



Ohio Adjutant General's Department

TED STRICKLAND, GOVERNOR

MAJOR GENERAL GREGORY L. WAYT, ADJUTANT GENERAL

Media Advisory
Sept. 6, 2007
Log # 07-24

Historic Ohio National Guard unit patch and colors to return

CAMP PERRY, Ohio—Soldiers from the Ohio Army National Guard's 37th Brigade, 38th Infantry Division will permanently case their unit's colors and remove the 38th Infantry Division patch from their uniforms as they re-designate as the 37th Infantry Brigade Combat Team during a 4 p.m. ceremony Sept. 8 at the Camp Perry Training Site, 1000 Lawrence Road, Port Clinton, Ohio 43452.

The ceremony will mark the return of the historic 37th Infantry "Buckeye" Division colors and patch. During World War II, the 37th Division successfully fought through 592 days of non-stop combat on New Georgia, Bougainville and Luzon. The 37th earned the nickname "Heavyweight" and carried the reputation as one of the best Army divisions in the Pacific. The division commander, Maj. Gen. Robert S. Beightler, was rewarded with a regular army commission and was the only National Guard division commander to sustain his command from start to finish.

"There's so much history in our state about the 37th Division," said Maj. Gen. Gregory L. Wayt, Ohio adjutant general. "This is going to ensure that tradition lives on in our Soldiers today and they understand the tradition they came from. I think it's an honor for those that went before us, that our modern-day Soldiers get to wear that patch."

The reorganization is part of the ongoing transformation within both the Ohio National Guard and the United States Army to a modular force centered on maneuver brigades. The new brigades are lighter and faster and allow commanders better maneuverability on the battlefield.

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FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT: The Ohio National Guard Public Affairs Office at 614-336-7000 or Capt. Jeffrey Bourn at (614)439-6874. Please visit our public website for more information about the Ohio National Guard at www.ohionationalguard.com

