

ALUMNI NEWSLETTER



OHIO NATIONAL GUARD

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Capt. Nicole Ashcroft, 179 AW Public Affairs

As the sun set behind an American flag waving over the Mansfield Lahm Airport on Saturday, Nov. 3, a 179th Airlift Wing C-27J Spartan touched down after its crew joined forces earlier in the day with personnel from the Maryland and Mississippi National Guards, to provide airlift support for Hurricane Sandy relief efforts.

"We have been making the argument, and Congress has been listening, that the C-27J is the right platform for the National Guard," said Maj. Gen. Deborah A. Ashenurst, Ohio adjutant general. "The performance of the C-27J while deployed overseas has proven this is the right aircraft for the time-sensitive, mission-critical airlift mission, and this domestic deployment shows how important an asset the C-27J is for the nation's governors, making it possible for the National Guard to deliver assistance quickly to citizens in need."

These Citizen-Airmen and -Soldiers embody the National Guard's motto of "Always ready; Always there," by pulling together aircraft and personnel across multiple state borders and differing branches of service in order to provide assistance for their fellow Americans in need. As part of "Operation Guardian Big Apple," less than 12 hours after getting the initial call, the 135th Airlift Group in Baltimore, 179th Airlift Wing in Mansfield, Ohio, and 186th Air Refueling Wing in Meridian, Miss., each supplied one C-27J Spartan to airlift personnel and equipment into New York, where direct relief support for the citizens of New York City will be provided.

All three states worked together seamlessly to pull together a detailed multi-branch support mission. The day began with three C-27Js departing their respective wings to pick up an initial forward group of equipment and personnel.

Every Airman and Soldier traveling in the forward group shared words of pride and excitement about the opportunity to help their fellow American citizens. Many said it's what the National Guard does - citizens helping the citizens throughout their communities nationwide, whenever and wherever necessary.



"Today's mission highlights the core value of the National Guard," said Maj. Jeff Capretto, a 179th pilot who returned from Afghanistan earlier this year and an Avon Lake, Ohio, native, who flew Ohio's C-27J on Saturday into New York. "What a great opportunity to be involved with the relief support, especially on the U.S. home front."

Col. Gary McCue, 179th wing commander said, "I am very proud of our Airmen, and how quickly they responded to the call for help. We spent 10 months in Afghanistan, and now what a great feeling to perform the mission for the citizens of the US! This is the other half of the National Guard mission set, and we're excited to have shown the capability of the C-27J and our Airmen!"



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Ohio National Guard units currently deployed

Air units:

121st Air Refueling Wing
123rd Air Control Squadron
178th Fighter Wing
180th Fighter Wing
123rd Air Control Squadron
251st Combat Communications Group

Army units:

Operational Mentoring & Liaison Team 1.8, 1.9
1486 Transportation Company
1487 Transportation Company
HHB/174 Air Defense Artillery Brigade
Det 21
323 Military Police Company

About 715 Ohio National Guard Soldiers and Airmen are deployed

(current as of 20 Nov 12)

Ohio Veterans bonus pays more than \$60,000; Deadlines loom

COLUMBUS – A total of 60,593 Ohio veterans and family members have received payments from the Ohio Veterans Bonus totaling \$50,893,704 – and other eligible veterans are urged to take advantage of this special thank-you for their service from Ohio voters.

Action is particularly critical for two groups of veterans – those from the Persian Gulf War and Iraq War eras. The deadline to apply for Persian Gulf veterans is December 31, 2013. Iraq War veterans face a deadline of December 31, 2014 to apply.

The Ohio Veterans Bonus is open to veterans of the Persian Gulf War era as well as the eras of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, regardless of where they served, as well as the next of kin of those who were killed in action or died of disease as a result of in-theater service. The Bonus is not subject to federal or state taxes, and can be used for any purpose. **Source: Ohio Department Veteran Services news release November 2, 2012**

Three Ohio cities rank in top ten for veterans transitioning out of military

McLean, VA—Pittsburgh ranks as the top place in the nation for veterans to transition from combat boots to civilian shoes, according to a new study commissioned by USAA and Military.com.

The "Best Places for Veterans" list identifies U.S. metro areas that offer America's most recent veterans more opportunities to find a job or go to college while providing a higher quality of life in an affordable location. Here is the entire top 10 list:

- | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Pittsburgh, PA | 6. Warren, MI |
| 2. Phoenix, AZ | 7. Ann Arbor, MI |
| 3. Dallas, TX | 8. Cincinnati, OH |
| 4. Cleveland, OH | 9. Columbus, OH |
| 5. Atlanta, GA | 10. St. Louis, MO |

"Today's veterans are battling a highly competitive job market and need to proactively plan for life after the military," said Scott Halliwell, a certified financial planner at USAA. "This study allows us to help recent and soon-to-be veterans identify preferred locations throughout the U.S. where they can launch a civilian career and use the GI Bill to further their education."

Sperling's BestPlaces reviewed variables in 379 major U.S. metropolitan areas, including:

- Employment opportunities and sectors that align with military skills sets such as defense, engineering, medical services and aviation, as well as the overall jobs climate based on unemployment rate and recent job growth.
- Presence of colleges/universities, as well as quality of local primary schools.
- General quality of life and pocketbook issues such as affordability, crime rate, taxes and recreation opportunities.

Source: https://www.usaa.com/inet/pages/enterprise_bestplaces2012_landing_mkt?adID=VURL_bestplaces

Ohio Veterans homes are here to serve you

Dates to Remember:

December 1 -

HHD, 112th Motor Transport BN
Change of Command
11:00 a.m.
North Canton Armory;
Incoming Cdr.
1Lt. Aaron McMahon
Outgoing Cdr.
Capt. Davena Milich

112th Motor Transport BN Change of Command
2:00 p.m.
North Canton Armory;
Incoming Cdr.
Maj. Patrick Hinton *Outgoing Cdr.*
Lt. Col. Greg Robinette

December 2 -

HQ 1-134th Field Artillery Regiment Change of Command at 12:30 p.m. at North Pointe Conference Center; *Incoming Cdr.* Lt. Col. Joseph Gabriel, *Outgoing Cdr.* Lt. Col. Craig Baker

December 8 -

837th Engineer Co Change of Responsibility on 8 Dec at 9:00 a.m. at Lorain Amory; *Incoming ISG* Joseph Bernert, *Outgoing SFC* Ron Richardson

January 12 -

16th Engineer Bde Change of Command at 10:00 a.m. at DSCC, Bldg 2; *Incoming Cdr.* Col. Paul Craft, *Outgoing Cdr.*, Brig. Gen. Robert Clouse

371st Sustainment Bde Ball

6:00 p.m. at Crowne Plaza Dublin, R.S.V.P. to Maj. Marshall Jackson at marshall.jackson@us.army.mil

February 9 -

HQ 112th Engineer BN 175th Anniversary Ball at 6:00 p.m. at Crowne Plaza Cleveland Airport in Middleburg Heights. R.S.V.P. at courtney.campbell@us.army.mil prior to 25 January

Drew Vogel, Ohio Veterans Home

The Ohio Department of Veteran Services (DVS) operates two nursing homes and a domiciliary to serve veterans in need of medical care.

The Ohio Veterans Home – Sandusky, situated on 99 acres near Lake Erie, opened its doors in 1888. “The American Civil War produced OVH’s first resident,” said Rick Hatcher, Superintendent of the Veterans Homes. “Our motto is ‘*Serving Those Who Served*’ and we remain ever mindful of the sacrifices numerous Ohio veterans have made since that time to present day.”

The Sandusky Home has been continuously in service for the past 124 years; with 427 beds it is the largest nursing home in Ohio.

The Ohio Veterans Home –Georgetown is located in Brown County, in southern Ohio east of Cincinnati. The 168-bed Georgetown Home opened in 2003.

Both homes feature Standard Care for general nursing home residents, as well as Special Care for residents with dementia. Numerous in-house activities and outings are provided at each home as well as a full agenda of social and spiritual services.

Although the cost is based on a veteran’s ability to pay, the maximum cost is only about one-third of that of a proprietary nursing home.

In 2011, the Georgetown Home became the first state veterans home in the country – there are about 140 – to open a dedicated in-house hospice unit. The facility provides the physical plant, food and medicine. Stein Hospice provides the staff.

“It’s a public-private partnership,” Hatcher explained, “that provides value, not only to veterans, but to the taxpayers of Ohio as well.”

The Sandusky facility also features a 293-bed Domiciliary (“Dom”) in which Veterans who need medical care, but are capable of living independently, can reside at a reasonable cost.

Any veteran who served during a time of war, received an Honorable Discharge and has lived in Ohio a cumulative total of one year is eligible for admission. More information can be obtained by calling 866-OHIO-VET.



OHIO NATIONAL GUARD

Community Outreach Office

Alumni Affairs
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ong.outreach@ng.army.mil
(614) 336-4135

ONG.OHIO.GOV

2012 Regional Inter-Service Family Assistance Committee Meetings:

Region 1 - January 24

Region 2 - January 16

Region 3 - January 22

Region 4 - January 29

Region 5 - January 15

Region 6 - January 9

For questions regarding the time or place of RISFAC meetings, contact Staff Sgt. Michael Carden at (614) 336-4135



SOCIAL MEDIA

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Retirement Packets

Retirement packets are mailed to your last known mailing address. If you change addresses 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 you include the following forms: NGB Form 22, DD Form 214(s), NGB Form 23, 20yr letter and SBP election. If you are missing any of the above documents, please contact Ms. Jeanette Coughenour at 614-336-7038 (ONG HQs) for assistance.

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

ONGEA membership provides many benefits

The ONGEA is the state branch of the Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States – EANGUS. Together, with members from the National Guard Association of the United States (NGAUS), the Adjutant General's Association (AGAUS), and other members of the "military coalition," the enlisted association has the clout and presence to fight on Capitol Hill for the equipment, benefits, and missions you have earned and deserve as members of the National Guard. In addition, we know who to call in Columbus to go to battle for you.

Strength comes in numbers. You can be an active member as a reserve soldier or as a retired one. The larger our membership, the louder our voice; we need everyone engaged to fully exercise our voice.

One of the benefits of membership in a professional association is the "situational awareness" it provides you (active or retired) on issues facing the National Guard. The Enlisted Association sends out e-mail alerts regularly informing our members when there is legislation that concerns us that is being considered in Congress. We alert you so you can make an informed choice as to whether to contact your Senator or Representative and express your view.

In 2012, ONGEA awarded over \$6,000 in educational scholarships to family members in Ohio. You also obtain discounts on products. For the complete listing of member benefits, please visit our website at www.EANGUS.org or www.ONGEA.org.

For a retiree, membership is \$25.00 a year. As an active Guard member, it's \$15 for an E-5 or below and \$30 for an E6 or above. Either enlisted or officers can join ONGEA. For more information, contact Sgt. (Ret.) Neal Powers at Glen43@zoominternet.net.

