



Ohio Adjutant General's Department

JOHN KASICH, GOVERNOR

MAJOR GENERAL DEBORAH A. ASHENHURST, ADJUTANT GENERAL

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For Immediate Release

Two Ohio National Guard Soldiers who died in Afghanistan earn posthumous promotions

COLUMBUS, Ohio – Two Ohio National Guard Soldiers who died April 4, 2012, while serving in Afghanistan were recently promoted posthumously.

Sgt. 1st Class Shawn T. Hannon and Sgt. 1st Class Jeffrey J. Rieck, members of the 37th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, were promoted to the rank of master sergeant, effective April 4, 2012.

According to the Army National Guard (ARNG) G1, which oversees human resources for the entire Army National Guard, the posthumous promotion process gives U.S. Army Human Resources Command (HRC) the ability to promote deceased ARNG Soldiers in what is called a reportable status. If the Soldier meets the eligibility for posthumous promotion, HRC will promote the Soldier and forward the promotion certificate to the primary next of kin by personal letter. Soldiers promoted posthumously are carried on the records of the Army as having served in the higher grade.

Largely honorary, a posthumous promotion does not entitle the Family to receive any bonuses, allowances or benefits based on the higher grade.

“Promoting these two fine Ohio National Guard Soldiers posthumously is just another way we can help to honor them and recognize the great sacrifices they and their Families have made,” said Maj. Gen. Deborah A. Ashenurst, Ohio adjutant general. “Before their untimely deaths, these two noncommissioned officers met all the requirements to be promoted to the next rank, so I am pleased that both Master Sgt. Hannon and Master Sgt. Rieck could receive the promotions they deserved.”

Soldiers are eligible either by being officially recommended for promotion before the date of death, or for the ranks of sergeant through sergeant major — also known as noncommissioned officers — the Soldier must have been officially boarded and placed on an approved promotion list (regardless of sequence number) before the date of death.

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It is a different process to promote a commissioned officer posthumously. Officers must be Department of Army selected and have gone through the process to receive a federal recognition promotion order to be promoted posthumously. Ohio Army National Guard Capt. Nicholas J. Rozanski, who also died last week in Afghanistan, is not eligible for posthumous promotion to major as he did not yet meet the minimum service time requirements in his current grade, or rank, to be promoted to the next higher rank, according to Col. Randal Shears, Ohio National Guard J1-personnel services director.

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FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT: The Ohio National Guard Public Affairs Office at (614) 336-4499.