

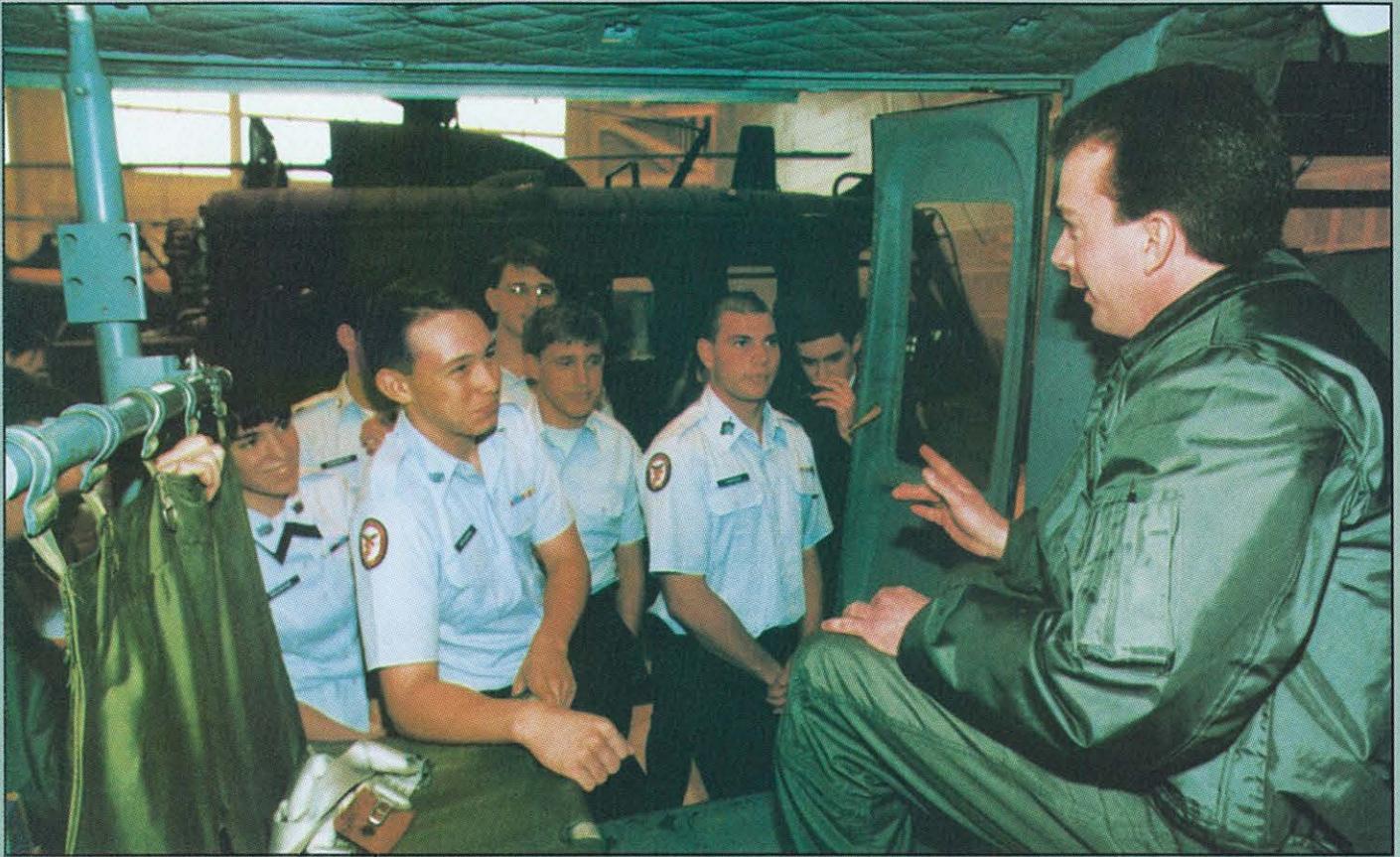
# Buckeye GUARD

Summer 1994



# SIGN OF THE TIMES

Pages 6-13



Spc. David Corey explains the Huey's role in transport and observation to a Junior ROTC class.



Warrant Officer Edward Helwig illustrates the operation of night vision goggles to Tecumseh High School students during an orientation visit at Rickenbacker ANGB.

## Lessons in today's cavalry

Story and photos by  
Staff Sgt. Douglas Nicodemus  
121st Air Refueling Wing

**S**tudents from Tecumseh High School in New Carlisle got a close-up view of Ohio Army National Guard aviation assets during a recent trip to Rickenbacker Air National Guard Base in Columbus.

Through the coordination efforts of Capt. John Siles, aviators from Company N of 4/107th Armored Cavalry introduced the school's Junior ROTC (Reserve Officers Training Corps) class to a history of the cavalry from its start to the present day. Following the video presentation, Warrant Officer Edward Helwig demonstrated the workings of night vision goggles and allowed students to look through them in a darkened room.

The demonstration was followed by a tour of the Army Aviation Support Facility, where students were ac-

quainted with various helicopters and their missions, as well as the support equipment required.

The students were scheduled to take orientation rides in Hueys, but winds of 25-35 knots were too much to allow safe operation.

Nonetheless, the students were impressed by the opportunity to see an aviation unit in action. Enjoying any opportunity to learn more about the military, the class makes frequent trips to the Wright Patterson Air Force Museum under the guidance of retired Col. Ernest Peirola.

Like many of the students, Jed Baker plans to join the military after graduation. "I'm going to earn my commission as an Air Force officer through college ROTC," said the high school freshman.

The Tecumseh High School JROTC program instructs students on leadership, military history, the science of flight and the Constitution, and prepares them to be better citizens through community service. ■

# Buckeye GUARD

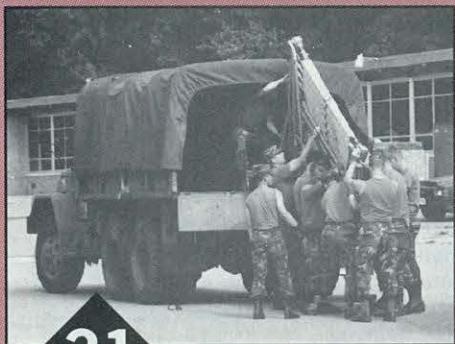
Summer 1994, Vol. 18, No. 2

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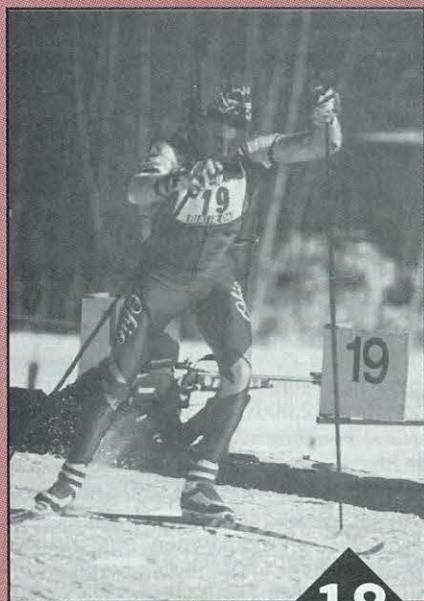
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**ABOUT THE COVER:** Women closing in on Guard's gender gap. Pictured from left, Senior Airman Shannon Scherer, Maj. Christine Cook, Sgt. Maj. Marsha Tate, Lt. Col. Nancy August, Maj. Deborah Ashenhurst and Sgt. Tracy VanDeventer. Not pictured, Maj. Karen Madison. *Photo by Cameron Williams, Adjutant General's Department Photo Lab.*

# Buckeye GUARD

SUMMER 1994, Vol. 18, No. 2

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The Buckeye Guard staff always welcomes articles that cover interesting Guard personalities and unique unit training. Deadline for Buckeye Guard submissions are:

Winter: October 15  
Spring: January 15  
Summer: April 15  
Fall: July 15

## NATIONAL NEWS

### Ground combat redefined will open jobs to women.

Women will still be barred from direct ground combat, but many jobs in combat service and combat service support units will be opened by redefining ground combat and rescinding the "risk rule." The new definition of ground combat has three parts. First, direct ground combat means engaging an enemy on the ground with individual or crew-served weapons. Second is personnel must be exposed to hostile fighting. Third is there must be a high probability of hand-to-hand fighting. All three elements of the definition must be present before women can be excluded from that unit. The risk rule, which explicitly bans women from combat service and combat service support units if the risk of combat was the same for the support unit as for the direct combat unit, won't be rescinded until Oct. 1 to give Congress a chance to examine the implications. (AFIS)



### VEAP vets may deserve a refund.

A search is underway for post-Vietnam era veterans who participated in the Veterans' Educational Assistance Program (VEAP) who did not use all of the funds available to them or failed to request a refund. The Chapter 32 program was open to those who joined the military between 1977 and 1985 and agreed to contribute between \$25 and \$100 monthly from their military pay into an education fund, which DoD matched \$2 to every \$1 contributed. VA estimates that approximately 13,000 veterans discharged more than 10 years ago have contributions remaining in their Chapter 32 accounts. These veterans are now due a refund equal to the unused balance of their own contribution to the fund. Matching funds contributed by DoD are not refundable. Veterans who believe they may be due refunds should contact their nearest VA regional office to determine eligibility. The toll-free number is 1-800-827-1000. (Army Reserve)

### Persian Gulf War overpayments again may be recollected.

Gulf War soldiers who were overpaid as much as \$2,500 during the Persian Gulf War will be pursued again to repay that money to the government. This ongoing dilemma was thought to have been solved when Congress authorized the cancellation of debt up to \$2,500 owed to the government for Persian Gulf War veterans. The congressional leaders said the act to seek repayment was heartless. In an effort to recoup up to \$17 million of overpayments, the Department of Defense inspector general, after conducting an investigation, has recommended that the Army's pay offices need to seek repayment again — two years after Congress granted a waiver to the Persian Gulf veterans. No solution was established at press time. (National Guard)



### U.S. Mint offers Gulf Medal.

The U.S. Mint released a medal that recognizes the contributions of the men and women in uniform who served in the Persian Gulf conflict. The bronze Persian Gulf Veterans National Medal is available for sale to the public in two packages, one \$12.50 and one \$15.50. The medals measure one-and-a-half inches in diameter. For more information or to order a coin, call 1-800-642-5552. Profits from the sale will be used to mint silver versions of the coin, to be presented to all Persian Gulf veterans or their next of kin. However, the silver coins will not be minted until 600,000 of the bronze ones are sold. (U.S. Treasury PAO)

### New 800 number answers environmental questions.

Commanders can call 1-800-USA-EVHL or DSN 584-1699 to get the answers they need about any environmental problems they may encounter during the training of their units. This number has been established by the U.S. Army Environmental Center at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland, to give unit commanders the most up-to-date information available on environmental issues. The response line is staffed from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Eastern Standard Time on all federal business days. During other hours, queries are logged by an answering machine and return calls are made the next business day. (National Guard)

1-800-  
USA-  
EVHL

## Florida resident still proud to be a Buckeye

Dear Editor,

Today I received my Spring copy of the BUCKEYE GUARD. I just want to tell you and everyone concerned how proud it makes me to have been part of such a great organization as the Ohio National Guard.

The deeper into the magazine I read, the more I realized that the Guard had given me much, much more than I gave in return. My years in association with the 383d Medical Company (Clr) and the 112th Medical Brigade, as well as other outfits that

I was...associated with at summer camps and drill meetings, still fill my mind with pleasant though tasking memories.

Although this was a particularly striking issue, every issue of the BUCKEYE GUARD instills me with the knowledge that heroic and historic acts in peace and war are really just everyday deeds amongst the men and women of the Ohio National Guard.

Thanks for making an old retired soldier stand proud again.

**Harold E. "Pete" Vermillion**  
Chaplain (MAJ Ret)  
Ocala, Fla.

## Shepherds to the men

Dear Editor,

It happened 29 years ago, but the memory is still as fresh as if it were yesterday. My squad leader and I, when I was in a maintenance unit in Germany, were always at odds with each other. I was a specialist; he was an NCO. He took me aside one morning and with all the competence, fairness and military bearing of an NCO, let me

voice my complaints. Then he explained his reasons on how it was to be. From then on, Sgt. Smullens and I saw "eye to eye."

After a 3-year enlistment and another year in the Army Reserve, I took a long break, then joined the Ohio National Guard in 1981. I missed the camaraderie and team effort I enjoyed on active duty. In the Guard, I found this team effort again, demonstrated by key soldiers who led by example and who took time to teach their subordinates. NCOs are what I saw; leaders training others then stepping back and watching them perform.

What is an NCO? We already know he/she is a leader to those under them. How are they different? What do they possess that others don't?

Under the Army's Fundamentals of Leadership, "An NCO is a leader who has the ability to influence others without using physical force, to accept willingly specific goals, and to work wholeheartedly toward that goal. A leader has competence, integrity, fairness, military bearing, enthusiasm, resourcefulness, endurance, loyalty and selflessness. An NCO leads by example to accomplish the mission, while preserving the dignity of the soldier."

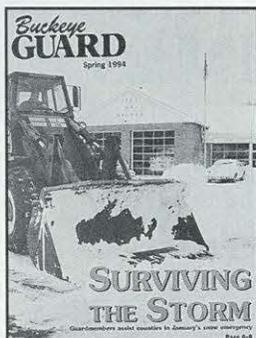
When reflecting on the roles and responsibilities of noncommissioned officers, I can't help but think about the NCOs who have had a positive influence on my military career. One in particular comes to mind. His name is Sgt. 1st Class Michael Sheppard.

In 1981, we were both M-Day soldiers assigned Company A, 112th Engineer Battalion in Wooster. Sgt. Sheppard proved to be one of those men who, by his actions, demonstrated "This is the way to perform the mission, follow my example, and you won't go wrong." Sgt. Sheppard, a Vietnam veteran, went on to become the full-time armorer, then Unit Administrator for Company A. Only since knowing him have I realized that NCOs can truly be called "shepherds" to the men.

One example of what an NCO is not, was a first sergeant I had several years ago. He had a very authoritarian presence. When things weren't suiting him, he would say, "You'll do things this way, or we'll go out behind the building and discuss it." That is not an example of a fair, selfless or competent leader. He will only cause discontentment with the junior leaders. He was a "wolf," not a "shepherd" to the men.

Today's Army needs NCOs who can influence others to perform the mission and keep it going smoothly. These "Shepherds to the Men" will keep the Ohio National Guard in top readiness. Are you a "shepherd" to others? Are you an effective leader, an effective NCO? If not, you should be. Let's not just want "a few good men," let's be OHIO'S BEST MEN/WOMEN, OHIO'S BEST NCOs.

**Sgt. Neal G. Powers**  
Co. D., 1/148 Infantry (Mech)  
North Canton, Ohio



## Buckeye Guard seeks 'letters to editor'

The BUCKEYE GUARD staff is asking that readers send in more letters on issues that affect the Ohio National Guard. Letters can be related to articles covered in the BUCKEYE GUARD, current policies enacted in the National Guard, or simply whatever is on the mind of you the reader. We're interested in further developing the "Feedback from the Field" column, but we need your help to do that. All letters will be considered, and all are subject to editing due to space and style considerations. Our mailing address and deadlines are always listed within the masthead on page 4 or you can fax your concerns to (614) 776-3820 or DSN 273-3820.

# Shattering glass ceilings

## Ohio Guard names first female battalion commanders

Story and photos by Sgt. Diane Farrow  
HQ STARC (-Det. 1-5)

**"N**o one can make you feel inferior without your consent," Eleanor Roosevelt once said.

Though a sense of inferiority can often deter great women from becoming great leaders in male-dominated societies, such a concept was never considered by two women who recently made Ohio Army National Guard history.

The State's first female to assume battalion-level command, Maj. Christine Cook took over Toledo's 137th Supply and Service Battalion on March 1, 1994. Maj. Deborah Ashenhurst will be taking the top slot at the 237th Personnel Services Command in Columbus when it comes on-line Sept. 1, 1994.

With Ashenhurst leading the Army Guard's newest battalion-level command, the 237th PSC will be made up of the 237th and 337th Personnel Service Companies, which is aligned under Troop Command. During this reorganization, the company-level 237th will be redesignated the 437th PSC. Cook's new position entails the responsibility of the 135th, the 323rd and the 838th Military Police Companies, the 213th



Maj. Deborah Ashenhurst calls belonging to the Guard a "family affair."

Maintenance Company and the 637th Service Company. The 137th S&S is the largest battalion in the Ohio National Guard, and it also falls under Troop Command.

"Being named battalion commander for the 137th was just like coming home," Cook said. "You could almost say I grew up there."

Though the Wisconsin native began her military career in 1974 as an enlisted soldier on active duty, Cook was first assigned to the Toledo unit in 1981. As it turns out, it was there that she achieved many other "firsts" for females in the Ohio National Guard.

"I think I was the first female unit commander, the first battalion Administrative Officer and the first Training Officer," Cook offered. Although she admitted enjoying the novelty of being the first female battalion commander, she said she'd rather be remembered simply as a good commander.

"No one at the unit even mentioned my being the 'first' female," Cook recalled. "It (the assignment) was very natural, especially considering the amount of experience I had within the battalion."

At the commander's conference conducted last February, both women were invited to attend. Laughing, Ashenhurst said that the conference, a biennial event, could be coined the "Coming Out Party" for the two new commanders.

Both said they felt completely at ease.

"They (male conferees) are our contemporaries, and we were treated that way," noted Cook. "The people there are the same people we've been dealing with for years." Both Cook and Ashenhurst are full-time federal technicians who work at

Beightler Armory, Headquarters for the Ohio National Guard.

Ashenhurst sees the recent movement of women into the military's "upper management" positions as consistent with the natural progression of things.

"In the 1960s, women usually joined the military, completed their tour and got out. Not many aspired to stay in," she said.

"For the most part, it's only been since the mid 1970s, early 1980s that women have considered the military as a place to make a career."

Joining the Guard was an easy decision for Ashenhurst, who enlisted as a clarinet player at 19. In fact, she calls belonging to the Guard a "family affair."

Her father, her brother, her husband and her step-son are all members. When asked whether there was any kind of rivalry between her and her brother, Capt. Doug Green, Ashenhurst responded with a resounding "Absolutely!"

The siblings seem to see-saw back and forth as far as career advancement. The major's older brother became company commander first, running the 1487th Trans-

portation Company from Dec. 1988 though Oct. 1992. "When Doug was deployed for Desert Storm, I was so jealous," she confessed. "I really

wanted to go."

Though the assignment as PSC commander has tipped the scales in her favor, Ashenhurst says the competition is all in fun. "We really enjoy each other's success."

Another family member who enjoys their successes is proud father, Chief Warrant Officer Robert Green. Ashenhurst revealed



**"Being named battalion commander...was just like coming home."**

**Maj. Christine Cook**



**Maj. Christine Cook discusses the role of women in the military.**

that he has mentored her throughout her years in the Guard, and that she has followed closely in his footsteps.

Cook named a number of senior officers who have been guiding influences for her career.

"I have been very fortunate to have male supervisors who have shared their training and experience with me, with no regard to my gender," Cook said. But, she added, she owes most of her gratitude to her husband, Michael Cook, who recently retired from the Guard as a major.

"Michael is very supportive; he makes it easy to spend time with the 137th," Cook said. "When I head off for drill, I don't have to worry about what's going on at home." She and her husband are raising two children, Zachary, 7, and Carl, 9.

Cook feels that her experience as a mother will make her a better leader. "As a parent, you understand the importance of discipline and teaching, and you can identify with guardmembers who face conflicts at home."

While the new commanders are pleased with the advances they've made in the Army Guard's chain of command, they are optimistic about breaking more barriers as their careers progress. Both women want to be general officers, with Ashenhurst aspiring for the seat of adjutant general.

Cook and Ashenhurst agree that the opportunities are broadening every day for young guardswomen, and they both contend that those with the commitment and the ambition will succeed.

According to Ashenhurst, "The door is wide open." ■

**Summer 1994**

## Committee seeks women veterans

*Governor's committee builds awareness, provides assistance to women veterans*

**By Christine Santiago Foos  
Public Affairs Subcommittee**

Governor George V. Voinovich established an advisory committee on women veterans in January 1993. The committee is comprised of women veterans and active duty servicewomen — including National Guard and Reserve — who have served in the military from World War II through the present. This all-volunteer committee was asked to provide the governor with recommendations on the issues, needs and concerns of Ohio women veterans.

In the past year, the committee developed a seven-page survey, distributed over 6,000 of them and has, so far, received a 25 percent return. The committee also has coordinated public hearings throughout the state, inviting women veterans to present their experiences and suggest special interests, needs or ideas for the committee to consider.

Two final hearings for the year are scheduled for July. Cleveland is the host city for the first hearing at the American Red Cross building on Thursday, July 7, and the final hearing is scheduled at the University of Toledo's Continuing Education building on Thursday, July 14. Both will begin at 7:00 p.m. and end at 9:30 p.m.

Currently, the committee is planning a statewide meeting in 1995, developing a resource guide and improving employment opportunities for women veterans in cooperation with Ohio Bureau of Employment Services. Last March, committee member Jean Reed testified before the U.S. House Veterans Affairs Committee, Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations in Washington, D.C., providing information on women veteran health care concerns.

"The members of this committee are very dedicated to the cause of helping

women veterans because we, too, are women veterans and understand their needs," said Committee Chairperson Maj. Christine Cook, Ohio Army National Guard. Other members of the committee currently are: Lynn Ashley, Betty Brown, Mary Hanna, Kerri Harris, Jean Madden, Jean Reed, Christine Santiago Foos, Shannon Scherer, Phoebe Spinrad and Sandi Vest.

"Many women who have served in the military don't recognize themselves as veterans and are unaware of the benefits which may be available to them," Cook said. Although the committee is making progress, the major estimates they've reached only a fraction of the approximately 40,000 female veterans in Ohio. She emphasized that those who have contacted the committee for assistance have received swift attention.

For more information or to receive a copy of the survey, please contact:

**Governor's Office of Veteran's Affairs  
ATTN: Governor's Advisory Committee  
on Women Veterans  
77 South High Street, 30th Floor  
Columbus, Ohio 43266-0601**

### GOALS IN BRIEF

- ◆ Identify and assess the special needs of women veterans.
- ◆ Provide information meeting the needs of women veterans, including benefits and entitlements, education, and training for unemployment through referral programs.
- ◆ Recommend and plan events honoring women veterans who have served and those currently serving in the military.
- ◆ Coordinate and monitor efforts to accomplish all of the above goals and objectives.

# 179th Airlift Group offers relief to Bosnians during 'Provide Promise'



Story by Lt. Col. Richard Green  
179th Airlift Group, Mansfield

**I**t's 3 a.m. and the music function on my alarm clock awakens me. I wake up quickly. There will be no sleeping-in this morning. I have only 45 minutes to get dressed, eat and finish getting the rest of my things together for my two-week deployment for Operation Provide Promise.

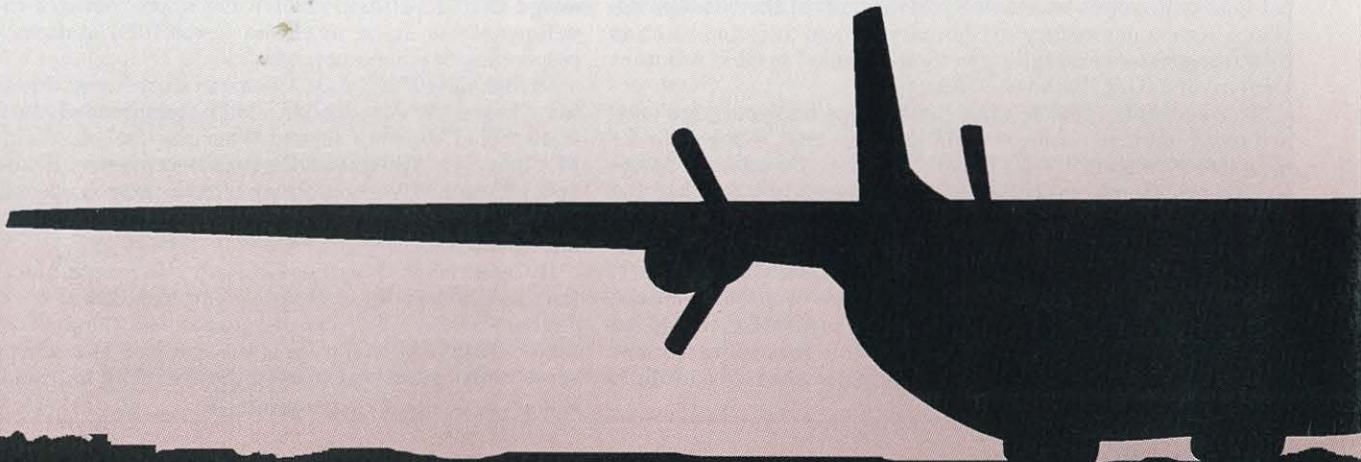
Provide Promise is the code name for the humanitarian relief missions that bring food and other needed supplies to starving people in Bosnia-Herzegovina. National Guard, Reserve and active duty crews fly C-130s and Allied crews fly C-160 aircraft into the war-torn country. My unit, the 179th Airlift Group out of Mansfield, has rotated aircraft and crews in support of this operation since July 1993. I was scheduled to leave Feb. 19 and return March 6.

The week prior to my departure, I watched the news channels carefully. The United Nations had issued an ultimatum to the Serbs to pull back from Sarajevo with the threat of air strikes if they did not comply. Weeks earlier, it was alleged that the Serbs had launched a mortar round into a Sarajevo market resulting in a large number of civilian deaths.

Our crew was to arrive at Rhein Main Airbase, Germany, on the last day of the ultimatum. The Serbs appeared to be withdrawing, but they had reneged on a number of previous agreements, and how this situation would develop was anyone's guess.

Being my first tour, I was looking forward to putting all my training into practice. Although no U.S. aircraft had been shot down, our attitude as a crew was that anything was possible, and that we should be prepared for the worst.

Our crew had a good mix of both full-time technicians and traditional guardsmen, all with excellent experience. The copilot, 1st Lt. Karl Hoerig, was a relatively new C-130 pilot, but had years of experience as an Army helicopter pilot. He had previously



participated in Provide Promise. Lt. Col. Jim Smith, a technician, was one of the most experienced navigators in the business. A seasoned war veteran with over 15,000 hours of flying time, he too had been in Bosnia.

The flight engineer, Staff Sgt. Kurt Metzger, was a new member of the squadron, but was considered a solid performer. Though I hadn't flown with him yet, the next two weeks proved he was a real pro. Our two loadmasters, Master Sgt. Dave Leitenberger and Tech. Sgt. Dave Weidner were about as good as they come. Both had previously participated in Provide Promise and just about every other exercise or deployment you could name.

After we arrived at Rhein Main Airbase in Frankfurt, Germany, we received our in-brief from squadron leaders and the intelligence shop. The mood of everyone on the crew was that of serious intent. This was the real thing.

Our crew was to fly both high altitude air-drops and air-land missions into Sarajevo. The air-drop missions would be in formations of six or seven aircraft and use special procedures for flying formation in the weather. They also would include aircrews from both the Reserves and active duty.

Our first mission was a seven-ship air-drop sortie to a drop zone near Sarajevo. Many formations would launch with one or two aircraft less than planned. But that night, all seven took off on schedule.

It was about two and a half hours from takeoff to drop. The night was clear, and with the full moon illuminating the snow capped Alps, the view was spectacular. Soon, our airborne train of C-130s would be dropping 14 bundles from each plane (about 11 tons) to those in need below.

While over Bosnia, the Airborne Warning and Control personnel issued about a dozen warnings to violators of the "no fly" zone, and it wasn't much more than four hours after our second air-drop mission



**Members of Mansfield's 179th Airlift Group check their gear, including flak jackets and pistols, in preparation for landing in Sarajevo. Combat Camera Photo.**

that four Serb fighters were shot down after ignoring their warnings.

The last 10 to 15 miles prior to the drop were critical. Maintaining exact formation position and completing final checklist items requires a total team effort. The entire crew drew a sigh of relief when the loadmaster called "load clear," and we began to close up and escape the war zone.

We spent the remainder of our deployment flying both air-drop and air-land missions. The air-land missions, flown single ship, were a well-timed series of arrivals and departures into Sarajevo. Transporting up to 20 tons of relief supplies, we landed in the battle-torn country, unloaded and departed as quickly as possible. With the threat of gunfire on the

ground and surface-to-air missiles while airborne, our missions into Sarajevo seemed to last much longer than the actual 10 minutes they took upon landing.

We flew our last mission on the day prior to departure. We left knowing we performed our duties in a professional manner and that we provided food and supplies to those in need. Leaving as proud members of the Air National Guard, we each took home a true understanding of how well the "Total Force" effort works. ■



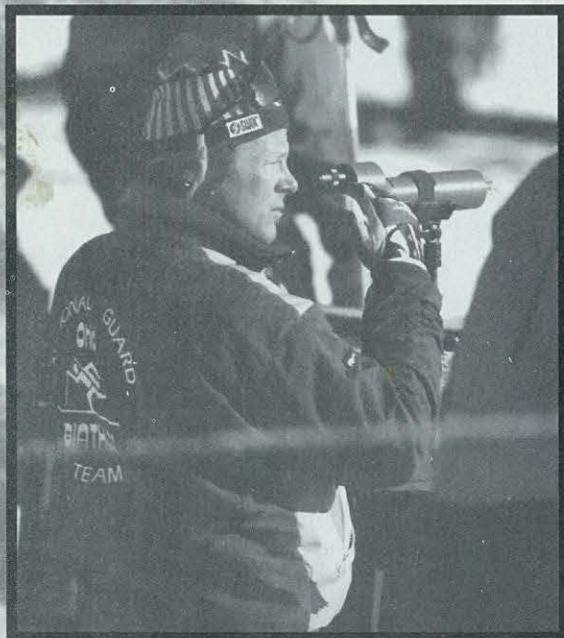
**Tech Sgt. Dave Weidner inspects cargo scheduled for an air-land mission to Sarajevo. Combat Camera Photo.**



# B L A Z I N G SNOW TRAILS

## in Vermont

Story and photos by Sgt. Lori King  
196th Public Affairs Detachment



Biathlon Team Captain Lt. Col. Chris Cline observes the shooting stage of the biathlon competition.



The first to compete, Capt. Phillip Bronsdon skies around a bend during the team relay.

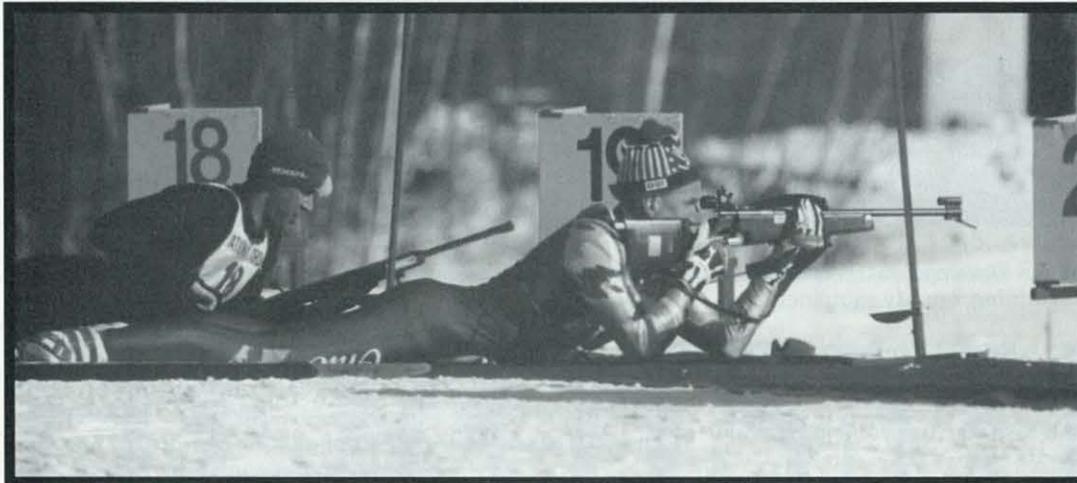
**O**

n opening day of the 1994 Winter Olympics, millions of Americans tuned-in to a magnificent international ceremony, hopeful that Dan Jansen would finally take home the gold and Nancy Kerrigan would beat Tonya.

But on that bitter cold February morning, as much as he wanted to get caught up in the hoopla, Ohio Army National Guardsman Lt. Col. Christopher Cline's Olympic thoughts were as far away from his mind as Norway was in miles.



**1994 OHIO NATIONAL GUARD BIATHLON TEAM.** From left: Lt. Col. Chris Cline, 112th Med. Bde.; Capt. Phillip Bronsdon, OMA; Sgt. Tracy VanDeventer, OMA; 1LT Randy Dooley, 4/107 AC; and 1LT Thom Haidet, 74 Trans. Det. Not pictured: Officer Candidates Kathy Lee and Norman Black.



**Bronsdon (front) takes aim in the prone position as an Indiana guardsman loads his rifle.**

Cline had his own winter games to worry about.

As the coach of the Ohio Guard's 1994 biathlon team, he was hoping his team would ski down a trail to glory much closer to home. While his four team members prepared for their final race, Cline was dreaming of a top 10 spot rather than gold medals.

For nine days the Ohio team, hauling 12-pound precision rifles on their backs, hit the winding snow-packed trails of Camp Ethan Allen Firing Range in Jerico, Vt., to participate in this year's annual National Guard Bureau (NGB) biathlon competition.

If the relay race on the final day went smoothly, Ohio would place in the top 10. The opportunity was certainly there. Just the day before, during the 13 kilometer patrol race, Ohio placed ninth out of 30 teams.

For Cline, of HHC, 112th Medical Brigade, it was a bitter sweet victory when his team ended up placing 15th in the final race, netting them 12th in overall competition. They didn't make the top 10 list, but they did place as the highest-ranking Buckeye team in Ohio's biathlon history.

Since Ohio first participated in the event nine years ago, Cline

had been one of the veteran skiers who tackled the world class cross country trails. But this year, after nearly a decade of racing, he had to surrender his poles and weapon to, well, faster skiers. It then became his job to pass on his expertise to a new team member.

He describes the Buckeye team as a good mix of athletes; well-conditioned, young and capable of becoming a top 10 contender in the near future.

"They haven't gotten old and lost their bodies like me," laughed Cline when he tried to explain why he

didn't make the cut this time. He is only 43 years old, but the average age of the four team members is 28.

But Cline quickly pointed out that age isn't necessarily a drawback. "This sport is not one where athletes peak at a young age. In the Olympics, the 50 kilometer cross country racers are still top competitors in their 40s," he said.

"The biathlon is a sport in which you can keep on competing for a long time. I'll continue to try out for the team and if I don't make the cut, then I'll fulfill a coach's role. It gets in your blood."

It certainly got into Sgt. Tracy VanDeventer's blood.

At 24, VanDeventer is the youngest team member and the most likely to become the first Olympic hopeful from Ohio. For the past three years, she has been one of the few women team members to compete in the biathlon championship.

Cline describes her as virtually untouchable.

"We have other states trying to recruit her — and she's just learning how to ski! The reason Tracy skied and I didn't is because she's tougher than I am," he admitted.

Cline isn't the only one who sees Olympic potential in VanDeventer, an administrative NCO at the Ohio Military Academy.

**First Lt. Thom Haidet struggles his way up a series of steep inclines during the team relay race.**



NGB recently recruited her on its Development Team, which provides athletes with personal training, quality equipment and year-round competitions.

"And they promised me snow!" exclaimed VanDeventer. "The biggest training factor for the biathlon is going where you can actually ski. It's hard to find that in Ohio."

Even with lots of snow, a biathlon isn't as easy as it looks. While many cross country skiers take to the sport for fitness and solitude, these athletes struggle every inch of the way.

The biathlon consists of four races: the 20 kilometer (15 for women) and 10 kilometer (7.5 for women) individual races, a 13 kilometer patrol team race, and the team relay race, with each of the four team members trekking across 7.5 kilometers. All races demand expert ski and marksmanship skills.

To enhance those skills, training is year-round. The four- or five-day-a-week workout consists of aerobic exercises, roller skiing, running, cycling, swimming and weight lifting. In addition, the team has to fit in an average of two shooting sessions a week.

"Training is a constant," Cline explained. "For us, physical conditioning is a major part of our lives because the biathlon is pure torture if we're not in a high level of fitness."

Although physical readiness is essential prior to a biathlon, 1st Lt. Randy Dooley, of the 4/107th Armored Cavalry

in Columbus, proved that knowing how to ski isn't as necessary.

Just two days before his first NGB biathlon competition last year, Dooley strapped on a pair of cross country skis for the first time in his life.

"It wasn't easy, but I've always been able to pick up things because of my athletic experience," he explained.

Despite Dooley's inexperience on skis, he has already improved his national standing by more than 50 percent. Last year he was ranked 120 of about 135 skiers. This year he climbed to the number 50 spot and hopes to join his team in the top 10 bracket next year.

Besides competing for his own self-worth, the platoon leader also feels strongly about representing the Ohio National Guard, appealing to youth who otherwise might not be interested in the Guard.

"I think it's definitely important we represent Ohio in sports because it's good for recruitment. I think the biathlon sets a good image for younger people," Dooley said.

Dooley, who is also on the All-Army soccer team and the Ohio National Guard triathlon team, said he plans to stay on the biathlon team as long as he can keep up with future hot dogs. ■



**An exhausted Randy Dooley just after completing the final leg of the relay.**

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** If you're interested in competing with the biathlon team, contact Lt. Col. Chris Cline at (614) 766-0425.



After weeks of hard fighting, the 37th Buckeye Division secured Manila on March 2, 1945. As the division's history book states, "For those who missed Normandy or Cassino, Manila would do." *National Guard Heritage Painting by Keith Rocco.*

# HEROISM UNDER FIRE

*Seven 37th Division*

*soldiers awarded*

*Medals of Honor for*

*acts of uncommon*

*valor during WWII*

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By Capt. Randall Fowkes  
Ohio Army National Guard Historian

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**T**he history of the United States military is replete with tales of heroism under fire, and the story of the 37th "Buckeye" Division is no exception. During WWII, seven 37th Division soldiers earned the nation's highest award, the Medal of Honor, or as it is sometimes called, the Congressional Medal of Honor. In honor of all those who served this country during WWII, their stories are presented here as a reminder of their selfless service.

The first 37th soldier of WWII to earn the Medal of Honor was **Pfc. Frank Petrarca**. Petrarca was a medic with the 145th Infantry on the Soloman Island of New Georgia. His unit had seen its first action there and was continuing to push the Japanese defenders back, experiencing some of the worst jungle warfare of the war. While attacking the exposed slope of "Horseshoe Hill," the 145th suffered heavy casualties, and

Petrarca repeatedly risked enemy fire to evacuate his wounded compatriots. As he was attempting to reach a soldier who was lying exposed on the ridge of the hill, Petrarca was wounded by continuous enemy machinegun fire. Despite his injuries, he kept moving toward the wounded soldier. He was finally killed by enemy fire, only two yards from the soldier whom he was trying to save.

Only a few days later, the second Medal of Honor winner emerged from the ranks of the 37th Division. **Pvt. Rodger Young** had been a sergeant before his unit, the 148th Infantry, sailed for the Pacific Theater, but he had requested a reduction in rank upon activation. He felt that his poor hearing and eyesight, both the result of a childhood accident, would endanger the lives of anyone serving under him. Despite his physical disadvantages, Young proved to be a competent soldier and a natural leader. Stumbling into an enemy ambush in the

thick jungle of New Georgia Island, Young's platoon found itself pinned down by enemy fire. The platoon was ordered to withdraw from the unseen enemy, but Young felt that to retreat with the enemy still free to fire and maneuver would be too risky. Although he had been wounded by the enemy's first volley, Young advanced into the heavy fire until he located the enemy. As his platoon withdrew to safety, Young threw hand grenades at the Japanese, not allowing them to fire on the retreating platoon. As he was distracting the Japanese soldiers, Young was killed by enemy fire, but his actions allowed his comrades to escape without further casualties.

After capturing the West Pacific Island of New Georgia, the 37th Division fought a vicious defensive battle on the largest of the Solomon Islands, Bougainville. After winning on that front, rather than offering the division some well-deserved "R-and-R," General MacArthur chose the "Buckeye" Division to spearhead his drive to recapture Manila, the capitol of the Philippines. For the 37th, this meant a radical change of operations. From the jungle warfare that the division knew, soldiers had to adapt to the street-to-street fighting of urban warfare in a large, modern city. Manila was also important to the Japanese. It was their headquarters for all operations on the Philippines, and they dug in to defend the city. Anything that they could not defend they destroyed, and all of the 37th's operations in Manila were covered by the smoke of the burning city.

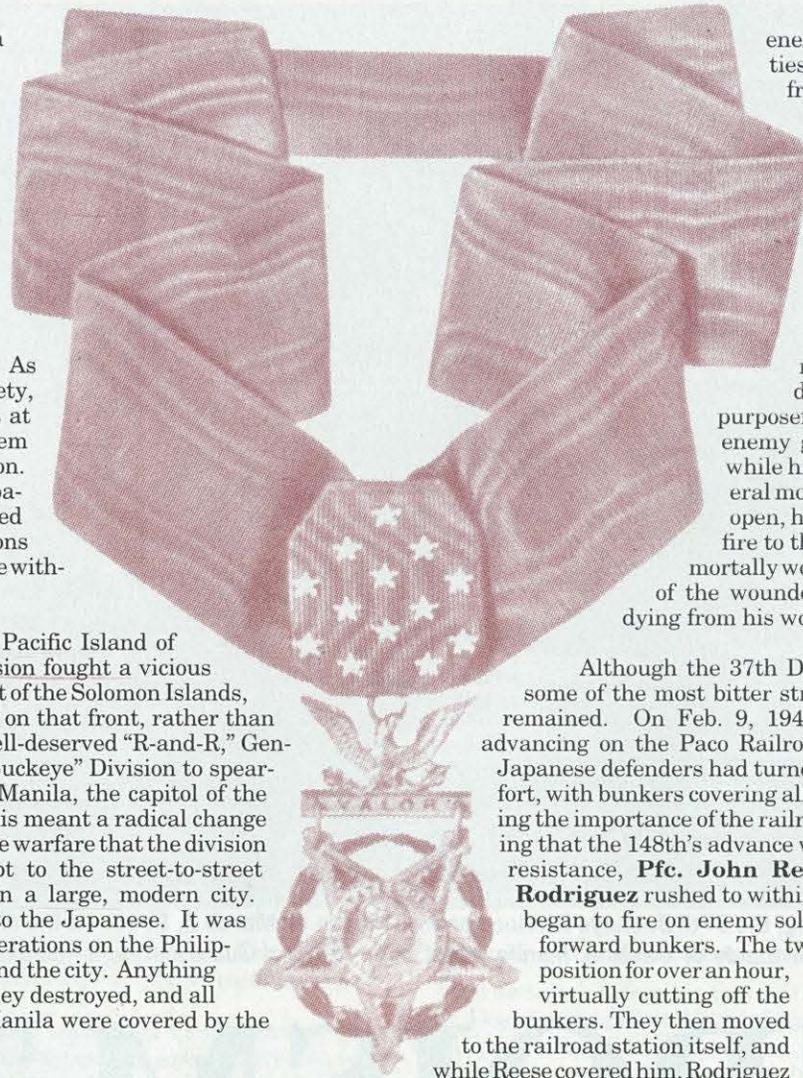
In this atmosphere of desolation and destruction, **2nd Lt. Robert Viale** led his platoon forward as one of the lead elements of the 148th Infantry. The platoon was suddenly ambushed from several concealed bunkers and found itself completely surrounded, so Viale led his men into a nearby building, which housed many refugees hiding from the Japanese. He tried to find a means to destroy the enemy position that blocked his platoon's withdrawal. The only option was for someone to climb a ladder to a raised window and throw hand grenades into the enemy position. In spite of a serious shoulder wound, the young lieutenant chose to do this dangerous job himself. While on the ladder, he slipped, probably after being wounded a second time, and dropped the armed grenade. There was nowhere to throw the grenade without endangering his soldiers or the huddled refugees, so Viale clutched the grenade to his stomach and turned



**2nd Lt. Robert Viale**

towards the wall, selflessly saving the lives of the civilians and of his men by taking the impact of the explosion.

Shortly thereafter, **Pfc. Joseph Chiccetti** also earned the Medal of Honor. The 148th Infantry was continuing its push to capture Manila when its lead elements began to receive intense



enemy fire, taking heavy casualties. Many of the soldiers at the front were lying wounded and exposed to continuing enemy fire. Chiccetti volunteered to help evacuate the injured, leading a litter team forward 14 times. Each trip was met by increasing Japanese fire, but Chiccetti persevered, disregarding the danger. Finally his litter team's luck ran out, and it was pinned-down by the enemy fire. He purposefully showed himself to the enemy gunners, drawing their fire while his team escaped. Seeing several more wounded men lying in the open, he rushed through the enemy fire to the casualties. Despite being mortally wounded, Chiccetti carried one of the wounded soldiers to safety before dying from his wounds.

Although the 37th Division had achieved much, some of the most bitter street fighting of the war still remained. On Feb. 9, 1945, the 148th Infantry was advancing on the Paco Railroad station in Manila. The Japanese defenders had turned the railroad station into a fort, with bunkers covering all avenues of advance. Realizing the importance of the railroad station and understanding that the 148th's advance was stymied by the stubborn resistance, **Pfc. John Reese, Jr.**, and **Pvt. Cleto Rodriguez** rushed to within 40 yards of the station and began to fire on enemy soldiers trying to reinforce the forward bunkers. The two remained in this exposed position for over an hour, virtually cutting off the bunkers. They then moved to the railroad station itself, and while Reese covered him, Rodriguez threw grenades into the station, destroying a machinegun and a cannon. Running low on ammunition, the pair worked their way back towards friendly lines when Reese was killed by enemy fire. Their courageous actions allowed the 148th to capture the Paco Railroad Station and continue its advance through Manila.



**MSgt. Cleto Rodriguez**

Once it had completed the liberation of Manila, the 37th Division moved into the rugged mountains of the central Philippines. After capturing a ridge line from the Japanese, **Pfc. Anthony Krotiak**, an assistant squad leader, was reorganizing his men for an expected counter attack. Sudden enemy artillery fire forced Krotiak and his men to dive into a nearby foxhole for cover. The Japanese counterattacked, and during the fire fight, the enemy managed to throw a grenade into the foxhole from which Krotiak and his men were firing. The private tried to grind the grenade into the floor of the foxhole with the butt of his rifle, but realized that when the grenade exploded, it would still kill or wound all of his men and leave that section of the ridge undefended. He fell on the grenade, sacrificing his life, but saving those of his men.

The selfless actions of these men deserve to be remembered with honor. If they had not chosen to act as they did, no blame or discredit would have come to them. They all saved others by their actions, and all but Pfc. Rodriguez died as a result of their efforts. ■

# Speaking from the heart

Story and photo by Sgt. Diane Farrow  
HQ STARC (-Det. 1-5)

Saturday nights for Charles R. Viale typically mean attending social engagements in his home state of Alaska or, if he's lucky, a quiet evening at home with his wife Judy.

The night of March 19, however, was anything but typical.

Viale, a brigadier general who serves as the assistant division commander of the 6th Infantry Division at Fort Richardson, was invited to speak at the Ohio Military Academy's Officer Candidate School Dining Out last spring because of his unique relationship with the Ohio National Guard.

"Lt. Col. Jack Lee at OMA recommended we invite the general because he's a dynamic speaker and because he had an established relationship with the former 73rd Infantry Brigade," said Officer Candidate Michael Wood, president of OCS Class XLI. Since the brigade's CAPSTONE mission was to merge with Viale's command, the general had occasionally traveled to Ohio, attending a previous Dining Out and visiting an annual training exercise.

"Our list of potential guest speakers included several commanders from Desert Storm, but it didn't take much convincing from the colonel to decide that Gen. Viale was the best choice. Although all along our theme for the Dining Out was the 50th Anniversary of World War II, we didn't realize his father was a Medal of Honor recipient until after we invited him. It must have been fate," Wood remarked.

"It was pretty amazing we were able to somehow recognize the war's only Ohio National Guard officer honored with the country's highest military decoration," he added.

The general's father, 2nd Lt. Robert M. Viale, was a platoon leader in Company K, 148th Infantry, when the 37th Infantry "Buckeye" Division conquered the Japanese forces in Manila, a city on the Philippine Island of Luzon. Though he wasn't even three years old when his father earned the prestigious award, the pride was ever-present as the general spoke of his father's heroic actions.

"On Feb. 5, 1945, my father's platoon, being the point platoon for 3rd Battalion, took out three pill boxes to continue their advance over the Estero de la Reina bridge," he said. "During this, he was wounded in the right arm." Viale explained how his father continued, leading his men into a building in an attempt to destroy the machinegun positions that threatened any further movement of the platoon.

The citation states that civilians seeking shelter from the battle filled one room of the building, so the lieutenant and his men situated themselves in an adjacent room which had a window placed high on the wall with a ladder leading to it. The left-handed platoon leader decided, based on the positions of the window, ladder and enemy emplacement, that he could hurl a grenade better than one of his men who had already made an unsuccessful attempt.

"He climbed the ladder when, according to the official records, his wounded arm weakened and the grenade fell to the floor," said Viale. To keep the lives of his men and the civilians out of danger, Lt. Viale recovered the grenade, moved to a corner of the room and doubled over, holding it to his stomach. He was killed with the explosion, but no one else was injured.

"Contrary to the official citation, I have letters from members of his platoon saying that they saw him get wounded a second time, which caused him to drop the grenade," Viale said.



Medal of Honor recipient's son, Brig. Gen. Charles R. Viale, discusses leadership issues at March's OCS Dining Out.

Like all children of Medal of Honor recipients who meet the qualifications, Viale had an automatic appointment to West Point. But the guest speaker did not take up that opportunity; in fact, he had no intention of having a career in the military at all.

"At 18, I went to a recruiter to join the California National Guard. Somehow he talked me into joining active Army," the general laughed. He served as an infantryman for three years.

After completing his enlistment, Viale began attending San Jose State College. Like most second-year college students, he was uncertain about what career path to follow.

"I wasn't very interested in any job prospects," Viale recalled. "Sales; office management; nothing really appealed to me. All I remembered was how satisfying life in the Army was. That's when I joined the ROTC (Reserve Officer Training Corps) program."

Years later, this contentment and appreciation for the military continued to ring true as the one-star general talked to the future leaders of the Ohio Army National Guard. Viale stressed that military training dictates discipline because the armed forces aren't trained to manage order. "We are what the country counts on when everything else fails.

"Fighting in close combat with the enemy can be harrowing, chaotic," said the general. "Soldiers must continue to fight when they're cold, when they're hungry and when they're wounded. When soldiers are reduced to fear and self-preservation becomes dominant, it is their discipline and trust in their fellow soldier that pulls them through.

"The training you instill today will reinforce the unit cohesion required on the battlefield. Have confidence in yourself and in the knowledge you've gained, and your soldiers will follow." ■

RIGHT: Using the open-hand technique, Ore breaks four two-inch blocks.

BELOW: Guard's newest martial arts master executes a side kick.

*Courtesy photos.*



# Guard'sman 'masters' martial arts

Story by Maj. Jim Boling  
State Public Affairs Office

Only after a grueling test of discipline and skill can you earn the title of "master" in the field of martial arts. And Capt. Mike Ore, commander of the 1193rd Panel Bridge Company, Cincinnati, and full-time facilities management specialist with the Army National Guard, did just that.

Ore recently was promoted to "Yondan" (fourth degree black belt) in Shorinryu Karate, a discipline he has trained in for more than 15 years. In completing the components for master, Ore excelled in martial arts techniques from Tai Chi, Aikido, Poekoelan, Shaolin Long Fist and kick boxing.

The five-hour test examined skills in "katas" (solo exercises consisting of pre-arranged fighting moves and weapons forms); "yakosoku" drills (similar to katas, but using two people as attacker and defender); self defense; freestyle fighting; breaking (stone blocks); and philosophy (answering and interpreting questions from an evaluation board of masters).

The captain became interested in karate in the late '70s, initially to become a "good fighter." Now, his philosophy is more in line with the old martial arts adage, "The fool trains so he can fight, the wise man trains so he doesn't have to."

Ore operates his own dojo (school), where he teaches five nights per week. He named his school Chikara Toku, strength and virtue, derived from the saying, "Throughout history, those who loved fighting were destroyed, but those who could not fight were also destroyed. Strength and virtue, these two alone shall last."

Convinced his martial arts philosophy and training has had a profound effect on his military leadership style, Ore said "Martial arts has opened my eyes and made me aware of the things I used to take for granted. It carries with it a distinct code of ethics, dating back as far as the Samurai. Respect and loyalty are critical, as is dedication and devotion to your craft. And I have confidence in all that I do. All these qualities, I feel, have made me a better officer and leader."

For anyone considering taking up karate, but maybe too intimidated to try, Ore offers this advice, "Don't get discouraged. My mother is one of my newest students. When she first started, she couldn't do 10 push-ups. Now she's doing 50, and she recently broke her first board. Anything can be done if you believe you can do it."

"If you want to take up karate for the sole purpose of learning to fight, you're starting with the wrong reason. I made that mistake and learned the hard way. Humility and respect for others is what's important."

Wise words from the martial arts' newest master! ■

### Units gear up for 1994 Red Ribbon Celebration

With only a handful of drill weekends left before October, units are gearing up for the 1994 Red Ribbon Celebration, October 23-30. This year, the Ohio National Guard is proud to serve as the state's lead agency for the nation's largest drug prevention and awareness campaign. This campaign highlights the positive aspects of living a drug free life-style.

Throughout the month of April, members of every unit in the Ohio National Guard underwent "idea exchange" training along with members of their respective communities. The main theme of this year's celebration is "combined efforts." Units are encouraged to include members of their community, including law enforcement, local government officials, legislators, school officials and parents in its activities.

Here are a few ideas for any unit wanting to get involved:

- ◆ Pass out red ribbons during October drill, and have unit members and family support group volunteers sign drug free pledge posters. Pass out information on the new drunk driving laws, or have the local police or State Highway Patrol give a briefing.
- ◆ Have your local mayor, legislator or city council person read a proclamation.
- ◆ Get community organizations involved. Contact the Ohio Parents for Drug Free Youth volunteer in your area to assist the unit in bringing together community organizations.
- ◆ Encourage schools, churches, fire departments, police stations, etc. to ring a bell for one minute on Oct. 24, 1994, at 12:30 p.m. during the state-wide kick-off.
- ◆ Raise a flag with a Red Ribbon streamer on it at your Adopt-A-School, armory, city hall or town courthouse. Show students at your Adopt-A-School how to properly raise the flag.
- ◆ Put together a static display at your Adopt-A-School. Have students sign drug free pledge posters in exchange for red ribbons, and pass out drug awareness literature and recruiting information.



**Safety Dog poses with Woodland Center Coordinator Willene Paschal, Ernest Frances, Sgt. Cheryl Carter and student Anthony Robinson.** Photo by Sgt. Diane Farrow, HQ STARC (-Det. 1-5).

### HQ STARC adopts central Ohio pre-school

You're never too young to starting bonding up on safety issues. Or so the students of the Woodland Head Start program learned recently after a visit from Safety Dog.

The Guard's Drug Demand Reduction mascot was on hand as Headquarters STARC adopted the first pre-school under the governor's Adopt-A-School program. The unit also has adopted Madison Plains High School and Sacred Heart Elementary School in Coshocton.

The pre-school's adoption was initiated by unit member Sgt. Cheryl Carter, whose two daughters attend the Head Start program. Carter admitted she originally planned to bring a speaker to the school, "but then I realized that the Adopt-A-School program has a lot more to offer." So far, the unit completed identification cards for all the students under the Ohio National Guard's KiDSAFE program.

Susan Rohrbough, the state's project director for Head Start, praised the efforts of the Columbus unit during the adoption ceremony on April 19. "Headquarters STARC should be commended for its vision," she said. She added that 14 other centers in Franklin County are in need of partnerships such as this.

The Columbus Metropolitan Area Community Action Organization (CMAAO) Head Start program is designed for children aged 3 to 5, and it stresses not only education, but also mental and physical health, nutrition, social services and parental involvement. The largest in central Ohio, the Woodland Center has 207 children, 14 teachers and four staff members.

## Command Profile



### Col. James Caldwell Troop Command

**Age:** 52

**Occupation:** Facility Management Officer, OHARNG.

**Life has taught me:** To be persistent in one's goals.

**If I could have just one day all to myself, I would:** Be a beach bum on Florida's north coast.

**The one film I would like to have starred in is:** Schindler's List.

**When no one's looking I:** Read.

**When I was little I wanted to be:** In the military.

**The worst advice I ever received was:** Go on, Jimmy ...do it!

**The best advice I ever received was:** Get a college education.

**If I could dine with anyone, past or present, I would invite:** Theodore Roosevelt.

**The best moment in my life happened when I:** Commanded Task Force 16 in Honduras.

**My favorite book:** Life, Its Ownself.

**My favorite movie:** Casablanca.

**If I could leave today's guardmembers with one piece of advice it would be:** Always surround yourself with the best people available.



Tech. Sgt. Roger Newsome, 180th FG Weapons Load Crew, on the flight line at Nellis Air Force Base during Air Warrior. Courtesy photo.

## 180th doesn't miss a mission during Air Warrior

"It may be a training exercise designed for the Army, but it's also exceptionally good training for us," said Maj. Pete Raffa, Project Officer for the recent Air Warrior deployment of the 180th Fighter Group to Nellis Air Force Base, Nev. The unit flew 101 of a scheduled 101 sorties.

"That says a lot for the maintenance people when you don't miss a mission," Raffa said. "The pilots have a lot of confidence in the aircraft and the mechanics."

Air Warrior is war-game exercise that pits the blue army against the red army. A major component of the exercise is Army-Air Force integration. The blue army is the unit visiting the National Training Center. Its mission is to defeat the center's resident force, the red army, during an 18-day "mini-war."

"Our role was close-air support for the red army," explained the project officer. "As for the blue army, when they saw us coming, they practiced the appropriate maneuvers."

This deployment was the 180th's first with the new Block-42 F-16 aircraft which was assigned to the Toledo-based fighter group for only a few months.

"We are pleased that we can do a mission, fly all the sorties and represent the Ohio Air Guard," Raffa said. *Submitted by Tech. Sgt. Lon Mitchell, 180th Fighter Group.*

## Reunion news

A reunion is planned for the **148th Infantry Regiment Veterans** at the Camp Perry Training Site in Port Clinton, Ohio. Mark August 26 and 27 on your calendars, and if you need additional information, call Hank Donnell at (317) 849-0979 or write him at 8117 Scarborough Ct., Indianapolis, Ind. 46256.

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The **37th Division Veterans Association** is hosting its 76th Annual Reunion on Labor Day weekend, Sept. 2-4, 1994. The reunion will be held at the Holiday Inn, Belden Village, 4520 Everhard Road NW, Canton, Ohio.

For further information, write Headquarters, 37th Division Veterans Association, 183 East Mound Street, Suite #103, Columbus, Ohio 43215 or phone (614) 228-3788.

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An "**All Vets — All Wars**" reunion is in the works for August 27. Booked at the Canton Civic Center, 1101 Market Ave. North, this reunion will run 9 a.m. to 11 p.m., with new and vintage equipment on display throughout the day and an USO dance planned for the evening's entertainment. Sponsored by the Vietnam Veterans of America, contact Chapter 646 President Bob Jones at (216) 833-3100 or P.O. Box 251, Massillon, Ohio 44648-0251 for additional information.

## Attention golfers!

The 12th Annual Adjutant General's Golf Tournament will be teeing off on Aug. 24, 1994. The tournament will be held at Tree Links Golf Course, located in Bellefontaine, Ohio. Tee times are being scheduled from 7 a.m. to noon.

Whether golfers compete in the individual or foursome tournament, a \$45 entrance fee, due Aug. 20, covers the cost of the game, a cart, a sandwich lunch and a steak dinner. Call Jerry Wilson at 1-800-642-6642 for application information.

## Last resident BNCOC, 94B schools set for OMA

NCOs that graduate Phase I of Basic Noncommissioned Officer Course (BNCOC) set themselves apart from the rest because they leave prepared to take on the next step of leadership.

On March 11, however, the Ohio Military Academy's graduating BNCOC class distinguished themselves in a different respect. This class was the last to attend OMA's one-week resident course.

In an era of reorganization and cost-cutting measures, the National Guard Bureau mandated that state military academies across the country regionalize their Noncommissioned Officer Educational System (NCOES) courses. The Ohio Military Academy recently has been tasked with teaching Phase II Basic and Advanced Noncommissioned Officer Courses for Food Service Specialists (94B). The school will also instruct MOS-producing courses.

OMA now offers Phase I BNCOC strictly in an IDT (Inactive Duty Training) status. This means that E-5's looking to develop their basic leadership skills will have to commit three drill weekends to complete the course within the state. PLDC and Phase I ANCO have been discontinued completely at OMA.

Sgt. Maj. Gary G. Spees, Branch Chief of Ohio's NCOES, said that the OMA staff has accepted the challenge of the new course offerings and are "ready to carry on." The first Food Service Specialist MOS-producing course should be up and running by April 1995.

## 269th CCS 'returns to the roost' after 50 years

After a separation of 50-some years, the 269th Combat Communications Squadron in Springfield recently realigned itself with its former command, the Eighth Air Force.

In June 1943, the 269th, then called the 1077th Signal Company, was assigned to Camp Cheddington, England, under the Eighth AF Composite Command. Approximately 200 strong, with enough equipment necessary to support a typical fighter or bomber unit, they eventually supported a number of such units in England, Northern Ireland and Europe.

In February 1945, the unit relocated to Charleroi, Belgium, joining up with the 1st Bombardment Division and the Eighth AF Fighter Command. From there, they dispatched personnel to install and operate beacons and communications systems across the expanding fronts of France, Belgium, Luxembourg, Holland and Germany. They even moved forward with fliers to participate in an infantry attack on Frislar. The unit returned to England in May 1945 and was deactivated the following December.

In May 1946, reestablished as the 605th Signal Light Construction Company, the unit joined the Ohio National Guard, but didn't achieve federal recognition until 1948. Later, in July 1952, they were renamed the 269th Communi-Operations Squadron and, only three months later, became one of the 12 subordinate units to the 251st Combat Communications Group in Springfield.

Today, the 251st manages six units and, along with the 269th, its mission and capabilities have changed considerably. What was once a system of stacks of wires, connectors and unsophisticated machines has given way to preconstructed mobile vans containing satellite terminals, switchboards, autodin and technical control facilities, as well as air traffic control and landing systems capabilities.

Currently, the Eighth AF is assigned to the Atlantic Command and has United Nations support responsibility; unlike the Ninth and Twelfth, the Eighth has no active duty combat communications assets.

"Fifty-one years ago we provided outstanding service to the Eighth, and we have come to repeat that service," said Col. William R. Reilly, 251st Group Commander. "Therefore," he continued, "this coming full circle has a nice historical symmetry." *Submitted by 2nd Lt. Paul Harrison, 251st CCG.*

### OCS Graduation, OMA Alumni Luncheon planned

On July 23, 1994, graduation of OCS Class XLI will take place at the Ohio Historical Society in Columbus, Ohio.

This year, in an effort to reestablish the Officer Candidate School/Ohio Military Academy Alumni Association, a luncheon is being planned immediately after the graduation.

Any graduate of the OCS Program of Ohio is encouraged to attend.

The emphasis of the luncheon will be to solicit support for the OCS program in the form of mentorship or counselling. Questions regarding the program can be di-

rected to Chief Warrant Officer Lynn Miller or Lt. Col. Jack Lee at the academy at (614) 492-3580.

### HAWK breaks ground for new armory

Construction on what will be Ohio's largest National Guard facility began March 3 at the HAWK missile training site in McConnellsville. The 80,000 square foot, \$4.7 million armory will serve all 700-plus members of the Army National Guard's 174th Air Defense Artillery Battalion (HAWK).

The armory will contain classrooms, administrative offices, food preparation areas, secure storage and a drill hall. This is the final project of a \$9 million three-phase construction program for stationing the battalion in Morgan County. The training site, completed in 1989 at a cost of \$1.7 million, and a \$2.5 million organizational maintenance facility constructed in 1991 round out the HAWK's "nest."

The ceremony was attended by several dignitaries including David Alstadt, Director of Veterans Affairs for Governor George V. Voinovich; McConnellsville Mayor David Bailey; Bill Allen, executive director of the Employee Support of the Guard and Reserve Committee; Jesse M. Guzman, president of ARTCO Construction; and Francis Smith, senior partner of Burgess and Niple, Ltd., architect/engineer for the HAWK project.

Adjutant General Maj. Gen. Richard C. Alexander and 2/174th Battalion Commander Lt. Col. Robin Timmons represented the National Guard on this auspicious occasion.

### Toledo Air Guard wins Outstanding Unit Award

The 180th Fighter Group won the Tappan Memorial Trophy, which annually recognizes Ohio's most outstanding Air National Guard unit.

The selection board evaluates units in manning, reenlistments, airman skill level, training, minority participation, safety, in-



**Breaking ground at McConnellsville, from left: Jesse Guzman, Bill Allen, Dave Alstadt, MG Richard Alexander and Mayor David Bailey.** *Photo by Christine Santiago Fooks, State PAO.*

spection results and unit activities at the local, state and national levels – all which have a major impact on a unit's ability to perform its mission.

Brig. Gen. Thomas Powers, Ohio Air National Guard Chief of Staff, presented the revolving trophy to Col. Harry W. Feucht, commander of the Toledo-based fighter group, during a ceremonial dinner in Mansfield. The featured speaker was Maj. Gen. Donald W. Shepperd, director of the Air National Guard.

The Tappan Award was created in honor of the late Col. Alan Prescott Tappan, who contributed his time, effort, leadership and financial support in furthering the goals of the Ohio Air National Guard. The trophy is sponsored by the Friends of the Ohio Air National Guard and remains with the winning unit for one year. An engraved plaque is given to the unit for permanent retention. *Submitted by Capt. Ann-Marie Coughlin, HQ Ohio ANG.*

### Retiring soon?

If you are retiring soon, and wish to continue receiving the BUCKEYE GUARD, a written request must be sent to the State Public Affairs Office; addresses are not automatically transferred from the SIDPERS mailing list to the retiree mailing list. Send your request to:

State Public Affairs Office  
2825 W. Dublin Granville Rd.  
Columbus, Ohio 43235-2789  
ATTN: Retiree Mailing List



Army Guard Chief of Staff Col. Joseph Bimler congratulates CW5 Kenneth McAfee on his promotion. Photo by Joe Hofbauer, TAG Photo Lab.

## Ohio's first CW5 named

On March 18, Kenneth P. McAfee became the first warrant officer to be promoted to the grade of Chief Warrant Officer Five (CW5) in the history of the Ohio Army National Guard.

The CW5 grade was established shortly after the Warrant Officer Management Act went into effect on Feb. 1, 1992. Approximately 11 National Guard and 12 Army Reserve warrant officers have been promoted to the CW5 grade nationwide.

McAfee has demonstrated a keen sense of leadership throughout his military career, evidenced by the fact that he's a two-time winner of the Minuteman Award. In the mid-70's, former Director of the Army National Guard, Maj. Gen. Charles A. Ott Jr., honored the Ohio Guardsman for his outstanding performance during two short tours of duty with the National Guard Bureau.

McAfee prides himself in a work ethic matched by few. "I've always believed in doing more than just the basic requirement when accomplishing tasks," he said. But he also says support on the home-front is what really keeps him going. "My wife and family have given me the strongest support and encouragement throughout the years."

McAfee was drafted into the regular Army in October 1958, where he served for two years. Following his enlistment, he joined the Ohio Army National Guard as the full-time administrative supply technician for the 112th Transportation Battalion in Middletown, Ohio. He advanced to the rank

of sergeant first class before receiving his appointment to warrant officer in December 1964.

Ohio's highest ranking warrant officer is currently the full-time SIDPERS (Standard Installation/Division Personnel Report System) Interface Branch Chief for the Ohio Army National Guard, and has been since September 1982.

McAfee says his staff's trust and confidence inspires him to advance in his military career.

"He's always been great to work with," said Master Sgt. Dale O'Flaherty, who has known

McAfee since 1965. But the NCOIC of the SIDPERS shop admitted that McAfee's selection as branch chief was bitter-sweet news to him, "I also applied for that position. Although I didn't get it, I was elated to find out he had. I knew right off they had selected the right man for the job. He's very knowledgeable," he added.

Considering the rank of warrant officer indicates an advanced level of expertise in a particular occupational specialty, McAfee's approach to personnel matters in both the big and little picture tells why he's wearing the one-of-a-kind brass on his shoulders. Submitted by Spc. Clifford E. Nicol, HQ STARC (-Det. 1-5).

## Tragedy strikes 371st Support Group

On the evening of March 3, 1994, Maj. Cletus Biersack, along with his wife and three of his children, was involved in a tragic automobile accident which resulted in the death of the major and one daughter.

Maj. Biersack was a member of the 371st Support Group. As a civilian, he was superintendent of the Coldwater School System in Coldwater, Ohio.

He is survived by his wife and eight children, the youngest of which is under two years old. To assist the family, a fund has been established to which contributions may be sent. Write to: The Biersack Family Fund, 804 S. Parkview Drive, Coldwater, Ohio 45828 or call (419) 678-8254.

## Cool under pressure

On March 17, Cpl. William Carmickle, member of Detachment 1, 213th Maintenance Company, Newark, showed his ability to overcome stress and to accomplish the mission. His mission that day was to save his father's life.

After spending the day fulfilling home station annual training at the Newark Armory, Carmickle and his wife went to visit his father in Sparta when they discovered him passed out on the floor, apparently having suffered a heart attack. Keeping a clear head, Carmickle told his wife to phone for help, and then, using only the first-aid training he received from the National Guard, he proceeded to administer CPR to his father.

"All I could think about was helping him," Carmickle said. "I wasn't even alarmed, my training just took over without me really thinking about it." The 24-year-old revived his father and kept him calm until the Marengo volunteer paramedics arrived.

Thanks to the corporal's ability to retain his common task training, the elder Carmickle is alive and well today.

A unit member since August 1993, William Carmickle is an artillery repairman within the armament platoon. He has an additional duty as sponsor for new recruits joining the platoon. Submitted by 2nd Lt. Brett Queen, 213th Maint. Co.

## 211th retirees give Ohio Guard 75 years

March 1994 marked the last drill for two valuable members of the 211th Maintenance Company in Newark, Ohio. Between the two, Chief Warrant Officer Howard Smith and Sgt. 1st Class Charles Cochran had amassed 75 years of total service — Smith completing 37 years, all but 34 months with the 737th Maintenance Battalion, while Cochran served his entire 38 years with the 737th.

Both Smith and Cochran were full-time employees of the National Guard working at Consolidated Support Maintenance Shop (CSMS) #1 in Newark.

Cochran worked as a full-time technician at CSMS #1 in Newark as a calibration mechanic. His most recent position with the 211th Maintenance Company was section chief of the Communications Repair Section located at Det. 1 in Coshocton, Ohio. He and his wife reside in Centerburg, Ohio. They have four children and three grandchildren. "The Guard has been good to me and it's been good for me," said Cochran.

Smith retired from his full-time employ-

## ALL ABOUT PEOPLE

ment at CSMS #1 in 1990 where he was a heavy mobile equipment inspector. He has continued to serve the 211th Maintenance Company as the maintenance technician for the Base Maintenance Platoon located at Det. 1 in Coshocton. He and his wife reside in Newark and have one child. Like Cochran, Smith agreed that the Guard has been good to him and his family. "Young people have a great deal available to them in the National Guard if they are willing to apply themselves."

Both of the retirees were presented plaques and certificates recognizing their many years of dedicated service at the unit's final formation on Saturday, March 5, and an informal gathering was held in their honor afterward. *Submitted by Spc. Brian McCaw, 211th Maint. Co.*

### Recruiters win U.S. Air tickets from SatoTravel

Two recruiters are going to have pleasant, and cheaper, vacations this year thanks to U.S. Air and SatoTravel.

Sergeants First Class David Layne and Pamela Power were both presented two round-trip tickets to anywhere within the continental United States for their exceptional performance in recruiting last year.

According to Capt. Paola O'Flaherty, who initiated the program, Layne and Power were rated as 1993's top recruiters based on criteria from the last two quarters of the year. "They achieved the most enlistments above their minimum standard," she said.

Travel representative Susan Holder handed out the tickets to the two grateful sergeants.

Power said this program was a big incentive to work on her enlistments. "Winning these tickets lets me really get away during my vacation," said the Central Ohio recruiter. Headed for the sunshine state in May, Power said that her airline tickets to Key West would have cost her \$976. "Money talks!" she laughed.

Layne, on the other hand, is still not sure where he's going. In the middle of moving into a new house, the Hillsboro-based recruiter is considering a trip to Las Vegas with his wife.

The top recruiter for the Ohio Army National Guard for two years running, Layne said that the tickets were a great bonus, but he says recruiting is rewarding with or without such incentives. "I just really enjoy coming into work everyday."

### Soldiers to the rescue

On Dec. 12, 1993, two National Guardsmen from A Company, 1/147th Armor acted

quickly and decisively when they witnessed an accident on their way home from drill.

Pfc. Duane Lamb and Pvt. Benjamin Selvaggio had just left the Lima Armory when an oncoming car lost control and slammed into a tree on the opposite side of the road, injuring the two female occupants — the passenger seriously.

Without hesitating, the two young guardsmen parked their own vehicle and ran to the victims aid. Relying on their first aid training, they treated both victims for lacerations and contusions as well as keeping them warm by providing them with the field jackets off their backs. After the arrival of the Lima and Shawnee police and professional Emergency Medical Technicians, the guardsmen, unasked, assumed responsibility for traffic control and kept the accident sight from becoming a bottleneck.

The victims, Vicki Duron and Melissa Jackson, were taken by ambulance to St. Rita's Hospital, treated for their injuries and subsequently released.

Lamb is employed by the All-Phase Electric Supply Co. Selvaggio is a senior at



Pvt. Benjamin Selvaggio (left) and Pfc. Duane Lamb (right) aided two accident victims on their way home from December's drill. *Courtesy photo.*

Elida High School and works for Colonial Laundry. *Submitted by Sgt. Douglas O'Brien, Co. A, 1/147th Armor.*

### OMR names new Deputy Commander

William R. Hardy was recently promoted to the rank of brigadier general and named Deputy Commander of the Ohio Military Reserve.

Hardy is a senior partner with the Cincinnati law firm of Graydon, Head & Ritchey. His field of practice is trial and appellate law. He graduated from Princeton University, magna cum laude and Phi Beta Kappa, in 1956, and he received his Juris Doctor degree from Harvard University in 1963.

Hardy was commissioned as a distinguished military graduate in the U.S. Army Reserve in 1956 and completed Officers Basic Course, with honors, at Fort Sill, Okla.. He continued in the Active Reserves until 1969. He served, on assignment, with the Central Intelligence Agency from 1956 to 1960. With the Ohio Military Reserve, he has served as Staff Judge Advocate to First Brigade, Corps Inspector General and Corps Staff Judge Advocate.

Among his civic activities, General Hardy has served with the city of Cincinnati Community Medical and Health Center and as the founding president of the Hamilton County Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services Board. He is presently serving with the Cincinnati Board of Building Appeals of which he has been chairman since 1988.



OMR's BG William R. Hardy. *Courtesy photo.*

## Exchange catalog is convenient for Guard

The Spring/Summer '94 Exchange Mail Order Catalog is now available at all services' exchanges worldwide. The catalog costs \$3 and includes a coupon for \$5 off the first order of \$25 or more.

This new 401-page catalog offers products from around the world, including mens and ladies fashion clothing, jewelry, cameras, giftware and sporting goods. All active duty, National Guard and U.S. Army Reserve, and retired members, and their family members are welcome to shop at their convenience.

Customers in all 50 states and Puerto Rico can order toll-free by calling 1-800-527-2345 or order the catalog by mail by sending a check to: Exchange Catalog Sales, P.O. Box 6602011, Dallas, Texas 75266-0202. (*Army Families*)

## SGLI premiums raised

For the first time ever, Servicemen's Group Life Insurance premiums are going up, but only by one penny per \$1,000 of coverage. Beginning July 1, \$1,000 worth of coverage will cost 9 cents instead of 8 cents. This increase means the monthly premium for automatic coverage of \$100,000 increases from \$8 to \$9. The maximum level of coverage, or \$200,000, rises from \$16 to \$18 per month. Nearly 2.8 million service members, or 99 percent, are currently covered under SGLI. Fifty-five percent of service members carry the maximum coverage available, while 40 percent carry \$100,000 in coverage. This is the first rate change since 1984 when the rate dropped from 11.6 to 8 cents per \$1,000 in coverage. At that time, more than \$145 million was in the SGLI reserve fund because of high mortality rates and returns on investments. Department of Veterans Affairs officials now consider a premium of 9 cents per \$1,000 is necessary to maintain the break-even point. (*AFNA*)

## Reservists retain some MWR privileges

Soldiers leaving the U.S. Reserves, National Guard and active duty, who transfer to the Individual Ready Reserve due to unit inactivation are eligible to keep some of their Morale, Welfare, and Recreation privileges.

"Gray area" retirees, members of the National Guard and U.S. Reserves, who have received their 20 year letter but have not been discharged or begun to receive

retirement pay, are also eligible. Exchange and MWR privileges are now available with unlimited access to all reserve component soldiers with a reserve ID card, and family member ID cards.

For more information about eligibility, replacement cards and restrictions, call the Incentive Administration Center at 1-800-452-0201 or the Retired Activities Division at 1-800-325-8311. (*ARNEWS*)

## Free resume help

The Non-Commissioned Officers Association (NCOA) now offers a free resume-listing service to veterans, family members and Department of Defense civilians seeking employment. The service is called the "People Bank/Resume Registry."

Using NCOA's unique "mini-resume," a job seeker's qualifications are entered into a computer data base that can be accessed by hundreds of companies across the nation.

Membership in the NCOA is not required and no rank or grade restrictions apply. For a mini-resume, contact your local NCOA Service Center or write: NCOA, Attn: Veterans Employment Assistance Program, P.O. Box 33610, San Antonio, Texas 78265. (*On Guard*)

## VA encourages refinancing home loans

The Department of Veterans Affairs is stepping up its campaign to encourage veterans to refinance their home loans.

"While we have been encouraged by the recent wave of loan refinancing, there are still more than 2.1 million veterans with VA-guaranteed loans at interest rates ranging from 8.5 to 17.5 percent," said Veterans Affairs Secretary Jesse Brown.

"A loan can be obtained from any VA lender, and VA doesn't require any credit underwriting or a property appraisal," Brown said. "Veterans can use the same entitlement they used to buy the home."

However, Brown warned, some lenders will require an appraisal and credit report anyway. No lender is required to do an interest rate reduction refinancing, but any lender may process the application. The borrower isn't allowed to receive any cash from the loan.

The program is called Interest Rate Reduction Refinancing Loan, also known as "Streamline" or "VA to VA Fast Track."

Brown said those needing help in finding a lender who makes such loans without requiring a property appraisal or a credit check can call VA at 1-800-827-1000. (*AFIS*)

## VA publishes revised benefits, claims book

The surest way to get current information about Veterans Affairs benefits and claims is to contact the nearest VA regional office. The next best way is to order the revised, updated Federal Benefits for Veterans and Dependents.

Published by the Department of Veterans Affairs, the handbook describes federal benefits for veterans and dependents. The U.S. Government Printing Office sells the perennial best-seller for \$3.25.

VA benefits include medical care, education, disability compensation, pension, life insurance, home loan guaranty, vocational rehabilitation and burial assistance. The handbook explains requirements for eligibility and outlines claims procedures.

To buy a handbook, send a \$3.25 check or money order payable to "Superintendent of Documents" to:

**Consumer Information Center  
P.O. Box 110Z  
Pueblo, Colo. 81009**

Or request GPO stock number 051-000-00-200-8 and send the check to:

**Superintendent of Documents  
U.S. Government Printing Office  
Washington, DC 20402**

To order with Visa or Master Card, phone (202) 783-3238. People seeking more information can call VA's nationwide toll-free number, 1-800-827-1000. (*AFIS*)

## Kings Island, Sea World offers Ohio Guard military discounts

In conjunction with the Ohio National Guard Enlisted Association, Paramount's **Kings Island** recognizes members and families of the Ohio National Guard with Military Appreciation Week, July 1-6. Available at your units by June, coupons will admit up to six guests at the discounted admission of \$15.50.

At **Sea World** of Ohio, guardmembers can save \$4 per person all season, May 21 through Sept. 5, by presenting a military ID card at the ticket window. During "Military Week," Aug. 21-28, soldiers and airmen can save \$6 per person. Sponsored by USO of northern Ohio, these discounts are good for up to six people.

# Guard eases move for school district

## Soldiers from Cincinnati unit move furniture, boxes to new Loveland High School

Story and photos by SSG David Risher  
147th Infantry Battalion

Guardmembers were spotted giving the old "heave-ho" to the Loveland School District. No, they weren't throwing students and staff out on the streets, just the opposite. Annual training for 23 Cincinnati-based soldiers meant shuffling school supplies and equipment from school to school ... to school, to school, to school.

The once-sleepy community is now "bursting at the seams" with Cincinnati commuters looking for suburban living. Sitting about 20 minutes northeast of downtown, Loveland offers good schools, lots of land and plenty of community spirit. With all these advantages, a new high school was built to accommodate the rush of families moving into the area.

To move into the new school, Loveland had to shift elementary and middle school grades among five buildings. Branch Hill Kindergarten moved to Lloyd Mann El-

ementary; Lloyd Mann Elementary to Loveland Miami School; Loveland Miami to Loveland Middle School; Loveland Middle School to Loveland Hurst; and Loveland Hurst to the new high school. If you think that's hard to follow, just imagine the logistics of such a project.

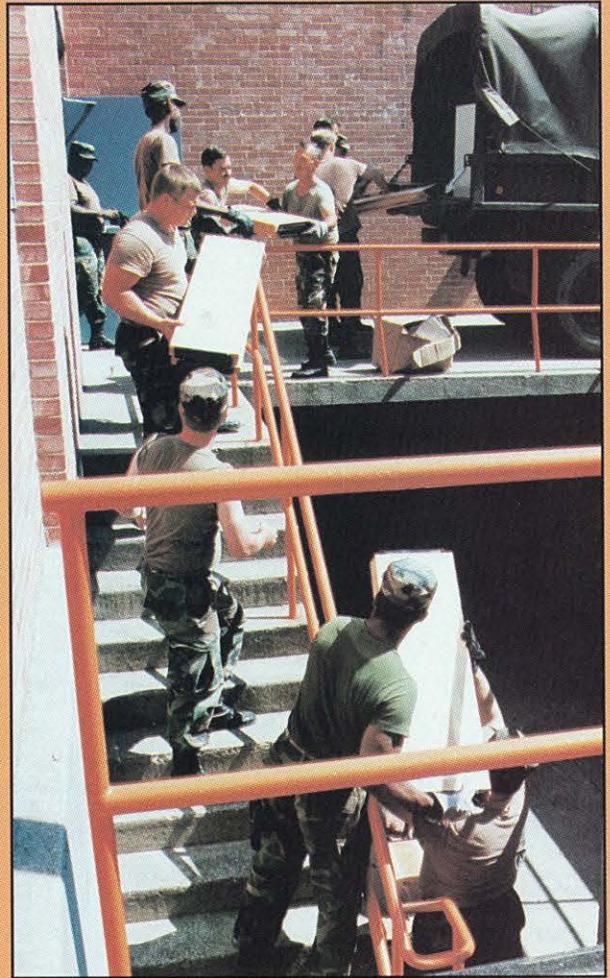
Learning the plight of the local school district, the 147th Infantry Battalion saw an opportunity to build on their community relations program, while effectively tasking the soldiers assigned to home station duty. Since the unit was in the midst of transitioning from infantry to armor, many unit members spent annual training at Shadybrook Armory.

Using five deuce and a halves, the soldiers moved over 200 loads of desks, chairs, cabinets, boxes and more boxes of everything imaginable.

"It was hard, strenuous work, with temperatures reaching over 90 degrees. The men went into this job exactly like they would a combat mission," said Capt. John Brazelton, project officer. "At first, the tasks looked impossible. I think that's what motivated the men — proving that they could move 'mountains.'"

"This is great," said Sgt. "Big Bob" Atkins of Company B, Hamilton, Ohio. "I've gone to Camp Grayling, Mich., for annual training so many times, I've lost count." Atkins is known as "Big Bob" because he can move a file cabinet with the drawers full without any assistance.

"This was a great opportunity for me," said Spc. Dan Ballard, a third year student in education at the University of Cincinnati. "This gave me the chance to learn about the



Guardmembers carry shelving into Loveland Middle School, formerly the city's high school.



During daily lunch breaks, local residents bring treats to hard-working soldiers.

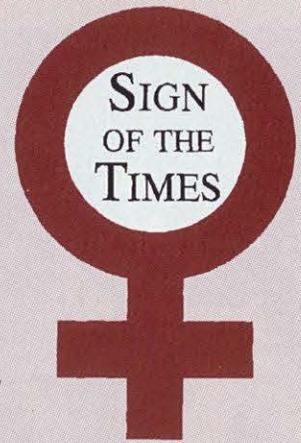
Loveland School District. I even met the superintendent and spoke to him about my future."

School board members appreciated the Guard's support. "There was no way this move would have been completed without the help of the Ohio National Guard," Superintendent Ronald Dewitt said. "We don't have the needed vehicles or the manpower for a situation as large as this. Trying to coordinate the schedules for volunteers would have been a nightmare in itself. And I can't imagine how many thousands of dollars this is saving the our community!"

The residents of Loveland also showed their appreciation. Each day, members of the PTA brought out various refreshments and home baked goods, the local McDonald's furnished ice cold drinks daily, and all the restaurants offered special prices to the citizen-soldiers.

Summing up his feelings, Sgt. Bryan McWhorter said, "I've never ached so much or had so many bruises, and still felt so good." ■

# Breaking down BARRIERS



## *Female squadron commanders take rightful places in Ohio Air National Guard*

Story and photos by Sgt. Lori King  
196th Public Affairs Detachment

I arranged to meet the new women Mission Support Squadron commanders in a very hip, smoke-free coffee shop in Toledo.

I chose this familiar college scene to interview these two trendsetters because it was very familiar to me, although I didn't know how comfortable they would be in this "grunge" environment. After all, both officers are in prestigious positions as first female squadron commanders in the Ohio Air National Guard.

As it turned out, Lt. Col. Nancy August and Maj. Karen Madison settled in right away because, as I quickly learned, they adapt very well to any environment.

### **Lt. Col. Nancy August**

It was enjoyable listening to the 180th Fighter Group's newest commander recall her military history, back to 1967, when women were still barred from many jobs, many bases and most overseas assignments. It was the sixties, a time when women were expected to get married and have babies, not carry weapons.

"It never occurred to me to do those things — that marriage and kids were something I had to do," August explained. "Gender was a non-issue, so I never felt I had to conform."

She was living on a farm in Minnesota with her parents and five brothers and sisters when she decided to enlist. Gender segregation was never a part of growing up, she recalled, because her parents never treated their kids differently. "We worked as a team. And we were raised to be independent, to take care of ourselves."

So August joined the Air Force as a young ambitious woman eager to tear down any stereotypes that confronted her.

But August soon learned that equality didn't quite exist in the military yet. Be-

lieve it or not, she said the Air Force only accepted two women from Minnesota every six months. August was one of those women. She was sent to Maxwell Air Force Base, Montgomery, Ala., as a passenger and household goods specialist.

About a year later, in July 1968, the Air Force announced a major opening of overseas assignments for women. The following day, she put in for overseas and began reaping the benefits of assertiveness. She was transferred to Crete, Greece, as one of the first women to serve on European ground.

Then, in 1971, she broke another gender barrier when she reported for duty at the Strategic Air Command at Minot Air Force Base in North Dakota. She was one of the first women to report for duty, as well as the highest ranking.

In those first four years of her military career, August witnessed the narrowing of a gigantic gender gap. Jobs opened overseas, women's uniforms were designed and bases opened for women. She was part of all those changes. But progression didn't stop when she left active service and enlisted in the Air Guard as a staff sergeant in the North Dakota National Guard.

Three years after women were permitted to join the National Guard, in June 1973, August became only the sixth or seventh woman to join in its ranks. Although she lived in Minnesota, she simply crossed over the river to serve in a sister state. When she was commissioned 20 years ago, she became only one of two female officers in that state.

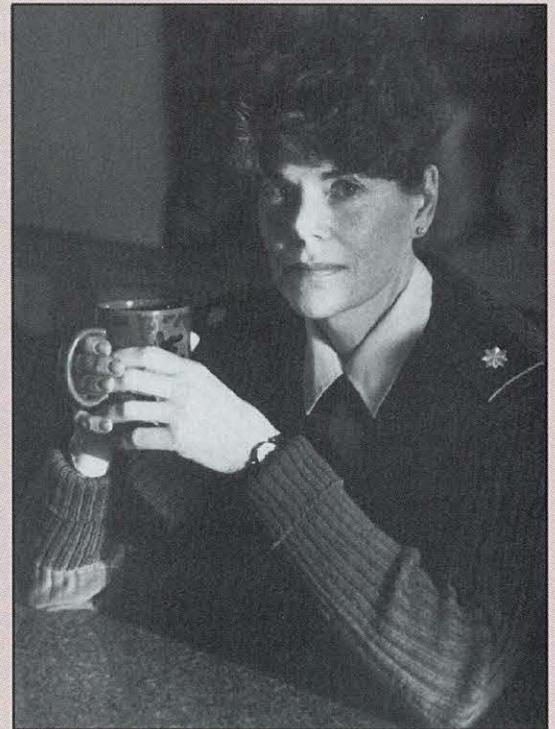
Now she faces another "first." She recently became one of the first women to lead a squadron in the Ohio National Guard when she took command of Toledo's

180th Mission Support Squadron. But she considers herself a leader, not a "woman" leader.

"It's been a long time since I've been in this position — being a 'first' again. I'm used to it. But I don't want people to take that the wrong way. It's never been my goal to be the first or one of the few. I just enjoy the military because this is my country too, and I don't want anyone to feel I didn't do my part.

"I have a responsibility as an officer to do a good job and earn the respect of the people I work with, regardless of my gender. I'm big on responsibility."

August's advice for women who want to "make it" in the National Guard is to set goals and work to attain them. "Always do a good job for yourself as a person. In today's world it's performance that counts."



Lt. Col. Nancy August reflects on her 20-plus years serving the Air Force.

## Maj. Karen Madison

Ironically, Madison took over the Mission Support Squadron of the 179th Airlift Group in Mansfield the same month August assumed command of her Toledo squadron.

And it's also a coincidence that both women live in Toledo. But that's where the similarities begin to fade, because while August has served on active duty, overseas and in the Air Guard in two different states, Madison has managed to remain in the 179th for almost 20 years.

After double-majoring in sociology and business at Ashland University in 1975, Madison began working in a program for unwed mothers at the YWCA. In April, a recruiter was trying to talk her coworker into joining the Guard, with Madison within shouting distance.

"Then he looked at me and said, 'How about you?'" she recalled. "I was on my way to basic that June."

Madison described her military enlistment as a new adventure, unaware that it would soon become old hat. A year later, she joined the AETNA Health Plan insurance company, and she still works there, too.

Madison is obviously comfortable with stability. For nearly 20 years she has been in the same unit and working for the same civilian company. But she had a vision



**Maj. Karen Madison says people are now beginning to appreciate what diversity can offer.**

early in her military career that was the key to her recent change of command.

She said her one goal two decades ago was to become an officer, making one of the few major changes in her life. Only four years after she enlisted, she was wearing a bar, eventually taking over the Consolidated Base Personnel Office, where she

initially served as a personnel specialist right out of basic.

Madison's philosophy about being a woman in the military is similar to August's: It shouldn't really matter.

But she does feel a responsibility to pave a smoother path for the next generation of women leaders, who will more than likely double today's force.

"As a woman, I want to do the best job I can possibly do, not necessarily because I'm a woman, but because it will help the next person," she said.

"Being the 'first woman' in this position is secondary to me. What matters is that I can make it easier for somebody else. It wouldn't have mattered if I was the first or the 200th. I just want to set the tone for that 200th woman."

Madison said her first four months in command is going well because, she emphasized, it is comprised of wonderful, dedicated and mature people who encourage her to make contributions to their Total Quality Management system.

She also credits her acceptance to the changing times.

"No doubt about it! Times are changing. People are beginning to appreciate diversity now, finally recognizing the contributions diversity can have on a unit. Prior to the 1980s, men were very opinionated about gender roles."

Although Madison's retirement year is approaching, she assures her command and the Ohio Air National Guard that as long as she is making a contribution, she will remain in the 179th.

"That," she said, "is my other goal." ■

## Patience pays off

After overcoming two major obstacles in her career path, Evette Shahid recently accepted her commission to second lieutenant. Shahid first joined OMA's Officer Candidate School in May 1990, but had to sign on to the following year's class because her unit deployed for Desert Storm. Since her full-time job with SIDPERS was restricted to enlisted personnel, she was unable to accept her commission when she graduated OCS in June 1992. Now, two years later, she was offered a Recruiting and Induction Officer position, an AGR slot which allows her to wear officer rank. Asst. Adj. Gen. Brig. Gen. Steve Martin (left) and R&R Branch Chief Col. Raymond Hanback pinned on her bars. Photo by Cameron Williams, TAG Photo Lab.



# In a league of her own

## Ohio National Guard's only female E-9 speaks out



Sgt. Maj. Marsha Tate discusses the changing attitudes towards women in the military. Photo by Sgt. Diane Farrow, HQ STARC (-Det. 1-5).

Story by Pfc. Rick McGivern  
196th Public Affairs Det.

**B**eing the highest ranking female noncommissioned officer in the Ohio National Guard is a responsibility that would challenge any soldier.

For Sgt. Maj. Marsha Tate, it's an opportunity to exercise her commitment to simple values, integrity and country. Maintaining this formula for success has gotten the exceptional E-9 through some of the Army's best and worst times.

As the full-time enlisted personnel manager for the Ohio Army National Guard, Tate continues to maintain the highest standards while solidifying the

role of women in the military.

Born in East Lansing, Mich., Tate enlisted in 1968 and was trained as a personnel management specialist at Fort Knox, Ky.. Serving in a wide variety of administrative assignments, from personnel manager and recruiter to legal clerk, the military has taken the sergeant major around the world, exposing her to unique challenges and developing her leadership skills.

While one highlight of her career began in 1972 when she served as the personnel manager for soldiers on special duty during the Olympics in Munich, Germany, her memory of transferring to the 2nd Infantry Division in Korea remains quite significant. This was the first time in her career that the challenge of being a woman in the military made itself readily apparent.

"I was one of the first females in the infantry division, which was in itself a hardship, on top of being on a hardship tour," she remarked.

### COMMENTARY

## Ladies, it's time to close Guard's gender gap!

By Sgt. Lori King  
196th Public Affairs Detachment

**L**ast year was supposedly the "Year of the Woman." But after a little research I am compelled to wonder why.

Sure, there are lots of women serving in the Ohio National Guard today, but when I learned how few of us wore heavy rank on our collars, I became very disappointed.

You would think that since the Women's Armed Services Integration Act of 1948, when we were finally granted permanent status in the armed forces, our rise to power would

have been quite substantial. But, after nearly half a century, we still do not have a woman group commander in the Ohio Air National Guard, or a single woman first sergeant in the Ohio Army Guard.

I really thought we were going places. We almost had a woman vice president and we've travelled in space. But when I learned of the low number of women holding accessible leadership positions in this state, it was like being hit by a bullet. Ladies, we still have a lot of battleground to cover!

If numbers tell a story, then I believe we have a front-page headline on our hands: WAKE UP! MEN ARE STILL IN CHARGE!

Sound a little strong? To prove my point, take a look at the chart which compares the women and men NCOs and officers in the Ohio Guard.

With some serious thought, I've listed several reasons which could possibly account for this gigantic gap in the numbers game.

First, 64 of the 136 Ohio Army National Guard units are off limits to women because they are combat-oriented. At least this excuse is dying a slow death. Former Defense Secretary Les Aspin announced that redefining ground combat and rescinding the "risk rule" should open thousands of jobs to women in the military, to which he added that expanding roles for women in uniform is right, and it's smart. That announcement followed his move to open combat aviation jobs and warship assignments to females.

Although this explains why advancement for females is limited in so many Ohio Army Guard units, personal priorities may also contribute to the gender gap. Pregnancy and family obligations are common reasons for women to limit or withdraw their commitment to the Guard.

So is it opportunity or choice that keeps women from reaching the top? Maybe a

As the senior soldier over seven females in the division, Tate was often asked to go beyond the call of duty. "It was an interesting capacity to be in because none of the men in the division had ever dealt with female soldiers. Whenever there was a problem with a female, they would call me to see what to do."

Being a woman in a male-dominated Army was not the only challenge Tate experienced during her tour in Korea. In 1976, three U.S. officers assigned to clearing trees in the Demilitarized Zone were killed by North Koreans. To diffuse the hostilities and avoid war, peace talks were rapidly established in Panmunjon between the U.S. and North Korea.

"That was a trying time," Tate recalled. "We were on alert and carried weapons and live ammunition until the peace talks took place. It was the first time that I really encountered the hatred that the North Koreans had for American soldiers. It's scary for any soldier to be in that situation. It's the closest I ever was to combat and the closest I would ever want to be."

After leaving active duty, Tate also found it necessary to prove herself as her career progressed in the Ohio Army National Guard.

"When I became the first sergeant at Headquarters STARC (State Area Command), I was the first female promoted to that grade.

"I remember when I held my first formation at Beightler Armory. On that first drill, we probably had 12 other units drilling. As I walked out in front of the company, I glanced up and saw the second floor balcony just covered with people. I felt like I was a little fish in a fish bowl," Tate said. "Everybody was there to see if I screwed up, and when I didn't, it stopped.

"I have to be very thankful that I was in a place and time where a commander was willing to take that step—being the first one to have a female first sergeant. I believe I was promoted on my ability; I don't believe that anything has ever been given to me. And I don't believe that it will ever be that way for a female in the National Guard. Everyone who makes it, makes it on their own merit," Tate asserted. "I don't believe there's a good-old-boy system — not for the boys and not for the girls."

The sergeant major admits that being a woman in the military is still a special chal-



lenge. As women continue to integrate into former male strongholds of military service, the resistance is still there. "I think there are still a number of male soldiers that believe that women don't belong, but I think they are outnumbered."

Tate believes the future is bright for women in the military. "As the standards get tougher, we will see more and more women among the ranks and more women in leadership positions. And it will happen here in the National Guard." ■

**"I don't believe there's a good-old boy system — not for the boys and not for the girls."**

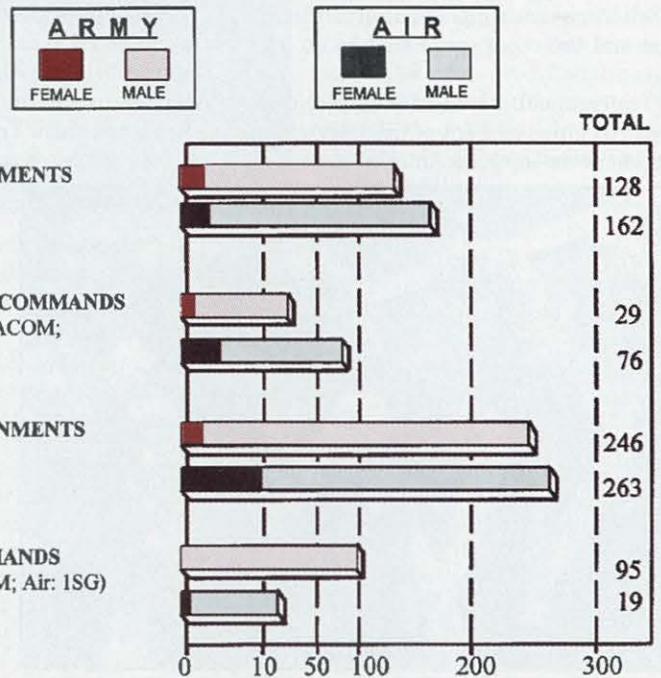
few of us need to reevaluate our priorities and realize that the National Guard is important enough to make some personnel sacrifices.

We need to realize that just because we wear the uniform doesn't mean we've gained equality. Most positions of first sergeant and commander are certainly accessible to women, so why aren't we sitting comfortably in those slots? Women need to make the effort to jump over the hurdles and go for the leadership positions and the heavy rank. After all, we're 52 percent of this country, with many of us very educated and qualified to command units so long as we're trained adequately.

I have much hope for the future. I'm confident there's plenty of women with enough drive and determination to beat the odds and begin to gain equality in the armed forces. Women currently in the Guard need to realize the choices made today impacts the shape of the Guard tomorrow.

It's up to us to make it happen. ■

### OHIO NATIONAL GUARD LEADERSHIP



# Airman seeks crowning glory

## Scherer vies for title of 'Miss Ohio'

Story by Spc. Nicole Smith  
196th Public Affairs Detachment

When people meet Shannon Scherer for the first time, they might think she's just another pretty face. But if they get to know the former 1993 Miss Columbus USA, they learn there is a lot more to her than just good looks and a prize-winning smile.

Scherer, a senior airman in the Ohio Air National Guard, is breaking the stereotype of the pretty blond with no brains.

"There were two things I've always wanted to do since I was a kid—join the military and be Miss America," said Scherer, a Public Affairs NCO for Springfield's 178th Fighter Group. "I have a long history of military members in my family. When I joined in June 1990, I felt like I was carrying on that tradition."

Scherer has accomplished her military goal and the other could well be on its way.

"I can remember being this little, wide-eyed girl glued in front of the television set whenever the Miss America pageant



SrA. Shannon Scherer sings the National Anthem at the Columbus Clipper's stadium during Armed Forces weekend. Photo by Sgt. Diane Farrow, HQ STARC (-Det. 1-5).

was on. So when I was 13, I began competing in pageants. It wasn't until the past few years that I began winning," she said.

In 1993 Scherer won Miss Columbus and in 1994 she won Miss Maple City.

She credits some of her winning efforts to the National Guard and the respectable image it brings with it. "It's fun to see the expressions on the judges' faces change when I tell them I'm in the Guard. They tend to take me a little more seriously which helps me stand out from the rest."

Scherer will face more judges in June when she competes for the Miss Ohio title. But both on and off the pageant floor, Scherer uses her past experience of working in the Guard's Drug Demand Reduction program to spread the "stay drug free" message to the kids she interacts with.

Though she enjoys the competition, the

airman said that competing isn't all fun and games. "I don't think people realize how much time, discipline and preparation is involved.

"Spare time is scarce because I work full-time for the Guard as an intelligence specialist in counter narcotics. My typical daily routine is busy and somewhat hectic."

She walks three to five miles, five to seven days a week and lifts weights on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. She also eats less than 10-15 grams of fat a day. Two months before the Miss Ohio Pageant, she plans on increasing her walks to eight miles and reducing her fat intake to less than five grams a day.

"About once a week I have mock interviews, where I'm thrown questions the judges might ask. So I read USA Today and Newsweek cover to cover to keep up on current events," she said. "My day normally ends by 10:30 p.m. Then I get up and do it again."

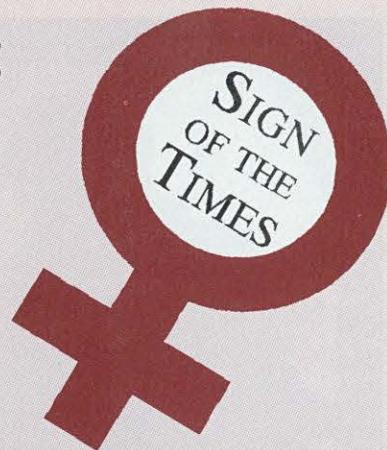
It's a lot of work, she says, but that's the price she's willing to pay, especially considering the \$10,000 scholarship prize she could win along with the Miss Ohio title. If she wins, Scherer will automatically compete for Miss America in September. ■



Scherer (holding roses) poses for a photo after winning Miss Columbus, USA. Courtesy photo.

Story and photo by  
Sgt. Lori King  
196th Public Affairs Det.

# VANDEVENTER: An Olympic hopeful Ohio National Guard athlete trades scholarship for Army sports



A full scholarship to graduate school wasn't strong enough to lure Sgt. Tracy VanDeventer away from the Ohio Army National Guard.

Her family and friends probably considered her crazy for turning down such an enticing offer, but VanDeventer prefers to think of herself as a dreamer. One day, she hopes, she'll be vying for a medal in the Olympics.

"I'm not getting any younger," said the 24-year-old. "I had to make a choice and take a chance," she said.

Her choice of turning down a full scholarship wasn't easy, but after learning of this young woman's background, it made sense that she chose athletic training over education.

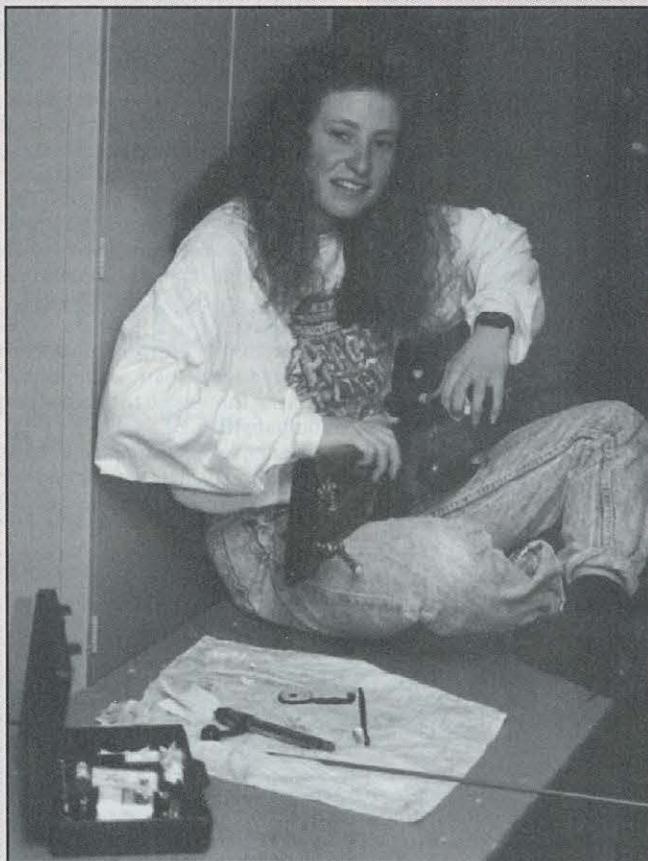
VanDeventer, an administrative NCO for the Ohio Military Academy in Columbus, is an athlete who represents the Ohio National Guard and the U.S. Army in sporting events. Not only is she on the Ohio Guard biathlon and triathlon teams, she also tried out for the All-Army track and field team (results were unknown at the time of publication) and is a member of the National Guard Bureau Development Team, which provides equipment and personal training to promising biathletes.

While many Americans are totally unaware that sports are an important part of the military, VanDeventer has dedicated her life to them. Because she is on the road for weeks at a time competing or training with the Development Team, she is unable to hold down a full-time job.

Her athletic ability became apparent when she was runner-up for the national karate championship at the age of 12, only two years after she tried her first karate kick. A year later she became the champion.

Then, in 7th grade, she decided to run track. She took second place her very first race with a time of 6 minutes, 30 seconds in the mile. And in high school she went to state three times for cross country and track.

Although she probably could have ob-



Called "virtually untouchable" by Ohio Biathlon Team Captain Lt. Col. Chris Cline, VanDeventer takes time to clean her rifle before the day's competition.

tained an athletic scholarship to college, VanDeventer opted to abandon organized sports so she could concentrate on her major, exercise physiology.

"I wanted a solid education," she explained. "I still trained but I didn't try out for any teams. Coaches tried talking me into it, but I didn't want to be distracted. Instead, I learned how the body worked and how to enhance my performance. College helped me to evaluate and to get a realistic look at myself."

She graduated cum laude from Ohio State with a grade point of 3.65.

VanDeventer has spent her entire life

preparing for her Olympic dream. Though she didn't take up organized sports again until three years ago, she said she has always been running and weight lifting, but without a coach or a chance ... until now.

Although she excels in the triathlon, earning first place trophies in the women's category both times she competed, it's track and the biathlon she hopes will take her to the 1996 and 1998 summer and winter games, respectively. She admits she has a lot of work ahead of her but is anxious to accept the challenge.

"I never before considered a biathlon to be real important to me because I didn't see how I could train for it in Ohio, which is a non-snow state. So I didn't have high expectations," she said.

"But this year, I've put a lot of time into training. The Development Team has promised to get me on snow and give me a lot of instruction. I think I have a good chance, otherwise I wouldn't have given up all I did."

VanDeventer said she loves the Guard and appreciates the support it has given her in all of her endeavors. She said the Army has not only given her the opportunity to pursue her Olympic dream, it has also helped her become a little less shy and a lot stronger.

"I feel better about myself and more confident, and I hope someday to repay the Ohio Guard for everything it's done for me. If I go to the Olympics and am asked to make a few remarks, I'll mention the Guard and all the help everyone has given me."

If you're wondering if VanDeventer will desert the Guard after the Olympics for more prosperous opportunities, like Nike or McDonalds, rest assured that she'll remain true to the hand that fed her.

"Until they kick me out I'll probably still be here." ■



**ABOVE:** Sgt. Kevin Zisko operates a front-end loader. **RIGHT:** Guard vehicles remove ice from Eastlake neighborhood.



# Eastlake residents dub 112th Engineers 'ICE BUSTERS'

Story and photos by Staff Sgt. Joseph Oney  
112th Engineer Combat Battalion

For residents of the suburban community of Eastlake, Ohio, a well maintained neighborhood turned into an arctic wasteland.

When the Chagrin River thawed on Jan. 28, it overflowed its banks. Although this is not unusual in Eastlake, this year the situation was much worse. The river carried huge chunks of ice through the West Island neighborhood, moving houses off their foundations, crushing automobiles and sweeping debris into countless homes.

Fearing further damage in anticipation of the next thaw, Eastlake's Mayor Dan DiLiberto requested help from the National Guard. The 112th Engineer Combat Battalion out of Brook Park responded with men and equipment on Feb. 12. Clearing ice from the streets and transporting it up to Lake Erie proved quite a challenge for the equipment operators.

"I still find it hard to imagine pieces of ice this large came from a little river," said Sgt. Larry Wysocky of Headquarters Company. "It's outrageous."

Despite the difficulty of the operation, soldiers from the unit were happy to serve their community. "This kind of activity gives all of the training that we go through a purpose," said Sgt. Jeffery Baciak from Company B.

Maneuvering through narrow streets with five-ton dump trucks and a front-end loader, the engineers removed from the neighborhood 140 truckloads of ice, estimated at 300 tons. ■

## 372nd sounds final retreat

Story by Staff Sgt. Bob Mullins  
HQ STARC (-Det. 1-5)

The Ohio Army National Guard's 372nd Engineer Battalion recently completed its last mission. On Jan. 22, the unit retired its colors in answer to the call for inactivation.

Lt. Col. Glenn Hammond, the commander of the 372nd until its inactivation, said the members of the battalion were able to transfer into another unit. "Most of the soldiers were able to find a position with the newly created Second Squadron, 107th Armored Cavalry." The 2/107th came on-line in April and, like the 372nd, is headquartered in Kettering.

Staff Sgt. Craig Herald, a member of the 372nd for 10 years said "I really enjoyed being in the engineers, but I'm sure the cav unit will offer new challenges."

All soldiers from the 372nd stand ready



The 372nd Engineer Battalion forms up for inactivation ceremony. Photo by Spc. Tim Hardgrove, HQ STARC (-Det. 1-5).

for the changes ahead, because the 33-year-old unit has faced its share of challenges in the past. The battalion has supported the state on many occasions, including the trucker's strike in 1972; Xenia's tornado in 1974; the blizzards of 1977 and 1978; the Shadyside flood in 1990; the Massieville flood in 1992; and, most recently, the Lucasville prison riot in 1993. In support of training and humanitarian efforts, the unit deployed to Honduras in 1989 and Panama in 1993. Several members also volunteered to serve dur-

ing Desert Storm.

The battalion was federally recognized Sept. 1, 1959 as the 1st Gun Battalion, 174th Artillery. It was reorganized and redesignated in April 1962 as the 1st Automatic Weapons Battalion, 174th Artillery. In February 1968, the battalion was reorganized and redesignated as the 1st Battalion, 174th Artillery, and it was assigned its final designation as the 372nd Engineer Battalion in February 1972. ■



HMMWV ambulance teams await calls from citizens in need of urgent medical care. Photo by Capt. Steve Tompos, 196th PAD.

## Communities, state appreciates Guard

### January's response to snow emergency inspires letters of thanks, earns Special Service Ribbon

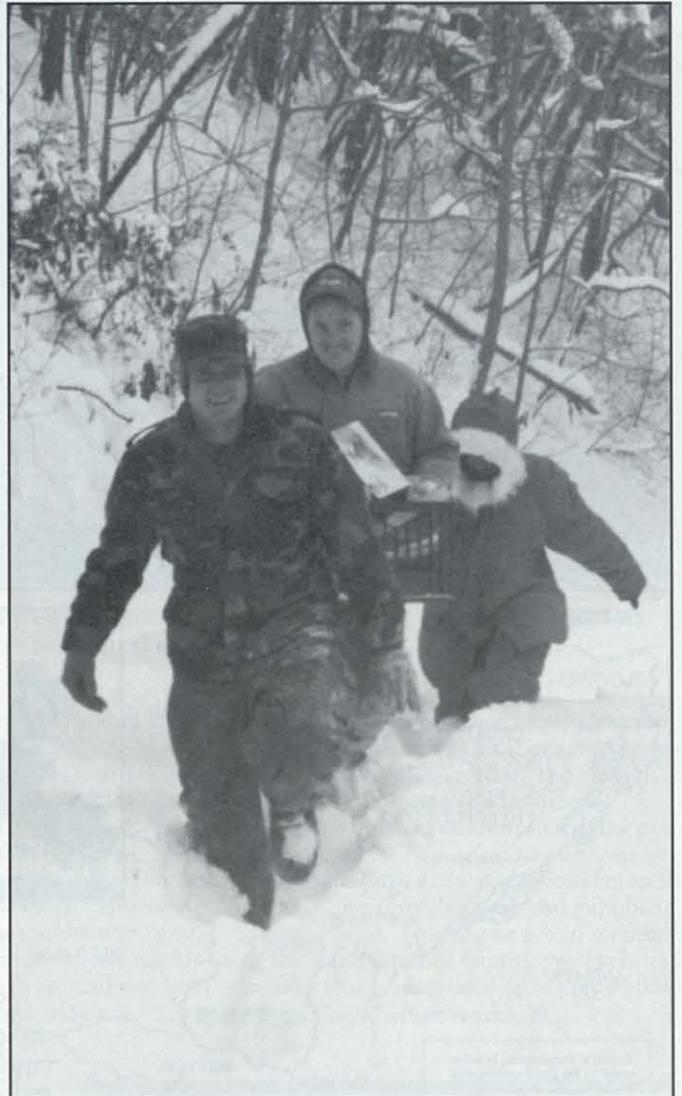
By Sgt. Diane Farrow  
State Public Affairs Office

**A**s a result of this winter's snow emergencies, officials at the Adjutant General's Department traded off the onslaught of severe weather in January for the influx of letters of appreciation in February.

Civic leaders, local emergency management officials and medical facility directors associated with several of the counties declared in snow emergency last January showed their appreciation by writing letters and calling in their "thanks" to Ohio Adjutant General Maj. Gen. Richard C. Alexander.

"It is certainly great to know that troops like yours are such dedicated soldiers who are willing to go that extra mile for complete strangers," said Robert E. Byer, Director of Meigs Emergency Management Services. He specifically thanked the members of Company D, 216th Combat Engineer Battalion and 385th Medical Company for the "excellent and professional manner" in which they handled the state of emergency in his county.

Rodney H. Barnett, mayor of the Village of South Webster, expressed his gratitude and indebtedness to all those who aided his village and surrounding area. "It's truly rewarding to know how state, district, county and local officials worked so beautifully together," Barnett wrote.



Guardmembers trudge through knee-deep snow to deliver food to stranded families. Photo by Capt. Steve Tompos, 196th PAD.

Health care providers were also extremely grateful for the support provided by the Ohio National Guard.

Eric A. Kuhn, Director of Operations for Southeast Ohio Medical Services, attested to the helpfulness of the four-wheel drive ambulances in reaching patients in need of medical assistance. "Guardmembers stationed at our EMS stations were professional and worked well with our paramedics and EMTs," he said. He added that the station chiefs were appreciative of the Guard's willingness to assist in chores around the stations when not responding to emergency calls.

On behalf of The Kidney Center in Austintown, Medical Director Chester A. Amedia, Jr., M.D., commended the men who transported patients to and from the dialysis facility. "Sgt. McClain, Sgt. Williams and Sgt. Ohle were extremely cooperative and efficient.... Without their efforts these patients certainly would have been compromised." Hemodialysis is a life maintaining treatment.

By direction of Governor George V. Voinovich, the emergency that resulted in the call-up of National Guard troops during January 17-28, 1994, was designated as a "Major Tour of State Active Duty." All members of the National Guard who actually served during that period are authorized the Ohio Special Service Ribbon or device, as appropriate. ■



**Capt. Phillip Bronsdon tags Sgt. Tracy VanDeventer, who takes on the second leg of the biathlon team relay race at Camp Ethan Allen, Vermont.**  
*Photo by Sgt. Lori King, 196th PAD.* **Pages 18-20**

# *Buckeye* **GUARD**

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