

ALUMNI NEWSLETTER



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C-130 Multi-Mission Crew Trainer (MMCT) program arrives at 179th Airlift Wing

Story and photo by Tech. Sgt. Joseph Harwood
179th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

MANSFIELD, Ohio – The 179th Airlift Wing is taking a new approach to the runway, with the arrival of a virtual training experience. On Oct. 28, 2014, members of the 164th Airlift Squadron took the first step into this new era with the arrival of the Multi Mission Crew Trainer (MMCT). The MMCT is a high-fidelity, non-motion, C-130 flight simulator that will support pilot, co-pilot and flight engineer training in a full spectrum of flight operations.

“Innovation and leadership in aviation is part of our Ohio heritage, and so being on the leading edge of fielding this new technology seems like a natural fit for us,” said Col. Mark ‘Kahuna’ Auer, commander of the 179th Operations Group. “This new technology will be used to train not only aircrew, it will also be used by our firefighters and engine run/taxi crew chiefs, all wing personnel who have to be familiar with engine shutdown and aircraft operating procedures.”

The MMCT comes to Mansfield from Randolph Air Force Base, Texas, home of the 502nd Trainer Development Squadron and the Air Education Training Command (AETC). The MMCT delivered is the first of six currently in production for the ANG. The 164th AS flew the three pallets of subcomponents and assembly materials back from Texas in one of their C-130H2 Hercules. An advance echelon team, or ADVON, comprised of three members from the 502nd, deployed to Mansfield to assemble the device and coordinate the upcoming software installation.

Upon arrival, a 25k loader was used to unload the three pallets containing the MMCT and safely transferred them to the 179th Operations Group, where they were assembled in their newly repurposed simulator room. In just two days, the ADVON team had the MMCT fully assembled and powered up. Software programming by QuantaDyn, an experienced provider of Department of Defense (DoD) simulation software, was scheduled to begin Nov. 5, 2014.

Lt. Col. Jeff Capretto was part of the aircrew to deliver the MMCT. “We’re excited to bring this technology to Mansfield. This is going to further prepare our aircrew by presenting them with a broader range of training scenarios. This is a huge opportunity for us to enhance our skills as individual aircrew members and as a unit.”

The MMCT is a full-scale replica of the C-130H2 cockpit, excluding the navigator station, which will be added shortly. It provides pilot, copilot and flight engineer training systems that are fully populated with touch-screen switches, knobs and displays.

The MMCT creates a full suite of emulated, stimulated and virtual scenarios in various environments. With features like actual geo-specific visual databases and home field inserts, pilots can virtually take off and land on the Mansfield runway or practically anywhere else in the world. The training system allows users to experience various simulation environments while allowing full instructor oversight and scenario control. The instructor can apply random or configurable scenario changes and leverage replay capability to conduct robust mission debriefs.

The MMCT, when fully operational, will act as a low-cost, squadron-level trainer that allows for advanced mission rehearsal, threat awareness training, aircraft system refreshers, emergency procedure and crew resource management training.

As the first in the ANG to stand up this innovative training program, the 179th Airlift Wing is proud to pave the way for the next generation of highly-motivated and trained professionals that it already has a history of producing.

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The 179th Airlift Wing received the first Multi-Mission Crew Trainer (MMCT) delivered to the Air National Guard, Oct. 28, 2014, in Mansfield, Ohio. The MMCT is a virtual flight simulation program for training on the C-130H Hercules. (U.S. Air National Guard Photo by Tech. Sgt. Joseph Harwood/Released)

Iraq War Veterans – Don't Miss Out on your Ohio Veterans Bonus

COLUMBUS – Our state and nation celebrated Veterans Day on Tuesday, Nov. 11, 2014. In Ohio, this occasion is an appropriate time to reach out to all Iraq War Veterans and make sure that they have applied for the Ohio Veterans Bonus – the deadline for those who served in Iraq is Dec. 31, 2014.

To be eligible for this component of the Ohio Veterans Bonus, eligible Veterans and Ohioans serving on active duty must have been boots-on-the-ground in the country of Iraq any time from March 19, 2003 through Dec. 31, 2011.



“The time is growing short for Iraq Veterans to claim the bonus, and we want to make sure that everybody who’s eligible has had the opportunity to apply,” said Ohio Department of Veterans Services Director Tim Gorrell. “We’ve had great support across the state from Veterans telling other Veterans about it, in our county Veteran service offices, our Veterans’ organizations, individual Veterans, and the families and friends of Veterans. There are so many of us who have a connection to a Veteran, and I’m asking everybody in Ohio to tell those who’ve served about the bonus. It’s a great thank you to our Veterans from their fellow citizens, and no one should miss out on it.”

Through Oct. 31, the Ohio Veterans Bonus program has paid 84,453 applications that total more than \$68.3 million in direct payments. While some of these applications represent multiple periods of eligibility, service in Iraq represents 24,091 applicants of this total, the most of any period of eligible service. In October, bonus applications for service in Iraq showed an increase of nearly 57 percent over September. Currently, the bonus team is approving more than 135 applications each week.

The Ohio Veterans Bonus will continue to be awarded to those who served in Afghanistan, or anywhere else in the world, since Oct. 7, 2001. Eligibility for the bonus will end when the President declares an end to the war in Afghanistan.

Overwhelmingly approved by Ohio voters in November 2009, the specific criteria for award of the Ohio Veterans Bonus is service in the Armed Forces, anywhere in the world, of more than 90 days active duty, not for training, during the periods of the conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan. For Iraq, the eligible period is from March 19, 2003, through Dec. 31, 2011; for Afghanistan, it is from Oct. 7, 2001, through a date to be determined by the President. Eligible Veterans must have been Ohio residents at the time of their entry into the service, and must be Ohio residents at the time they apply.

The Ohio Veterans Bonus is not subject to federal or state taxes. It pays \$100 a month to Veterans who served in Iraq or Afghanistan, up to a maximum of \$1,000. For Veterans who served elsewhere, the payment is \$50 a month up to a \$500 maximum. Veterans medically discharged due to injuries sustained in-country can receive \$1,000, plus up to \$500 for months of service elsewhere.

Family members of those killed in action or who died from disease as a result of their in-country service can receive a bonus of \$5,000 plus whatever the service member was eligible for, up to a total of \$6,500.

Veterans needing more information or who would like to request an application can call toll-free to 1-877-OHIO VET (1-877-644-6838) option 2, visit www.veteransbonus.ohio.gov, or visit any county Veterans service office (see www.dvs.ohio.gov for an interactive map of the county offices). The Department has advertised the program extensively statewide through public service announcements on television and radio, newspaper and online ads, social media, at Veterans’ events, and through partnerships with Veteran service organizations and other agencies. Postcards reminding Iraq Veterans of the end of the bonus were sent in June and July to Veterans whose birth dates matched the likely age range of Iraq Veterans.



To be considered for compensation, online bonus applications must be submitted not later than Dec. 31, 2014, and hard copy applications sent to the Ohio Veterans Bonus program must be postmarked on or before Dec. 31, 2014.

DID YOU KNOW?

Remembering the attack on Pearl Harbor, Dec. 7, 1941

President Franklin D. Roosevelt called Dec. 7, 1941, "a date which will live in infamy." On that day, Japanese planes attacked the United States Naval Base at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii Territory. The bombing killed more than 2,300 Americans. It completely destroyed the American battleship *U.S.S. Arizona* and capsized the *U.S.S. Oklahoma*. The attack sank or beached a total of 12 ships and damaged 9 others. One hundred sixty aircraft were destroyed and 150 others damaged. The attack took the country by surprise, especially the ill-prepared Pearl Harbor base.

DECEMBER 6

Call to Duty Ceremony
 1-174th Air Defense Artillery Regiment
 7350 Dixie Highway
 Fairfield, Ohio 45014
 Time: 11:00 a.m.

DECEMBER 13

Change of Command
 37th Brigade Special Troops Battalion
 Springfield Armory
 4440 Laybourne Road
 Springfield, Ohio 45505
 Time: 11:00 a.m.
 Outgoing: Lt. Col. Buck Evers
 Incoming: Lt. Col. Eric Krantz

DECEMBER 21

Wildlights at the Columbus Zoo
 Location: Water's Edge Plaza Pavilion
 FREE Refreshments and food provided by the USO.
 FREE Family photo and several Family activities to take part in.
 Open to ALL Military Families and Veterans from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.



Project MORE

VOLUNTEER MENTORS NEEDED

Attention Soldiers, Airmen, Spouses, College Students and ONG Alumni



**Help
 Enhance
 A
 Child's
 Reading
 Skills**

The Ohio National Guard is partnering with Ohio Project MORE (Mentoring in Ohio for Reading Excellence). The mission of Project MORE is to help every student in Ohio maximize their reading potential, no matter their ability level.

Since 1999, Project MORE has provided individualized one-on-one reading mentoring to at-risk readers. Through extensive research conducted by independent evaluators, Project MORE has been proven to be an effective evidence-based reading program for students with disabilities and at-risk readers.

Volunteer mentors are needed to participate in at least one 30-minute session each week with a student, one-on-one.

For information on becoming a Project MORE volunteer mentor in one of the more than 300 schools throughout Ohio call 888-319-3560, ext. 3035, or email projectmore@pm.noacsc.org

Dr. Jan Osborn, Project MORE Director

Putnam County Educational Service Center (Coordinating Agency)
 124 Putnam Parkway
 Ottawa, OH 43875

Project MORE is funded by Award number H027A140111, CFDA 84.027A through the Ohio Department of Education/Office for Exceptional Children

Veterans Choice Program

Many Veterans will now have the option to receive non-VA health care rather than waiting for a VA appointment or traveling to a VA facility.

Beginning Nov. 5, 2014, the new Choice Program will begin to cover non-VA care for eligible Veterans enrolled in VA healthcare. Veterans are eligible if any of these situations apply to you:

- You have been told by your local VA medical facility that you will need to wait more than 30 days from your preferred date or the date medically determined by your physician
- Your current residence is more than 40 miles from the closest VA health care facility
- You need to travel by plane or boat to the VA medical facility closest to your home
- You face a geographic challenge, such as extensive distances around water or other geologic formations, such as mountains, which presents a significant travel hardship

Every Veteran will receive a letter and a Choice Card in the mail with details about the program. Veterans will be eligible for the program and receive cards in three phases:

1. Veterans who may live more than 40 miles from a VA facility.
2. Veterans who are currently waiting for an appointment longer than 30 days from their preferred date or the date determined to be medically necessary by their physician.
3. All remaining Veterans enrolled for VA healthcare who may be eligible for the Choice Program in the future.

To set up an appointment with a non-VA provider, call the VA at 866-606-8198 and they will work with you to ensure you are approved for care in your community.



The Ohio National Guard Community Outreach says farewell to Staff Sgt. Ikia Perry. Ikia has worked as Outreach Assistant for the last 13 months. Thank you to Staff Sgt. Perry for his contribution! (Photo by Bill Pierce, ONG)

Retirement Packets

Retirement packets are mailed to your last known mailing address. If you change your address before your 59th birthday, make sure you contact the office below so they will know where to send your packet.

You will need to send the packet back to receive your retirement pay. Make sure to include the following: NGB Form 22, DD Form 214(s), NGB Form 23, 20-year letter and SBP election. If you are missing any documents, contact Ms. Jeanette Coughenour at 614-336-7038 (ONG HQs).

**U.S. Army Human Resources
Center of Excellence - Fort Knox
ATTN: AHRC-PDR-RCR
1600 Spearhead Division Ave.
Dept. 420
Fort Knox, KY 40122-56402
1-800-318-5298 or 502-613-8950**

If you are an Army Guard/Reserve or an Air Force Guard/Reserve retiree, and need help completing your retirement pay packet, contact Sgt. 1st Class Richard Wright at 614-336-7277.

179th Airlift Wing receives first Multi-Mission Crew Trainer (MMCT) in the Air National Guard



Col. James Jones, commander of the 121st Air Refueling Wing, and Col. Mark Auer, 179th Operations Group commander, check the progress of the programming installed on the Air National Guard's first Multi-Mission Crew Trainer (MMCT) Nov. 5, 2014, at the 179th Airlift Wing in Mansfield, Ohio. This MMCT is the first in the Air National Guard nationwide and is currently being programmed for training use by QuantaDyn, a provider of simulation software for the U.S. Defense Department. (Photo courtesy of Chief Master Sgt. James Farriss)



Wildlights at the Columbus Zoo!



Sunday
December 21st,
2014

5:00 - 8:00 pm

- Location: Water's Edge Plaza Pavilion 2
- Enjoy an evening out with the family at the Columbus Zoo!
- FREE refreshments and food, provided by the USO
- Get a FREE family photo, and enjoy multiple family activities.

- Discount available all day!
- \$9 per Adult

- \$5.00 per Child (3-9) & Senior (60+)
- Children 2 and under are FREE
- Parking is FREE

- You must bring your MILITARY ID or this flyer to receive the discount and free parking
- Open to ALL Military families and Veterans.



For more information please contact: Andrew Seward
at 614-336-7274 or andrew.j.seward.ctr@mail.mil