



# Ohio Adjutant General's Department

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## Ohio National Guard's 37th Infantry Brigade Combat Team (Buckeye) celebrates a century of service in July

**By Sgt. 1st Class Josh Mann  
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COLUMBUS, Ohio — On July 18, the Ohio National Guard's 37th Infantry Brigade Combat Team will celebrate 100 years of service to the state and nation. Called "Buckeye" since its birth, the 37th has had elements stationed in 126 different communities across Ohio and eight of its Soldiers have earned the Medal of Honor.

Headquarters, 37th Division was constituted on July 18, 1917, as the Ohio National Guard prepared for World War I. Since its birth, the 37th has proudly served in World War I, World War II, Kosovo and the War on Terrorism. Additionally, the 37th Infantry Division saw federal service during the Korean War, when nearly all of its Soldiers were sent to the front lines as individual replacements.

During World War I, the Buckeye Division fought in France and Belgium, earning credit as one of the best American divisions the German Army faced. Following the armistice, the division was selected to escort the King of Belgium back into his country after years of German control.

Led by Maj. Gen. Robert S. Beightler for the duration of World War II, the division spent 592 days in combat in the Pacific and earned the nickname "heavyweight" from *Yank magazine*, which wrote: "*Seeing the 37th move toward a new front was like seeing Joe Louis step into the ring after the preliminaries. It's a big, tough, skilled division for a big, tough job. It's a heavyweight.*"

After 51 years of service, the 37th Infantry Division was reduced to a single brigade in February 1968 due to Army force structure changes. Ohio Gov. James Rhodes wrote of the removal, "*lest any Ohioan ever forget that there was in fact, and remains for posterity, a division for which superb is the only description. It was a superb outfit, and such units are made by superb men.*"

The 73rd Infantry Brigade rose from the ashes of the Buckeye Division. First assigned as an element of Indiana's 38th Infantry Division, the Buckeye Brigade reorganized as a separate infantry

brigade in 1977 and assumed the mission as a Theater Defense Brigade in 1980. With this mission came the war time defense of the Aleutian Islands.

Army force structure changes in 1993 again reorganized the 73rd as the 37th Brigade. Now a mechanized brigade, 37th units were the first Ohio formations to be called into federal service after the terrorist attacks of 9/11.

On Sept. 1, 2007, the 37th was once again reorganized as the 37th Infantry Brigade Combat Team and proudly brought back the shoulder sleeve insignia of the 37th Infantry Division, a red circle with white border (patterned after the flag of Ohio), which had been dormant since 1968. Since then, the 37th IBCT has deployed to Kuwait, Iraq, Afghanistan and most recently to Kosovo.

Today, the 37th Infantry Brigade Combat Team maintains approximately 3,500 Soldiers in the Ohio and Michigan Army National Guards, and is the No.1 IBCT in the Army National Guard inventory for readiness (preparedness of units, Soldiers and equipment, measured by a number of statistics).

The 37th IBCT is currently deployed in support of Operation Joint Guard-Kosovo Force (KFOR), tasked with maintaining a safe and secure environment for people living along Kosovo's southeastern border, and will return home later this summer.

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**EDITOR'S NOTE:** The Ohio National Guard celebrates its birthday in July as well. It was organized on July 25, 1788 — nearly 15 years before Ohio gained statehood — in Marietta, Ohio, as the Northwest Territory Militia.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:** A complete list of Ohio communities that have stationed 37th units over the past 100 years is included. Editors who would like more information about an individual unit or location, or to request historical stock photos, may contact Sgt. 1st Class Joshua Mann, Ohio Army National Guard historian, at 614-336-7311 or [joshua.d.mann.mil@mail.mil](mailto:joshua.d.mann.mil@mail.mil). Due to schedules, optimal periods to get prompt response for support are July 12-14 and July 22 and thereafter.

Also included is a list with some fast facts about the 37th, as well as its Medal of Honor recipients from Ohio and some famous members of the 37th and their Ohio birthplace and/or hometowns.

<http://onq.ohio.gov>

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# **FAST FACTS: A CENTURY OF SERVICE—THE 37TH INFANTRY BRIGADE COMBAT TEAM (BUCKEYE)**

The 37th Infantry Brigade Combat Team (Buckeye) was constituted on July 18, 1917, as Headquarters, 37th Division, and this year marks a century of service to the state and nation by Buckeye Soldiers. To commemorate this, here are some important facts about the Buckeye Brigade's history.

- Eight Soldiers of the 37th have earned the Medal of Honor.
- During World War II, the 37th Infantry Division spent 592 days in combat.
- Maj. Gen. Charles Treat was the first commander of the 37th, appointed in 1917. Since then, there have been 29 commanding generals or officers and 15 command sergeants major of the division/brigade.
- The 37th Infantry Brigade Combat Team displays eight campaign streamers and two unit awards signifying the unit's service in World War I, World War II, Kosovo and the War on Terrorism.
- Maj. Gen. Robert S. Beightler commanded the division from start to finish in World War II and was the only division commander to retain his command for the duration of the war.
- In 100 years of existence, across the 37th Division, 37th Infantry Division, 73rd Brigade, 37th Brigade and 37th IBCT, 137 communities have been home to division/brigade elements. This breaks down to 126 in Ohio and 11 in Michigan.
- Hall of Fame NFL Coach Don Shula, 1950 Heisman Trophy Winner Vic Janowicz and the fourth Sergeant Major of the Army Leon L. Van Autreve all served in the 37th.
- The Shoulder Sleeve Insignia of the 37th was approved on Nov. 5, 1918, and is described as a white disc with a red disc in the center and is taken from the state flag of Ohio.

# FAMOUS MEMBERS OF THE 37TH DIVISION

## 37th Division Medal of Honor recipients who were Ohio natives

**Rodger Young:** Born in Tiffin (Seneca County); entered service from Clyde (Sandusky); unit stationed in Fremont (Sandusky)

**Frank Petrarca:** Born in Cleveland (Cuyahoga); entered service from Cleveland; unit stationed in Cleveland

**Albert Baesel:** Born in Berea (Cuyahoga); entered service from Berea; unit stationed in Springfield (Champaign)

**Joseph Cicchetti:** Born in Waynesburg (Stark); entered service from Waynesburg; unit stationed in Paulding (Paulding)

## Other notable members

**Leon L. Van Autreve (Fourth Sergeant Major of the Army):** Served in Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion, 148th Infantry; stationed in Spencerville (Allen)

**Don Shula (Super Bowl champion coach of Miami Dolphins):** Served in Company C, 145th Infantry; stationed in East Cleveland (Cuyahoga); native of Painesville (Lake)

**Vic Janowicz (Heisman Trophy winner with Ohio State):** Served in the 37th Quartermaster Company; stationed in Columbus (Franklin); native of Elyria (Lorain)

**Robert S. Beightler (Commanding general of the 37th Division for the entirety of World War II; political figure):** Born in Marysville (Union)

CITY	COUNTY	CURRENT 37TH UNIT STATION	WORLD WAR I STATION	WORLD WAR II STATION	PRIMARY UNIT (HISTORICAL)
ADA	HARDIN		YES	YES	148th Infantry Regiment
AKRON	SUMMIT	Company C, 237th Support Battalion	YES	YES	145th Infantry Regiment
ALLIANCE	STARK		YES	YES	135th Field Artillery Regiment
ASHLAND	ASHLAND		YES	YES	145th Infantry Regiment
ASHTABULA	ASHTABULA		YES		137th Armor
ATHENS	ATHENS		YES	YES	166th Infantry Regiment
BARBERTON	SUMMIT				137th Armor
BATAVIA	CLERMONT			YES	147th Infantry Regiment
BELLEFONTAINE	LOGAN			YES	148th Infantry Regiment
BEREA	CUYAHOGA		YES	YES	145th Infantry Regiment
BLANCHESTER	CLINTON		YES	YES	147th Infantry Regiment
BLUE ASH	HAMILTON				112th Engineer
BOWLING GREEN	WOOD	Company B, 1st Battalion, 148th Infantry Regiment	YES	YES	148th Infantry Regiment
BRYAN	WILLIAMS		YES		147th Infantry Regiment
BROOK PARK	CUYAHOGA				112th Engineer
BUCYRUS	CRAWFORD		YES	YES	136th Field Artillery Regiment
CALDWELL	NOBLE			YES	136th Field Artillery Regiment
CAMBRIDGE	GUERNSEY			YES	136th Field Artillery Regiment
CANTON	STARK		YES	YES	135th Field Artillery Regiment
CELINA	MERCER			YES	148th Infantry Regiment
CHAGRIN FALLS	CUYAHOGA				137th Armor
CHILLICOTHE	ROSS			YES	166th Infantry Regiment
CINCINNATI	HAMILTON		YES	YES	147th Infantry Regiment; 147th Armor Regiment
CIRCLEVILLE	PICKAWAY			YES	166th Infantry Regiment
CLEVELAND	CUYAHOGA	Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 237th Support Battalion; Company A, 237th Support Battalion	YES	YES	145th Infantry Regiment
CLYDE	SANDUSKY		YES	YES	148th Infantry Regiment
COLUMBUS	FRANKLIN	Headquarters, 37th Infantry Brigade Combat Team; Company C, Special Troops Battalion, 37th Infantry Brigade Combat Team	YES	YES	37th Headquarters
CONNEAUT	ASHTABULA		YES		137th Armor
COSHOCTON	COSHOCTON		YES	YES	134th Field Artillery Regiment
COVINGTON	MIAMI		YES	YES	148th Infantry Regiment
DAYTON	MONTGOMERY		YES	YES	136th Field Artillery Regiment
DEFIANCE	DEFIANCE		YES	YES	148th Infantry Regiment
DELAWARE	DELAWARE	Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 1st Battalion, 134th Field Artillery Regiment; Battery A, 1st Battalion, 134th Field Artillery Regiment	YES	YES	166th Infantry Regiment
DOVER	TUSCARAWAS			YES	136th Field Artillery Regiment
DRESDEN	MUSKINGUM				134th Field Artillery Regiment
DUNKIRK	HARDIN				148th Infantry Regiment
EAST CLEVELAND	CUYAHOGA				145th Infantry Regiment
EAST LIVERPOOL	COLUMBIANA		YES		137th Heavy Tank Battalion
EATON	PREBLE		YES	YES	147th Infantry Regiment
ELYRIA	LORAIN		YES	YES	145th Infantry Regiment
FINDLAY	HANCOCK		YES	YES	148th Infantry Regiment
FOSTORIA	SENECA		YES	YES	147th Infantry Regiment
FREMONT	SANDUSKY		YES	YES	148th Infantry Regiment
FORT RECOVERY	MERCER				148th Infantry Regiment
GALION	CRAWFORD		YES	YES	134th Field Artillery Regiment
GALLIPOLIS	GALLIA		YES		148th Infantry Regiment
GENEVA	ASHTABULA				145th Infantry Regiment
GEORGETOWN	BROWN		YES		148th Infantry Regiment
GREENFIELD	HIGHLAND			YES	166th Infantry Regiment
GREENSBURG	SUMMIT				137th Aviation Battalion
GREENVILLE	DARKE	Troop A, 2nd Squadron, 107th Cavalry Regiment	YES		147th Armored Regiment
HAMILTON	BUTLER	Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 2nd Squadron, 107th Cavalry Regiment	YES	YES	147th Infantry Regiment; 147th Armor Regiment
HICKSVILLE	DEFIANCE		YES		145th Infantry Regiment
HILLSBORO	HIGHLAND		YES	YES	147th Infantry Regiment
IRONTON	LAWRENCE		YES	YES	166th Infantry Regiment
JACKSON	JACKSON		YES		134th Field Artillery Regiment
KENT	PORTAGE			YES	112th Engineer
KENTON	HARDIN		YES	YES	148th Infantry Regiment
KETTERING	MONTGOMERY				299th Signal Detachment
LAKEWOOD	CUYAHOGA			YES	135th Field Artillery Regiment
LANCASTER	FAIRFIELD			YES	166th Infantry Regiment
LEBANON	WARREN	Troop B, 2nd Squadron, 107th Cavalry Regiment	YES		136th Field Artillery Regiment
LIMA	ALLEN	Company E, 237th Support Battalion	YES	YES	148th Infantry Regiment
LOGAN	HOCKING		YES		148th Infantry Regiment
LONDON	MADISON			YES	166th Infantry Regiment
LORAIN	LORAIN				145th Infantry Regiment
MANCHESTER	ADAMS		YES	YES	147th Infantry Regiment
MANSFIELD	RICHLAND	Company G, 237th Support Battalion	YES	YES	145th Infantry Regiment
MARIETTA	WASHINGTON		YES	YES	166th Infantry Regiment
MARION	MARION			YES	166th Infantry Regiment
MARYSVILLE	UNION			YES	166th Infantry Regiment
MASSILON	STARK		YES		145th Infantry Regiment
MCCONNELSVILLE	MORGAN		YES	YES	166th Infantry Regiment

CITY	COUNTY	CURRENT 37TH UNIT STATION	WORLD WAR I STATION	WORLD WAR II STATION	PRIMARY UNIT (HISTORICAL)
MEDINA	MEDINA				134th Field Artillery Regiment
MIDDLETOWN	BUTLER			YES	147th Infantry Regiment
MILFORD	CLERMONT				147th Infantry Regiment
MT. VERNON	KNOX		YES	YES	112th Medical
NAPOLEON	HENRY		YES	YES	148th Infantry Regiment
NEW LEXINGTON	PERRY		YES	YES	166th Infantry Regiment
NEW PHILADELPHIA	TUSCARAWAS				137th Armor
NEWARK	LICKING				737th Ordnance Battalion
NEWTON FALLS	TRUMBULL				107th Cavalry Regiment
NORTH CANTON	STARK				37th Headquarters
NORWALK	HURON		YES	YES	145th Infantry Regiment
NORWOOD	HAMILTON				147th Infantry Regiment
OAK HARBOR	OTTAWA		YES	YES	148th Infantry Regiment
OHIO CITY					148th Infantry Regiment
OTTAWA	PUTNAM		YES	YES	148th Infantry Regiment
OXFORD	BUTLER				237th Support Battalion
PAINSVILLE	LAKE		YES		145th Infantry Regiment
PAULDING	PAULDING		YES	YES	148th Infantry Regiment
PEEBLES	ADAMS				147th Infantry Regiment
PIQUA	MIAMI	Battery B, 1st Battalion, 134th Field Artillery Regiment	YES	YES	134th Field Artillery Regiment
POMEROY	MEIGS		YES		112th Field Signal Battalion
PORT CLINTON	OTTAWA				37th Tank Company
PORTSMOUTH	SCIOTO		YES	YES	134th Field Artillery Regiment
RAVENNA	PORTAGE		YES		136th Machine Gun Battalion
ST. MARYS	AUGLAIZE	Company A, Special Troops Battalion, 37th Infantry Brigade Combat Team	YES	YES	148th Infantry Regiment
SANDUSKY	ERIE	Company D, 1st Battalion, 148th Infantry Regiment Regiment	YES	YES	148th Infantry Regiment
SHREVE	WAYNE		YES	YES	145th Infantry Regiment
SIDNEY	SHELBY		YES	YES	148th Infantry Regiment
SPENCERVILLE	ALLEN		YES	YES	148th Infantry Regiment
SPRINGFIELD	CLARK	Headquarters and Headquarters Company, Special Troops Battalion, 37th Infantry Brigade Combat Team	YES	YES	237th Support Battalion
STEUBENVILLE	JEFFERSON		YES		135th Field Artillery Regiment
STOW	SUMMIT				107th Cavalry Regiment
SYCAMORE	WYANDOT		YES		146th Infantry Regiment
TARLTON	PICKAWAY				166th Infantry Regiment
TIFFIN	SENECA	Company C, 1st Battalion, 148th Infantry Regiment	YES		148th Infantry Regiment
TOLEDO	LUCAS		YES	YES	148th Infantry Regiment
URBANA	CHAMPAIGN		YES		166th Infantry Regiment
VAN WERT	VAN WERT		YES	YES	148th Infantry Regiment
WADSWORTH	MEDINA		YES		146th Infantry Regiment
WALBRIDGE	WOOD	Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 148th Infantry Regiment ; Company A, 1st Battalion, 148th Infantry Regiment			148th Infantry Regiment
WAPAKONETA	AUGLAIZE			YES	136th Field Artillery Regiment
WARREN	TRUMBULL		YES	YES	145th Infantry Regiment
WASHINGTON COURT HOUSE	FAYETTE			YES	166th Infantry Regiment
WESTERVILLE	FRANKLIN			YES	112th Medical
WILLIAMSBURG	CLERMONT				147th Infantry Regiment
WILLOUGHBY	LAKE				112th Engineer
WILMINGTON	CLINTON				147th Infantry Regiment
WINCHESTER	ADAMS				147th Infantry Regiment
WOOSTER	WAYNE	Company A, 837th Engineer Battalion	YES	YES	145th Infantry Regiment
WORTHINGTON	FRANKLIN				37th Headquarters
XENIA	GREENE	Troop C, 2nd Squadron, 107th Cavalry Regiment	YES	YES	147th Infantry Regiment
YOUNGSTOWN	MAHONING	Company B, 237th Support Battalion	YES	YES	145th Infantry Regiment
ZANESVILLE	MUSKINGUM		YES	YES	134th Field Artillery Regiment