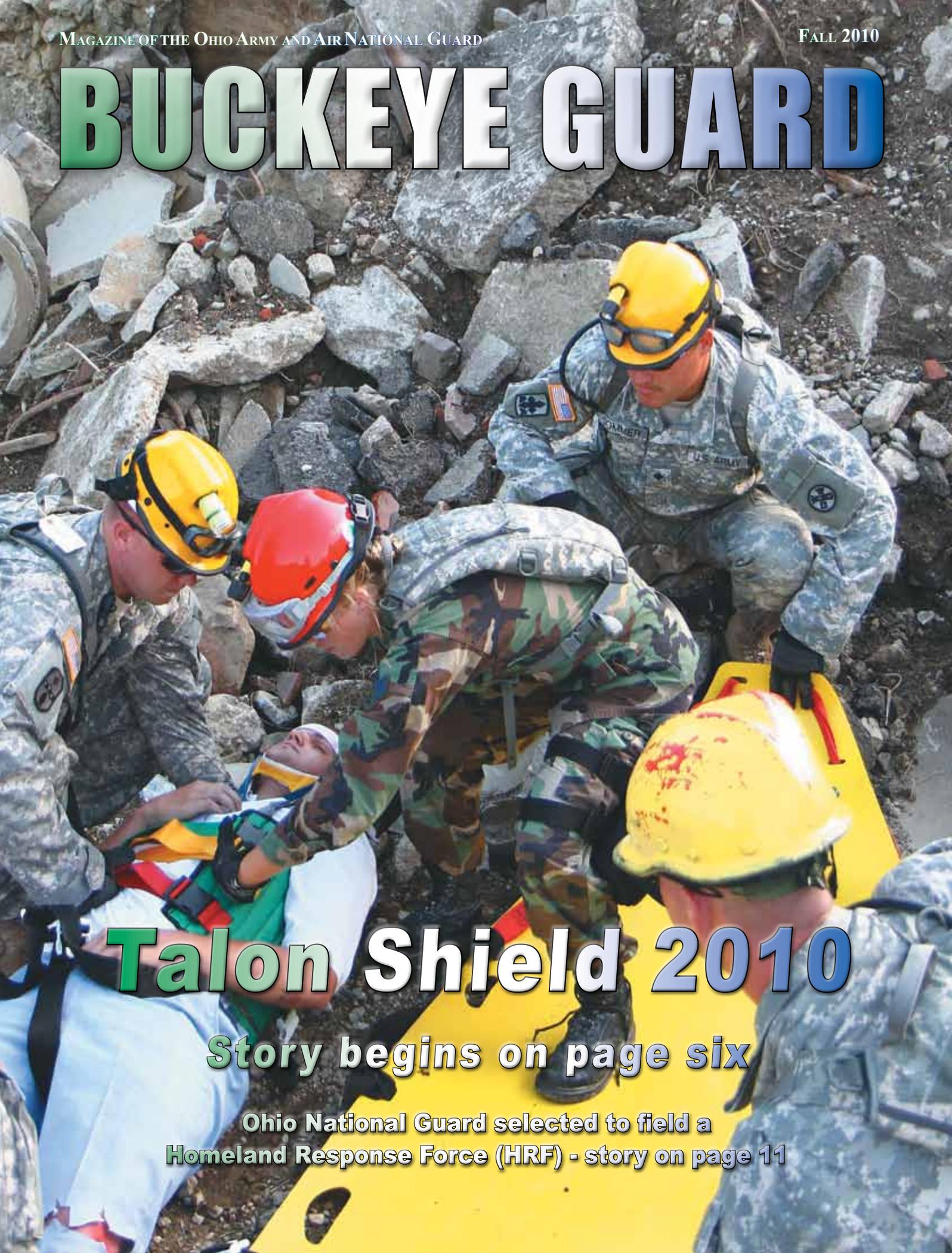


BUCKEYE GUARD



Talon Shield 2010

Story begins on page six

Ohio National Guard selected to field a
Homeland Response Force (HRF) - story on page 11

LINEAGE LINK UP

Company A, 1st Battalion,
137th Aviation Regiment
Columbus



MISSION:

To perform air assault and air movement operations within the division's area of operations.

DATE & PLACE OF BIRTH:

13 May 1920, Delaware, Ohio

PARENT UNIT:

Sanitary Detachment, 4th Infantry

CAMPAIGN CREDIT:

WAR ON TERRORISM - Campaigns to be determined

AWARDS:

Meritorious Unit Commendation,
Streamer embroidered IRAQ 2009

Army Superior Unit Award, Streamer
embroidered 2004-2005



Medical Detachment, 166th Infantry, Camp Perry, 1937



37th Aviation Company, Camp Grayling, Michigan, 1960



Headquarters, 137th Aviation Battalion, Camp Grayling, 1965



Troopers from the 2d Squadron, 107th Cavalry Regiment conduct sling load training with blackhawk helicopters from Company A, 1st Battalion, 137th Aviation Regiment while deployed to Kosovo in 2004.

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Maj. Gen. Harry "A.J." Feucht

Assistant Adjutant General, Army
Maj. Gen. Matthew L. Kambic

Command Sergeant Major, Army
Command Sgt. Maj. Albert M. Whatmough

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FEATURES

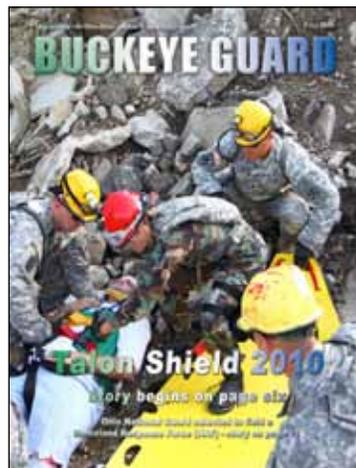
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ON THE COVER

CERFP members extricate a victim from the rubble pile of the collapse simulator as part of the events at the Talon Shield exercise. Rescued victims are taken to an area where their condition can be assessed and they can be decontaminated and placed in medical triage if necessary. (Ohio National Guard Photo/Sgt. Sean Mathis)



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@OHnationalguard

and on the web @ <http://ong.ohio.gov>

Enlisted Force development

Chief Master Sgt. Tamara Phillips
State Command Chief

What do you want to accomplish in your career? Do you have a pathway to get there? Is anyone purposely developing you toward that end state or are your developmental opportunities happening merely by chance?

Although the concept of enlisted force development has been around since service members first formed ranks, its practice has evolved over the years, particularly throughout the current conflicts. We now must develop Airmen to meet the demands of a global joint environment where much more is expected from today's professional Airmen than ever before. In turn, Airmen now are expecting much more from their leaders.

Today's Airmen have more education, even upon enlistment, than ever before. They are more technically competent and more driven. They want to demonstrate their knowledge, skills and abilities and they want to know they are making a difference.



Today's Airmen have more education, even upon enlistment, than ever before.

However, throughout many Airmen's careers, developmental opportunities have happened merely by chance or have been lacking altogether. Too often, mentoring sessions lack a specific purpose or focused goal, and at times, service members learned valuable lessons from watching the successes and failures of those in leadership positions.

In Ohio, we are challenged with new joint mission sets while our Airmen are continually performing critical missions both at home and in distant lands. In addition, we are facing BRAC-related manpower changes. While these factors present a challenge, they also place us in the enviable position of allowing us to be selective and taking only the best.

Nationally, we are facing Air National Guard grade leveling in all Air Force specialties, while contending with ever-tightening budgets.

All of these challenges underscore the need for our senior leaders to have a focused, purpose-driven plan to develop Airmen from enlistment through their final leadership position, and ensure they are prepared to execute positions of greater responsibility when opportunities become available.

The Enlisted Force Development Council, a newly-formed group of leaders, will develop tools, programs and processes that will provide Airmen with a path to guide them through their career and help them reach their goals. It will also provide leaders with tools to help mentor their Airmen toward those goals. This council's objectives will help leaders reach organizational goals by ensuring we have qualified personnel with developed skills and competencies for the future. **AG**

Linking execution to strategy

Command Sergeant Major Albert M. Whatmough
State Command Sergeant Major

This year at the 2010 fall commanders conference, the officer and NCO leadership teams received an update from the adjutant general, Maj. Gen. Wayt, on our Ohio National Guard strategy map. This document is an important visual representation of specific initiatives and core competencies that we must deliver to meet our vision, mission, purpose and values. Next, Maj.



Gen. Kambic, the assistant adjutant general for Army, and I presented a way for our leadership teams to link execution at the squad, section and team levels to this strategy.

The NCO team must understand that they have: ownership - dominating our lane; responsibility - for our actions and values and accountability - meeting our obligations.

This will help to ensure each Soldier is "green" in their respective formations. First we must fill vacancies and then verify that each team member is DMOS qualified, has completed the appropriate level of NCOES, is qualified with their individual weapon, possesses a valid security clearance if required, meets the requirements for height and weight, passes the Army Physical Fitness Test, and is medically deployable.

Each individual...must continue to make a positive impact on...the enlisted force.

This action directly links "line-of-sight" engagement to our strategy at the lowest level. Our youngest NCOs are the center of influence in turning formations "green" and will continue to have the greatest impact. Their development within the NCO support channel must not be overlooked and provides the greatest amount of leverage in positive institutional change.

Our team continues to produce a world-class noncommissioned officer corps that is the best in the nation. My vision for 2011 is a consistent and persistent focus on individual readiness that supports a no-notice, anywhere, anytime mission. We must embrace our mission statement at face value: "When called, we respond with ready units to execute federal, state and community missions."

Each individual, from the team leader, to the command sergeant major, must continue to make a positive impact on manning, equipping, training and leading the enlisted force. Maj. Gen. Kambic and I are humbled to serve on a team of professional leaders that embrace a values-based, strategy-driven, leader-centric organization, coupled with compassion and caring for our Soldiers every day. Thank you for serving your nation and the citizens of the state of Ohio. **AG**

Ohio National Guard news and information available for viewing on social media

Story by TSgt. Joe Stepp

Ohio National Guard Public Affairs Office

Let's take a moment to review the different social media outlets we use to share news from the Ohio National Guard. Have you seen photographers and videographers out and about as you do your job or at special events and wondered where the photos and video go? Most of it is on the internet!

As the electronic media has grown, so has our ability to get the information to you from the public affairs office. In addition to posting information on our website at <http://www.ong.ohio.gov>, we post a lot of things on social media sites. Here is a breakdown of the content available on different social media sites:



Facebook

<http://www.facebook.com/TheOhioNationalGuard>

On our Facebook site you can view announcements, photos and videos as they are posted by the Public Affairs office. If you become a fan of "The Ohio National Guard" Facebook page (do this by clicking, "Like") you'll receive timely notifications anytime new content is posted. YouTube and Flickr also have settings which allow them to announce postings on Facebook, making it easy to keep track of new postings on either site.



Twitter

<http://twitter.com/ohnationalguard>

You can follow important announcements and information from the Ohio National Guard on Twitter. Twitter also announces anytime something is posted to Flickr and YouTube.



YouTube

<http://www.youtube.com/OhioNationalGuard>

Military videographers are responsible for telling the stories on important events and conducting interviews that help you understand what our Soldiers and Airmen in the Joint Forces (Army and Air) are doing. Some of these videos are then produced into news segments and video presentations, which are available for viewing online. You can browse through the different videos uploaded as soon as they're produced. Become a free subscriber and you'll be notified every time a new video gets posted!



Flickr

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/ohnationalguard>

Flickr helps us to share and organize photos for people to see. Pictures of our Ohio Soldiers and Airmen in action from local exercises to worldwide operations can be viewed on this site. As with all social media, we post photos we receive in a timely manner to keep viewers up to date on what important things our Soldiers and Airmen are doing locally and abroad.

The Ohio National Guard is doing some very important work, not only in the State of Ohio, but in support of any global missions when called upon. Now you can follow along and stay informed of the accomplishments of the Ohio National Guard. **AG**

Command profile



Colonel Alfred C. Faber
Chief of the Joint Staff

NAME: Colonel Alfred C. Faber

AGE: 49

FULL-TIME OCCUPATION: Chief of the Joint Staff, Ohio National Guard

HOMETOWN: Youngstown, Ohio

FAMILY: wife, Gail; daughters, Kasey, Jill, Jordan; grandchildren, KaLee, Grant, Adrianna.

WHEN I WAS YOUNGER, I WANTED TO: Become an astronaut.

MOST RECENT ACHIEVEMENT: Fulfilling a lifetime dream of going on a hunting Safari in Africa with my wife.

THE LAST GOOD MOVIE I SAW WAS: "Grown Ups". We laughed non-stop.

THE BOOK I'M READING IS: True at First Light, Ernest Hemingway.

MY FAVORITE RECREATIONAL ACTIVITY IS: Taking kids hunting & fly fishing for the first time and introducing them to the outdoors.

THE THING I TREASURE MOST: My wife & soul mate Gail and our family

HEROES: All of the Citizen-Soldiers and Airmen who have faithfully served to defend the nation.

NOBODY KNOWS I'M: A good cook (wild game recipes)

I'D GIVE ANYTHING TO MEET: My parents, who both passed away when I was very young and never had the chance to meet their grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

MY BIGGEST PET PEEVE IS: Those who fail to give 100% everyday...

THE THREE WORDS THAT BEST DESCRIBE ME: Duty, Honor, Country (Gen Douglas MacArthur)

IF I COULD LEAVE TODAY'S GUARDMEMBERS WITH ONE PIECE OF ADVICE IT WOULD BE: After 31 years of military service and travelling the world, I have come to realize the two most important things in life are to be born healthy and an American. With these two advantages all things are possible. As a Citizen-Soldier or Airman, you defend the greatest nation on earth while protecting your communities here at home. Take full advantage of all the opportunities the National Guard offers to lead, learn and grow each and every day. Serve others before self. Have fun; you only get one chance at life ...and it goes fast!

Outreach strengthens community support

Sustaining the readiness of the Ohio National Guard (ONG) depends upon many who do not wear a military uniform. America's citizenry provides strong support for our members while, at the same time, sharing the benefits of our sacrifices.

The Ohio National Guard is particularly fortunate to have strong community support. This originates from the patriotism of Ohioans, ties to our communities and the history of involving people through community outreach activities. For

example, Ohio National Guard Family Readiness programs have successfully enrolled many community partners in support of service members and their Families. The Ohio Employer Support of Guard and Reserve (ESGR) leads the nation in building understanding among employers of the roles of Guardsmen. ESGR further increases support and expresses employer appreciation by presenting service member nominated Patriot Awards and obtaining employer Statements of Support. The Ohio National Guard Office of Community Outreach contributes to these existing outreach efforts and cultivates support of other influential community groups.

Outreach office activities focus on sustaining the support of employers since they are an integral part of our national security team. Routine educational activities include inviting employers to quarterly joint employer events, Call to Duty and Homecoming ceremonies, and yellow ribbon reintegration programs. New initiatives include starting an employer communication campaign nine-months prior to deployment to educate and inform employers of deploying 37th Infantry Brigade Combat Team (IBCT) members. Outreach is working to gather employer and other key community member requests for information as well as to further connect civic leaders to the organization. Events such as The Adjutant General's presentation to the Dayton Area Chamber of Commerce and mailings to employers of Ohio National Guard members helps promote the hiring of service members. These communications also encourage participation in American Veterans (AMVETS) sponsored job fairs. Large employers of ONG members are now also being invited to special events as guests of the Adjutant General.

Cultivating relationships with attorneys may provide great dividends for our members. Under the guidance of Ohio's Judge Advocate Generals, in particular Lt. Col. Duncan Aukland, Outreach has been working to increase awareness about the unique legal needs of military members and to encourage the expansion of pro-bono legal services. Ohio National Guard Judge Advocate Generals write journal articles and teach a continuing legal education course for the Columbus Bar Association. They are also now leading a working group that builds inter-agency cooperation among attorneys who could be pivotal in determining the outcomes of service members' legal cases. Working

group participants include the Northern and Southern U.S. Attorney's offices, Ohio ESGR, Department of Labor Veterans Education and

reaching
to communities to employers
OUT Lt. Col. Kathy Lowrey



Training office and the 9th District U.S. Coast Guard office. These early signs of support suggest future opportunities to partner.

The Ohio National Guard alumni affairs program was established by Col (Ret) James Chisman. After more than a year of exemplary work, Col (Ret) James Chisman resigned. Wendy McWherter was hired as the replacement alumni affairs coordinator this past June. She is experienced in developing volunteer organizations, marketing, communications, fundraising and event planning. She has also been an instrumental leader in several community-based organizations and is well regarded for her professionalism.

Building on the solid foundation laid by Col. (Ret) Chisman, we look forward to working with the alumni affairs council to strengthen connections with alumni. We wish to encourage alumni support of the Regional Family Assistance Committee (RISFAC) meetings and local family readiness programs. Thank you for being a part of the outreach team. The Outreach office looks forward to working with you as we work to collectively strengthen community support.

If you have any questions or suggestions, please reach out to me at kathy.lowrey@us.army.mil or (614) 336-7002. **EG**

Lt. Col. Kathy Lowrey is the director of community outreach for the Ohio National Guard

legislative look

with Johann Klein

General Assembly makes changes affecting National Guard members



On June 18, 2010 Governor Ted Strickland signed House Bill 449 into law. The measure included several provisions that will affect Ohio National Guard members.

Changes to military leave regulations for firefighters and EMTs

First, the bill increases the amount of military leave for firefighters and Emergency Medical Technicians. Under current law, Guardmembers who are public employees are entitled to a leave of absence from their respective positions, without loss of pay, for periods of up to one month for each calendar year in which they are performing service in the uniformed services. The Ohio Revised code defines "month" as 22 eight-hour work days or 176 hours within one calendar year. The bill revises the definition to accommodate certain public safety employees who have nontraditional work schedules. Under the new law, "month" for a public safety employee who is employed as a firefighter or emergency medical technician means 17 twenty-four-hour days or 408 hours within one calendar year.

Several key changes to the National Guard Scholarship Program (ONGSP)

The bill lowers the minimum number of credit hours a Guardmember can use per term from 6 to 3 when using the ONGSP. While attending school with the ONGSP, Ohio National Guard members may be deployed to assist with domestic disaster relief (Hurricanes Katrina, Rita, Ike). Although these deployments may only last several weeks, a student may have to drop most of their credits due to missed class. However, if the student can still remain in one class (3 credits) the Ohio National Guard will continue supporting their education through the scholarship program.

The legislation also requires colleges and universities to certify actual enrollment of an ONGSP recipient within thirty days of the end of an academic term in order to receive

payment and protects Guardmembers by prohibiting the colleges and universities from recouping money from the individual enrollee.

Deadline for claiming stop loss bonus extended to December 3rd

Military veterans who were involuntarily kept on active duty after Sept. 11, 2001 have only a few more months to claim their stop-loss bonus. Oct. 21 was the deadline for applying for the bonus, which averages \$3,700. The deadline has been extended to December 3rd. This is a separate bonus from the Ohio Veterans Bonus that was recently approved on last November's ballot for those who served during the Persian Gulf, Iraq and Afghanistan wars.

The Department of Defense estimates that of the 145,000 eligible veterans nationwide, about 90,000 have yet to apply for the bonus. These Servicemembers are eligible to receive \$500 for each month of involuntary service.

Guardmembers who are eligible should visit www.defense.gov/stoploss on the web and complete Department of Defense Form 2944, "Claim for Retroactive Stop Loss Payment." **GG**

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

For information about the Ohio Veterans Bonus Program, please see the story on page 28.



SOUTHWEST ASIA -- Staff Sgt. Andy Adducchio briefs comedian Drew Carey on his mission responsibilities Aug. 24 at this forward-deployed location. Mr. Carey was part of a five-person comedy team traveling the area to entertain forward-deployed troops. Adducchio is a crew chief with the 180th Aircraft Maintenance Unit and is deployed from the Ohio Air National Guard's 178th Fighter Wing. (U.S. Air Force Photo/Tech. Sgt. Randy Mallard)

Talon Shield 2010

The Talon Shield Exercise at Camp Ravenna on August 6-8, 2010 gave over 40 agencies the opportunity to practice response to a natural disaster, to test their plans and capabilities and to experience working together with other agencies to coordinate activities and to make the critical decisions which will save lives and protect the public should a real incident occur.

Story and photos by the Ohio National Guard Public Affairs Office

NEWTON FALLS, Ohio – Covered in blood, some sat injured and dazed while others wandered aimlessly searching for help. Some did not move at all, killed by flying debris or crushed under a collapsed structure. As the sun rose, however, despair turned to hope on the pile of rubble that was once a three-story building. Though the dead bodies were dummies, the blood was simulated and the injured victims were simply actors, the hundreds of men and women who came to rescue them were real members of the Ohio, Illinois and West Virginia National Guards partnering with local emergency responders.

“There are approximately 1,300 personnel on the ground, including local responders primarily from Portage County,” said Maj. Gen. Gregory L. Wayt, Ohio’s Adjutant General. “They are integrated with the military, and this is the normal way we would operate during such an emergency situation. Portage County Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management is in charge as the incident commander and we’re working for them.”

The Ohio National Guard assisted local, county, state and federal authorities in rescue and recovery operations during exercise Talon Shield ’10 Full Scale Exercise (FSE) at the

Ohio National Guard’s Camp Ravenna Joint Military Training Center (CRJMTC) Aug. 6-8, 2010. The exercise scenario had an F4 tornado hitting the fictional town of Ravenna Falls, resulting in mass casualties, structural collapses and the release of hazardous materials from industrial and other facilities.

“The purpose of Talon Shield was to see the interaction, trying to ensure that every level of government that responded could communicate with one another and coordinate activities,” said John Mason, the Assistant Director of the Portage County Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management.

Talon Shield ’10 FSE brought together 40 agencies from eight states representing local, state and federal governments, including both military and civilian participants. The three day training exercise tested inter-agency communication capabilities, multi-echelon command and control and emergency response techniques. Talon Shield ’10 FSE also provided the opportunity for first responders to practice their skills in a challenging and realistic simulated disaster. “The exercise also allowed the Ohio National Guard to showcase Camp Ravenna, its new structural collapse simulator and the other fine training capabilities we have been developing,” said Col. Dean Brown, the commander of the Ohio National Guard’s Fort Ohio training sites which include Camp Ravenna.



A collection of some of the logos from the agencies involved in the Talon Shield Exercise reflects the range of participation. Agencies from all levels of jurisdiction from local fire departments to federal agencies performed their roles and responsibilities and had the opportunity to interact with each other to test their equipment and procedures.



Members of local, state and regional disaster response agencies tour the structural collapse simulator at Camp Ravenna Joint Military Training Center the first morning of the exercise. They participated in the Talon Shield Exercise, a three-day full scale disaster response exercise conducted by the Ohio National Guard to test capabilities of emergency responders from multiple states and jurisdictions as well as the capabilities of the Ohio National Guard's newly authorized Homeland Response Force. (Ohio National Guard Photo/Douglas Nicodemus)

Local Portage County emergency responders were first on the scene, but the scope of the tornado's devastation surpassed their capabilities and Mason requested assistance from the Ohio National Guard and the Ohio Emergency Management Agency (EMA).

"We call for additional assistance when our resources run out or our capabilities have been exceeded," said Mason, who, as the incident commander, coordinated the efforts of all participating organizations.

Local assets included the Portage County EMA and the Newton Falls fire department, but they were quickly joined by Ohio Task Force 1, a federally funded Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) team comprised of firefighters trained in emergency medicine, hazardous materials and structural engineering.

"This is the most people we've been involved with integrating with outside resources," said Ohio Task Force 1 USAR team member Grant Light.

Leading the Ohio National Guard's response was Joint Task Force (JTF) 73, a command and control element that manages units specifically designed to assist emergency response efforts with personnel trained in decontamination, search and rescue, extraction, triage and force protection. The Department of Defense recently announced that the Ohio National Guard would stand up one of the first two of ten total Homeland Response Forces (HRFs), capable of deploying within the United States to assist in disaster response. The HRF concept was derived from Ohio's JTF 73 concept, and Ohio has designated JTF 73 as the command element for the Ohio HRF.



Left: Command. Sgt. Maj. Albert Whatmough, Ohio command sergeant major, left, Maj. Gen. Gregory Wayt, Ohio adjutant general, Maj. Gen. Matthew Kambic, assistant adjutant general for Army, and Maj. Gen. Harry "A.J." Feucht Jr., assistant adjutant general for Air, listen to General Manager and owner of Response International Group, Mike Shannon, explain the functions of the Structural Collapse Simulator at the Camp Ravenna Joint Military Training Center. **Right:** Sgt. Chris Poore and Spc. Daniel Crawford of the 811th Engineer Company build and emplace a truss inside a collapsed building simulator to ensure the devastated structure is safe before entering and rescuing trapped victims inside. (Ohio National Guard Photos/Sgt. Sean Mathis)



Edward Thomas of Ohio Task Force 1 explains search procedures and exercise protocols to a group of CERFP and Task Force 1 members prior to boarding a UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter for transport to a site to conduct search and rescue operations. (Ohio National Guard Photo/Douglas Nicodemus)

The Ohio National Guard's 52nd Civil Support Team (CST), part of JTF 73, was the first to receive Mason's call for assistance; the 52nd CST is the only Ohio unit capable of deploying without prior approval from the governor of the State of Ohio, allowing the unit to respond to emergencies quickly.

"The time to find out if things are going to work or how they're going to work is not during the emergency," Mason said. "Communities are trying to work together to solve issues so we don't have to worry about it during the emergency."

The 52nd CST quickly assessed chemical contamination in the collapsed building and alerted JTF 73 to deploy its Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, High-Yield Explosive (CBRNE); Enhanced Response Force Package (CERFP).

Within hours the JTF main body, Ohio CERFP and Ohio National Guard firefighters arrived at the incident site and began rescue operations in partnership with civilian emergency responders.



Several members from civilian and military disaster response groups discuss techniques on Saturday of the Talon Shield Exercise. *Left to Right:* Col. (Dr.) Mussaret Zuberi of the Ohio CERFP, Lt. Col. Sally Mowab of the Ohio CERFP, Michael Reiterman of Task Force 1, Captain Tom Hallis of the Ohio CERFP, Robert Pence of Task Force 1, Nicholas Kman, M.D. from the Ohio State University Medical Center. (Ohio National Guard Photo/Douglas Nicodemus)

"The military came up, we pulled all our people out, we integrated together and we went right back to work. It was pretty seamless," Light said.

To sustain rescue operations for longer than 24 hours, the Ohio National Guard's state headquarters sent out a national message requesting support; Texas and Kentucky Air National Guard C130's, along with Ohio Air National Guard KC135's, flew the Illinois National Guard CERFP into Ohio, ready to relieve and reinforce the ongoing response efforts.

"It's a building process" said 1st Lt. Gary Cooper of the Illinois CERFP's 35th Chemical Company. "We're starting to move in with other states, to interact with other states and build a bigger picture."

West Virginia's National Guard also responded to the call for assistance and sent the West Virginia 35th CST to relieve Ohio's 52nd CST.



Members of the CERFP, HRF and Task Force 1 board a helicopter which will transport them to a location where search and rescue operations need to be conducted on Saturday afternoon of the Talon Shield exercise. (Ohio National Guard Photo/Douglas Nicodemus)



Staff Sgt. Aaron Blaine (left) and Sgt. 1st Class Alphonso Meriweather help Sgt. Dustin Bowshier out of his technical rescue chemical biological radiological enterprise (CBRNE) ensemble at Camp Ravenna Joint Military Training Center, Friday, Aug. 6, 2010, as part of the Talon Shield Exercise. (Ohio National Guard Photo/Sgt. Sean Mathis)



Maj. Gen. Gregory Wayt, the adjutant general for the state of Ohio, has a conversation with Dr. Mark Gebhardt from Wright State University, Saturday, Aug. 7, 2010, during the Talon Shield Exercise at Camp Ravenna Joint Military Training Center. (Ohio National Guard Photo/Capt. Matt Molinski)



Members of the Portage County Urban Search and Rescue team move debris from a collapsed building to rescue victims trapped inside at the Camp Ravenna Joint Military Training Center, Friday, Aug. 6, 2010, as part of Exercise Talon Shield. (Ohio National Guard Photo/Sgt. Sean Mathis)

Illinois, West Virginia and Ohio Soldiers and Airmen trained side-by-side through the night, providing disaster relief while struggling to overcome exhaustion from the continuous operations.

“The exercise is very intense and well supported,” Cooper said. “It lets us interact with another unit from out of state; a chance to look at the standard operating procedures from another state and perhaps find things to change in our own procedures.”

During the response the incident command post asked JTF 73 for assistance in transporting rescue teams quickly to locations away from the structural collapse. Ohio Army National Guard UH-60 helicopters flew in to provide rapid deployment of search and rescue teams to isolated areas.

While evacuating victims of the tornado and escorting them to medical assistance, the Ohio National Guard’s CERFP encountered a destroyed methamphetamine lab in a local home, spreading dangerous chemicals into the surrounding area.

Wearing hazardous material suits, Soldiers from the West Virginia National Guard’s 35th CST relieved Ohio’s CERFP to identify and contain chemical contaminants before resuming search and extraction operations.

The JTF 73 and all responders operated for 60 continuous hours to ensure that disaster response operations were concluded successfully.

“There are a lot of firsts going on today. This is truly a great exercise to bring everything together in case we would ever need it,” said Maj. Gen. Wayt. **86**



A member of the 35th CST investigates a clandestine drug lab discovered during search and rescue operations in a residential area damaged by a simulated tornado during the Talon Shield Exercise. (Ohio National Guard Photo/Sgt. Sean Mathis)



Staff Sgt. Robin Stephan, a member of the CERFP medical element deployed from the 121st Air Refueling Wing, prepares a computerized patient assessment system and the backup reference on paper to assist in the triage and diagnosis of mock victims during the Talon Shield exercise at Camp Ravenna. It is part of the Evacuee Tracking and Accountability System (ETAS) which helps coordinate and track patients during a disaster response. (Ohio National Guard Photo/Douglas Nicodemus)

Talons of the Shield - notable components of the exercise

ICP – Incident Command Post

Key to the success of Talon Shield '10 FSE was the ability for multiple – jurisdictional entities at various echelons to communicate effectively. This inter-operability falls on the shoulders of the men and women staffing the ICP. The ICP is the clearing house for information going to and coming from “ground zero”. As such these talented staffers had to untangle the complex and often varied bits of information, analyze it, and get it back out to the correct personnel. This task is challenging enough, but when the multitude of responders speak a different range of jargons the mission is even more difficult. One objective of Talon Shield '10 was to uncover and resolve such issues.



Equipment Profile

First responders have to be prepared for any and all contingencies. The Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) teams are a particularly notable example of this ethos. The USAR teams pack enough hardware to qualify as a rolling home improvement store. Organizing and transporting all this gear can present a challenge. Portage County, Ohio has tackled this problem with a unique solution. They have converted a beverage truck into their mobile garage. The double sided trailer provided plenty of storage, while rolling access doors offered ease of access. The shallow compartments on the trailer meant that the right tools were at hand and visible; no digging through stacks of boxes to find the right tool.

Distinguished Visitors

Exercise Talon Shield drew a number of distinguished visitors from around the country. Representatives from U.S. Army Northern Command (NORTHCOM) were on hand to observe the scope of the exercise and witness the Homeland Response Force concept in action. Additionally, there were visitors and observers from many other agencies, including the U.S. Coast Guard, Washington National Guard, National Guard Bureau and Serbian Armed Forces. Visitors had the opportunity to observe the interoperability of multiple agencies as they participated in and fine-tuned a unified response to a disaster.



Structure Collapse Simulator (SCS)

Thousands of tons of broken concrete, twisted re-bar, demolished cars, and mock building complete with an elevator shaft comprise Ohio's newest training aid. The structure collapse simulator is the second of its kind within the state and is another invaluable asset in the ongoing development of Ohio's emergency response system. The rubble pile, as it is affectionately known, provides first responders the opportunity to break out their tools and practice their craft in a realistic and challenging simulated environment. During Talon Shield '10 FSE, the SCS was sprinkled with “wounded” actors to further enhance the training experience.

Army Fire Fighters

The 5694th Engineer Detachment Fire Fighting Headquarters, along with two subordinate units, the 295th and 296th Engineer Detachments Fire Fighting Teams, were called into action in support of exercise Talon Shield. The Ohio Army National Guard fire fighters were tasked with providing water resupply service to the multitude of participating agencies and military units during Talon Shield. The fire fighters used their Tactical Fire Fighting Truck (TFFT), equipped with a 1000 gallon storage tank to fill water trucks for fire departments that were on-scene putting out fires and filling water blivets used during decontamination operations.



Decon Lines

Ohio and Illinois National Guard CERFP and local fire department units not only rescued survivors from the rubble pile but also provided decontamination and medical support for victims of the simulated Ravenna Falls disaster. The decontamination areas provided showers, temporary clothing, medical assessment and triage of survivors. The service members moved in and out of protective equipment in response to the changing conditions of chemical contamination at the incident.

CERFP RIP/TOA

Talon Shield '10 FSE was not only a world class exercise designed to assess first responder units; it was also a test bed in which to validate operational concepts. One concept being validated was the feasibility of conducting a relief in place (RIP) between two CERFP units. The idea was to bring in trained CERFP Soldiers to fall in on a previously established, equipped, and manned CERFP site in order to provide relief. In this instance, Ohio provided the equipment and the Illinois Army National Guard Soldiers flew into Talon Shield '10 with only their basic kit bags. The concept was a success when put into action.



Ohio National Guard selected to field one of first Homeland Response Force (HRF) units

Story by Douglas Nicodemus
Ohio National Guard Public Affairs

Columbus - Ohio and Washington have been selected by the National Guard Bureau (NGB) as the first two states to host a Homeland Response Force (HRF). The creation of the HRFs will ensure the nation's ability to respond rapidly to domestic Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) and disaster incidents while also providing the governors of the gaining states additional capability to respond to any incident; initially, Ohio and Washington.

"The addition of this HRF is nationally significant and greatly improves our ability to defend the homeland," said Maj. Gen. Gregory L. Wayt, Adjutant General for the State of Ohio. The HRF provides the Governor with added capability to respond to any all hazards incident in Ohio.

HRF teams are an upgrade of the existing CERFP [CBRNE (Chemical Biological Radiological, Nuclear and high-yield Explosive) Enhanced Response Force Package] teams to provide additional staffing and resources to respond to any incidents quickly – including any chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear or explosive event.

HRFs will provide a regional response capability of approximately 570 personnel composed of teams of specialists in the following areas: CBRNE specialists, command and control, search and extraction, triage, decontamination and security forces. HRFs will self-deploy by ground within 6 to 12 hours of an event, bringing life-saving medical, search and extraction, decontamination, security, and command and control capabilities. The evolution of the CERFP and HRF missions represent a dramatic improvement in capability, response time and life-saving capability.

By providing capabilities beyond the limits of local responders, these teams will extend the ability to protect the public and save lives. To meet the readiness requirement of the HRF, more than 140 new full-time jobs will be added to the Ohio National Guard's force.

The Department of Defense (DoD) plans to establish a total of 10 Homeland Response Force (HRF) units nation-wide, with one HRF in each of the 10 Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) regions. As the HRF units are created, CERFP units will also be created to support them.

The Department of Defense will create two new Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and High Yield Explosive (CBRNE) Enhanced Response Force Packages (CERFPs) in Indiana and Alabama to replace the Ohio and Washington CERFPs that will evolve into HRFs. CERFP capabilities include: locate and extract victims from a contaminated environment, perform mass patient/casualty decontamination, and provide medical treatment as necessary to stabilize patients for evacuation.

"This authorization underscores the incredibly high level of skill and preparedness demonstrated by our Ohio men and women, and reinforces the confidence that I and our federal leaders have in our Ohio National Guard, especially Adjutant General (Maj. Gen.) Gregory L. Wayt," Strickland said. "I'm proud that Ohio has been chosen with such a critically important designation, and I know that our Guard will fulfill their duty with strength and professionalism."

With the transformation of the 73rd Troop Command into the Ohio HRF, the 73rd becomes responsible for the building, training and certification of the Ohio HRF team. The 73rd Troop Command, or Joint Task Force (JTF) 73 has been the lead in the training and response for all hazards and CBRNE incidents. The 73rd also brings the experience of having been responsible for Ohio's Joint Task Force (JTF) mission which will pass to the 16th Engineer Brigade. The JTF mission is the command and control of state military assets deployed in support of civil authorities. It ensures effective response, support and safety of Ohio National Guard forces deployed in support of any state incident.

The Ohio and Washington National Guards are working with the National Guard Bureau, Department of Defense and other agencies to build effective procedures that will become integrated into the structure and practices of HRFs as they are implemented.

HRFs are national assets which must be able to deploy and operate in any state; they must also be able to work seamlessly together. The organizational structure, equipment package, training programs and operating procedures developed will be vital in the operation and implementation of HRFs. Ohio is at an advantage because we already have an experienced CERFP team in operation. Its one of only 17 in the country. The CERFP is made up of chemical and engineering Soldiers and Air Force medics pulled together from the Ohio Army and Air National Guard.

At events such as the recent Talon Shield Exercise, the units put everything to use to test operations and determine what works well and what needs improvement. Talon Shield was important because it was a first test of many HRF concepts and allowed activities such as a rotation of CERFP teams to provide relief without a gap in response to be tried and evaluated in a situation where lives are not on the line.

Since the same Guardsmen who participate in the HRF and CERFP teams also deploy in wartime, there is an emphasis on training and the challenge of maintaining proficiency in the additional responsibilities. Now, just as in the past, National Guard Soldiers and Airmen are proving themselves to be highly motivated and effective in achieving those goals. **86**



Standing in the S3 Operations Center, Maj. Jeff Watkins, Brigade S3 officer of the 73rd Troop Command briefs Col. Deborah Ashenhurst, Commander of JTF 73, right, on current operations and explains how the process works to Maj. Anne Peacock and Maj. Brian Nelson, middle, both observers from the Washington Army National Guard during a tour by Col. Ashenhurst of Camp Yankee during the Talon Shield exercise. (Ohio National Guard Photo/Douglas Nicodemus)

Ohio National Guard State Partnership Program marks achievements, explores expansion opportunities

Story by Sgt. Sean Mathis
Ohio National Guard Public Affairs

Chief of the National Guard Bureau Gen. Craig McKinley, U.S. Ambassador for Serbia Mary Bruce Warlick, Adjutant General of Ohio Maj. Gen. Gregory Wayt, Serbian Minister of Defense Dragan Sutanovac and members of the Serbian parliament met Sept. 10 in Belgrade, Serbia to discuss ways to expand the State Partnership Program between the Ohio National Guard and the country of Serbia.

“Serbia and Ohio have a special relationship. This cooperation is not just a main pillar between two states, it’s a main pillar between two countries,” Sutanovac said.

The Ohio-Serbia State Partnership Program (SPP) began in 2006 with the help of Ohio Senator George Voinovich, whose father was Serbian, as a way to build military cooperation between the U.S. and Serbia. It is one of 62 SPP’s between U.S. states and other countries.

“It’s an emerging partnership; it’s a relationship between the state of Ohio and a country who desperately wants to interact with the U.S., so all of the chemistry makes it one of the most outstanding partnerships that I have observed in my tenure as chief,” McKinley said.

McKinley’s visit began with an invitation from Sutanovac to attend a graduation of Serbian military officers from the Serbian Military Academy on Sept. 11.

McKinley said that he wanted “these young officers and the enlisted members of the Serbian military to understand that they have a friend in the United States of America.”

The impact of McKinley’s visit combined with the success of the Ohio-Serbia SPP developed a unique opportunity for expansion. While McKinley left for the U.S. following the graduation, Wayt and about 30 delegates from the Ohio National Guard stayed another five days to discuss the growth potential for the SPP.

“I think that there’s a lot of room for growth,” Warlick said. “I think the military to military ties, relationships and programs are very good now and we’d like to look for ways to expand the relationship.”

McKinley, Warlick and Wayt all said they would like to see civilian participation in the program, transforming it from a strictly military relationship to a bond between two cultures.

“I think we are a bridge between the Department of Defense (DoD) and the Department of State,” McKinley said.

The expansion may become a logistical and bureaucratic dilemma, however, as DoD funding for the program may be reduced and there are limitations on how the money can be used.

“I would hate to see this program diminished, reduced or taken out of the DoD,” McKinley said. “I think it’s a program we need to stick with, support and continue to nurture.”

“Our funding is almost always constrained to the military spectrum because we are using DoD dollars which are legally limited in how they can be used,” said Maj. Devin Braun, Bilateral Affairs officer for the Office of Defense Cooperation in Belgrade, Serbia.

“We’re exploring cooperation with USAID and potentially other donors, providers and programs here in the country to look for ways to branch out,” Braun said. “There are so many ways we can take this relationship that hasn’t been explored yet.”



Founding Director of Ohio State University’s John Glenn School of Public Affairs, Dr. Charlie Wise, along with other Ohio State University and Ohio National Guard representatives, talk with the president of the University of Belgrade, Prof. Pranko Kofatchevitch on Tuesday, Sept. 14, 2010, in Belgrade University. Wise and Kofatchevitch are discussing ways to expand the Ohio National Guard’s State Partnership Program with Serbia, a program started in 2006 to promote regional stability and civil-military relationships in support of U.S. foreign policy objectives, and incorporate their schools into the expansion. (Ohio National Guard Photo/Sgt. Sean Mathis)

In an effort to jump start the program’s new civilian development, Wayt invited Ohio State University’s founding Director of the John Glenn School of Public Affairs, Dr. Charlie Wise to join the delegation.

“The National Guard has been a leading force in Serbian relations, they’ve established a very solid foundation in the civilian to civilian contact,” Wise said.

Wise attended meetings and briefings with the Serbian and American armed forces to learn more about the program and how he can help it grow.

“Obviously the Serbian government and the Serbian people have had to overcome some very wrenching changes,” Wise said. “But they seem to be on a very positive path... and I think they deserve all the help they can get from democracies of the world.”

Despite the funding difficulties Wise said, “The more I’ve learned about it the more I’ve been impressed on how not only effective this is, but how cost effective this is at building relationships with significant countries like Serbia.” **SG**

Ohio National Guard and Hungary partnership keeps growing with time

Story by Staff Sgt. Jim Greenhill
National Guard Bureau

BUDAPEST, Hungary -- Back in 1993, Hungary was emerging from behind the Iron Curtain. The National Guard’s new State Partnership Program (SPP) was announcing a third pairing of a state with a nation. And Army Lt. Col. Gregory Wayt was about to become the Ohio National Guard’s desk officer, nurturing a new international relationship.

Fast-forward 17 years. Hungary is now a member of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and the European Union. Its troops stand side-by-side

with Ohio National Guard Citizen-Soldiers jointly deployed in Afghanistan. The National Guard's 62-nation State Partnership Program will soon celebrate its 20th anniversary. Army Maj. Gen. Gregory Wayt is now the adjutant general of the Ohio National Guard.

Sitting in a second-floor business center overlooking the lights of Budapest on Wednesday evening, he marveled at how much has been accomplished in less than two decades.

"Think back 17 years," Wayt said. "Could anybody have ever imagined that we would be jointly deploying to Afghanistan to train the Afghan National Army in the middle of war?"

Wayt was here leading a delegation of Ohio National Guard members for SPP activities, including an after-action review conference focused on joint operations in Afghanistan and an exchange addressing issues related to chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear and high yield explosives weapons.

Hungary formally asked to deploy to Afghanistan in joint Operational Mentor and Liaison Teams (OMLT) with the Ohio National Guard. OMLTs are a NATO mission led by Hungarian commanders, usually with about a 50-50 mix of Hungarians and Ohio Guardmembers. The fourth Hungary-Ohio OMLT is currently serving in theater, and a fifth team is now training here for deployment.

"It's amazing to think how far we've come in this partnership, to a professional army here in Hungary, an army that's well-respected in Europe and in NATO, to partner with them, and to deploy with them to a combat zone in Afghanistan," Wayt said. "This is graduate-level work."

"It's important on so many different levels," said U.S. Ambassador Eleni Tsakopoulos Kounalakis. "Hungarians and Americans have so much in common in terms of our shared values."

The SPP is "very helpful and very successful," Kounalakis said. "Both sides gain so much from the partnership."

"There is an element to the success of this partnership that goes to the character of the young [National Guardmembers] who come here and the young [Hungarian] men who participate in the training with them."

The Hungarians have transformed their armed forces from the Soviet military model – officer-heavy, not encouraging initiative, emphasizing

doctrine – to a Western model, in part with help from their SPP pairing with Ohio, in the form of exchanges, such as NCO development programs. Today's Hungarian forces are smaller in numbers, have more NCOs and are better-equipped than 17 years ago.

Ohio Soldiers tell Wayt that they are proud to serve alongside the Hungarians, who they view as professional, justifiably proud and disciplined and from whom they learn as much as they teach.

On Sept. 15 in a ceremony at Tata, Hungary, about an hour north of here, Wayt pinned 28 Ohio Commendation Medals – a state award – on Hungarian Soldiers, recognizing their OMLT service in Afghanistan.

Hungary has sacrificed in Afghanistan: The day Wayt arrived here, the nation honored a fourth Soldier who died from injuries sustained over there serving on a Provincial Reconstruction Team.

"The support in the nation, the support in the press for their military was huge," Wayt said. "The outpouring from the community this week has been very large."

Ohio was selected as Hungary's SPP partner in part because the largest population of Hungarians outside Hungary is in Cleveland.

"The time that I have spent out in the field with the Ohio National Guardmembers has been some of the most wonderful time that I've spent in Hungary," Kounalakis said. "They're such impressive, strong, smart young men, who are so determined to do their job and do it well."

"What they bring – just when they walk into the room – what they bring along with them is the confidence and experience and training and discipline that is noticeable from the very first moment. Noticeable to me, and – frankly – it's noticeable to the Hungarians, who learn so much from them."

In 1993, SPP relationships were run from state headquarters. Today, a National Guard bilateral affairs officer is forward-deployed at the U.S. Embassy in the partner nation as the adjutant general's eyes and ears on the ground.

Ohio has two state partnerships, having started a partnership with Serbia, Hungary's neighbor, in 2006.

"One of the nation's goals of Hungary is stability in the Balkans," Wayt said. "More importantly, the Serbian armed forces wants to benchmark from Hungary because . . . Hungary has previously gone through many of the same things that they're going through right now."

"We do a lot of exchanges together between Serbia, Ohio and Hungary," he said adding that he met with the defense chiefs of both nations in Ohio in February. This week, the Ohio National Guard had seven SPP events underway in Serbia even as it simultaneously participated in events in Hungary.

Among contributions Wayt said Ohio can offer: More OMLT's; assisting with the transformation of Hungary's Special Forces; conducting joint NATO exercises; and offering the National Guard's 373 years of experience as Hungarian leaders consider adding a reserve component to the Hungarian Defense Forces.

"They know that the National Guard is an efficient operation inside of defense budget," Wayt said. "They're very interested in forming a professional reserve component."

"The SPP is having an impact on national security for the United States," Wayt said. "It's assisting [U.S. European Command] initiatives. It's assisting our ambassadors and their country teams and impacts the national security of all countries involved."

"We all want a more stable world for our kids. This program is going to help facilitate a more stable world and provides an opportunity for our Soldiers to train together with their Soldiers, learn how to operate with different cultures." **AG**



Army. Maj. Gen. Gregory Wayt, the adjutant general of the Ohio National Guard, awards the Ohio Commendation Medal to Hungarian Defense Forces Soldiers who served in a joint unit with Ohio National Guard members in Afghanistan at Tata, Hungary, on Sept. 15. A delegation of Ohio National Guard leaders, including Brig. Gen. Rufus Smith, left, commander of the 174th ADA Brigade, was also in Hungary for National Guard State Partnership Program activities. (National Guard Photo/Staff Sgt. Jim Greenhill)

Farewell C-130 Hercules



Left and right above: Members and friends of the 179th Airlift Wing gather to celebrate the arrival of the first C27J Spartan Joint Cargo Aircraft which have been a part of the Wing since a conversion to the C-130 mission from a fighter mission using F-100 aircraft in January of 1971 (Airman Joseph Harwood) Center: A C-130H and C-27J sit facing each other on display as part of the event with the airport control tower



Ohio Air Guard welcomes C-27J

Story by Capt. Nicole Ashcroft
179th Chief of Public Affairs

The first C-27J Spartan was delivered to the 179th Airlift Wing at Mansfield Lahm Airport in Ohio on Aug. 14. At an event the same day members of the 179th Airlift Wing bid farewell to the C-130 Hercules and welcomed the C27J Spartan Joint Cargo Aircraft.

"Today marks the end of an era," said Army Maj. Gen. Greg Wayt, the adjutant general of the Ohio National Guard. "But it marks a beginning for the 179th Airlift Wing. It's a sad day to see the last C-130 on the ramp here."

The event celebrated the unit's official change in missions from the C-130 Hercules to the C-27J.

In 2005, the Mansfield base was ordered to close by the Base Realignment and Closure Commission.

"It was a devastating day for all of us," Wayt said. "But we all maintained a positive attitude, we all stuck together, we testified before the BRAC commission."

s, Welcome C-27J Spartan



aircraft to the Wing at the Mansfield Lahm Airport, Mansfield, Ohio on 14 August 2010. The unit is also saying goodbye to the C-130 aircraft 6. *Background:* A view of both aircraft silhouetted by the hangar and the people attending the event (Ohio National Guard Photos/Senior in the background. (Ohio National Guard Photo/Staff Sgt. Robert J. Koehler)



Because of local support from community members and government leaders, the commission awarded a new mission to the base.

“Although we lost eight C-130s, this base is in incredible shape for the future.”

Wayt said the unit maintained its personnel strength, flew over 5,000 combat hours in Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom and logged over 100,000 flight hours in the C-130.

“It would have been easy to just shut the base down,” he said. Instead, “it was an easy decision for the United States Air Force to put this new

weapons system right here at Mansfield.”

The C-27J, which was developed by Lockheed Martin Alenia Tactical Transport Systems in Marietta, Ga., is designed to conduct airlift, airdrop or medevac missions. It requires a pilot, co-pilot and loadmaster and can handle 60 troops or 46 paratroopers at a time.

“While letting go of our C-130 fleet is difficult, the assignment of the C-27 ... is a change in the right direction,” Wayt said. “This aircraft will fly over the skies of Mansfield for many years to come.” **86**



Ohio National Guard takes part in multi-state homeland security exercise

Story and photos by Sgt. 1st Class Douglas L. Melvin
52nd Civil Support Team

GALLIPOLIS, Ohio—Most people who hear the word “viper” think about a venomous snake or maybe a fast car. However, to more than 300 law enforcement and military personnel from Ohio, West Virginia and Kentucky, the acronym “VIPR” has a different meaning.

The Visible Intermodal Prevention and Response, or “VIPR” exercise was conducted June 16, 2010, and involved more than a 100-mile stretch of the Ohio River Valley region. The VIPR team concept was developed by the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) to augment local law enforcement agencies, providing an increased visible deterrent force for all modes of transportation for homeland security.

Law Enforcement agencies from Ohio, Kentucky and West Virginia, as well as members of the Ohio National Guard’s 52nd Civil Support Team (Weapons of Mass Destruction) and 1st Battalion, 137th Aviation Battalion participated in the exercise.

Ohio Guard members teamed up with agencies from the Ohio State Highway Patrol-Special Response Team (SRT), Columbus Fire Bomb Squad and the TSA. In all, 53 agencies swept through the region, familiarizing themselves with the area’s critical industrial infrastructure and developed interagency response tactics in the event of a terrorist attack. The exercise centered on critical infrastructures and transportation terminals that experts believe to be targeted sites for terrorist group planning and attacks.

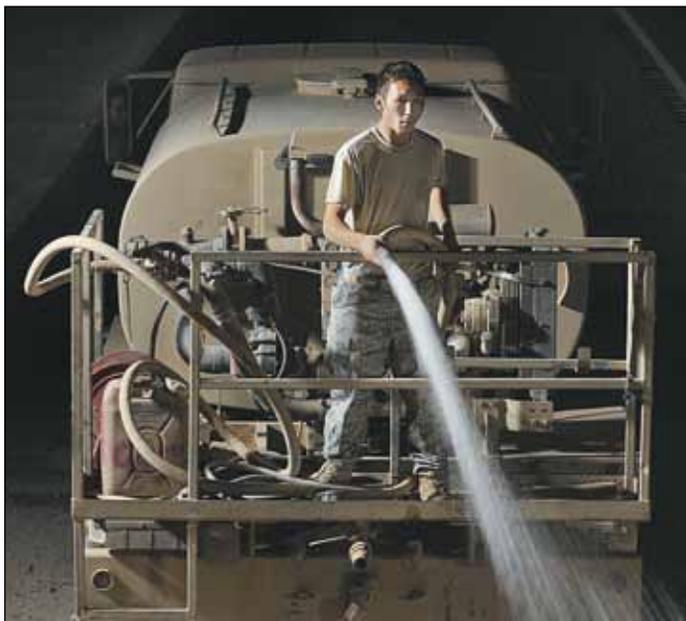
“VIPR” team members used helicopters, emergency vehicles, reconnaissance aircraft-long range camera systems and Coast Guard patrol boats and watercraft to reconnoiter the area and respond to simulated emergencies.

“The 52nd took talking about interagency response, to actually doing, putting boots on the ground,” said Capt. Bill Logan, operations officer for the 52nd. “Our capability was greatly enhanced and facilitated by using rotary wing assets (UH-60 Blackhawks) from the 1-137th to get our strike team to the incident site in a hurry.”

Although not a new concept for military operations, the use of aviation assets to deploy personnel and equipment to a suspected Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear Explosive, Weapons of Mass Destruction (CBRNE/WMD) incident response sites was a first.

The VIPR interagency exercise developed and greatly improved joint operations between emergency response agencies in the region. **86**





U.S. Air Force Senior Airman Chad Moody sprays water onto an unfinished runway before concrete is poured at Camp Dwyer, Afghanistan, June 23, 2010. The runway will be used to accommodate heavier aircraft. Airman Moody is a heavy equipment operator deployed to the 809th Expeditionary Red Horse Squadron. (U.S. Air Force Photo/Staff Sgt. Quinton Russ)

RED HORSE paves way for better logistics in Afghanistan

**Story by Master Sgt. Kimberley Harrison
U.S. AFCENT Combat Camera**

CAMP DWYER, Afghanistan -- Airmen assigned to the 809th Expeditionary RED HORSE Squadron are in the process of completing the first paved runway built by the "HORSE" since the Vietnam era.

Air National Guard and Air Force Airmen deployed from the 200th RHS, Camp Perry, Ohio and the 820th RHS, Nellis Air Force Base, Nev., make up an 88-member team who have worked 24/7 since they put boots on the ground.

Rapid Engineer Deployable Heavy Operational Repair Squadron Engineers, simply known as RED HORSE, are working diligently day and night in this austere environment, located in the Garmsir District of Helmand Province, where 120-plus degree weather is the summer norm, blinding sand storms hit without warning and equipment issues cease to surprise.

The reason for the Airmen's dedication and determination is the construction of an all-weather concrete runway and two aircraft parking ramps. The project will accommodate large fixed-wing aircraft, such as the C-17 Globemaster III, that can provide rapid delivery of troops and cargo, enabling sustainment of combat forces close to potential battle areas.

"We're opening up the logistical channels for southern Helmand Province," said Capt. Oliver Barfield, deployed from the 820th RHS. "The logistics in Afghanistan are tougher than it is in Iraq because of the terrain and lack of infrastructure."

The capability this runway will bring to the fight will lead to fewer potentially dangerous rotary wing and convoy missions currently being conducted between forward operating bases surrounding Camp Dwyer.

"We like what we're doing here because we know it'll get the Marines and the Army off the road ... the guys doing convoys who are getting hit by IEDs," said Chief Master Sgt. Jay Campbell, deployed from the 200th RHS.

"Southern Afghanistan is considered to be the most dangerous part, with Helmand Province appearing to be the hot spot," said Sergeant Schneider, "so the buildup of this base is going to give us the infrastructure and ability to supply the operations while minimizing risk"

With a budget of approximately \$16.5 million, the scope of the project makes it the largest troop labor construction project in Iraq or Afghanistan, but the HORSEmen -- easily identified by their bright red hats -- are confident they'll meet the anticipated scheduled runway completion date, if not sooner.

"We'll get this done before we leave," declared Elmore, Ohio, native and earthwork supervisor, Sergeant Schneider, "We don't come into a place and leave without something finished ... that's not the way we roll."

"It would be great if the first C-17 to land here -- on the runway we built -- would be the one we use to leave here," said Chief Campbell, site superintendent, and a Columbus, Ohio native.

There is more than meets the eye when taking on a mission of this magnitude that goes well beyond mixing and pouring concrete and this group of red-hat Airmen have their prior RED HORSE team to thank.

"The rotation before us really set us up for success," Captain Barfield said. "They made this happen because they spent their six months doing all the earthwork [for the runway]."

According to Captain Barfield, the earthwork portion of this project was critical because the construction must be handled with extreme precision in order to meet strict Unified Facilities Code specifications for airfields. If specs aren't met every step of the way, not only would it be a loss of time, manpower and resources, but the runway would not be able to handle the wear and tear of continual C-17 traffic carrying full payloads.

There are additional projects to complete before the runway is ready to be used such as paint striping, airfield marking and the emplacement of gravel used to serve as shoulders on each side of the runway, but the work the Air Force RED HORSE team is doing here demonstrates that even a small team can create a huge impact.

"The work ethic and determination that is displayed on a daily basis is outstanding," Sergeant Schneider said. "Everyone comes out here and gives 110 percent every day. **AG**



U.S. Air Force Senior Airman Brian Edgell smoothes out newly poured concrete on an unfinished runway at Camp Dwyer, Afghanistan. (U.S. Air Force Photo/Staff Sgt. Quinton Russ)

Annual training period offers myriad first-time experiences

By Pfc. Jeremy Miller, C Battery, 1st Battalion, 174th Air Defense Artillery Regiment

CAMP RAVENNA JOINT MILITARY TRAINING CENTER, Ohio. -- One of the first things one might notice when arriving at Camp Ravenna is how thick the trees and brush are. For some of the Soldiers attending their first Annual Training (AT), it brings back memories of basic training; with thoughts of crawling through the dense vegetation on their hands and knees with their rifle, contemplating what it would be like crawling through a real jungle in combat.

Camp Ravenna has a strange sense of foreboding about it. This may be because of the signs posed around the perimeter of it instructing the onlooker to “beware,” “stay out,” there is “danger,” and “caution” should be exercised. It may also be attributed to the secrecy that surrounded the facility and its many uses over the years.

The camp was formerly used as a munitions production and storage facility during World War II and again during the Korean and Vietnam Wars before being put on standby and eventually demilitarized. Since then the site has been used for training, crash testing, research and development. The facility has only recently been fully acquired by the Ohio National Guard and is now being used as a joint military training site.

For those who are venturing into Ravenna for the first time, the sight of the barracks and some of the abandoned buildings formerly used as facilities of the munitions plant may be slightly arresting.

“I looked at the barracks as soon as we came in, and all I could think to myself was ‘uh-oh,’” said Pvt. Damon Mallow, one of 17 Soldiers attending their first AT with the Marysville-based C Battery 1st Battalion, 174th Air Defense Artillery Regiment.

For one recent group, the experience started off with a bit of excitement and most of the scheduled training had to be moved around, canceled or changed after a tornado touched down in the area. There was even talk of moving the Soldiers out of their barracks and into a bunker for their safety.

“I was thinking ‘My life is actually in danger,’” said Pfc. Michael Jarrell, another AT rookie from the 1-174th. “What if I don’t even make it home through my first AT?”



Members of the Ohio National Guard, 37th Infantry Brigade Combat Team (IBCT), 1-148th Infantry Regiment provide security during urban operations training at Camp Ravenna Joint Military Training Center (CRJMTC) Wednesday, Sept. 1, 2010. The 37th IBCT conducted a three week annual training in preparation for deployment to Operation Enduring Freedom in 2011. (Ohio National Guard Photo/Capt. Matt Molinski)

However, with the exception of the tornado, there was little difference from the first day of the previous year’s AT period.

“It’s always the same,” said Spc. Tim Hill, who was participating in his second AT. “The first day is just about getting settled in and getting accountability of all Soldiers. Aside of that, junior and senior leadership goes over scheduled training and how it’s going to be completed.”

However, Hill said there was a marked difference between the training last year and the training this year, which included a lot more warrior task training in preparation for a scheduled deployment later this year. Most of the previous year’s training time was specifically related to air defense tasks, like setting up radar or anti-aircraft systems like the Avenger.

While the new Soldiers may have missed the more job-specific tasks from AT last year, they are being given the opportunity to branch out and expand on their Soldiering skills and general tactical knowledge; something Hill said they were unable to do the previous year. On the third day of training, the unit conducted training on maintaining an entry control point, or ECP, a guarded entrance to a military base for people and vehicles. Troops were instructed on searching incoming vehicles for hazardous materials and how to conduct



Pfc. Cory Haldeman of Echo Company, 237th Brigade Support Battalion, 37th Infantry Brigade Combat Team provides cover fire for his team members to run to the next fighting position during individual movement technique training at Camp Ravenna Joint Military Training Center (CRJMTC) Tuesday, Aug. 31, 2010. The 37th IBCT conducted a three week annual training in preparation for deployment to Operation Enduring Freedom in 2011. (Ohio National Guard Photo/Capt. Matt Molinski)

an interview with the driver while gauging his body language for suspicious movements. After an instruction period, they conducted hands-on training with drivers and vehicles that simulated the same hazards and problems that Soldiers in Iraq and Afghanistan deal with every day.

The next day, Soldiers conducted rollover drills in a virtual reality trainer designed from converted Humvees used in combat operations in Operations Enduring and Iraqi Freedom. Rollover training – which teaches how to handle a vehicle rollover, was put into place because rollovers are the number one cause of death in theatre behind IED’s and small arms fire. Pfc. Aaron Mazur said the training was tremendously helpful.

“The Rollover Simulator was awesome!” Mazur said. “It wasn’t just like we had to watch some power point and then pretend we were rolling over. It happened and I was like ‘Wow! We just got flipped!’”

Soldiers then trained in the \$1 million Virtual Convoy Operations Trainer (VCOT) where they led virtual convoys of four armed Humvees through an area of Iraq littered with IED’s and enemy combatants.

“The majority of people learn better through hands on. It’s easy to say that you have one down when you’re in the classroom, but when you get out there and you have to do it, it’s a different story,” said Spc. Ben Kruskamp, a Soldier with 2nd Battalion of the 174th, who was an assistant instructor at last year’s AT. “But once they get to do a true-to-life simulation, it’s much easier for them to react to it instinctively when it really happens.”

“It makes me feel like I can actually go through the situation, and my body can react more with muscle memory than having to go ‘Ok, what did the power point say?’” Mazur said.

The training experience provided a great deal of firsts for many of these new Soldiers. Pfc. Foster Billing was given the chance to practice Army combatives and drove a Humvee during a convoy operations training mission; both things he had never previously done. Pfc. Jocelyn Laferty learned how to use dead reckoning – a skill used to navigate without a map.

“Dead reckoning was really tough,” Laferty said. “I had a really hard time with it, but I was really proud of myself once I got it.”

The new Soldiers were not the only ones with first time experiences during AT - several newly-promoted sergeants attended their first Annual Training as NCOs. Sgt. Joshua Alexander was entrusted with a group of younger, junior enlisted Soldiers to look after and mentor for the first time.

“Before it was just about making sure I was squared away, but now I have a bunch of privates to look after,” said Alexander, who recalled his first AT. “I went to the field for 11 days as a new private, and spent the majority of the time digging trenches. It’s funny, you can see yourself years ago doing the same stuff; you just didn’t realize it at the time.”

One of the most significant “firsts,” for the troops however, was the experience of spending time with and getting to know their fellow Soldiers. While they talk to one another during the monthly drills, annual training is the first real chance to get to know the Soldiers they will be deploying with. They live in close quarters and talk to their leaders and subordinates; they start to learn each other’s habits, and begin to move as a cohesive unit, platoon, section, or team. For new Soldiers like Mazur, it was the most important part of the AT experience.

“This is not what I expected Annual Training to be like at all,” Mazur said. “I’m having fun training and enjoying the company of the people I’m going to war with.” **86**



C Battery, 1st Battalion, 174th Air Defense Artillery Regiment during annual training at the Ohio National Guard’s Camp Ravenna Joint Military Training Center (Ohio National Guard photo/Pfc. Jeremy Miller)

Photography from recent **Welcome Home Events**



A welcome home ceremony honoring 154 Soldiers from the Ohio Army National Guard's 1192nd Engineer Company on May 31st, 2010, Memorial Day. They have returned from a yearlong deployment to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Many of the Soldiers were greeted by family and friends who attended the ceremony. (Ohio National Guard Photo/Douglas Nicodemus)



Ohio Patriot Guard member, Lauria Chestna, 10, of Gahanna, holds a U.S. flag in front of the World Harvest Church in Canal Winchester, Ohio, June 26, 2010 during a welcome home ceremony honoring the troops of the Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 16th Engineer Brigade. They returned home from a yearlong deployment to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Chestna, whose father served in the Marine Corps during Desert Storm, said she was simply doing her part to honor veterans. (Ohio National Guard Photo/Sgt. Sean Mathis)



Left: Glen Mason, of Dayton, Ohio, hugs his son Spc. Nicholas Mason during a Welcome Home ceremony at the Marysville High School, Marysville, Ohio, Friday, Aug. 13, 2010, shortly after he returned home from a yearlong deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Mason and about 170 other Soldiers of the 585th Military Police Company returned home from the unit's first deployment after training over 500 Iraqi police, conducting anti-terrorism and force protection missions and providing Provost Marshall law enforcement in Iraq's Anbar Province. (Ohio National Guard Photo/Sgt. Sean Mathis)



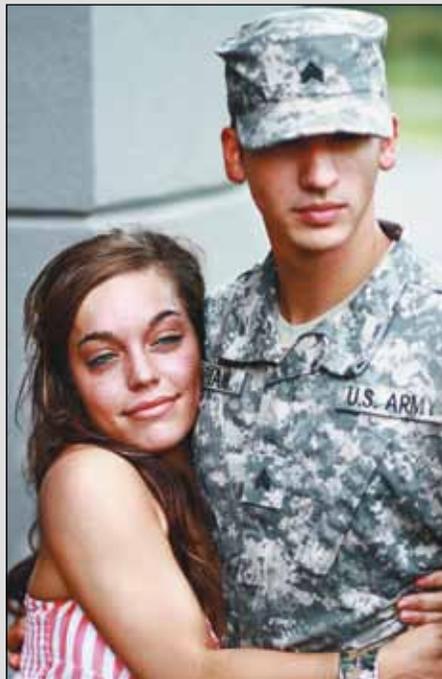
Sgt. Annette Jones hugs her son Billy at the Welcome Home Ceremony for the 1192nd Engineer Company. Her son mailed his favorite bear to her during the deployment in a care package to bring back. It was his favorite bear so, "I was pretty surprised when I received it", she said. (Ohio National Guard Photo/Douglas Nicodemus)



Spc. Justin Lett is greeted by family, including his daughter Jaliyah as he walks off one of the buses which brought the 1192nd to the Welcome Home Ceremony at World Harvest Church in Canal Winchester. (Ohio National Guard Photo/Douglas Nicodemus)



Maj. Trent Timmons kisses his 2-year-old daughter Raegan moments after he stepped off a bus returning him home from a three-month deployment to Iraq as the brigade surgeon for Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 16th Engineer Brigade. Friends and family gathered at the World Harvest church in Canal Winchester, Ohio, June 26, 2010, to welcome home Timmons and about 140 Soldiers of the 16th, most of whom were deployed for nearly a year. (Ohio National Guard Photo/Sgt. Sean Mathis)



Candace Neuman grasps her husband Sgt. Robert Neuman shortly after he stepped off a bus at the Columbus Christian Center in Columbus, Ohio, Wednesday, Aug. 3, 2010, during a Welcome Home Ceremony. Neuman, along with 27 other Soldiers from the Operational Mentor & Liaison Team 1.3, just returned home from a 13-month deployment in support of Operation Enduring Freedom where they conducted more than 180 combat missions, 15 of which they engaged insurgents, alongside the Afghan National Army and Afghan National Police Forces. (Ohio National Guard Photo/Sgt. Sean Mathis)



Three-year-old Ryann Taylor clings to her father, Staff Sgt. George Taylor III, shortly after he stepped off a bus at the Columbus Christian Center in Columbus, Ohio, Wednesday, Aug. 3, 2010, during a Welcome Home Ceremony. Taylor, along with 27 other Soldiers from the Operational Mentor & Liaison Team 1.3, returned home from a 13-month deployment in support of Operation Enduring Freedom where they conducted more than 180 combat missions alongside the Afghan National Army and Afghan National Police Forces. (Ohio National Guard Photo/Sgt. Sean Mathis)

Indy Racing League visits Mid-Ohio Sports Car Course

Story by Master Sgt. Robert Jones
179 AW Public Affairs Office

LEXINGTON, Ohio – The National Guard sponsors an Indy Racing League Car owned by Panther Racing and driven by Dan Wheldon. This effort to support recruiting and projecting a positive image of the Guard reaches thousands of people each week on racetracks around the country. This weekend the National Guard car is racing at Mid-Ohio Sports Car Course located in Lexington, Ohio.

Rides in specially built two seat IndyCars were held on the course Thursday, August 5th as part of the Employer Outreach Program and to honor the efforts of National Guard members. Those invited had the opportunity to take two sizzling fast laps on the 2.4 mile course.

Taking turns, employers and guard members felt the rush of speed and experienced the incredible skill and physical endurance necessary to compete in IndyCar racing. Riding just behind the driver, passengers in full race gear, experienced a small slice of race day.



One of the two-seat Indy cars giving rides to employers and Guard members on the track at Mid-Ohio Sports Car Course. (179th Public Affairs Office Photo/Staff Sgt. Robert Koehler)

As each participant waited for their turn they saw the smiling faces of those who had just completed their ride. Anticipation was high and the ride did not disappoint. It was a day that will not be soon forgotten.

Wheldon, earlier in the day, addressed the gathering and expressed his appreciation for the work done by the guard and for the employers who also were making a sacrifice in support of the nation. He signed autographs and took pictures in the Panther Racing Team tent. **86**

Solar field dedication acknowledges savings from renewable energy projects

Story by Douglas Nicodemus
Ohio National Guard Public Affairs

On July 6th, 2010, The Ohio National Guard conducted an official ribbon cutting ceremony for a new photovoltaic solar field at the Maj. Gen Robert S. Beightler Armory in Columbus, Ohio. The ceremony also acknowledged the recent completion of similar solar fields in Toledo and Newton Falls.

The use of solar energy is saving taxpayers money and reducing greenhouse gases. Through the use of photovoltaic solar fields, on a typical sunny day, the electric meters at various National Guard facilities slow down and sometimes even run backwards. Solar energy generated beyond a facility's need, for example on a sunny day, generates a credit when it is returned to the grid. While these projects do not yet provide all of the power needed, they make a big difference.

"This solar field is only the latest of the Ohio National Guard's efforts to 'go green' and ultimately, save Ohioans money," Maj. Gen. Greg Wayt, Ohio Adjutant General said. "We currently have five solar fields in operation and we are determined to continue our efforts to explore renewable energy sources and move toward energy independence."

The recently completed 75-kilowatt array in Columbus is expected to save the Ohio National Guard more than \$11,500 and 135,000 kilowatt hours during its first year in operation – enough to provide electrical power to 6.25 homes.



Retired Col. Richard J. Willinger, administrative officer for the Ohio National Guard Directorate of Installation Management and Resources, shows Rep. Mary Jo Kilroy and Maj. Gen. Gregory L. Wayt, Ohio adjutant general, the electric output on a meter at the new solar field at the Maj. Gen. Robert S. Beightler Armory in Columbus. Kilroy toured the area with Wayt prior to a ribbon cutting ceremony for the new solar field. (Ohio National Guard Photo/Douglas Nicodemus)

The three projects combined represent an estimated first year savings of more than 360,000 kilowatt hours – enough to provide power to 30 homes and a savings of \$62,000. The solar farm at the Ohio Air National Guard's 180th Fighter Wing in Toledo is the largest project of its kind at any Air National Guard station in the United States and is projected to provide 37 percent of the electricity needs of the base.

Much of the funding for the solar array sites in Ohio has been made possible by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) and support by Ohio's elected representatives. **86**

Groundbreaking at Camp Ravenna sparks renewed interest and activity for Ohio training site

Story by Sgt. Sarah Thompson
147th Regional Training Institute

RAVENNA, Ohio -- The Ohio National Guard, local contractors and political representatives celebrated the construction of new barracks and the upgrade of water and sewer lines at the Camp Ravenna Joint Military Training Center (CRJMTC) July 26, during a groundbreaking ceremony.

“We are going to continue to invest in this facility,” said U.S. Rep. Tim Ryan, who attended the ceremony and played a critical role in securing the funds needed for CRJMTC’s renovations.



Construction of the 7,940-square-foot building will hold 116 beds, include laundry facilities and provide internet connections for National Guard Soldiers training at CRJMTC.

Ryan said in his speech that investing in CRJMTC builds on the Ohio National Guard’s current assets and will not only

increase its readiness, but also stimulate the local economy.

“Ravenna allows us to train right here in Ohio,” said Maj. Gen. Gregory Wayt, Ohio’s adjutant general, “In the past we used to go to Camp Grayling, MI or Camp Atterbury, IN.”

Wayt said in his speech that developing CRJMTC as the Ohio National Guard’s primary training facility helps keep money in Ohio while increasing readiness.

The new Barracks building and utility expansion are scheduled



Above: U.S. Rep. Tim Ryan, Maj. Gen. Gregory Wayt, Ohio’s adjutant general, and local politicians, contractors and Ohio National Guard officers shovel dirt during a groundbreaking ceremony at the Camp Ravenna Joint Military Training Center, July 26, 2010, officially marking the completed construction of new barracks and upgraded water and sewer lines. Left: U.S. Rep. Tim Ryan speaks about the improvements at Camp Ravenna

for completion in December and will be in use by the beginning of 2011. Portage County Water Resources will be the source of the utility expansion.

These facilities will provide the “resources to train and maintain Soldiers and equipment of the Ohio National Guard for future community, state and federal missions for generations to come,” said Lt. Col. William E. Meade, garrison commander of CRJMTC.

A newly completed 44,000-square-foot engineer school house and an additional 7,289-square foot barracks were completed earlier this year. A live fire shoot house, a structural collapse simulator and a modified record fire rifle range are the newest projects. **8G**

HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHT

The “Red Bulls” in Korea



On August 14, 1950, members of the 987th Armored Field Artillery Battalion assembled at their armories in Canton and Alliance in preparation for the Korean War. Although there were 16 Ohio Army units called to duty for the Korean War, including Ohio’s largest organization the 37th Infantry Division, only the 987th would deploy to combat as a unit.

The “Red Bulls”, as the 987th was nicknamed, distinguished themselves in support of various Army, Marine and Republic of Korea forces earning the Meritorious Unit Commendation. In this photo a gun section from Battery C, 987th Armored Field Artillery Battalion fire on a communist target in Korea. Every man on this crew was a guardsman from Stark County.

The ogives on the fuses of the shells were made by the Hoover Company of North Canton and the bogie wheel tires were from Monarch Rubber of Hartville. The armor was made by Diebold of Canton and the tapered roller bearings were from the Timken Company. The weapon and crew truly represented Stark County and Ohio.

For more information on the 60th Anniversary of the Korean War visit: <http://www.army.mil/koreanwar/> **8G**

Transportation company rolls over deployment finish line

Story and photos by Sgt. David A. Scott
196th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE TAJI, Iraq—The Ohio Army National Guard's 1483rd Transportation Company overcame many challenges during its deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The Soldiers with the 1483rd began their deployment last July 7 with a Call to Duty ceremony in Perrysburg, Ohio. The 1483rd arrived last August at COB Taji after mobilizing at Camp Atterbury Joint Maneuver Training Center in Edinboro, Ind.

"Prior to mobilization, various transportation and maintenance personnel from four transportation companies and one maintenance company were added to the ranks of the 1483rd Transportation Company to make a full unit roster, which actually proved to be an asset", said Staff Sgt. Jeffrey Fox, a maintenance supervisor with the 1483rd and a Fremont, Ohio, native.

Soldiers with the 1483rd completed many specialized training cycles during the pre-mobilization period, intro-



Sgt. Charles Dawson, a truck driver with the 1483rd Transportation Company, Walbridge, Ohio, and a native of Grove City, Ohio, visually inspects a recently repaired Heavy Equipment Transporter at Contingency Operating Base Taji, Iraq. (U.S. Army photo/Sgt. David A. Scott)

ducing them to the Heavy Equipment Transporter (HET) system for the first time. Learning to drive and repair unfamiliar equipment like the HET was the first of many challenges for the company this deployment.

The unit's most significant challenge involved maintenance. When the unit first arrived at COB Taji, the equipment readiness rate was substandard, said Chief Warrant Officer 3 Joe Cocanour, a maintenance officer with the 1483rd and a Newark, Ohio, native.

"When we got here, we inherited 54 HET systems, and they're pretty maintenance-intensive anyway," he said. "They had been here for six years, and were just ran into the ground. You could hardly keep one running ... It was difficult. We worked a lot of long hours."

After seven months of effort, the unit had achieved a 95 percent equipment

"I believe anything can be accomplished with teamwork."

Staff Sgt. Jeffery Fox, 1483rd
Transportation Company

readiness rate — the result of many long hours of working together.

In addition, the Walbridge, Ohio-based transportation company drove more than 325,000 miles, transporting nearly 33,000 tons of equipment throughout Iraq and Kuwait without injury. Soldiers conducted nearly 150 combat patrols throughout the country, five vehicle recovery operations and a humanitarian assistance mission delivering school supplies. They moved more than 400 Mine-Resistant Ambush-Protected (MRAP) vehicles, nearly 150 Bradley Fighting Vehicles and M1 Abrams tanks and assisted in the responsible drawdown of U.S. forces and equipment from Iraq, including forward operating base drawdowns and closures.

"Anything can be accomplished," Fox said. "I believe anything can be accomplished with teamwork. Teamwork is a must; communications is a must. Without communications, nothing gets accomplished."

Job-specific training made the difference, Cocanour said.

"What we do back home is the same thing that we do here. Everything from the maintenance management to the meetings we had, it wasn't anything that we don't do day-to-day back at home," Cocanour said. "I felt well-prepared. I

think we fell right into the Army system with no problem at all."

Personnel changes proved to be an obstacle the unit had to overcome, Fox said. Soldiers with the unit had to learn as much about each other as they did about the HET equipment they maintained. They had to draw from their own diverse backgrounds and experiences to help each other.

Another source of strength for the unit came from home. The unit's Family readiness group kept Family members in Ohio informed about deployment developments with a newsletter and a phone tree. This helped to keep everyone



Spc. Dan Witmer, a truck driver with the Ohio Army National Guard's 1483rd Transportation Company, Walbridge, Ohio, and a native of Eaton, Ohio, prepares to move a recently repaired Heavy Equipment Transporter at Contingency Operating Base Taji, Iraq. (U.S. Army photo/Sgt. David A. Scott)

informed about current events. By keeping in touch, it reduced stress on both families and personnel.

"I am really impressed with the overall performance of the guys in my section," Cocanour said. "Just what we've accomplished with the maintenance posture of the equipment; that's been pretty gratifying and the recognition that we've gotten from higher headquarters, all the way up to the 13th ESC (Expeditionary Sustainment Command). They have made a good name for Ohio." **SG**

Guard Care 2010 provides medical services in Carroll County



Story and Photos by SGT Heather Meyers Ohio Army National Guard Medical Detachment

Carroll County, Ohio, August 14-15, 21-22. Imagine, if you will, living so far out in the country that it is hard to reach quality health care. That is the way it is for the residents of Carroll County. Each year, the Medical Detachment travels to a medically underserved, rural area, for free health screenings. Carroll County is a community with a high unemployment rate and not many people have health insurance. The location was a great opportunity for making the most of Guard Care 2010.

The event was held at the Carroll County Fairgrounds. The first weekend, Aug. 14-15, was a fun-filled weekend where everyone got to come out into the hot and sticky weather to attend an Extravaganza. The kids got to enjoy the fire trucks and meet a couple of firefighters. Both weekends of the event had a great turn out.

This year was a mix of females, males, and families. There were also diverse cultures like the Amish. People traveled long distances in adverse conditions; rain, heat, and humidity. All services that are done for Soldiers during SRPs were done for civilians, such as EKGs, hearing, physical exams, sports physicals, head start physicals, immunizations, vision, dental, vitals, laboratory screenings, woman's health exams, pulmonary testing, Wellness On Wheels (WOW), and mammograms.

"I drove 45 minutes to get here and I am very pleased, there was no waiting, everything was great. This is a wonderful public service; everyone was so kind and sweet. I have needed a mammogram for 5 years, this helped me out financially. I felt no pain while taking blood." said Paulette Culler, of Salem, Ohio

Frank Beckley, of Carroll County said "Everything was great, it was a lot of fun going through the labs, and you just have to be patient. There was no pain other than starving to death. Started fasting since 8pm last night and made it all the way to now, time to go home."

Traci Nemenz, of Carroll County, brought her 3 year old daughter Daisy.

"It was great, the Soldiers made good use of the time, took people out of line for service. There are good signs placed around, you are able to navigate, and it was well organized.

I would come back. Daisy also liked everything including her sucker." she said.

Together with the K Co R&R, 121 MDG, 178 MDG, 180 MDG ANG, Ohio Department of Health, Carroll County Health Department, Carroll County Fair Board, Carroll County Commissioners, Mercy Hospital, and Autumn Hospital, everyone worked through sweat, to get 722 patients screened.

It was another successful year for the Guard Care program. The people of the Ohio National Guard once again showed the pride they take in reaching out to help people and communities. **OG**

Guard Care 2010 - In Brief

SERVICES PROVIDED:

- Physical Exams
- Sports Physicals
- Head Start Physicals
- Immunizations
- EKGs
- Laboratory Screenings
- Women's Health Exams
- Dental Exams
- Hearing & Vision Screenings
- Pulmonary Testing
- Mammograms
- Wellness On Wheels (WOW)

RESULTS:

- 14-15 AUG - 287 Civilians Screened
- 21-22 AUG - 495 Civilians Screened
- Mission Total -722 Civilians Screened
- Emergent Referrals - 2

PARTNERS:

- Ohio Department of Health
- Carroll County Health Department
- Carroll County Fair Board
- Carroll County Commissioners
- Mercy Hospital
- Aultman Hospital

Air Guard praises 2010 Outstanding Airmen of the Year

Story by Air Force Master Sgt. Mike Smith
National Guard Bureau

WASHINGTON - The Air National Guard recognized its six Outstanding Airmen of the Year (OAY) for 2010 here this week with an award ceremony, a formal banquet and a tour of the nation's capital.

Each year, the states and territories select their top performers from the Air Guard's more than 94,000 enlisted Airmen.

The 2010 Outstanding Airmen of the Year are: Senior Noncommissioned Officer: Senior Master Sgt. Jessica Maple, 128th Air Control Squadron, Wisconsin National Guard; Noncommissioned Officer: Staff Sgt. Kenneth Walker, 116th Air Support Operations Squadron, Washington National Guard; Airman: Staff Sgt. Natalie Urquieta, 185th Air Refueling Wing, Iowa National Guard; First Sergeant: Master Sgt. Heidi Bunker, 179th Airlift Wing, Ohio National Guard; Honor Guard Program Manager: Master Sgt. Brian Mays, 188th Fighter Wing, California National Guard; Honor Guard Member: Master Sgt. Velia Mireles, 149th Force Sustainment Services Flight, Texas National Guard

"When you consider the capable Airmen that we have in the Air National Guard today ... it's a little bit tougher to rise to the top," said Lt. Gen. Harry M. Wyatt III, director of the Air Guard, at the award ceremony at the Air Guard Readiness Center on Joint Base Andrews, Md.

"Not only are these individuals the best of the best, but they are the best, of the best of the best Air National Guard that we have ever had."

The Airmen represent a mix of Air Force and civilian career fields. Their wide-range of accomplishments includes decorated combat service in Iraq and Afghanistan, volunteer work in their communities, educational excellence and dedica-

tion to veterans and wounded servicemembers.

Officials lauded Bunker as a model first sergeant, due to her steadfast support for her Airmen at the 179th AW.

She has worked as a first sergeant for about three years, and she credits her training and network of first sergeants and mentors for her success.

"I know so many good people out there who are first sergeants, doing really great things," said Bunker. "So for me to be sort of plucked out of that group of peers is a little unbelievable."

Bunker encouraged the best professionalism and excellence from those under her responsibility, said officials, who also praised her civilian job in children's advocacy, support and care.

The six outstanding Airmen met with the Guard's top military leaders including: Air Force Gen. Craig R. McKinley, chief of the National Guard Bureau; Wyatt; Chief Master Sgt. Denise Jelinski-Hall, senior enlisted leader of the Guard Bureau; and Chief Master Sgt. Christopher Muncy, command chief of the Air Guard, as well as top Pentagon officials, service associations and others.

The group toured the national memorials, spoke with their state congressmen and watched the changing of the guard at Arlington National Cemetery. Their visit culminated with a formal banquet at Bolling Air Force Base.

"We're super proud of them, but we are also super proud of the other enlisted members and all that they do," said Muncy. "Every single one of them is critical to the fight."

Muncy also thanked the awardees' families, who escorted them.

"We know we can't do this without you, first, foremost and always," he said. "Thank you so much."

The outstanding Airmen compete with the total Air Force's active duty and Reserve Airmen from other major commands for the Air Force's 12 Outstanding Airmen of the Year recognition.

Ohio Army National Guard wins organizational excellence award

Story by Sgt. Sean Mathis
Ohio National Guard

COLUMBUS, Ohio - The Ohio Partnership for Excellence has awarded the 2010 Gold Level Achievement of Excellence to the Ohio Army National Guard for its outstanding organizational performance under the Baldrige National Quality Program's Criteria for Performance Excellence.

"Our goal was to benchmark and assess our organization against the internationally-recognized Baldrige Criteria for Performance Excellence," said Maj. Gen. Gregory L. Wayt, Ohio adjutant general. "Winning the 2010 Gold Level award is a validation of our commitment to excellence as well as a reminder that being a world-class organization is a continual journey of improvement."

William Radford, senior quality advisor for the Ohio National Guard, said the achievement is "an indicator of improvement in our processes," since the Ohio Army National Guard earned the Silver Level Commitment to Excellence award in 2009.

The Ohio Army National Guard's submission to OPE is based on a 50-page self-assessment of the organization using the Baldrige Criteria as it relates to installation management business and a three day, on-site review of the organization by OPE-trained examiners of the Baldrige Criteria, who validate the contents of the self-assessment.

The Ohio Army National Guard submitted its 2008 organizational assessment to OPE to meet the self-assessment requirement for this award.

"That document itself is nothing more than an assessment," Radford said. "But it is the product of more than 3,000 man hours from about 60 people."

Radford said the Soldiers who worked on the organizational assessment were specially selected from various departments for being "the best and brightest, they're the A-team."

OPE is a program designed to develop the quality of organizations through focus on organizational learning, resource optimization and improvement by administering the Baldrige assessment process.

The Baldrige National Quality Program is a public-private partnership whose mission is to "enhance the competitiveness, quality and productivity of U.S. organizations for the benefit of all U.S. residents," and its Criteria for Performance Excellence is used to assess the performance of organizations, according to the organizational Web site.



The Air National Guard's six Outstanding Airmen of the Year hold their award plaques at the Air Guard's Readiness Center on Joint Base Andrews during an award ceremony celebrating their accomplishments. (National Guard Bureau Photo /Air Force Senior Master Sgt. Amy Bandel)

The Baldrige Criteria is also used by the Department of Army in evaluations for the Army Communities of Excellence competition. The Ohio Army National Guard has won three times, every time it was allowed to compete since 2003, in the Special Category, a category specifically for National Guard.

The ACOE evaluates the Ohio Army National Guard using the Baldrige Criteria, but it is a military organization and evaluates from a military perspective.

Radford said the real value in participation in the OPE program is that “we are being judged against their standards, they have different set of values, missions and standards, using the same criteria.”

The OPE evaluators are comprised of civilian educators, businessman, political officials and community leaders who provide a different perspective to the Ohio Army National Guard’s overall organization.

“OPE is an additional tool we want to continue to use,” Radford said.

Ohio National Guard Soldier takes part in first Army Wesak

Story and photo by Sgt. Michael Carden
196th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

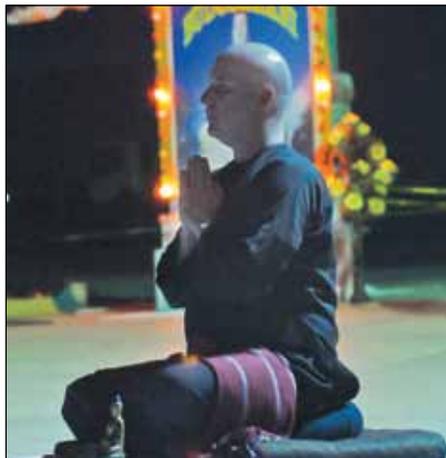
CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE TAJI, Iraq — As a full moon rose into the Iraq night’s sky, more than 200 Buddhist worshipers bowed their heads in meditation May 27 at Contingency Operation Base Taji, Iraq, to celebrate Wesak, the holiest day of the Buddhist calendar.

The celebration was a milestone, being the first Wesak celebration hosted by the U.S. Army, and with the Army’s first Buddhist chaplain, 1st Lt. Thomas Dyer, a chaplain with Regimental Support Squadron, 278th Armored Cavalry Regiment, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) and a Memphis, Tenn. Native.

“This is a time that is very special to the Buddhist community,” Dyer said.

Deployed Soldiers from across the Iraq joint operations area were invited to the Wesak celebration, including Spc. Heidi Sanders, a supply specialist with the Ohio Army National Guard’s 585th Military Police Company, located in Marysville, Ohio. Sanders, a Kent, Ohio, native, traveled from Camp Ramadi to be a part of the ceremony.

Wesak is an annual holiday observed traditionally by Buddhists, and sometimes is informally called “Buddha’s Birthday.” However, it actually encompasses the birth, enlightenment (nirvana) and death of Gautama Buddha, the founder of Buddhism, according to Dyer.



First Lt. Thomas Dyer, a chaplain with Regimental Support Squadron, 278th Armored Cavalry Regiment, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) meditates during a celebration of Wesak, a Buddhist holiday, at Contingency Operating Base Taji, Iraq. Dyer is the first Buddhist chaplain in the U.S. Army.

The Army has never had the capability to provide a full Wesak service due to the absence of Buddhist chaplains. Dyer’s presence allowed deployed Buddhists to celebrate an authentic and official service, he said.

Dyer frequently travels throughout Iraq to provide religious support for Buddhist Soldiers.

“The Chaplain Corps cares about every one of their Soldiers,” Dyer said. “(Other chaplains) want to have access to a Buddhist chaplain, so they can provide that service for their Soldiers.”

Officials in the Chaplain Corps believe there are more Buddhists in the military than most people realize, he said.

Dyer is currently working with the Department of the Army to develop a plan to better provide services and support for Buddhist Soldiers throughout the Iraq joint operations area, he said.

According to Department of Defense policy, while Soldiers’ welfare is the main focus of the Chaplain Corps, chaplains are also concerned with, and instructed to provide for, the welfare of contractors.

Hundreds of civilian contractors live at COB Taji, many of them from Nepal and Sri Lanka, which have large Buddhist populations.

After the meditation ceremony, the civilians hosted a traditional Buddhist dinner, a simple vegetarian meal.

ONGEA announces membership promotion

The Ohio National Guard Enlisted Association (ONGEA) is promoting a 2-for-1 membership drive to boost membership through the end of the calendar year.

ONGEA exists to promote the status, welfare, and professionalism of the enlisted members of the Ohio National Guard. ONGEA is the state organization of the Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States (EANGUS).

Throughout the year, ONGEA sponsors or co-sponsors events such as the Legislative Breakfast, an annual state conference, and an awards banquet recognizing the Soldiers and Airmen of the Year in the Ohio National Guard. ONGEA, in conjunction with our Auxiliary, also sponsors a number of educational scholarships every year - \$5,000 in 2010, alone!

While there are many worthwhile military organizations that you will have the opportunity to join during your career, ONGEA and EANGUS are the only organizations dedicated to the enlisted men and women of the National Guard. When you join ONGEA, you automatically become a member of EANGUS as well.

ONGEA’s special membership offer, good through Dec. 31, allows any E6 and above, retiree, associate member, or new life member to sponsor an E5 and below for free. Please go online to www.ONGEA.org for more information about our organization and to see how to take advantage

Guard unit assists with school move

Story by 1st Lt. Scott Detling
1487 Transportation Company

One hundred twenty-five 112th Transportation Battalion Soldiers of the Ohio Army National Guard trained, practiced their truck driving skills, and helped the St. Marys City Schools move into the community’s brand new school. It was a joint effort between the 1486th Transportation Company of Ashland, and a platoon from the 1487th Transportation Company located in Piqua.

The two units moved over 5,000 boxes filled with books, band equipment, kitchen utensils, and other school supplies. “We couldn’t have done it without them,” Superintendent of schools Mary Riepenhoff shared. “The Soldiers provided a tremendous service to our school, and for that we thank them. In turn, we enjoyed serving them, too.”

Various community and civic groups lent their support through donations of food, water and snacks for the troops during their two workdays. The transportation units completed the move in just over twelve hours.

The teamwork and fast work of the units helped the school district assure its first day of school remained September 8, 2010.

Ohio Veterans Bonus Program now accepting applications

Columbus, Ohio – Ohio Governor Ted Strickland, Ohio Attorney General Richard Cordray, Ohio Treasurer Kevin Boyce and Ohio Department of Veterans Services Director Bill Hartnett officially launched the Ohio Veterans Bonus program on August 24th.

An estimated 200,000 Ohio residents are eligible for the Ohio Veterans Bonus.

“In November, the voters of Ohio resoundingly supported Issue 1,” Strickland said. “Ohioans wanted to extend a small measure of our thanks and offer a tangible sign of our profound respect for our veterans of recent conflicts and their survivors.”

“Of course no payment is adequate reward for the sacrifices made on our behalf,” Strickland added. “But these checks will help make a mortgage payment, or put food on the table, or start a savings account. And what’s more, these payments will say something clearly and directly to our veterans: thank you.”

All Ohio veterans could be eligible for a bonus if they served on active duty with U.S. armed forces, including the Ohio National Guard, anywhere in the world during specified periods of time. The active duty must be for purposes other than training. The Veterans must be Ohio residents now and must have been an Ohio resident when they were called to active duty. The website features a section designed to help determine eligibility.

To apply for the bonus, applicants should go to www.veteransbonus.ohio.gov, and complete the online application.

The application process is short and simple, showing what information is required and what documentation is needed to support the bonus application.

Ohio’s public libraries and staff at Ohio’s County Veterans Service Offices are prepared to assist Veterans with completing their applications. For those without internet access, these offices have paper applications. Veterans can also call 1-877-OHIO VET to get a paper application; however, applying on-line is the simplest and quickest option.

The application is not complete until it has been printed, signed and mailed along with required supporting documentation. The updated version of the form includes an Internal Revenue Service Form W9 which is required as part of the application. The application must be signed in the presence of and “notarized” by a notary public or “acknowledged” by the clerk or deputy clerk of any of Ohio’s 88 county courts of common pleas.

The application should be mailed to: Ohio Veterans Bonus P.O. Box 373 Sandusky, OH 44871

The estimated processing time for bonus applications is approximately eight weeks, depending on the volume of applications initially received. The website also has a section for checking the status of the application. **86**

Ohio Veterans Bonus Program Criteria

Eligible veterans may receive \$100 for each month of active duty service with a maximum benefit of \$1,000 in any of the following locations during these specified dates:

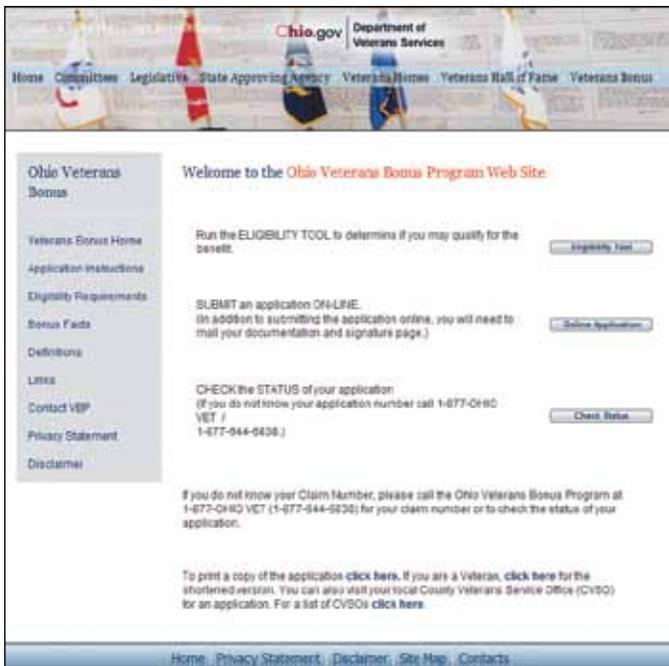
- Persian Gulf: Between August 2, 1990 and March 3, 1991, the date when Iraq accepted the conditions for a permanent cease fire. Eligible veterans can apply for a bonus until December 31, 2013.
- Afghanistan: Since October 7, 2001. Eligible veterans can apply for a bonus for up to three years after the President declares an end to U.S. involvement in Afghanistan.
- Iraq: Since March 19, 2003. Eligible veterans can apply for a bonus for up to three years after the president declares an end to U.S. involvement in Iraq.

Eligible veterans serving on active duty (except active duty for training) anywhere else in the world during the specified dates, may receive \$50 a month up to a maximum bonus of \$500.

An eligible veteran may combine their service bonuses for a maximum payment of \$1,500.

To be eligible for a bonus, at least one of the following conditions must also apply:

- The veteran must have been separated from the armed forces under honorable conditions.
- The veteran remains on active duty service.
- After active duty service, the veteran remains in any reserve component of the armed forces, including the Ohio National Guard.



Determine your eligibility, submit an application and check your application’s status for the Ohio Veterans Bonus at www.veteransbonus.ohio.gov.



Pilots from the 178th Fighter Wing gather in front of an F-16 on July 30 in Springfield, Ohio. The pilots gathered to commemorate the final flight of the F-16s before the jets left the base. The 2005 BRAC Commission removed the flying mission from the Springfield unit. (U.S. Air Force photo by SrA Anthony T. Graham)



Maj. Simon Nguyen, a dentist with the 178th Medical Group, Ohio Air National Guard, uses an instructional puppet to teach young patients how to maintain good dental hygiene June 8 at Pu'uukohola Heiau National Historic Site, Kona, Hawaii. The 178 MDG is on a training deployment providing free medical services to underserved communities that do not have access to health care on the island. (Ohio National Guard Photo by Senior Airman Amy Adducchio)



U.S. Air Force Senior Airman Brittany Compton of the 179th Medical Group gives a Thai man a reading test to ensure he received the correct glasses. U.S. Airmen, Royal Thai and Republic of Singapore air force members are providing medical, dental and optometry services to Thai citizens during Cope Tiger 2010. (U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Cohen A. Young)



Ohio National Guard members participating in the 2010 National Guard Marathon, Spc. Chris Williams of the 1194th Engineer Company), Capt. Claudio Garcia-Castro, commander of the 212th Maintenance Company, Staff Sgt. Samuel Cordova of Joint Force Headquarters-Ohio and 1st Sgt. John Klies of B Company, 1st Battalion, 134th Field Artillery Regiment, pose for a team photo at the National Guard Marathon in Lincoln, Nebraska. (Courtesy Photo)



Jack Nicklaus sits with Maj. Gen. Gregory Wayt as they talk with Ohio National Guard Soldiers deployed in Iraq via a live video feed on Military Appreciation Day at the Memorial Tournament. Not only did they talk with the Soldiers, but Nicklaus also gave Capt. Marshall Jackson, deployed commander of the 196th MPAD, advice on improving his golf swing. (Ohio National Guard Photo by Bill Pierce)

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Honoring Our Veterans



Left: Maj. Gen. Gregory L. Wayt, Ohio adjutant general, front left; Ohio Governor Ted Strickland and Bill Hartnett, Director of the Ohio Department of Veterans Services, middle front; in the presence of an all service Honor Guard, recognize and honor Ohioans who have served in the armed forces by placing a wreath at the memorial in the Veterans Plaza at the Ohio Statehouse on Friday, May 28, 2010. Staff Sgt. Justin C. Shultz, an Ohio National Guard Honor Guard member stands in the background as part of the escort group. *Right:* A Gold Star Ceremony was conducted in honor of Ohio National Guard fallen service members and their families at Beightler Armory at the start of the Memorial Day holiday weekend. As part of the ceremony, Maj. Gen. Gregory L. Wayt, Ohio adjutant general; Command Sgt. Maj. Albert M. Whatmough, State Command Sergeant Major of the Ohio National Guard; Chief Master Sgt. Tamara Phillips, State Command Chief for the Ohio Air National Guard, place a wreath on the monument honoring all Ohio National Guard service members who have been killed in action throughout the organization's 222 year history. (Ohio National Guard photos by Douglas Nicodemus)