

ALUMNI NEWSLETTER



OHIO NATIONAL GUARD 3,000 miles in Afghanistan

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By Sgt. Jessi Ann McCormick
102nd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

TARIN KOT, Afghanistan — Growing up on a farm in Weston, Ohio, U.S. Army Specialist Michelle Renay Metzger enjoyed getting dirty and working with farm machinery.

A graduate of McComb High School in McComb, Ohio, and a current junior at Bowling Green State University in Bowling Green, Ohio, Metzger enjoys sports and four-wheeling, and was drawn to the military while attending high school.

“I joined the National Guard to better myself in general and have a better appreciation of life,” Metzger said.

Metzger completed basic training in April 2010 at Fort Jackson, S.C. From there, she attended advanced individual training at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., to become a motor transport operator.

“When given the definition of what a motor transport operator was, I couldn’t wait to learn about armored vehicles that had survived improvised explosive device blasts and traversed some of the harshest terrain in the world,” Metzger said. “I am always learning something new about the trucks, whether it is a new device that has been incorporated into the truck or learning how to replace the brake pads.”

Metzger has been deployed to Kandahar and Tarin Kot, Afghanistan, with the 1487th Transportation Company, Ohio Army National Guard, since January 2013, as a mine-resistant ambush-protected vehicle driver. Her daily job includes basic maintenance on the vehicle, such as checking and adding fluids and inspecting the engine, tires and windows. She is also expected to keep her training current on navigation and communication systems, as well as keeping a strict inventory.

As an MRAP driver, Metzger keeps a log of every mile she’s driven. She says her mileage is currently around 3,000 for the deployment.

When she returns home, Metzger plans on continuing to help her dad harvest on the farm while also attending dental hygiene school. She became interested in the dental program after learning the anatomy of the mouth in high school.

Metzger says the military has presented her with a great sense of accomplishment. While others have told her in the past that she couldn’t join the military, couldn’t drive a gun truck, or couldn’t handle a deployment, she overcame the odds and completed her goals.

“I want my niece and my future children to look up to me, in a way that I look up to women in the military,” Metzger said.



Spc. Michelle Metzger, a motor transport operator with the 1487th Transportation Company, Ohio Army National Guard, applies grease to her vehicle at Multinational Base - Tarin Kot, Afghanistan, Aug. 12, 2013. Metzger, a mine resistant ambush protected vehicle driver, performs daily maintenance on the vehicle. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Sgt. Jessi Ann McCormick/Released)

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Ohio National Guard units currently deployed

Air units:

JFHQ
121st Air Refueling Wing
178th Fighter Wing
179th Airlift Wing
180th Fighter Wing
220th Engineering Installation Squadron
269th Combat Communications Squadron

Army units:

1487th Transportation Company
Military Advisor Team - 2
837th Engineer Company
838th Military Police Company
437th Military Police Battalion
371st Sustainment Brigade

As of August 20, 2013, about 945 Ohio National Guard Airmen and Soldiers were deployed

File a fully-developed claim for faster resolution, possible retroactive benefits

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) announced earlier this month that Veterans who file an original Fully-Developed Claim (FDC) for a service-connected disability could be entitled to up to one year of retroactive disability benefits. The retroactive benefits are in effect from August 6, 2013, through August 5, 2015, as a result of legislation enacted last year.



A FDC contains all records and supporting documentation. It's the fastest way for Veterans to receive a decision on their claims, and reduces the amount of time that the VA, or the Veteran, spends seeking additional evidence. VA officials believe this will help reduced the backlog of Veterans' claims.

County Veteran service officers in Ohio are trained on FDCs and can assist in locating records to support them. Veterans should contact their local county Veterans service office to begin the process of filing a FDC.

These offices can be located, by county, on the map at: <http://dvs.ohio.gov/>

To find out more about the VA's initiative with FDCs, go to: <http://www.va.gov/opa.pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=2464>

Source: [http://dvs.ohio.gov/Portals/\)/library/odvs/newsletter/2013/ODVNewsletter-Aug2013.pdf](http://dvs.ohio.gov/Portals/)/library/odvs/newsletter/2013/ODVNewsletter-Aug2013.pdf)

Join the 9/11 Heroes Run

The 9/11 heroes run unites communities internationally with the goal to never forget the sacrifices of the heroes of Sept. 11 and in the wars since: Veteran, First Responder, Civilian and Military. Join us to raise awareness and honor the fallen.

Run, Volunteer, Donate, Cheer...but most of all: HONOR

The 9/11 Heroes Run 5K + 1 Mile fun run/walk welcomes runners and walkers of all levels and ages. Events take place all over the world, on or near Sept. 11, and are 100 percent organized by local community volunteers. It is the perfect opportunity for your community to personally come out and thank your local Veterans, their Families, and First Responders in an annual fun and family-friendly environment!

- **Date:** 9/7/13
- **Location:** Alum Creek Park, Westerville, Ohio, 43081
- **Cost:** 5K = \$25, Family of 4 = \$80
- **Sign up today!** You must register online by Sept. 1 to be guaranteed a race shirt and finisher's dogtag. Shirts and dogtags will be given out on a first-come, first-served basis to race-day registrants.
- **Register:** <http://911heroesruncolumbus.eventbrite.com/>

Source: http://www.travismanion.org/tmf_911run_race/columbus-911-heroes-run/

SEP & OCT Events

September 20

Free admission to the Delaware County Fair for National Guard members and Veterans

September 28

Ohio Women Veterans Conference. Speakers: Maj. Gen. Deborah A. Ashenhurst and Jessica Lynch. Conference 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., Aladdin Shrine Center, Columbus. Register at http://dvs.ohio.gov/Portals/0/library/odvs/advisory/womenvets/Women_Vets_Roster.pdf

September 28

437th Military Police Ball. RSVP by Sept. 10 to Capt. Toomey at (614) 466-8641 matthew.k.toomey.mil@mail.mil. Crowne Plaza - Columbus, Dublin (Metro Place North)

September 28

437th MP Battalion Alumni Association Reunion. noon - 6 p.m. VFW 4192, Mineral Ridge

October 5

155th Chemical Battalion second annual "Feast of the Dragon." Guest Speaker: Brig. Gen. Peggy Combs, CBRN School Commandant. RSVP to Sgt. 1st Class Robey at 614-336-4575 or josh.g.robey.mil@mail.mil. Mandalay Banquet Center, 2700 East River Road, Dayton

2014

April 24-27

ONG/ONGA Spring Events Weekend, Hyatt Regency, 350 North High St., Downtown Columbus

Join the 122nd Army Band

Ohio's Army National Guard Band has openings for new musicians!

E-1 through E-4

Audition for a 42R slot, complete an 11-week AIT in Norfolk, Virginia, and become a member of the 122nd Army Band. The band is open to musicians skilled at any woodwind or brass instrument, percussion, guitar, bass, and keyboard.

All Enlisted Ranks

Audition for a one-year attachment to the 122nd, including vocalists. Interested vocalists must be able to sing a variety of styles (including pop, rock, country, and soul) and *The Star Spangled Banner*.

About the 122nd

The 122nd Army Band drills at Rickenbacker Air National Guard Base south of Columbus, and has AT every summer in June and July.

Auditions will take place 7-8 September, 2013.

Interested Soldiers should contact SFC Adam Wells at 614-336-6505 or adam.m.wells6.mil@mail.mil

Delaware County Fair offers free exams to Veterans

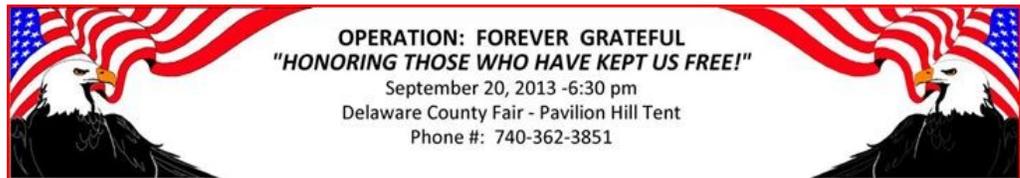
The Veterans Administration will have the Mobile Exam Unit - a bright blue 28-foot vehicle present for VA medical staff to give a quick and easy history and physical exam to any qualified Veteran at the Delaware County Fair on Sept. 20. For more information, contact Mr. Jack Selig at 614-257-5579.

Survivors of Military Suicide

A Seminar for Family, Friends, and Fellow Service Members

Saturday, September 7th from 9am to noon, Akron, Ohio

Contact Angela Brittain, 614-336-4284, angela.k.brittain2.ctr@mail.mil



OPERATION: FOREVER GRATEFUL
"HONORING THOSE WHO HAVE KEPT US FREE!"

September 20, 2013 - 6:30 pm
 Delaware County Fair - Pavilion Hill Tent
 Phone #: 740-362-3851

Rank: _____ Name: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____ Phone# _____

Branch of Service (circle): Army - Navy - Air Force - Marines - National Guard - Coast Guard - Other
 Period(s) Served: _____ Copy of Discharge/Veteran's Id Available

Please Indicate VALOR or PURPLE HEART Award(s)

MEDAL OF HONOR DST SVC CROSS NAVY CROSS AIR FORCE CROSS SILVER STAR BRONZE STAR PURPLE HEART OTHER (Specify) _____ GOLD STAR FAMILY

Spouse or 1 Guest (Free): _____

Please return this form to the Delaware County Fair Office at P.O. Box 1278, Delaware, OH 43015, by September 4, 2013 for dinner reservations. The dinner is being provided by local businesses and served by local volunteers. We look forward to serving you!

You will be mailed tickets for you and your guest that will admit you to the fairgrounds and to Pavilion Hill Tent. Call your local Veteran Services Office or the Fair Office at 740-362-3851 for more information.

2013 Regional Inter-Service Family Assistance Committee Meetings:

Region 1 - October 24

Region 2 - October 16

Region 3 - October 22

Region 4 - October 29

Region 5 - October 22

Region 6 - October 9

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-year 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 - Fort Knox
ATTN: AHRC-PDR-RCR
1600 Spearhead Division Ave.
Dept. 420
Fort Knox, KY 40122-56402
1-800-318-5298 or 502-613-8950**

Direct Connect Program

How can the Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization (OSDBU) Direct Connect Program help service-disabled Veteran-owned small businesses, Veteran-owned small businesses, and the small business community?



The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization (OSDBU) plays a large role in ensuring that programs, services, and support resources reach the Veteran small business community.

OSDBU has a robust and active role in Veteran Small Business Outreach. The Direct Connect Program can assist small businesses, specifically service-disabled Veteran-owned small businesses, and Veteran-owned small businesses across the nation to connect and market their products and services to the VA. VA continues to provide events and opportunities for small business to engage with procurement decision makers (PDMs) in specific industries.

The Direct Connect Program will provide the small business community with awareness, access and risk mitigation.

Awareness: It is our goal to cultivate awareness in order to reflect and respond to challenges and opportunities rather than react to them. Conscious awareness is a process of recognizing what is happening in an organization, the effects of decisions, and actions in the organization, and how complex and diversified the organization is, such as VA, when it comes to small businesses marketing their products and services.

Access: Access is providing easier methods to market to the VA by providing VA PDMs in different industries to brief and engage with small businesses through the use of opportunity showcases, industry days, workshops and conference events.

Risk Mitigation: Risk mitigation solutions can help reduce problems a Veteran small business may encounter when doing business with the federal government, and can help solve and reduce problems the federal government may have doing business with a small business.

Source: <http://www.va.gov/osdbu/dcp/index.asp>



OUR TIME: A STRONG AMERICA
CHCI's 2013 HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH EVENTS
www.chci.org/2013HHM

		
Sep 30–Oct 1 Public Policy Conference	October 1 Reyes of Comedy	October 2 36 th Annual Awards Gala

Walter E. Washington Convention Center • Washington, D.C.