints, the U.S. Air Force has canceled all flyovers, orientation flights and participation in all air shows for the remainder of the fiscal year (through Sept. 30, 2013).

The Ohio National Guard is a proud member of communities throughout Ohio in which our Soldiers and Airmen serve. Through an active community relations program, the Ohio National Guard demonstrates it is a good neighbor and community partner by providing support in four basic areas: Non-Aviation, Military Aerial, Air Force Flyovers and Speaker Requests.

Note that most support requests require a minimum of 90 days prior to the event (unless stated specifically) to be reviewed, validated and considered for support. Requests received fewer than 90 days are unlikely to receive support.

The Ohio National Guard will make every effort to provide support for all events, but event organizers should be aware that support may not be available for military mission requirements may prevent the Ohio National Guard from supporting specific events and that there is a number of state and federal restrictions on how the Ohio National Guard can support organizations and events.

The Ohio National Guard Public Affairs Office receives, reviews and validates all support requests for their legal propriety.

Source: http://ong.ohio.gov/outreach/ngsupport_index.html

Spring forward and get involved with Operation Military Kids!

Get ready to welcome April by "Purpling Up!" April is a celebration of Month of the Military Child. **Why purple** you may ask? Purple is the color that symbolizes **all branches of the military**, as it is the combination of Army green, Coast Guard blue, Air Force blue, Marine red, and Navy blue. Check out our site for ways to get involved in your workplace, school and social atmosphere. Visit: <http://www.ohio4h.org/operation-military-kids>

Are you a runner or avid walker and looking for a 5k to participate in the spring? Operation Military Kids (OMK) has the perfect event. '5K for OMK' is April 20, 2013. Visit our site to register: <http://www.ultrafit-usa.com/#!be-a-hero-5k/cfqf>. If you're not a runner, but still want to support OMK, you can volunteer to assist with registration, water stations and set up. Email Amanda Fogle at: Amanda.m.fogle.ctr@mail.mil to volunteer!

Interested in getting involved with OMK but none of the above events work for you?

Visit our website here: <http://www.ohio4h.org/operation-military-kids/volunteer> to download a volunteer packet and be placed on our mailing list for all of our up-to-date information.

Stay connected with OMK in the following ways:

Twitter: @ohioomk

Instagram: #ohioomk

Facebook: "Like" us at 'Ohio Operation: Military Kids'!

Past March events:**March 2 -**

2-174th Air Defense Artillery Bn. Change of Responsibility at 8 a.m. at 4497 Hawk Drive, McConnellsville.
 Outgoing Command Sgt. Maj.: Bryan Hardesty
 Incoming Command Sgt. Maj.: Trevor Wilson

March 19 -

Today marks the 10th anniversary of the start of the U.S led invasion of Iraq. It signaled the start of the conflict that later came to be known as the Iraq War, which was dubbed Operation Iraqi Freedom by the United States. The invasion consisted of 21 days of major combat operations. Thank you to all of our veterans that served our country during this time frame.

March 23 -

The 147th Regional Training Institute of the Ohio Army National Guard held the pinning ceremony of the Winter Accelerated OCS class.

April/May events:**April 4 -**

Call to Duty ceremony, 838th Military Police Company, 12 p.m., Old North Church, 7105 Herbert Rd., Canfield.

April 5 -

Call to Duty ceremony, 437th Military Police Battalion, 10:30 a.m., Franklin High School, 750 East 4th Street, Franklin.

April 6 -

HHC, 16th ENG BDE Change of Responsibility at 11:30 a.m. at The Armed Forces Reserve Center, DSCC, Bldg 2, Columbus.
 Outgoing First Sgt.: Troy C. Hoagland
 Incoming First Sgt.: Kenneth S. White

April 13 -

1-145th Armored Regiment, Change of Command at 4 p.m. at Camp Ravenna Joint Military Training Center, Newton Falls. Outgoing Commander: Lt. Col. Corwin J. Lusk
 Incoming Commander: Lt. Col. Perry Carper.
 Request all O4 and above or E9 RSVP to Maj. Stewart at jonathan.m.stewart1.mil@mail.mil.

April 13 -

2-174 ADA 4th Annual All Ranks Ball, celebrating the retirement of Command Sgt. Maj. Bryan D. Hardesty, beginning at 5:30 p.m. at Eaglessticks Golf Club, 2655 Maysville Pike, Zanesville.

April 19-20 -

The 2013 ONGA/ONGEA State Conference, OSU Fawcett Center, Ohio State University, 2400 Olentangy River Road, Columbus. Register at http://ohionga.org/images/2012%20con%20reg_0001.pdf by April 15. For additional information, call 1-800-642-6642, ext. 3 or contact Brig. Gen. Larson at ONGAKoper@prodigy.net.

April 21 -

812th EN CO (Sapper) Change of Responsibility at 2 p.m. at 1400 West Old Lincoln Way, Wooster.
 Outgoing First Sgt.: Gregory Hershey
 Incoming First Sgt.: Izzet Kessler

April 22-25 -

The Ohio National Guard's TRICARE Awareness Week. Thank them or encourage your healthcare provider to accept TRICARE beneficiaries. For more information go to: ong.ohio.gov/TRICARE.html or call Lt. Col. Lowrey at 614-336-7002.

May 3 -

Twenty Ohio Veterans will be inducted into the Ohio Military Hall of Fame for Valor during an 11:30 a.m. ceremony in the Statehouse Atrium. This brings the total number of Ohio Veterans to 238, of which four are Medal of Honor recipients. Please contact Charlie "PJ" Coulter with questions at CharlesCoulter@webtv.net.

Hagel orders review of DoD's new medal

Bowing to criticism, Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel is ordering a 30-day review of the order of precedence for the Pentagon's new Distinguished Warfare Medal, which critics have ripped because the award for actions far from combat ranks above others that can be earned only in battle.

Lawmakers and veterans organizations have written letters and publicly denounced the medal for its rank ahead of the Purple Heart and the Bronze Star.

Hagel has asked Gen. Martin E. Dempsey, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, to review the policy and report to the secretary in 30 days.

This is a change for Hagel, who was awarded two Purple Hearts while serving in Vietnam, who had defended the medal's rank in a letter to various critics. His letter said the new medal, which will go to drone pilots, cyber warfare troops and others indirectly involved in combat, "recognizes a specific type of contribution that is vital to the defense of our nation."

According to a report in *Stars and Stripes*, he added, "It in no way degrades or minimizes our nation's other important awards or the tremendous sacrifices of our men and women who earn these prestigious recognitions."

Legislation in both the House and the Senate would change the rank of the new medal, which was announced last month by Hagel's predecessor, Leon E. Panetta.

Source: <http://www.ngaus.org/newsroom/news/hagel-orders-review-dods-new-medal>

Veterans Administration - Medical appointments

The VA is committed to providing high-quality, clinically appropriate health care - when you want and need it. This commitment includes the ability to make appointments that meet your needs, with no undue waits or delays. We monitor the wait times for scheduled appointments, and give you the opportunity to complete a survey to tell us whether you received an appointment when you wanted one.

Sometimes, you may need to travel to another VA facility or a community care facility to receive the necessary treatment. If that is the case, your VA provider will work with you to find the place best suited for you to obtain the required services.

How do I schedule or cancel appointments?

Call your primary care/specialty clinic during regular business hours to:

- Make an appointment
- Change an appointment
- Cancel an appointment

If you know you are going to miss an appointment, please cancel it as soon as possible so that another Veteran can get an appointment.

What if I just walk-in without a scheduled appointment?

Although we will evaluate your condition if you decide to "walk in" to a primary care clinic without a scheduled appointment, you may have a wait, depending on the severity of your medical situation.

Source: <http://www.va.gov/healthbenefits/access/index.asp>

OHIO NATIONAL GUARD

Community Outreach Office

Alumni Affairs
2825 W. Dublin Granville Road
Columbus, OH 43235
(614) 336-4135

SPACE-A SCHEDULE - RANGB

Another great opportunity to travel Space-A!

Please check the Space-A travel recording at 614-492-3143 for updates. You may sign up online at www.takeahop.com

Print and bring a copy or fax your request to 614-492-3475

Questions/comments can be directed to:

TSgt. Bob Koteles at 614-492-3476

2013 Regional Inter-Service Family Assistance Committee Meetings:

Region 1 - April 25

Region 2 - April 17

Region 3 - April 23

Region 4 - April 30

Region 5 - April 23

Region 6 - April 10

For questions regarding the time or place of RISFAC meetings, contact Staff Sgt. Michael Carden at (614) 336-4135

Retirement Packets

Retirement packets are mailed to your last known mailing address. If you change addresses before your 59th birthday, make sure you contact the office below so they will know where to send your packet.

You will need to send the packet back to receive your retirement pay. Make sure to include the following: NGB Form 22, DD Form 214(s), NGB Form 23, 20-yr letter and SBP election. If you are missing any documents, contact Ms. Jeanette Coughenour at 614-336-7038 (ONG HQs).

**U.S. Army Human Resources
Center of Excellence - Ft. Knox
ATTN: AHRC-PDR-RCR
1600 Spearhead Division Avenue
Dept 420
Ft. Knox, KY 40122-56402
1-800-318-5298 or 502-613-8950**

TRICARE offers ZIP code look-up tool

TRICARE now offers a zip code look-up tool to help you find out if you live in an area that will be affected by the Prime Service Area Reduction. This zip code look-up can be found at:

<http://www.tricare.mil/Welcome/MediaCenter/CurrentTopics/ChangestoPSAs/PSALookup.aspx>

Beginning October 1, 2013, TRICARE Prime will no longer be available to beneficiaries living in certain areas in the United States. Prime Service Areas (PSAs) are geographic areas where TRICARE Prime is offered. PSAs were created to ensure medical readiness of the active duty force by augmenting the capability and capacity of military hospitals and clinics. The affected PSAs are not close to existing military hospitals or clinics and have never augmented care around military hospitals or clinics or Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) locations.

If you live in an area affected by the PSA changes, you will be notified by mail. Your letter will include information about your future TRICARE health care options and where to get more information. Your TRICARE Prime benefit will remain available through the end of September as long as your enrollment fees are paid, you do not disenroll early or lose eligibility.

Regardless of location, PSA changes will not affect:

- Active duty service members or their families who currently use TRICARE Prime and those enrolled in Prime Remote
- TRICARE Young Adult (TYA) Prime beneficiaries whose sponsor is an active duty service member
- Retirees or their families who already use TRICARE Standard
- Beneficiaries using TRICARE Retired Reserve, TRICARE Reserve Select or TRICARE For Life