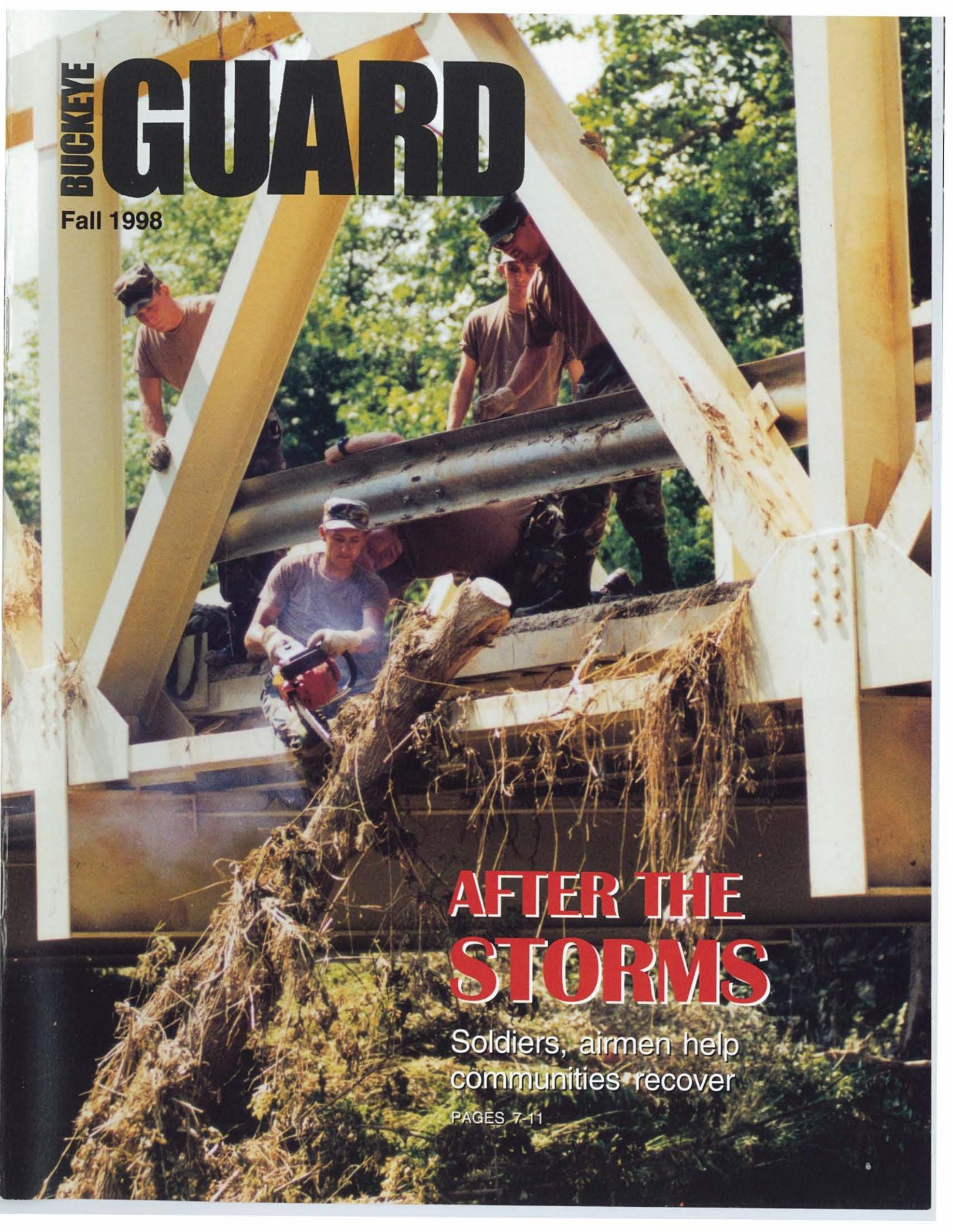


BUCKEYE

GUARD

Fall 1998



AFTER THE STORMS

Soldiers, airmen help communities recover

PAGES 7-11



Photo by SPC Steve Toth, HQ STARC (-).

Special Forces:

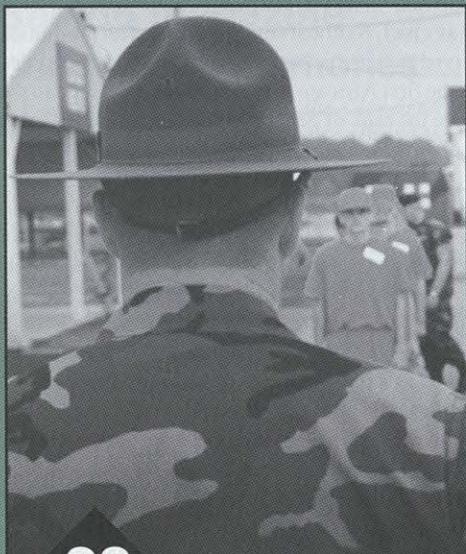
Not just challenging training — a way of life

Ohio Army National Guard's Company B, 2-19th Special Forces Group conducts an airborne insertion training mission in August at Ravenna Training and Logistics Site.

For more on the unit's unique worldwide role, see page 13. —

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ABOUT THE COVER: Spc. William Phelps of Bravo Company, 112th Engineer Battalion, Lorain, uses a chain saw to clear a fallen tree from a bridge in Lower Salem, located in Washington County. Both Army and Air Guardmembers from throughout Ohio were called to service in response to the aftermath of severe summer weather which had crippling effects on many communities. *Photo by Tech. Sgt. Lori King, 180th Fighter Wing.*

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Guardmembers and their families are encouraged to submit any articles meant to inform, educate or entertain *Buckeye Guard* readers, including stories about interesting Guard personalities and unique unit training. Deadlines are:

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

NATIONAL NEWS

Leadership, location changes for National Guard Bureau. Air National Guard Maj. Gen. Russell C. Davis took the reins Aug. 4 as chief, National Guard Bureau, with promotion to the rank of lieutenant general. Davis, who had served as vice chief since December 1995, succeeded Lt. Gen. Edward Baca, who retired July 31. He is the first African-American ever appointed to the post and was the first African-American to achieve the rank of general in the Air National Guard in 1982. He is only the third Air Guard general officer in history to be appointed to the position



of chief. Maj. Gen. Roger C. Schultz became the 17th director of the Army National Guard at a ceremony May 29 in Arlington, Va. Schultz, a decorated Vietnam veteran, succeeded Maj. Gen. William A. Navas Jr., the director since October 1995. Since September 1997, Schultz had served as deputy director of Military Support — a Defense Department agency that coordinates military assistance to state and local governments in times of disaster. Maj. Gen. Paul A. Weaver Jr. was confirmed by the Senate as the director of the Air National Guard in November 1997. Prior to his appointment, he had served as deputy director under Maj. Gen. Donald Shepperd, who retired from the post at the end of last year. Chief Master Sgt. Gary R. Broadbent is the seventh senior enlisted advisor to the director of the Air National Guard, National Guard Bureau. Broadbent, who reported to the Pentagon in mid-July, had served as senior enlisted advisor for First Air Force, Tyndall Air Force Base, Fla. Due to ongoing renovations to the Pentagon, many personnel assigned to the NGB have relocated into new offices located in nearby Crystal City, on the banks of the Potomac River. (*NGB Public Affairs*)

Air Force leaders announce servicewide makeover for 21st century. An 18-month Air Force reorganization plan will give Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve members an enhanced role worldwide and a better idea when they will deploy. Those facets of the redesign complete an overall goal to tailor the Air Force to fit the nation's military strategy — managing the demands of an envisioned simultaneous two-war scenario and responding to regional conflicts. Under the plan, officials will build the Air Force into an "expeditionary" force to provide more rapid, robust and flexible response capability while allowing members of the Air Force to spend more time at home and plan as far as a year in advance for deployments. When the redesign is complete, the Air Force will maintain 10 "air expeditionary forces," or AEFs, each comprised of 250 aircraft based at separate airfields. Personnel assigned to those aircraft will train together and be on call for joint deployments during one 90-day period every 15 months. Two AEFs will be on duty at a time. Members of the Guard and Reserve would be included in the AEFs, allowing them to train and deploy with active duty units on a regular basis. No units will move from their present locations; they would merely link units from different regions into AEFs. The reorganization would not require additional manpower or bases, Air Force officials said. (*National Guard*)

Federal payments go electronic. All federal payments will be made by electronic funds transfer as of Jan. 1, 1999. This rule is a result of the Debt Collection Improvement Act of 1996 and will affect Army vendors, soldiers and Department of the Army civilians, Army finance officials said. The changes are part of the government's initiative to convert its 1 billion annual payments from paper check to EFT by next year. Early word from the Defense Finance and Accounting Service is that travel vouchers will be returned to individuals who do not have an EFT account by Jan. 1, said Command Sgt. Maj. Hans Kennedy of the U.S. Army Finance Command in Arlington, Va. "About 99.9 percent of active-duty soldiers are signed up for electronic funds transfer for travel pay," Kennedy said. The challenge, he said, was to assist the remaining reserve component soldiers and DA civilians not signed up for EFT to make the transition before the Jan. 1 deadline. (*Army News Service*)



Most piercings prohibited for soldiers on posts. Soldiers in and out of uniform are now prohibited from displaying pierced body parts while on military installations worldwide, except for female troops with pierced ears. The prohibition on piercing is among several changes in Army Regulation 670-1, "Wear and Appearance of Army Uniforms and Insignia," which took effect Aug. 6. Other changes involve the wearing of tattoos, to include the prohibition of certain types of tattoos; the wearing of backpacks and shoulder bags; conditions of wear of the Physical Fitness and Battle Dress Uniforms; and fingernail polish. (*Army News Service*)

Seeing magazine brings back memories

I was in the waiting area at the Cleveland Wade Park VA Hospital, and there on the table — a *Buckeye Guard* magazine. I started thinking about the old National Guard unit I served in, Company D of the combat engineer battalion in Lorain, from 1976 to 1979.

You have an excellent magazine. Keep your Guard up!

Don. M. Smith
Elyria, Ohio

Community leaders grateful for Guard's help during flooding

On behalf of the residents of Guernsey County, we would like to express a most sincere and heartfelt thank you for a tremendous job well done by the men and women of the Ohio National Guard who were stationed here during the recent flood disaster.

Without the help of these men and women, Guernsey County residents would probably still be cleaning up debris, repairing roads and bridges and, generally, trying to recover from the devastation brought on by the storms of June 24-27.

Guernsey County recently celebrated the 200th anniversary of our settlement. During the grand bicentennial parade, the National Guard entry received a huge standing ovation; the people's way of saying "thanks."

Our hats are off to you and all the members of the National Guard. Ohioans are truly blessed to have a group of such dedicated, talented and patriotic young people working on our behalf.

Thomas J. Laughman

Lynne M. Jones

Robert L. Hendershot

Guernsey County Commissioners

On June 28, 1998, the most devastating rainfall (10 inches) and flooding struck Cambridge and Guernsey County. Over 120 National Guard personnel from all over Ohio responded to our disaster situation. I am unable to locate each and every guardmember, however, I am in hopes you will convey to your fellow members the following message:

It is with great appreciation and gratitude that I and the residents of our county convey to you our thanks for your untiring efforts during our time of great need.

By your actions, individually and collectively, you have earned the respect and admira-

tion of our grateful residents and community. By your actions, you have brought great honor to the state of Ohio, the Ohio National Guard, to your families and to yourselves.

Again, thanks for a job well done.

C. Charles Schaub II
Mayor of Cambridge

Question of the Quarter

What factors or people led to your decision to become part of the Ohio National Guard?

EDITOR'S NOTE: No letters were received regarding the Summer issue's "Question of the Quarter," however, responses to that question as well as this issue's question will be published in the Winter *Buckeye Guard*. As policy dictates, anonymous letters will not be published, but names can be withheld upon request. The Feedback page is our readership's chance to respond to any posed questions, share information or to sound off on any issue regarding the military or the Ohio National Guard. It is up to our readers to use this forum!

Graduate reflects on challenges of OCS

Maj. Michael Ore, currently with 1-73rd Troop Command, Columbus, has previously served as a TAC officer at the Ohio Army National Guard's 145th Regiment, Regional Training Institute Officer Candidate School. He is also an OCS graduate. His poem, entitled *Parallels*, shares his experiences while an officer candidate a few years ago (see related article on page 25).

Cool morning air, another beginning, another end

Still haven't recovered from last night

Constant state of muscle soreness and fatigue

Not enough sleep, not enough time

Black helmets all around, humiliating, devastating, always trying to break me

How can I think? What should I do? My PDORs are late

Cadence ringing in my ears

One mistake, the platoon goes down, one sir, two sir...Request permission to recover

A curious mixture of monotony and anxiety,

never the same but ever repeating

Counting the days 'til this game is over

Why don't I just sign my LOR and curl up in my sleeping bag?

Cool morning air, another end, another beginning

Never recovering from the night before

Constant state of muscle soreness and mental fatigue

Never sleeping, never enough time

Enemy all around, devastating, mutilating, always trying to break through lines

How can I think? What should I do? My air support is late, shells ringing in my ears

One mistake, the platoon goes down, one dies, two die

Only the enemy can grant permission to recover

A curious mixture of monotony and anxiety, never the same but ever repeating

Counting the seconds 'til this firefight is over

Why don't I just sign my LOR and curl up in my body bag?

Recent DITY movers may get money back

If you are an Active Guard and Reserve (AGR) soldier who has made a do-it-yourself (DITY) move for PCS since Feb. 1, 1998, you may be entitled to more money.

Retroactive to Feb. 1, the pay incentive for a soldier performing a do-it-yourself move went up from 80 percent to 95 percent of the cost of the same bill-of-lading move for the government. If you made your move on Feb. 1 or later, you are entitled to receive this difference.

You must file a supplemental DD 1351-2 with commercial accounts/travel (PF-COP-A). Simply write "supplement for DITY move" at the top, sign it, and attach a copy to your PCS order.

Questions about the process can be directed to the state AGR office. Call (614) 336-7257 for more information.

Staff Sgt. Michelle Shemenske
State AGR Office

FAX your Letters to the Editor to DSN 273-7410 or commercial (614) 336-7410. E-mail letters to buckeye@OH-ARNG. nbg.army.mil or mail to AGOH-PA, ATTN: *Buckeye Guard*, 2825 West Dublin Granville Road, Columbus, Ohio 43235-2789. All submissions are subject to editing based on space and style considerations.



Command Focus

Chief Master Sgt. Earl Lutz, Senior Enlisted Advisor for Air

Air Guard marks Year of Enlisted in '99

Contributions, professionalism of enlisted force to be celebrated nationwide next year

No one is more professional than I. I am a Noncommissioned Officer, a Leader of People." These are the first words of the Creed of the Noncommissioned Officer, which describes the majority of our enlisted force of today. The education level of our enlisted personnel is higher than it ever has been. Many of our enlisted members have bachelor's degrees and many have other advanced degrees as well. With approximately 4,300 enlisted members in the Ohio Air National Guard, it is easy to see why we are referred to as the backbone of the Air Force. But it is not the sheer number of personnel that makes that statement true. Consider the responsibility that has been given to our people. From the airman basic to the chief master sergeant, everyone is doing their part to make the Air National Guard the world class organization it is today.

As our enlisted personnel climb the ladder of success, much more will be expected of them. From staff sergeant to chief master sergeant there are three creeds. In the NCO Creed it states, "Competence is my watchword. I will strive to remain tactically and technically proficient." Moving up the professional development path, the Senior NCO Creed says, "You have mastered those techniques and abilities and now you have freely accepted responsibilities beyond the call of normal duty. By being a Senior NCO it is required that you be the font of wisdom, the ambassador of goodwill, and the authority in personal relations and technical application. More will be demanded of you.

You have joined an exclusive fraternity. As in all fraternities, you have a responsibility to its members, even as they have a responsibility to you."

Chief master sergeants are given the following charge during their induction ceremonies: "I will uphold the traditions of Military Life and serve our country and state with honor. I will support the officers of the Ohio Air National Guard. I will ensure their orders are carried out and that compliance to regulations is standard. I will set the highest example of excellence both on and off duty. I will provide support to the enlisted personnel as required. I will ensure they are treated fairly in all situations. I will in every

word and deed support my fellow chiefs among which we place honor, integrity and trust within our ranks above all else. In my dealings with my fellow chiefs, my word must be my bond."

Our creeds state "We will give all officers our maximum support to ensure mission accomplishment. I will earn their respect, obey their orders, and establish a high degree of integrity. The mutual respect between our enlisted and officer corps has added to a stronger Air Guard."

We should all be proud of those strong words, but what do they mean? The contributions of the enlisted force to the readiness of the Air National Guard throughout its history are immeasurable. As an Air Guardmember's rank increases, so do the responsibilities, challenges

and expectations. Time and again, our members have met and, in many cases, exceeded their taskings, in both peacetime and war. For that, all enlisted members of the Air National Guard are to be commended!

And beginning in January, they will be recognized for their accomplishments.

Maj. Gen. Paul A. Weaver Jr., Air National Guard director, is a strong supporter of the enlisted force. He has designated 1999 as the Year of the Enlisted in the Air National Guard. We are following Air Mobility Command's Year of the Enlisted this calendar year. The goals

established by AMC were to make a positive impact on the career and quality of life of each enlisted person by identifying and implementing initiatives that are relevant, timely and actionable, and to create a legacy of attention to the backbone of their command — the enlisted force. The Air Guard hopes to accomplish these same goals nationwide this year.

In Ohio, each of our units is making plans for enlisted activities and recognition. Statewide, there will be a conference Feb. 26-28, 1999, to include many of our junior enlisted, first sergeants and chiefs. On Feb. 26, the enlisted force will be presenting its highest award, the Order of the Musket, to our great leader, Maj. Gen. John Smith, assistant adjutant general for Air. It should be noted that General Smith is an Ohio Honorary Chief Master Sergeant.

Activities in Ohio will be listed on our state web site, www.ohang.af.mil. If you are interested in what other states will be doing for the Year of the Enlisted, you can view the national web site at www.ang.af.mil.

We, as members of the Ohio Air National Guard, need to support the various activities that will occur. Let's make the Year of the Enlisted a fantastic success! ■

"From the airman basic to the chief master sergeant, everyone is doing their part to make the Air National Guard the world class organization it is today."



Changing of the Guard

New faces in new places

Ohio Army National Guard

Brig. Gen. James E. Caldwell assumed the position of Deputy STARC Commander on Nov. 1, 1998. He exchanges traditional guardmember duty assignments with **Col. Ronald G. Young**, who was appointed 16th Engineer Brigade Commander.

Col. Gregory Wayt was appointed Army Chief of Staff on Aug. 17, 1998. He replaces Col. Ronald G. Young, who retired from the full-time Chief of Staff's position.

Lt. Col. Matthew Kambic was appointed State Plans, Operations and Training Officer, effective Aug. 17, 1998. He replaces Col. Gregory Wayt.

Lt. Col. Richard Willinger was appointed State Training Officer, effective Aug. 17, 1998. He replaces Lt. Col. Matthew Kambic.

Maj. Michael Bish was appointed Mobilization, Readiness Officer, effective Sept. 1, 1998. He replaces Lt. Col. Richard Willinger.

Lt. Col. Christine Cook was appointed Commander, 145th Regiment, Regional Training Institute (RTI), effective Aug. 17, 1998. She replaces Col. Gregory Wayt in the traditional guardmember position.

Lt. Col. Ralph Nooks was appointed Commander, General Studies Battalion, 145th RTI. He replaces Lt. Col. Christine Cook.

Lt. Col. Alfred C. Faber was appointed State Military Personnel Officer, effective July 1, 1998. He replaces **Col. Thomas G. Kemp**, who reverted to warrant officer and is employed in the Federal Human Resources Office.

Maj. James Lawson was appointed Recruiting and Retention Manager, effective July 1, 1998. He replaces **Lt. Col. Rufus Smith**, who was reassigned.

Lt. Col. Stephen Ulrich was appointed Commander, HQ STARC, Detachment 6 (Medical) and State Surgeon, effective Sept. 1, 1998. He replaces **Col. Louis Pomerantz**, who was reassigned.

Ohio Air National Guard

Col. Don Eby was appointed Commander, 179th Airlift Wing, Mansfield, on Oct. 4, 1997. He replaced **Col. Warren Drouhard Jr.**, who retired.

Lt. Col. Richard Brazeau was appointed Commander, 200th RED HORSE Squadron, Port Clinton, on May 26, 1998. He replaced **Lt. Col. Philip Brooks**, who retired.

Lt. Col. Will Allen was appointed Commander, 220th Engineering Installation Squad-

ron, Zanesville, on Nov. 1, 1997. He replaced **Lt. Col. Theresa Jeane**, who moved to England.

Col. Homer Smith was appointed Executive Support Staff Officer at the Ohio Air National Guard Headquarters, Columbus, on Oct. 12, 1997. He replaced **Lt. Col. Dean Boling**, who currently is assigned as the Federal Human Resources Officer.

Col. James D. Simpson was appointed Director of Logistics, effective Oct. 1, 1998. He replaces **Col. Robert Labadie**, who retired.

Col. Jack Lee was appointed Commander, 371st Corps Support Group, effective Oct. 1, 1998. He replaces Col. James Simpson.

Col. Glenn Hammond was appointed Installation Commander, Ohio Training Sites (Fort Ohio—Camp Perry and Ravenna Training and Logistics Site), effective Aug. 1, 1998. He replaces **Col. Joseph Bowsher**, who retired.

Col. Thomas Luczynski was appointed State Safety Officer, effective Aug. 1, 1998. He replaces Col. Glenn Hammond.

Lt. Col. Jack Richards was appointed Military Support Officer, effective Aug. 1, 1998. He replaces **Lt. Col. Ralph Green**, who retired.

Lt. Col. Albert Halle was appointed Senior Quality Advisor, effective Sept. 1, 1998. He replaces Lt. Col. Jack Richards in the full-time position.

Maj. Allen Rogers was appointed Commander, 216th Engineer Battalion, effective Aug. 1, 1998. He replaces Lt. Col. Jack Richards in the traditional guardmember position.

Maj. Thomas Lootens was appointed Commander, 1-134th Field Artillery Battalion, effective Sept. 1, 1998. He replaces Lt. Col. Albert Halle in the traditional guardmember position.

Col. James Chisman was appointed Commander, 73rd Troop Command, effective Oct. 1, 1998. He replaces **Brig. Gen. Edward E. Ferguson**, who retired.

Lt. Col. Rick Hall was appointed Commander, 1-137th Aviation Battalion, effective Sept. 15, 1998. He replaces **Lt. Col. Chris Coy**, who was reassigned.

Maj. Mark Sarka was appointed Commander, 1-147th Infantry Battalion (Mechanized), effective Oct. 1, 1998. He replaces **Lt. Col. Daniel Allen**, who was reassigned.

Command Profile



Lt. Col. Will Allen 220th Engineering Installation Squadron

Age: 47

Occupation: project engineer, GE Aircraft Engines, Cincinnati.

I grew up in: McComb, Miss.

When I was little I wanted to be: an actor or gospel singer.

Friends and classmates in high school thought I was: shy and ambitious.

My favorite time of the year is: Spring. It denotes the end of winter and the beginning of nature's beauty and flower gardens.

The one thing I treasure most is: teamwork.

My favorite junk food is: ice cream.

My biggest pet peeves are: insensitivity and rudeness.

My favorite recreational activity is: traveling.

If I could travel back in time I would: fear my obstacles a lot less.

If I won \$20 million in the lotto I would: quit my job at GE and stay in the Guard.

The older I get, the more I: realize the value of my family.

When I retire, I want to: engage in motivational speaking and charity work; and travel.

If I could leave today's guardmembers with one piece of advice it would be: Look at your obstacles as challenges and charge them with enthusiasm.

Take me out to the (old) ballgame

Guardmember's love of history, baseball combine in a vintage form of the national pastime.

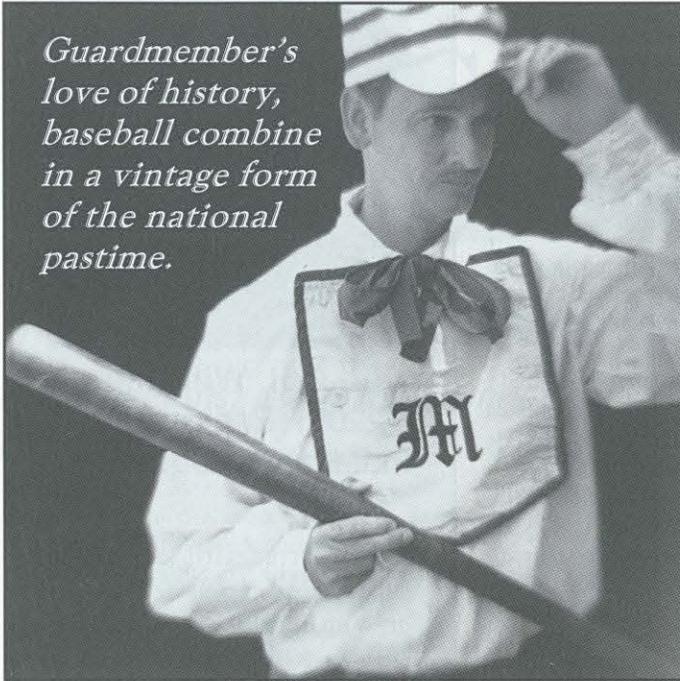


Photo by Brian Smith Photography.

This season Staff Sgt. Gary Thompson played for the Ohio Village Muffins, a vintage baseball team based in Columbus.

By Spc. Steve Toth
HQ STARC (-)

When the subject of professional baseball comes up, many people see an industry conducted in multimillion dollar stadiums by sometimes large-egoed professional athletes who make annual salaries often equal to lottery or sweepstakes winnings. It is a business.

For some people, however, it still is just a game. Many are harking back to the game of baseball as it was envisioned when it was invented in the 1800s — a game meant to be played by true gentle-

men (and sometimes ladies).

These people are playing vintage baseball, an ever-growing phenomenon across the United States which is increasing in popularity. One such person is Staff Sgt. Gary Thompson, assistant marketing NCO for the Ohio Army National Guard. Thompson began playing the game by chance a couple years ago after he attended a vintage baseball tournament with his family at the Ohio Historical Society in Columbus. The Thompson clan was enthralled by a virtual page out of a history book — with players, umpires and fans alike dressed in period costumes, using language of

and vernacular of the era, and playing the game and conducting themselves as players and people would have in the 1800s.

After the tournament, Thompson asked some of the players about other games on the schedule he could attend. Instead of handing him a schedule, they invited him to join the team. He started his vintage baseball career with a team from Newcomerstown, and this past season joined the Ohio Village Muffins Baseball Club, which plays at the Ohio Historical Society and also travels around the country to play other vintage teams.

"It's a real neat, fan-oriented event and it shows how baseball started in 1845," Thompson said.

And a different time it once was.

The equipment the players use is historically authentic. Bats are unvarnished, hand-turned lengths of wood from trees such as oak, ash, poplar, willow and hickory. Hand-sewn balls have a rubber core wrapped in yarn and are covered by a single piece of leather.

Batters are called "strickers," and pitchers are known as "hurlers" and work from a mound just 45 feet away, delivering the ball in an underhand motion. If the ball goes into the crowd of "cranks," better known as fans, it is still a live ball. Mitts and gloves are not used and the "one-bounce-and-you're-out" rule is in effect: if any fielder catches a ball in the air or on the first hop — whether fair or foul — the striker is called out.

Other circa-1860 rules include no bunting, sliding and leading off of bases. There are also social rules

to be followed: no spitting, no profanity and, for the ladies, no showing of too much "limb."

When players and spectators break the rules, they are fined. Thompson said the match umpires enforce the rules and charge fines, usually about a nickel, whenever the rules are broken. That was how umpires made their money back in those days. Thompson noted another interesting fact about umpires of the time — they didn't actually call balls and strikes unless a batter took too long at the plate, so the same rules are adhered to in vintage baseball.

Many of the Muffins players have assumed nicknames, as was the custom at that time in history. The roster is stocked with players such as Don "Big Bat" Andersen, Bob "Doc" Lawson and "Cannonball Joe" Sharpnack. Thompson has been given the nickname of "Rabbit" for his quickness afoot to steal a base when necessary.

There is a certain degree of friendly competition, however most are in it for other reasons.

"Most of the people involved are more into the historic value and how they played the game back then," he said. "But it's still like being on a real team. That's why I enjoy it so much," Thompson said.

Thompson also plays with a team called the 1922 Giants (located out of Marysville), wearing uniform replicas and playing according to that era's rules. Next season he will serve as team manager and is looking for players to fill out the roster. Interested players should call (614) 336-7290. ■

Vintage Base Ball Terminology

People who play vintage baseball don't just play it, they live it. And part of living it is using the right vocabulary. Some vintage terms are listed below, with equivalent modern terms in parentheses:

Leg it! Leg it! (Go! Go!)
club nine (team)
match (game)
foul tick (foul ball)

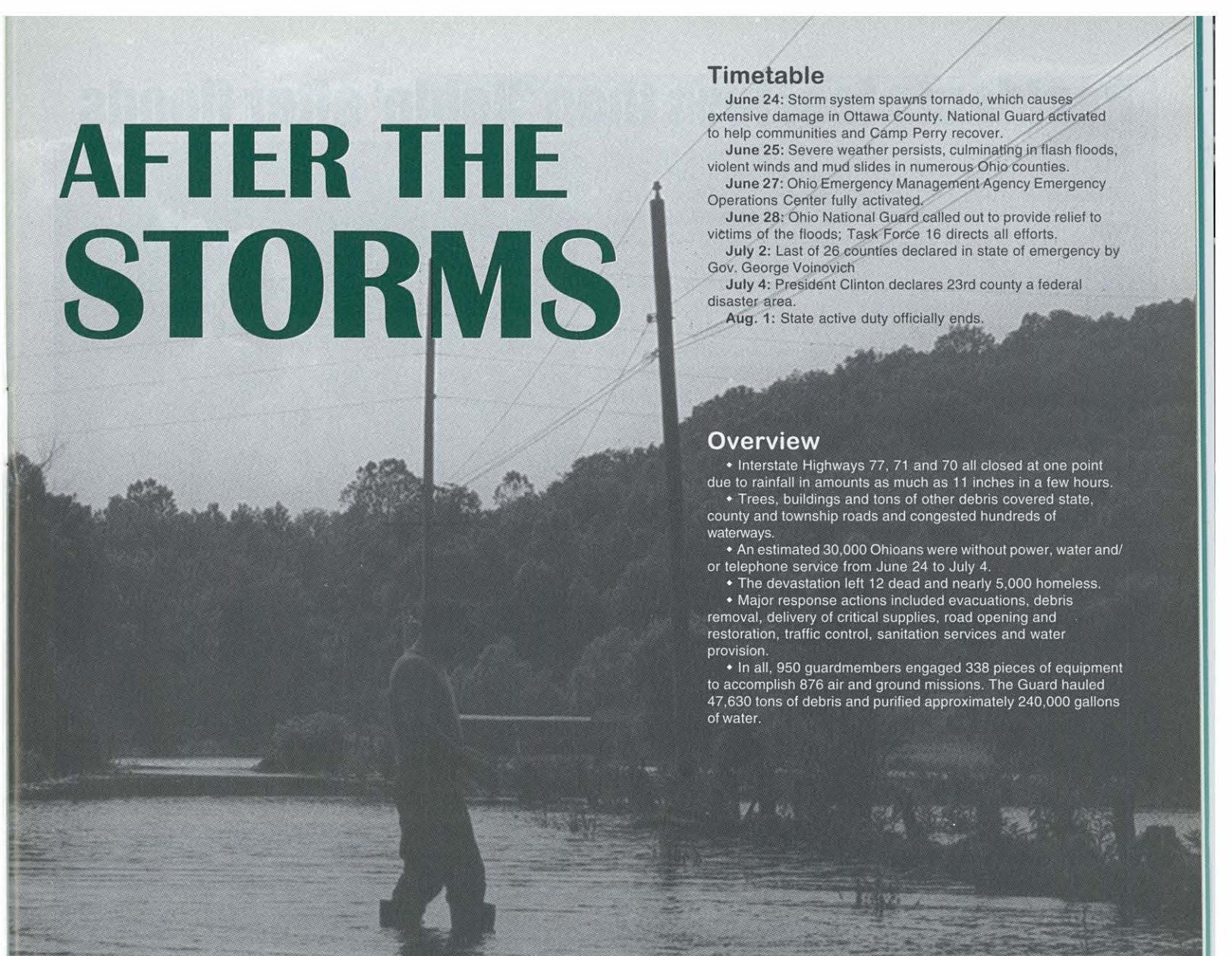
hurler (pitcher)
behind (catcher)
tally (score)
ace (run)

dead man (out)
muff (dropped ball)
base ball (baseball)
cranks (fans)

Citizen Spotlight is a column aimed at highlighting the civilian occupations and off-duty interests of Ohio guardmembers. Please e-mail story ideas to buckeye@OH-ARNG.ngb.army.mil or mail to:

AGOH-PA
ATTN: Citizen Spotlight
2825 W. Dublin-Granville Road
Columbus, Ohio 43235-2789

AFTER THE STORMS



Timetable

June 24: Storm system spawns tornado, which causes extensive damage in Ottawa County. National Guard activated to help communities and Camp Perry recover.

June 25: Severe weather persists, culminating in flash floods, violent winds and mud slides in numerous Ohio counties.

June 27: Ohio Emergency Management Agency Emergency Operations Center fully activated.

June 28: Ohio National Guard called out to provide relief to victims of the floods; Task Force 16 directs all efforts.

July 2: Last of 26 counties declared in state of emergency by Gov. George Voinovich

July 4: President Clinton declares 23rd county a federal disaster area.

Aug. 1: State active duty officially ends.

Overview

- Interstate Highways 77, 71 and 70 all closed at one point due to rainfall in amounts as much as 11 inches in a few hours.
- Trees, buildings and tons of other debris covered state, county and township roads and congested hundreds of waterways.
- An estimated 30,000 Ohioans were without power, water and/or telephone service from June 24 to July 4.
- The devastation left 12 dead and nearly 5,000 homeless.
- Major response actions included evacuations, debris removal, delivery of critical supplies, road opening and restoration, traffic control, sanitation services and water provision.
- In all, 950 guardmembers engaged 338 pieces of equipment to accomplish 876 air and ground missions. The Guard hauled 47,630 tons of debris and purified approximately 240,000 gallons of water.

Ottawa County takes first hit

Roofs blown off houses. Large branches blocking roads. Trees toppled on top of homes.

This is what Staff Sgt. Steve Lindo witnessed on the way to his unit after being called up to help clear debris caused by a tornado that ripped through several Ottawa County communities along Lake Erie in June.

Lindo, reporting to the 200th RED HORSE Squadron at Camp Perry, was told to pack for up to 10 days of state active duty. State officials estimated it was going to take at least that long to help fix what havoc the tornado had wreaked on county roads.

"The damage was a lot worse than I expected," Lindo recalled. "I'd seen (tornado damage) on TV, but when you see it in actual life, well, it's traumatic, devastating. It's something

you won't forget in your lifetime," he said.

Lindo was one of about 20 heavy equipment operators from the 200th who volunteered for tornado duty, according to 1st Lt. Michael A. Hrynciw III, a 200th civil engineer.

Hrynciw said the airmen started getting calls around 5 a.m. June 25 from Camp Perry, which was running on generators since the tornado wiped out all power and telephone systems throughout the region. Because of the use of generators, an emergency operations center (EOC) was set up at the post, where the National Guard and local Emergency Management Agency officials worked together to coordinate the clean-up effort.

Hrynciw said the first task was to clear about 15 miles of state Route 2, as well as other roads throughout the county. He estimated that his

crew collected about 160 cubic yards of debris. Another major task was providing and distributing three water buffaloes to designated areas hard-hit by the storm.

"It (the damage) was worse than I imagined, the worst I've ever seen — but fortunately no one was seriously hurt or killed," Hrynciw said. He added that he thought his people did a great job, especially since many of the airmen were locals. "It takes a lot of volunteerism to leave their own area to help others. We're lucky to have a lot of people in this unit who are always willing to step up to the plate."

And though it was set up as the EOC, Camp Perry itself had sustained substantial damage.

Having suffered from record rainfall in April, the post was still recovering from severe flood-

— continued on page 12

Residents feel less than 'Noble' after floods

Story and photos by
Tech. Sgt. Lori King
180th Fighter Wing

Trash detail is one of the least glamorous jobs in the world, but someone's gotta do it.

So Senior Airman Bill Anderson rolled up his sleeves and dug into the heaping pile of spoiled food, mud-drenched carpets, refrigerators and even propane tanks. Anything destroyed by the southeastern Ohio floods, which was just about everything, went into Anderson's trash pile.

Anderson's designated heap of rubbish was in the small Noble County town of Caldwell, right off Interstate 77, south of Cambridge. The 200th RED HORSE Squadron heavy equipment operator said his first morning on duty entailed scooping up about a football field of debris brought in from local residents who lost everything in the flood.

Watching Caldwell natives unload what used to be their furniture into the mountain of trash behind the police and fire stations was a sight Anderson won't soon forget, if ever.

But true to the spirit of the National Guard, he said he was happy to be there, because without the Guard's help, trash duty just wouldn't have gotten done in a timely manner.

"The civilians were under a lot of

pressure. They were upset and needed our help," he said.

Standing in front of his flooded home, Belle Valley resident Mike Bond couldn't argue that point as he sadly recalled the worst flood he had ever seen. He said it rained like crazy the evening of June 28, estimating that eight inches of rain fell within three hours. The result was a swollen Duck Creek, which is normally a narrow, lazy stream that winds through the county.

By the middle of the night, Bond and his family had to abandon their home. They found high ground on a highway entrance ramp behind their back yard, where they worried about the six feet of water pouring into their two-story house. They didn't have flood insurance.

"I lost all my furniture, and my floors are warped. I lost everything downstairs," Bond said. "There's no way to get rid of this stuff. We need the military, we need help bad."

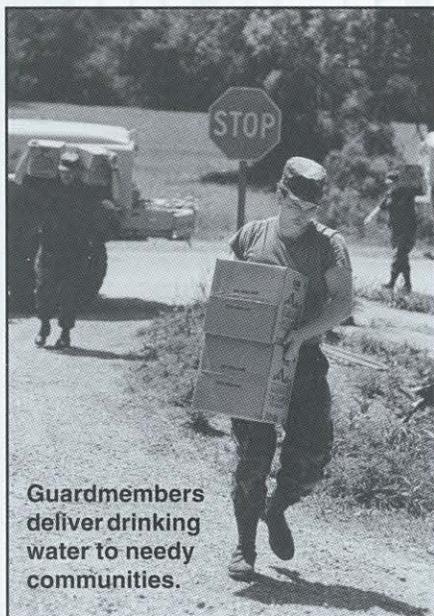
It didn't take long for the Army and Air National Guard to pour into the county like ants on a picnic blanket. The Ohio Emergency Management Agency (EMA) in Columbus quickly dispatched at least 80 National Guard members to Noble County, where an Emergency Operations Center (EOC) was set up near downtown Caldwell.

Inside the EOC was a constant flurry of activity. Military leaders worked side-by-side with local officials as they planned their attack against the aftermath of a flood that left untold numbers of people homeless and unemployed.

EMA field coordinator Dan Winningham secured low interest loans for residents through a family assistance grant made possible after the president declared Noble County a federal disaster area. He said federal money would be available to repair damaged public roads and bridges, and individual and public assistance teams also were available.



ABOVE: Levi Seebach, 10, and his uncle, Dan Niswonger, dump ruined personal belongings into a trash heap which is tended by SrA. Bill Anderson. **RIGHT:** Noble County home destroyed by summer floods.



Guardmembers deliver drinking water to needy communities.

"We're here to help as long as it takes," said Lt. Col. Frank Appelfeller, who ensured Guard engineer assets and its water purification system were in place. "We're working with the local trustees and commissioners to help respond to the community's needs."

"We need this cleaned up as soon as possible," County Health Commissioner Shawn Ray said. "If these people don't disinfect, you won't believe the problems we'll have." He said his vaccine crews of nurses and medics, transported by military ambulances, issued about 800 tetanus

shots per day. "I think the green uniforms are the drawing card; the residents are attracted to them."

Among the military relief crews were heavy equipment operators, medics, military police officers, administrators, transportation specialists and civil engineers. Members of the RED HORSE unit opened and repaired 300 miles of roads for emergency vehicle access; hauled off trash debris from a dozen trash sites; and provided and operated the reverse osmosis water purification unit (ROWPU), which provided potable water for all of Noble County.

"It's times like these that make my job in the Guard real rewarding — I like to make a difference, and getting these roads repaired quickly helps these people a lot," said Senior Airman Joe Simkanin, a heavy equipment operator who also had helped clean up after the tornado in Ottawa County just a week earlier.

According to Capt. Todd Audet, troop commander for the 200th, his work crews maintained an operations tempo of up to 16 hours a day for two weeks. "But their morale stayed high because the work kept them busy. They came down understanding what they were getting themselves into," he said.

But such was not the case for everyone, including Spc. Mark Kelly, of the 2-174th ADA Avenger Battalion, McConnellsville.

After five days of sick call duty — giving tetanus shots and transporting dead bodies to funeral homes — he was slumped in the back of a military ambulance truck in the parking lot of the Caldwell EOC. He was tired and sorrowful, and looking forward to going home.

"The dead bodies were definitely something I wasn't expecting," he lamented. "It was the first time I'd ever seen dead bodies, and I had to put one of them in a body bag. I was depressed and sad for the families.

"It kind of messed me up for a couple of days," he admitted.

Not having to deal with the loss of human lives, truck driver Sgt. Jason Barnhouse, 1484th Transportation Company, was more optimistic about his duties as a water supplier. After a week of driving around the county distributing water buffaloes and gallons of water to residents, he said he observed that most everyone he met was amazingly calm, considering the damage they were left with.

"They're bouncing back better than I thought they would. Mowing their lawns with a foot of mud in their basements," he marveled. "They're starting to rebuild. Neighbors are helping each other. The communication among them is very good. I live in a town where I don't even know my next door neighbor."

Just a week after Kelly transported drowning victims to funeral homes, it was hard to believe that a flood had even passed through. It had been hot and sunny for several days in a row and the creek water that wreaked havoc on Noble County communities was quickly dried up by a relentless sun. Through the latter part of July, the only evidence of the Great Flood of '98 was the National Guard trucks roaming around the county looking for anyone who needed help. ■

EDITOR'S NOTE: Master Sgt. Gregg Meadows, 220th Engineering Installation Squadron, contributed to this article.

Plight of neighbors, threat of storm inspires heroics in Army guardsman

Story and photo by Tech. Sgt. Lori King
180th Fighter Wing

It was only an hour into the birthday party when the storm hit.

Sgt. Mike Conner said the wind blew so hard that rain came down sideways, like it wasn't even touching the ground. It blew smack into the side of his parents' house. In less than an hour he stood in water up to his knees.

The June 28 birthday party for his son and daughter was cut short when rain water began to fill his parents' basement and tornado warnings were reported on the radio.

Conner, the father of three young children, decided they would stay the night with his parents, so he left two of his kids at his parents' home in Byesville and headed back with his youngest child to his home in Caldwell to gather clothes.

But during the 13-mile drive to Caldwell he drove through water that submerged the interstate. That's when he knew he wasn't returning — driving in the storm was too much. So he stayed at home and listened to the scanner for tornado warnings.

By this time it was 1 a.m. He heard on the police scanner that kids were trapped on top of a truck that was about to be swept away by flood waters.

Heavy rains all night long had forced water to escape from the nearby banks of Duck Creek and fill the streets of Caldwell. A strong current was sweeping up cars and trucks like they were toys and carrying them away.

Since Conner, a team leader with the 2-174th Air Defense Artillery (Avenger) Battalion, lived only a minute from the scene, he threw on his military uniform and went to the rescue. What he found was a woman trapped inside of her car in front of a grocery store on the east side of town.

"She was begging for someone to come and get her," Conner recalled. "The light was on in her car and she was in it, panicking and scared. I took off running past the deputy. I didn't have a clue how fast or deep the water was.

"I pulled her up and out of her car, which was moving, and carried her through the current back to dry ground. As soon as I turned around, the



Caldwell resident SGT Mike Conner is credited with saving at least two lives during the southeastern Ohio floods.

car was gone. The time span was about 30 seconds to a minute.

"I was thinking with my heart instead of my head," he admitted.

For the next hour he helped the local police pull stranded people to safety. Then he spotted a man and his dog inside of a truck that was being swept sideways into a store parking lot that was covered with water.

"The dog jumped out of the window and the man went after him, but he couldn't swim," he said. Instead of stepping onto Route 78, Conner said the man turned the wrong direction and fell right into the immersed lot. "So I took off after him.

"The water was over my head by far — over six feet," he explained. "I was exhausted, and the man was extremely heavy and out of shape. I was hoping both of us had enough steam to go a few more feet, but I was able to pull him straight up to the road."

And the dog? Conner saved it, too.

Conner ended up spending 17 continuous hours in the water searching for missing people

— continued on page 12

"I was thinking with my heart instead of my head."

SGT Mike Conner

Army, Air team up in relief efforts

By Tech. Sgt. Greg Rudl
121st Air Refueling Wing

About a week after flash floods and high winds decimated Washington County, Maj. Dana McDaniel of Headquarters, 112th Engineer Battalion, looked at a roster of troops under his command and was astonished. According to his clipboard, 18 different units were represented, working together to help communities recover from the devastation of severe storms.

It all started for McDaniel on June 27 when he was told to report to the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) in Marietta. He left his Columbus home early the next morning and what should have been a two-hour drive took him seven. He drove through high water on I-70, continued past the closed I-77 to the West Virginia border and followed the Ohio River



Photo by Nancy Dragani, Ohio Emergency Management Agency.

Marion locals wade through the streets of a residential neighborhood.

down to Marietta. All the while, roads were being closed behind him.

Sometimes getting to the site of a disaster can be as challenging as working in it.

North on state Route 821 out of Marietta, the evidence of a major flood started to pile up. A film of dried reddish-brown mud left a clear outline of how much the raging waters had engulfed. Long strands of brown grass still clung to telephone wires, 20 feet above the road — an awesome testament to how high the water crested.

“The place was chaos,” McDaniel said. “For the first 12 hours we had to look at where the hardest hit areas were. We figured out there were two areas that needed most of our help — the wind damaged area (areas west of I-77, including Marietta) and the Duck Creek water basin (which included the towns of Elba and Lower Salem). We concentrated our efforts there.”

As troops and equipment began arriving from various units, he assembled them into five teams and established an operations center at Marietta Middle School, where more than 100 National Guardmembers were housed well past the Fourth of July weekend.

“You spend all year planning for a

two-week summer camp and this thing is thrown together in a matter of 24-36 hours,” remarked McDaniel. “You are given personnel and equipment from many different units and are told to get the job done.”

Heading up McDaniel’s operations center was commander of troops Capt. Sean McCaffrey of C Company, 612th Engineering Battalion. His unit was the most represented in the Washington County relief theater.

Both officers had their hands full with getting the troops and equipment to where they were needed the most. Under their direction, guardmembers cleared debris from roads, hauled water-logged trash to dumps, provided generators to supply electricity where there wasn’t any, cleared streams and culverts and obtained ice chests used for food storage — all in an effort to help bring back a sense of normalcy for area residents.

For the town of Elba, that meant bringing back a daily ritual that many residents were deprived of for several days — showers.

When McDaniel learned the town had no running water, he dispatched an eight-member engineering team to build a makeshift shower facility, designed by Staff Sgt. George Portier of HHC, 216th Engineer Battalion.

Supervised by Portier and Sgt. Dennis Boney, 2-174th Air Defense Artillery Battalion, it took the work crew just a few short hours to erect the showers, which were housed by a large canvas tent. The Guard supplied the tent and water tank, but much of the hardware — wood for the floor, shower heads and water pump — were bought through monetary donations.

“I’ll be staying next door, so it will suite me fine,” said Danielle Dutton who, with her husband, moved into a camper near the shower facility because their house was completely destroyed by flooding. “It



Photo by MSgt. Gregg Meadows, 220th EIS.

Civil engineer work crews from the 200th RED HORSE Squadron repair roads damaged by flood waters.



Photo by TSgt. Greg Rudl, 121st ARW.

Elba resident Danielle Dutton is grateful for the shower facility set up by the Guard.

beats using a bucket of water to clean myself.”

Because of the absence of safe, potable water and the presence of standing flood waters, sanitation and other health issues quickly brought the medical assets of the Guard into service.

Sgt. Nancy Ragoonth of Detachment 6, Headquarters State Area Command, and her Humvee-turned-ambulance searched the hills of southern Ohio for Guard work crews in need of medical attention. “We’ve had headaches and sore throats, just minor stuff,” she said. “But we’re pushing water, so there’s fewer cases of dehydration than there was in the ’97 floods.”

Lt. Col. Bruce Montgomery, a physician with the 180th Fighter Wing, Toledo, led a crew that gave tetanus shots and provided sick call services to guardmembers. “The tetanus shot is to protect them against cuts and injuries. The likelihood of infection is greater when you work in dirty areas.”

And working in dirty areas is just what some guardmembers were sent out to do.

Senior Airmen Gregory Jan and Bill Anderson, both with the 200th RED HORSE Civil Engineering Squadron, teamed up to collect and remove debris left in the aftermath of the storms. Hauling a front-end loader on a camouflaged tractor-trailer, Jan and Anderson weren’t phased

at all about delving into other people’s garbage. These guys belong to a unit that specializes in rebuilding bombed-out runways.

For this emergency and the residents of Washington County, they loaded unsightly and unhealthy trash into Ohio Department of Transportation dump trucks, which hauled the waste to nearby landfills. Anderson proudly admitted that during his first five days on the job, he loaded more than 100 dump trucks full.

Jan, who played the part of safety spotter, was concerned with traffic rushing by.

“Most of the people around here are still driving the normal speed limits. There are a lot of bends in these roads. You come around the corner and you’re on top of something, so any road work is dangerous.”

Despite the risks involved, Jan said he wouldn’t have traded his Fourth of July weekend with anyone, even those enjoying cookouts and fireworks. “There’s no better way to spend the holiday — in community service, being patriotic and helping out your fellow citizen.” ■

Guard engineers offer small towns help, hope

By Spc. Neal G. Powers
Co. A, 112th Engineer Battalion

It seems Mother Nature missed the mark by about 850 miles when Ohio received all the rain prayed for by Florida residents wishing to douse wildfires that destroyed thousands of acres last June and July.

The unwelcome storms and resultant flooding will be most remembered by residents of Noble and Guernsey Counties, which had some towns submerged by the torrential rains.

“Little Stilwater and Big Stilwater Creeks became fast moving rivers of water that crested more than 10 feet above flood stage,” said 1st Sgt. Harry Johnson, Co. A, 112th Engineer Battalion, Wooster. “The west and north side of Uhrichsville was submerged and the water treatment plant was in jeopardy of being swamped.” Johnson’s unit was activated June 28 to assist with saving the town’s water plant and to help law enforcement personnel with security.

“We filled more than 2,000 sand bags and formed a wall around the water treatment plant,” Johnson said. “Even with the efforts of the engineers, two other water lift stations were put out of action which disabled the sewage system. But the water plant



Photo by SPC Neal Powers, Co. A, 112th Eng. Bn.

A member of Co. C, 112th Engineer Battalion uses a SEE to unclog a bridge in St. Clairsville, Ohio.

was saved,” he added.

Other engineer elements of Task Force 16 went to St. Clairsville, where Little Short Creek, normally a small narrow stream, had become a raging river. It completely leveled houses along its banks near town. The only evidence of mobile homes that were standing the day before was the tell-tale path of debris that littered the creek’s embankment for nearly a mile.

Equipped with Small Earth Ex-

cavators (SEEs), dozers and dump trucks, Company C, 112th Engineer Battalion and the 1193rd Engineer Company set out on the first priority — rebuilding Little Short Creek Road. Company C, 216th Engineers also helped, replacing and repairing culverts, unclogging debris from a bridge, dredging the stream bed with dozers and front-end loaders, and hauling away trees and other debris.

Civilian disaster teams worked

side-by-side with the soldiers, sometimes into dark.

In Cambridge, members of Co. A, 112th Engineers moved patients, beds and equipment from a mentally/physically handicapped facility to a school gymnasium, then back again days later. Guard and county crews also were kept busy with cutting away fallen trees, making roads usable again, hauling away brush and flood debris, and delivering water to neighboring communities.

And for at least one of the Guard engineers, the flood damage hit close to home — literally.

“It inched closer and closer only to stop a half block from my porch,” said Sgt. 1st Class Rick Hyde, readiness NCO for Co. A, 112th Engineers and Byesville resident. “Still I had water damage in my basement from the backed-up sewage.” The city’s south side and some of downtown was flooded, so was a nearby section of Interstate 77.

As the relief efforts started to wind down, communities began to show evidence of recovery. Trying to add some humor to the situation, a local Subway restaurant posted a sign declaring its state of operation: “Open for Business—No wading.” ■

Heroics *continued from page 9*

and recovering bodies.

He shrugs off his heroic efforts, saying he was just “a friend helping friends find friends.”

It’s certainly a story of personal courage and great sacrifice.

And because of his bravery, four, not six, area residents died that night. For the next 21 days, Conner was part of a large National Guard force that was brought in to help Noble County residents recover from the flood.

He drove around some of the most remote areas of the county in his 5-ton truck delivering potable water, food and personal hygiene items. Nearly every day he transported nurses who

administered tetanus shots to anyone who wanted one. And he also drove out-of-town folks through flooded county roads so they could reach their elderly family members in some of the hardest-hit areas.

First Sgt. Jack Sloter wasn’t surprised when he heard that his anti-aircraft crew chief had risked his life that first night. He describes Conner as a model soldier who went above and beyond any call of duty. He commended him for his selfless heroics.

“More lives would have been lost if not for soldiers like Sgt. Conner,” he asserted. “He deserves the Ohio Cross.”

And he’s getting it.

Conner said he recently received a letter from

Ohio Gov. George Voinovich stating he had heard about the flood incident and that Adjutant General Maj. Gen. Richard C. Alexander put him in for the Ohio Cross.

The Ohio Cross is issued by the state of Ohio when extreme bravery and risk of life are involved. The adjutant general presents the award on behalf of the governor.

When asked how he felt about all this attention, Conner paused, then said matter-of-factly: “It’s nice, but, I mean, basically this is all a part of the oath that I swore when I enlisted. It’s just a part of it.

“But my family’s ecstatic, and so is my unit — if not more,” he added. ■

Ottawa County *continued from page 7*

ing caused by Lake Erie, which poured an estimated 37 million gallons of water over the break walls. While still undergoing major repairs, Camp Perry was pummeled by the tornado that reported its heaviest damage along state Route 2 between Davis Besse Nuclear Power Station and the city of Port Clinton — the exact location of the training site.

Not a single building on post was spared. Every roof had at least a few shingles missing, windows were broken and siding was sheared away. Debris lay everywhere — uprooted trees, target boards, anything the 113-157 mile-per-hour winds could pick up and toss, they did.

Perceived by many as Camp Perry’s most significant loss was the destruction of two historical landmarks. The railroad baggage station, which had received and sent so many troops and materials to battlefields and outposts all over the world, was destroyed. The main flagpole was leveled as well. It was erected in 1911 and was actually the wooden mast off the U.S. Sloop of War “Essex,” which had sailed the Great Lakes.

The “Shooters’ Mess Hall” was served up a brunt of the damage, and will require extensive renovation. Five warehouses, two motel units (44 rooms) and a new latrine building also were destroyed, while the rifle ranges were substantially affected with damage and loss of support facilities.

Within 24 hours of the storm, Camp Perry leaders met to determine whether it was feasible to conduct scheduled range activities, which included the National Rifle Matches, slated to begin July 10. As a result, a cooperative effort coined “Partnership 21” was formed, comprised of the Civilian Marksmanship Program, National Rifle Association and the Adjutant General’s Department. Members of this initiative were determined to repair the facilities and ranges in time for the annual marksmanship

A tornado in June damaged Shooters’ Mess Hall (right) and destroyed the historic Baggage Station (below).

program, which has been conducted at Camp Perry since 1907.

“Members of the National Rifle Association and the State Marksmanship program already had a workforce in place in preparation for the matches,” said Lt. Col. Dean Brown, Camp Perry manager. “They were responsible for the majority of range maintenance — clearing debris and repairing equipment that had been destroyed,” he explained.

And though the priority for relief missions directed by the EOC responded to civilian communities, guardmembers called to state active duty also spent time clearing debris and restoring facilities at Camp Perry between off-post assignments. “They provided several temporary fixes — boarding plywood to roofs and walls, protecting (interiors) from the weather,” Brown said.

Even an active duty reconnaissance platoon from Fort Drum, N.Y., offered to help.

“They volunteered their services without regard to their own personal safety — facing such dangers as unstable buildings, fallen power lines and natural gas leaks,” Brown said of the 13 members of Headquarters, Headquarters Company, 1-32nd Infantry, who were at Camp Perry for long-range rifle marksmanship training. For three days, these soldiers assisted in various missions which included evacuating 50 civilians from damaged motel units, maintaining security of post buildings and property, and



assisting in the massive clean-up of debris.

“The unit’s volunteerism and service should be commended because they were under no obligation to assist in these efforts — they simply wanted to help,” Brown said.

Resulting from these cooperative efforts, restoration that could have taken two months was completed in two weeks — with the National Rifle Matches starting on time. While Camp Perry is considered functional and able to meet its training objectives, the conservative estimate for its total rehabilitation is approximately \$6.2 million. ■

EDITOR’S NOTE: Tech. Sgt. Lori King, 180th Fighter Wing; Capt. Barbara Herrington-Clemons, Camp Perry Public Affairs Officer; and Staff Sgt. Diane Farrow, HQ STARC (-), contributed to this article.

Freeing the Oppressed

Worldwide missions for OHARNG Special Forces unit

Story and photos by Spc. Steve Toth

HQ STARC (-)

To say that it takes commitment to be a Special Forces soldier may be an understatement. It indeed takes something "special" to be part of one of the Army's elite fighting organizations. Many say Special Forces is not just challenging training, it's a way of life.

Carefully selected and trained, Special Forces soldiers are America's main weapon for waging unconventional warfare in an age when conventional conflicts are increasingly rare. On a daily basis, small Special Forces units are deployed worldwide to protect U.S. allies and train them to defend themselves against tyranny and oppression.

With the downsizing of the military and more need for special operations missions in an ever-changing world, there recently has been more reliance on reserve SF units, employing the citizen-soldiers of America in a variety of worldwide missions.

Chagrin Falls is headquarters for the Ohio Army National Guard's Company B, 2nd Battalion, 19th Special Forces Group (Airborne). About 80 members strong, the unit also has a detachment in Middletown.

"When someone hears Special Forces, they may conjure images of Rambo or John Wayne — SF soldiers as steely-eyed killers. There is definitely a mystique, but there is more to a Special Forces soldier," said Capt. Ted Owens, company executive officer. "We are highly-trained, seriously dedicated soldiers. We have real-world missions all the time, all over the world."

In the past, the unit has performed missions and training in foreign nations including Kenya, Somalia, Japan, Korea and probably most visibly Haiti (see *Buckeye Guard*, Winter 1995/96), as unit personnel provided security during the country's democratic elections.

While it is tasked with its own unique worldwide missions, the Ohio SF unit also is training with other Guard and Reserve units. The unit has served as an opposing force (OPFOR) for training; conducted communications and medical classes; trained with law enforcement agencies such as SWAT (Special Weapons and Tactics) units; and conducted airborne operations with Air Reserve and Guard units. In August, the Chagrin Falls unit conducted joint training with

the Air Reserve's 910th Airlift Wing, based in Youngstown. The exercise, known as Super TAC 98-1, involved Air Reserve aircraft from six states, National Guard SF units from three states and 11 members of the British and Canadian armed forces.

"The 910th has been one of our biggest supporters. We're pleased they asked us to take part," Owens said.

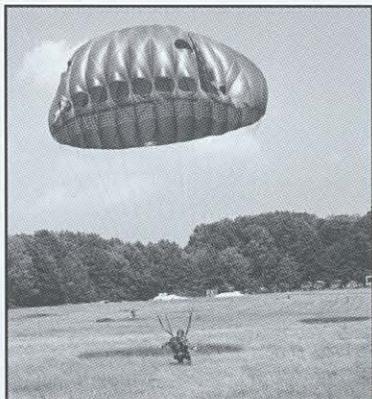
Eight C-130 aircraft dropped 77 paratroopers from 1,250 feet above ground onto a drop zone at the Ravenna Training and Logistics Site.

In addition to airborne jumps, other typical training at unit drills include classes in subjects such as small unit tactics, weapons, first aid and operations orders; land navigation, in both daytime and nighttime scenarios; five-mile, 50-

pound ruck marches; field training exercises; physical fitness training and long distance runs.

The training administered at drill by Master Sgt. Paul Bobak, team training NCO, and his assistants is, by modest admission, arduous. The road to becoming Special Forces-qualified is challenging also, as there is a definite long-term commitment. Candidates undergo rigorous training, which begins with the 24-day Special Forces Assessment School (SFAS), where prospective Green Berets are tested in everything from land navigation to physical stamina and survival. After completion of SFAS, soldiers go to the qualification course, also known as the "Q" course, which lasts about six months. This course teaches not only unconventional tactics but also conventional light infantry doctrine and low-intensity conflict resolution. A variety of SF reconnaissance, foreign internal defense, direct action and counter-terrorism missions can be in waterborne, desert, jungle, mountain or arctic scenarios. Soldiers are trained in one of four skills: weapons, combat engineering, communications or medical. Each SF soldier also must complete a six-month foreign language course or exhibit an equivalent proficiency and attend Airborne school.

"It takes a lot of dedication and commitment on their part," Bobak said of SF soldiers. "They have to be willing to be separated from their



A Special Forces paratrooper hits the drop zone at Ravenna.



Company B, 2-19th SF Group SGM Clair Betzko conducts pre-jump equipment checks on SSG Darin Untermoser.

families for sometimes long periods of time. We're looking for guys with a lot of heart, with mental as well as physical stamina."

Once qualified, the Special Forces soldier is assigned to a 12-man Special Forces Operational Detachment Alpha or "A-team."

Ohio National Guard soldiers in other units who are interested in SF are allowed to try out with the Special Forces company in a split unit training assembly (SUTA) status for up to six months. During that time, a soldier can decide if he wants to pursue a Special Forces career.

"That's how we got the last few guys in our unit," said Sgt. Maj. Clair Betzko, company sergeant major. "We try to keep an open mind, until the end of that six months. And it doesn't matter what your military background is — right now our major need is for medics, but we'll take all MOSs. If we get you here and everyone involved decides that the soldier is right for the unit, then we will get you the training you need."

And if a soldier decides to stick with the unit and attend SFAS, he will be well-prepared before he goes to the school. There is a markedly low attrition rate among soldiers the Chagrin Falls unit sends to the SFAS — before they are sent to the school, candidates are trained well enough to be able to complete 80 push-ups and 80 sit-ups (in two minutes each) to Army standard; run two miles in 13 minutes, 30 seconds; run five miles in 35 minutes; complete a five-mile, 50-pound ruck march in less than one hour; and complete a 12-mile ruck march in less than two hours, 15 minutes.

If you are a male officer, warrant officer, NCO or enlisted soldier and think you have what it takes to wear the green beret, call (440) 543-1782. ■

Ohio Veterans Plaza unveiled at Statehouse

By Sgt. 1st Class Bob Mullins
HQ STARC (-)

“This place is for those people who have served — past, present and the future. It is not just a tribute to war but also to those who are prepared to go.”

Those words from Dave Alstadt, director of the Governor's Office of Veterans' Affairs, rang loud and clear Aug. 22 at the dedication of the new Ohio Veterans Plaza located on the grounds of the State Capitol in Columbus.

A weekend of receptions, music, speeches and remembrance was highlighted by the unveiling of the first memorial dedicated to veterans at the Statehouse since World War I.

The memorial is comprised of large stone walls in a semi-circle fashion on each end of the east side of the Statehouse. The walls are inscribed with a collection of 70 actual letters sent home to loved ones by soldiers serving overseas during wartime. A rectangle between the stones recognizes each county in the state of Ohio. Three flags — the American flag, the Ohio flag and the POW-MIA flag greet those who enter the plaza.

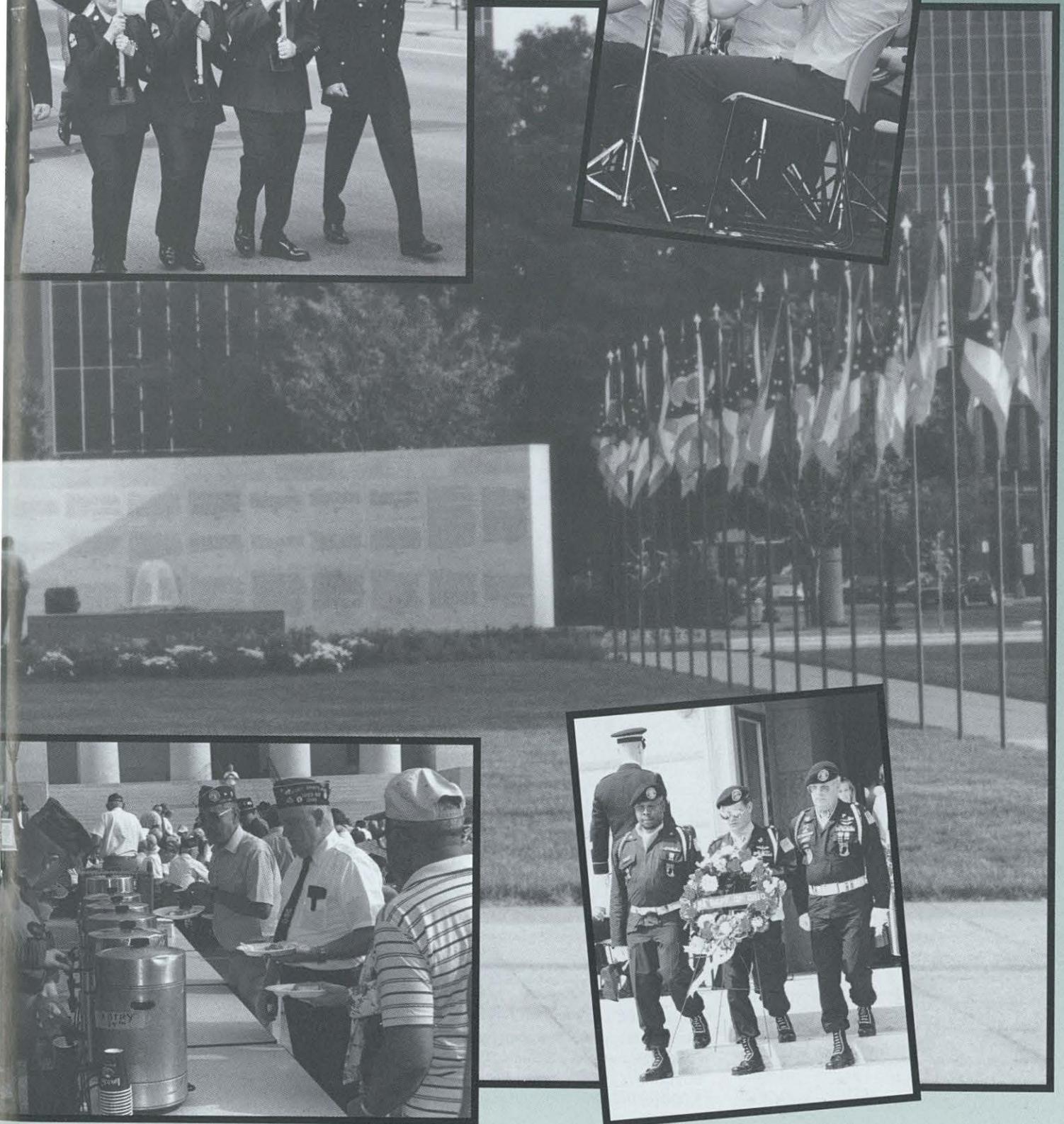
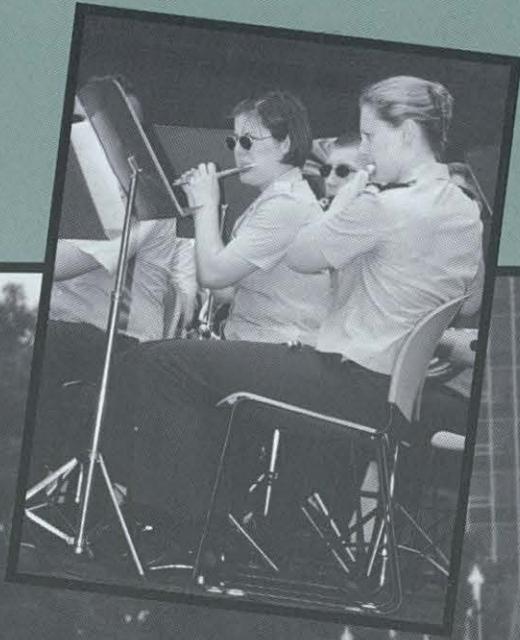
The Veterans Plaza dedication culminated almost 17 years of work by Ohio's veterans, various organizations and state government to make the project a reality. The completion of the plaza was the final step in the \$120.9 million renovation of the Statehouse that started a decade ago.

“This long overdue recognition brings home to the citizens of Ohio the realization of their efforts. It keeps our citizens aware that we have citizens who are willing to make sacrifices on their behalf,” Gov. George V. Voinovich said.

On the following morning, Voinovich and his wife, Janet, placed the first of many wreaths at the plaza in honor of those who have and are currently serving in America's armed forces — all branches, both active and reserve components. ■

TOP ROW (left to right): Gov. George and Mrs. Janet Voinovich bow their heads before a flower-laden wreath. A color guard from Headquarters, State Area Command represents the Ohio Army National Guard during dedication ceremonies. Members of the National Guard's 122nd Army Band entertain spectators on Saturday afternoon. **BOTTOM ROW (left to right):** Congressional Medal of Honor recipient Ronald Rosser and his wife, Sandy, initiate wreath-laying ceremony. Veterans enjoy “military style” breakfast Sunday morning. The Vietnam Veterans of America was one of many groups represented during weekend festivities. **PHOTOS BY:** SFC Bob Mullins, HQ STARC (-), and SSgt. Kelly Slen, 121st ARW.







Not just horsing around

121st Air Refueling Wing rivals peers at 'Rodeo' competition

Capt. Chris Fuller inspects the 121st's KC-135 during a single integrated operations plan (SIOP) turn. BELOW: TSgt. Jeff Peters served as team chief for the unit's security forces contingent.

Story by Staff Sgt. Shannon Scherer
HQ, Ohio Air National Guard
Photos by Senior Master Sgt. Joe Pastre
121st Air Refueling Wing

The 121st Air Refueling Wing, Columbus, was one of more than 70 teams from across the world that gathered in June with their trusty steeds to participate in Rodeo '98.

Despite the competition's name and the reference to horses, United States and international teams were not involved in lassoing or barrel racing events, but rather, they competed in flying, maintenance and combat security forces events and other events related to mobility aircraft. This biennial competition was held June 20-27, at McChord Air Force Base, Washington.

Rodeo, which began in 1961, is Air Mobility Command's premier readiness competition. Participants come from the active duty Air Force, Air Force Reserve, Air National Guard, Marine Corps, Army and Allied nation installations. For seven days these teams are judged on everything from time on arrival to daily safety checks to combat tactics.

The 121st ARW sent 21 personnel from

operations, maintenance and security forces to compete in this year's event. With less than two months preparation time, the team went to McChord hopeful of bringing home a trophy.

"It's good to represent the unit and it's an honor to represent the 121st Security Forces Squadron," said Staff Sgt. Stephen Shekas, 121st security forces.

Tech. Sgt. Robert Krooner, 121st security forces, said that competing at Rodeo adds credibility to the Guard and shows that the Guard is just as experienced and highly trained as the other teams.

The week of judging began with more than 57 aircraft arriving at five-minute intervals on the runway at McChord on Saturday morning. By the end of the day, the runway looked like an Air Mobility Command airshow with C-5s, C-9s, C-17s, C-130s, C-141s, KC-10s and KC-135s occupying every inch of space. International teams from such countries as Saudi Arabia, France, Canada and Uruguay arrived the previous week to prepare for the competition.

Sunday morning welcomed the teams with bright skies and warm weather as more than 3,000 participants gathered in formation for



the opening ceremonies. Shouts and cheers rang out across the flightline as an aerial review of the competing major weapons systems aircraft was conducted. Gen. Walter

Cross, AMC and transportation commander, reminded the crowd before they dismissed that "What we do for humanity often builds on the trust of these competitions." The stage had been set and the heavy competition was ready to begin.

The 121st maintenance team led the way by earning a perfect score during the pre-flight inspection on Sunday evening. Judges inspected specified configurations and required maintenance records and other documentation of the maintenance team, which was comprised of Senior Master Sgts. Phil Landes and Casey Stengel; Master Sgts. Frank Powell and Doug Welsh; Tech. Sgts. Roger Caldwell, Alvin Taylor and Phil Lovejoy; Staff Sgts. Kyle Farris and Richard Picker; and Senior Airman Joel Reynolds.

With the active duty maintenance team from McConnell Air Force Base, Kan., also earning a perfect score, the 121st ARW had to test their skills again in a run-off pre-flight inspection held later that week. Working nearly 14-hour days, the 10-person maintenance team ran neck and neck with McConnell all week for the first place overall team award.

"McConnell is really a top notch team," said Master Sgt. Doug Welsh. "They've won the maintenance competition before, but we're ready for them this year."

The 121st Security Forces team, made up of Tech. Sgts. Jeff Peters and Bob Crooner; Staff Sgts. Stephen Shekas and Dennis Jeffrey; and Senior Airman William Henniger, put their rigorous physical training preparation to the test during the combat endurance course, the rifle and handgun competitions, and the combat tactics competition.

The combat tactics course tested the ability of the team to operate in a potentially hostile area. The team was required to secure an area against hostile enemies while working with friendly U.N. forces. As the first security forces team to compete in the tactics competition, the 121st held the area for a very respectable 21 minutes out of the 25 minutes



ABOVE: Maintenance team members (from left to right) TSgt. Roger Caldwell, SrA. Joel Reynolds, SMSgt. Phil Landes and MSgt. Doug Welsh check out results of the day's competition. **RIGHT:** SSgt. Rick Picker conducts an intake inspection before the competition begins. **BELOW:** SSgt. Kyle Farris examines check data.

allotted for the exercise. The team placed third during the combat endurance course.

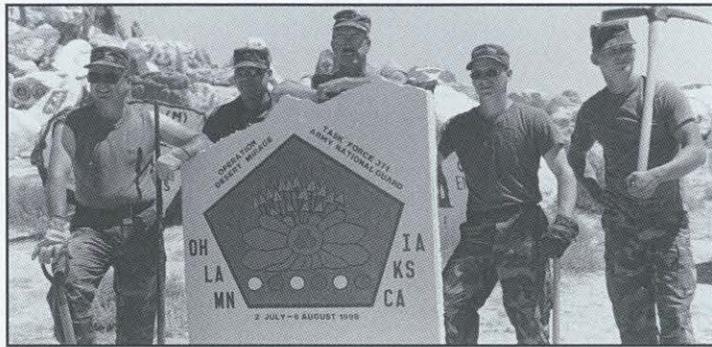
The operations team, comprised of Maj. Ed Waldo, Capt. Chris Fuller, 1st Lt. Troy Smith, Master Sgt. Matt Foster and Staff Sgt. Kevin Cartwright, began their competition at the crack of dawn on Monday morning with a reporting time of 4:30 a.m.

The first team to compete in the aerial refueling mission, the 121st was responsible for off-loading 10,000 pounds of fuel to a C-5 Galaxy from Travis Air Force Base, Calif. The team was evaluated for timing and accuracy at navigating to the air refueling point. Working together with the Travis team, they had 24 minutes to off-load their fuel without a disconnect. A successful initial mission pumped up the team for the remaining events, but adverse weather later in the week made the final competitions a lot harder for Team Rickenbacker.



After the smoke had cleared and the week's competition came to a close, the 121st maintenance team walked away with the individual trophy for the Best KC-135 Pre-flight Inspection and was barely edged out by Team McConnell for the Best KC-135 Maintenance Team Award.

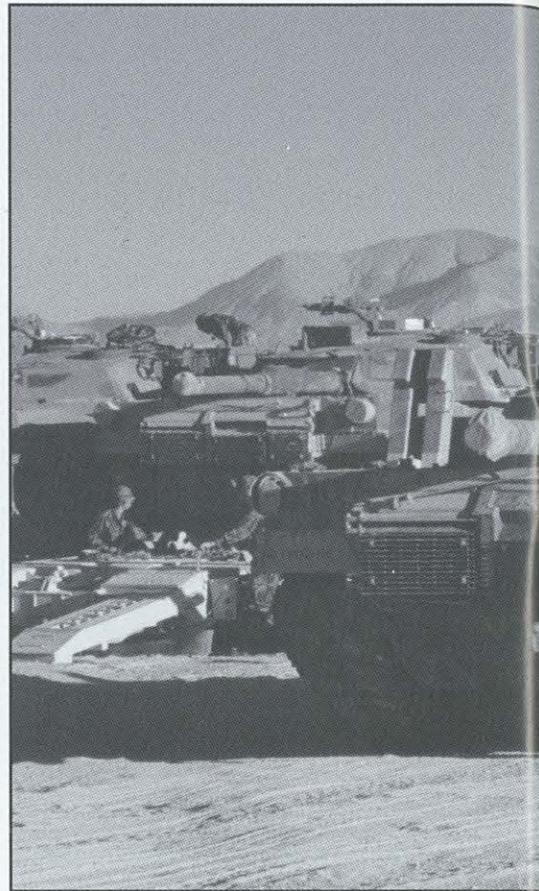
"It's a good thing for the unit to get involved with," said Senior Master Sgt. Phil Landes, team chief of the maintenance team. "A lot of people at home helped the 121st Rodeo team to prepare. With a little more effort, I have no doubt that we can bring home more trophies in the year 2000." ■



Sustaining the Force

371st Support Group engages in first all-Guard rotation at NTC

Story and photos by Sgt. 1st Class Bob Mullins ♦ ♦ ♦ HQ STARC (-)



The Army National Guard, a long-time partner in maintaining peace throughout the world, is now living up to an even higher training standard.

During the period of July 2-Aug. 8, more than 5,000 soldiers from 44 states and Canada demonstrated their military skills during Operation DESERT AVENGER/MIRAGE at the National Training Center (NTC), Fort Irwin, Calif. Fort Irwin is the home of NTC, located in the Mojave Desert, 37 miles from the nearest city, Barstow.

The National Training Center is the most sophisticated U.S. Army training site in the world and is the only area where an armored brigade-size, force-on-force exercise can occur. More than 1,000 square miles of desert flats and mountainous terrain combine to form the "Box," in which units literally fight for their virtual lives against one of the world's fiercest fighting forces, the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment, which serves as opposing forces on a year-round basis at NTC.

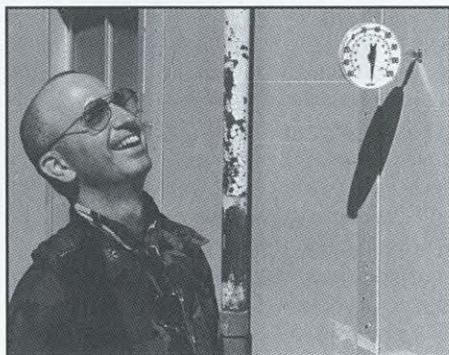
The Ohio Guard's 371st Corps Support Group, with headquarters in Kettering, in support of the 116th Armored Cavalry Brigade, headquartered in Boise, Idaho, combined to make history as the first all-National Guard rotation to participate in the virtual battle scenario.

Initial planning began in January 1997, when the 371st CSG was given the mission to support the 116th Brigade Combat Team (BCT). The 371st CSG's role in Operation DESERT AVENGER was to establish a log base, configure sufficient supplies and receive the equipment for the 116th BCT's integration onto and out of the battlefield.

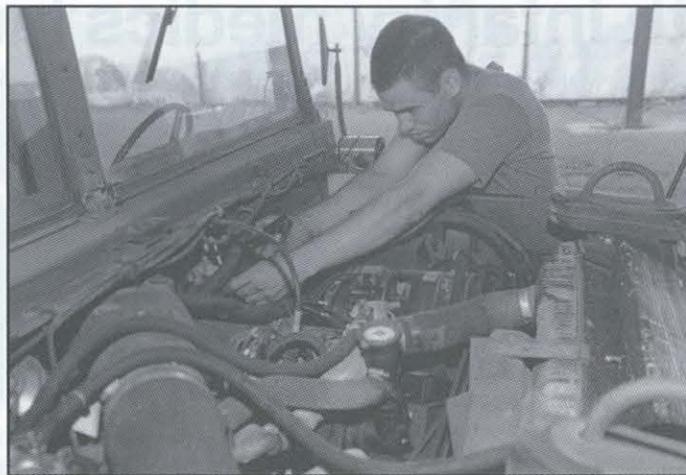
Task Force 371 immediately began assessing its support requirements and identifying the types of units required to accomplish this mission. With support assets identified from six states, the task force was comprised of the 133rd Movement Control Team, California; 185th Combat Support Battalion and the 1034th Quartermaster Company, Iowa; 1083rd Transportation Company, Louisiana; 137th Transportation Company, Texas; and the 2-136th Infantry Battalion, Minnesota.

Several other units from Ohio also participated: Headquarters, 73rd Troop Command, Columbus; Headquarters, Headquarters Detachment, 737th Maintenance Battalion, Mount Vernon; Company C, 118th Area Support Medical Battalion, Westerville; 838th Military Police Company, Youngstown; 1487th Transportation Company, Eaton and Piqua; 1485th Transportation Company, Dover, Steubenville and Coshocton; 372nd Maintenance Company, Willoughby, Ashtabula and Cleveland; 1484th Transportation Company, Akron and Columbus; and soldiers of the 16th Engineer and 37th Armor Brigades.

Successfully combining a vast number of soldiers from several units across the United States was a testament to the organization of the operation. Command Sgt. Maj. Michael Howley, state command sergeant major for Ohio, visited with the National Guard troops at Fort Irwin as the operation unfolded in early July. "Many states have come together in one operation—the cooperation



Chaplain Drew Aquino enjoys temperatures that soared in the 100s daily at NTC.



FAR LEFT: Work crew poses with stone marker which remains at Fort Irwin as a memorial of Task Force 371's participation in Operation DESERT MIRAGE, the NTC's first all-Guard rotation. **CENTER:** Tanks are unloaded from flatbed trailers at staging area. **ABOVE:** SGT Nicholas Chou of the 371st HQ motor pool applies preventative maintenance measures on a Humvee.

among units was upbeat and seamless," he said.

On July 5, more than 700 soldiers arrived at Fort Irwin and TF 371's Operation DESERT MIRAGE began. Home station equipment — which previously had been loaded onto 307 railroad cars throughout the United States — arrived at the railhead at Yermo Marine Corps Logistics Base, Calif. One thousand seventy-seven pieces of military equipment were off-loaded, marshaled into unit sets, and either driven or hauled across 41 miles of desert trail to Fort Irwin. An additional 1,300 pieces of equipment were drawn from pre-positioned assets at Fort Irwin.

Once assembled in the brigade staging area, each piece of the 116th BCT's equipment had Multiple Integrated Laser Engagement Systems (MILES) as well as Global Positioning Satellite (GPS) transmitters and radios installed. This allowed the NTC Command Operations Group to monitor and control the battle from its operation center — better known as the "Star Wars building."

The last step in the inbound process was to ensure that all equipment was fully mission-capable and placed in the staging area, ready for use by the 116th BCT.

Throughout the rotation, TF 371 consolidated mess sections provided 15,000 meals a day. With desert temperatures averaging in excess of 120 degrees Fahrenheit daily, soldiers of TF 371 delivered more than 70,000 pounds of ice and 20,000 gallons of water to various locations each day.

TF 371 accomplished all assigned missions on time but, more importantly, they were accomplished without any major injuries or accidents.

"This was truly an amazing feat," said Col. James D. Simpson, Task Force 371 commander. "My greatest fear was having a soldier seriously injured. The fact that Operation DESERT MIRAGE was accomplished with only minor injuries reflects very well on the leadership of all organizations that composed Task Force 371. Leaders at all levels took care of their soldiers."

The outbound operation in preparation for withdrawal from combat, regeneration of equipment and the redeployment of the 116th BCT also was a tremendous success.

"All elements of the Task Force performed in an outstanding manner," Simpson said. "A positive 'can do' attitude persisted throughout the exercise. Units and soldiers worked as a team to meet each and every challenge. I feel certain the 116th BCT received the best support possible.

"I feel very proud," Simpson added. "The 116th Cavalry Brigade and Task Force 371 represented the Army well at NTC. There should be no doubt that Army National Guard units are capable and have a place in the military's force structure. We can do the job!" ■

Enhancing Guard brigades

The 116th Brigade Combat Team was one of just two full Army National Guard enhanced brigades to train at the National Training Center in the past three years. Since part of an enhanced brigade's mission is to be 90-day deployable, the work-up and training for the 116th and its supporting units held implications for all the Guard's 15 enhanced brigades, which are to be fully resourced and prepared as part of the Army's war plan by 1999.

This rotation served something beyond just training — it captured plenty of attention as well. Dignitaries from across the country came to the NTC to monitor the progress of the enhanced brigade program. Recently appointed Secretary of the Army Louis Caldera was there, along with Army Chief of Staff Gen. Dennis Reimer and Maj. Gen. Roger Schultz, new Army National Guard director. In addition, there were evaluators, analysts, strategists, officials from the National Guard Bureau, research-and-development agencies and politicians from dozens of states.

Continued force integration should push forward while the National Guard and Reserve train to the same high standards the active-duty Army is held to, Caldera said during his NTC visit. Training Army National Guard and Reserve citizen-soldiers at the world's most demanding proving ground, the NTC, is vital to forging an integrated active and reserve component force, he said.

"I can tell as I've gone around that you can't tell the difference between the active and reserve soldiers, so I think it's important for them to do this (training)," Caldera said.

— excerpts from *National Guard* magazine and Army Link News.

148th Infantry medics lauded for heroism

Story and photo by Staff Sgt. Diane Farrow
HQ STARC (-)

While Sunday afternoon is usually a time to wind down from the flurry of activities packed into two short days of drill, such was not the case for a group of soldiers from 1st Battalion, 148th Infantry last spring. When their convoy came across a very serious car accident on Interstate 75, the guardmembers realized their medical training was going to receive its first test of the weekend, with the grade of "go" or "no go" meaning life or death for two very real victims.

On April 19, after spending the weekend qualifying on their weapons at Camp Perry Training Site, unit members headed back to their armory in Lima. Catching sight of the tail end of the accident, Sgt. Eric Grohoske, evacuation NCO for the unit, was the first to pull over.

"There was a lady laying in the median and a guy in the car, but we had to wait for about 30 to 40 cars to pass before anyone would let us cross the interstate," Grohoske said. In the car, which other witnesses said flipped three or four times, the sergeant found a 65-year-old male who was unconscious and pinned in the driver's seat by a large industrial saw.

"He was out cold and had blood spurting out of his temple," Grohoske said. "I got in the car and used one hand to stop the bleeding and the other as a C-spine." Once the evacuation NCO moved the saw off the driver and got the bleeding under control, he was able to get the man on a backboard and out of the car, which was reportedly smoking and leaking gas, with the help of



Ohio Cross recipients SGT Eric Grohoske (left) and CPL Robert Yochum are honored at an Ohio Senate presentation last May.

Cpl. Robert Yochum.

Yochum, a registered trauma nurse and 148th treatment NCO, is credited with coordinating the medical care of both victims, directing four other medics at the scene. The woman, who was less seriously injured, received advanced trauma care and her condition was stabilized. Evacuation NCO Cpl. Harold Strahm and Spcs. Aaron Stratton, Michael Miller and Joey Pruett, all treatment medics, rendered medical aid until the civilian paramedics showed up and transported the victims to a medical facility. Throughout the ordeal, Ambulance Aidemen/Medics Spc. Dion Brodeur and Pfc. Rick Baker ensured traffic control and the transport of supplies from the unit ambulances to the medics.

"We really came together as a team," Grohoske said, adding that the other members of the convoy "stood back and let us do our job."

The selfless efforts of all eight soldiers were

rewarded on May 28, when they were recognized on the Senate floor of the Statehouse. Sen. Robert Cupp read aloud a resolution that praised the unit members for their exemplary efforts.

"It is due to their quick thinking and immediate action that tragedy was averted and lives were saved," Cupp read. "At a time when many people are content to take a passive role in life, they have taken an active role in ensuring the safety and well-being of their fellow citizens. They have earned not only the gratitude of the victims and their families, but also the respect and admiration of the citizens of this state."

"These soldiers are a credit to the soldiers they support and the unit they serve," agreed 1st Lt. Phillip J. Boes, medical operations officer for the unit.

Driven by the need to publicly recognize these soldiers, Boes initiated the Senate presentation as well as a May 16 ceremony that took place at the Lima armory during drill weekend. Representatives John Willamowsky and Bill Taylor presented the unit with a proclamation from the House of Representatives together with letters from the governor and the Department of Transportation.

Having served as an enlisted combat medic for eight years, Boes felt he couldn't do enough to acknowledge the actions of these troops. "It's the people who work beyond the call of duty that deserve to be recognized at every opportunity possible," he said.

Each soldier earned military recognition as well. Grohoske and Yochum were awarded the Ohio Cross, while the others received Ohio Commendation Medals. ■

220th prepares for Operation Capability Exercise

Story and photo by
Staff Sgt. Shannon Scherer
HQ, Ohio ANG

The rule of thumb is that practice makes perfect. For members of the 220th Engineering Installation Squadron, Zanesville, this saying holds a lot of truth.

On May 14, unit members began a four-day exercise in preparation for their Operation Capability Exercise (OCE) to be held in Alpena, Mich., next summer. Dubbed "On TRC '98," the exercise focused on training, readiness and communications.

"This has certainly been our most extensive exercise," said Maj. Greg Power, engineering officer. "Everyone's been keeping busy."

From cable splicers to services

personnel to recruiters, more than 140 personnel of the 148 assigned participated in the real-life scenario exercise. The deployed station of choice was the Kurdistan Republic in the Middle East. Members transformed their Zanesville base into three working locations: Irbil Air Base, the City of Irbil and Kofgi Air Base. The mission was to build up communication infrastructures at the different locations while operating under wartime conditions.

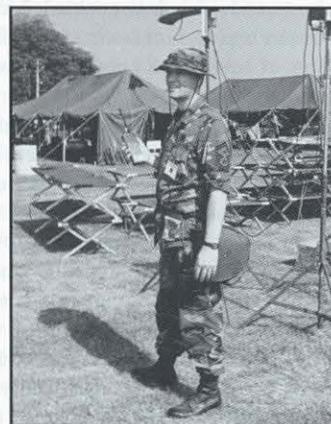
"We looked at real-world incidents that occurred during DESERT STORM and tried to emulate them for this exercise," said Chief Master Sgt. Dale Williams, 220th EIS team chief.

Williams, in the spirit of the exercise, said his teams located at Kofgi Air Base had experienced

some attacks, but everything was still running well. Engineering teams were responsible for setting up a line-of-site link for voice and data to U.S. forces, erecting a SCUD alert warning system and maintaining internal and external telephone capabilities.

To add to the legitimacy of the scenario, members donned chemical warfare gear and operated in a near-desert climate, with temperatures hovering near 90 degrees.

Though the heat was relentless and the scenarios difficult, unit members made it through successfully and were able to relax with their families and co-workers on the final day at Dillion State Park. Maj. Jeff Lewis, detachment commander, was happy that the exercise went as planned and added



220th EIS SMSgt. Don Moran overlooks the compound of the simulated Kofgi Air Base during a practice exercise.

that it was a good chance to see everyone and build unit cohesion. ■

Soaring into history

Rickenbacker dining facility named in honor of Tuskegee Airmen who courageously served during World War II

By Spc. Steve Toth
HQ STARC (-)

Much-deserved recognition for some unheralded World War II heroes came June 13 with the dedication of the Redtail Angels Dining Facility at Rickenbacker International Airport, Columbus. The facility was named in honor of the Tuskegee Airmen, a group of African-American pilots who trained at Tuskegee Army Air Field, Ala., and whose mission was to escort B-17 and B-24 bomber aircraft during the war.

The dedication of a facility at Rickenbacker is especially important since the Tuskegee squadrons were stationed at Rickenbacker (then known as Lockbourne Army Air Base) after World War II until desegregation orders signed by President Truman in 1948 brought about the deactivation of the all-African-American units and its members were interspersed throughout the Air Force. This year marks the 50th anniversary of the integration of the armed forces.

"The dedication of this facility has real significance, because this (Lockbourne) was our home after the war," Tuskegee Airman Walter

McCreary said. "They could have had a dedication somewhere else, but it would not have meant as much."

During the war, McCreary, who reached the rank of lieutenant colonel, flew 125 missions before he was shot down by Germans and held as a prisoner of war for nine months.

Fighting not only the axis powers in WWII but for the right to serve their country, the Tuskegee Airmen compiled an enviable record in the skies over central Europe. Under the command of Ohioan Col. Benjamin O. Davis Jr., the Redtail Angels (formally the 332nd Fighter Group), with the tailfins of their P-51 Mustang fighter planes painted a distinctive red, were the only group of the 15th Strategic U.S. Army Air Corps that never lost a bomber they were assigned to protect, and inflicted heavy casualties on the German Luftwaffe.

A small multipurpose room within the dining

facility was dedicated to retired Capt. Harold E. Sawyer, a native of Columbus who was decorated for his exceptional valor in combat while serving with the Tuskegee Airmen in WWII. He destroyed six German aircraft and flew in the Allied bombing of the Ploesti oil fields.

"It's really an honor. It's something we can all be proud of — not only the Tuskegee Airmen but the whole state of Ohio," Sawyer said of the dining facility and room dedication.

"One thing is for sure — we didn't have any place like this back in World War II," he quipped. "It's a beautiful place."

Construction of the 109-by-116-foot facility took place in April and May of this year. Funding for the project truly was a collaborative effort, as the Army National Guard, Air National Guard and the State of Ohio all contributed to the nearly \$2.4 million cost for the design, construction and equipping of the facility, according to Capt. Steve Hess of the Adjutant General's Department Facilities Maintenance Office. The project is an example of the cooperative, interservice partnerships developed to more cost-effectively accomplish the military mission.

The facility has an indoor seating capacity of 320 and an additional 24 seats in an outdoor patio venue. The fully heated and air-conditioned dining facility is the first in Ohio to be used jointly by various reserve component units from the Army and Air National Guards, Navy Reserve and Army Reserve.

"We are proud of the heritage we in Ohio are honored to share with such a courageous group of airmen," said Maj. Gen. Richard C. Alexander, state adjutant general. "The first building to be jointly operated by Ohio's armed services is appropriately named after the group of servicemembers who played such a vital role in ending segregation in the armed forces.

"This brick, these walls — will be another instrument with which history will have a chance to write itself. The value of the Tuskegee Airman experience has done much to progress the integration of the people of this nation.

They had an impact — not just on the war — but in shaping the minds of a country." ■

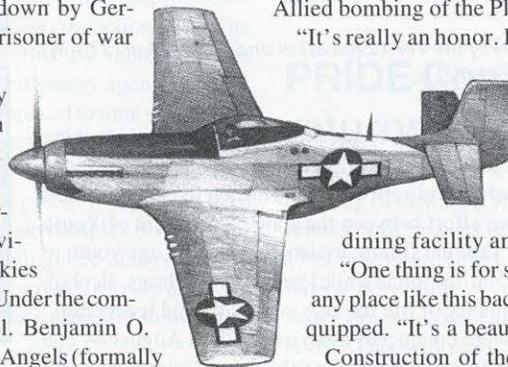


Photo by SSgt. Douglas Nicodemus, 121st ARW.

Columbus native Harold Sawyer (second from left) cuts the ribbon during the June dedication of the Redtail Angels Dining Facility. Assisting Sawyer are (from left) BG Edward Ferguson, commander, 73rd Troop Command; MG Richard C. Alexander, state adjutant general; and BG Robert Meyer, commander, 121st Air Refueling Wing.

Teens learn meaning of TEAM-work

In T-shirts and baggy pants, they began arriving about 6:45 a.m. Aug. 14 at the Perry County Fairgrounds. Carrying duffel bags or plastic shopping sacks, they stood around slouching with their hands in their pockets and joked around, many of them drawing greedily on the last cigarette they'd have for at least nine days. Given the option by a judge to go to juvenile detention or be there, some of the boys were scared, others were irritated — all were uncertain what to expect.

All of a sudden, a booming voice broke their cool reverie. "Move!" shouted a man, later to be known as 1st Sgt. Darrell Carson, clad in BDUs and a black hat, as the boys ran to form a line in front of him.

By the time the boys left the fairgrounds, they had marched, done push-ups and had orders shouted inches from their faces. At the end of the morning, their heads were shaved and they were clothed in identical uniforms.

The first-day realities of the Teen Education and Motivation (TEAM) "boot camp" set in very quickly....

It did get better, however.

The nine-day TEAM program is comparable to a military basic training course and consists of academic and practical lessons designed to challenge and educate teen-agers who are in a critical period in their lives. The TEAM program, a collaborative effort between the state Department of Youth Services and the Ohio National Guard, assists high school age youth in developing self-esteem and discipline while learning about drugs, alcohol, sexuality and a better quality of life through education and leadership.

Two TEAM camps were conducted this year, both in August — one in Perry County, through the partnership of the Perry County Juvenile Court and the 2-174th Air Defense Artillery (AVENGER) Battalion, McConnellsville; and another in Licking County, through the collaborative efforts of the city of Newark and the 211th Maintenance Company, Newark. There were 20-30 boys at each camp.

The combined commitment of civilian and military personnel to the



Photo by 2LT Devin Braun, DDR Office.

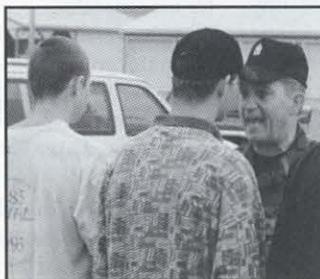


Photo by SPC Steve Toth, HQ STARC (-).

ABOVE: Two TEAM members rely on each other for balance during a confidence-building high ropes exercise. LEFT: The 2-174th ADA Battalion's 1SG Darrell Carson instructs a TEAM camper about the ways of the military during the first morning of the nine-day program.

future of Ohio's youth makes TEAM especially valuable. Many TEAM members, once graduated from the course, continue their relationship with the Guard through tutoring and mentoring. *Submitted by the State Public Affairs Office. Introduction excerpted from a Zanesville Times Recorder article by reporter Melanie A. Stawicki.*

HQ ANG, 121st ARW support Urban Scout Olympics

Story and photo by
Staff Sgt. Shannon Scherer
HQ, Ohio ANG

On May 16, members of the Headquarters, Air National Guard and the 121st Air Refueling Wing volunteered at the third annual Urban Scout Olympics in Columbus. An activity of the Boy Scouts of America, the program encourages the participation of inner-city youth ages 7-14. This year's Olympics were conducted at Wolfe Park with more than 200 young men competing in nine events.

"Young children make up 60 percent of this country's population," said Chief Master Sgt. James Mock, state human resource force manager. "But they are 100 percent of our future. We do all we can to help develop these young kids."

Guardmembers constructed and ran several events, guiding the youths through drills and mazes and cheering the boys to the finish lines. The activities started at 9:00 a.m. with several age groups participating in such events as the



SrA. Eric Schank tosses candy to a youth for correctly answering a Scout trivia question.

football throw, scout trivia and the mystery course. The mystery course was designed by the 121st civil engineers and had the youngsters tackling a number of obstacles while being timed for speed.

For two members of the 121st Security Forces Squadron, the chance to work with the Boy Scouts was more than just a one-day event.

Senior Airman Eric Schank and Airman 1st Class Scott Brians also serve as scout leaders in the Cincinnati area.

"This is good for the Guard and the Boy Scouts," Brians said. "It demonstrates a positive effect on the community."

Schank and Brians led the boys in a Scout trivia game, testing their knowledge of Scout fundamentals.

Though 1998 was the first year for the Air Guard to get involved in this program, guardmembers have been active with the Scouts in other ways. In the past, the Air National Guard has provided free physical exams and transportation to various scouting events.

Next year, the Urban Scout Olympics may even be conducted at Rickenbacker Air National Guard Base, according to Mock.

"We're hoping to form a strong alliance with the Scouts," Mock said. "Both organizations strive to build character in their members and maybe one day these Boy Scouts will be members of the Air National Guard." ■

Buckeye Guard

ONG Counterdrug Task Force reviewed

The Ohio National Guard Counterdrug Task Force is a joint endeavor of Army and Air guardmembers in supporting Ohio drug law enforcement agencies. The goal is to reduce illegal drug use and availability by 50 percent over the next 10 years. The Counterdrug Task Force stands ready with the skills, equipment and facilities to augment drug interdiction efforts throughout the state of Ohio.

The task force has been an integral part of Ohio's drug interdiction efforts since 1989. Through special Congressionally fenced funding, the task force supports drug law enforcement without impacting unit strength or readiness and without costing additional funds to the agency. The Counterdrug Task Force provides year-round support in Cincinnati, Columbus, Cleveland, Dayton, Mansfield and Akron. Federal, state and local law enforcement agencies are supported including the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Drug Enforcement Administration, U.S. Postal Inspection Service, U.S. Customs Service, Ohio State Highway Patrol, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Identification & Investigation, METRICH, and the Akron and Columbus police departments.

The ONG Counterdrug Task Force specializes in technical support of both short and long

term drug investigations. The missions include intelligence analysis support, cargo/mail inspection and domestic cannabis suppression.

Intelligence Analysis provides the requesting law enforcement agency with personnel trained in the analysis of information gathered by investigators through the course of a drug investigation. Counterdrug Task Force analysts are trained in analytical methods and computer programs specifically geared toward investigating criminal drug activities. Analysts have developed several computer databases for Ohio law enforcement agencies to help improve case management and increase conviction rates. The analysts accomplish this by increasing the amount of time investigators spend actually working the case as opposed to time spent in the office. Conviction rates are increased through the use of analytical products (such as link analysis and financial profiles) which are used by prosecutors to explain complex drug organizations to jurors. Intelligence analysis is the most flexible, cost-effective support the Counterdrug Task Force can offer to drug law enforcement agencies.

Cargo/Mail Inspection primarily supports the efforts of the U.S. Postal Inspection Service and the U.S. Customs Service to interdict illegal drugs being shipped via mail or other cargo carriers. Cocaine, heroin, methamphetamine, marijuana, LSD as well as other drugs have been

brought into Ohio by mail and cargo shipments. These drugs often originate from the West Coast but may also come directly from the source nation. The Ohio National Guard Counterdrug Task Force possesses the expertise and equipment to help law enforcement accurately identify and search suspected packages. The Ohio National Guard is recognized as the leader in supporting the U.S. Postal Inspection Service.

Domestic Cannabis Suppression continues to be a major focus for many Ohio drug law enforcement agencies. Since 1989, the ONG Counterdrug Task Force has supported

marijuana eradication in Ohio through the Bureau of Criminal Identification & Investigation (BCI&I). Ohio Army National Guard helicopters, in conjunction with ground teams, support BCI&I, along with the Drug Enforcement Administration and county sheriffs with spotting and eradicating outdoor grown marijuana. As growers started to move their operations indoors (as a result of eradication efforts and changes in the law), the Counterdrug Task Force developed analytical tools to track suspected indoor growers. *Submitted by Maj. Robert Baylor, State Military Support Branch.*

PRIDE Conference returns to Ohio

The 22nd annual Parents Resource Institute for Drug Education (PRIDE) World Drug Conference will be held in Cincinnati April 8-10, 1999. The World Drug Conference is the nation's largest prevention symposium on alcohol, tobacco, drugs, violence and other adolescent problems. This will mark the third time in seven years that Cincinnati has hosted this world-renowned event and the third time that the Ohio National Guard will support the conference. For 1999, the three-day conference's attendance is expected to surpass 10,000 people, with more Ohioans present than any other state's attendees. One of the things which makes the PRIDE Conference unique is that the majority of attendees are youths. Most youth attendees are members of drug-free groups associated with their school or community referred to as America's PRIDE teams. Teams spread the drug-free message through performing arts routines and the conference serves as a showcase for many talented teens to exhibit their skills.

The World Drug Conference is not just for youth — many prevention professionals, parents and teachers attend to learn the latest strategies for countering substance abuse in their communities, homes and schools. Both youths and adults are given a wide variety of training and presentation alternatives.

The Ohio National Guard is gearing up for the 1999 World Drug Conference to make the best one yet. The State Drug Demand Reduction Office is looking for volunteers to represent the Guard and to help make the conference a success. Volunteers may be military personnel, Family Support Group members or retirees. Most volunteers will serve as chaperones. Anyone interested in volunteering or attending the conference should contact the Drug Demand Reduction Office at (614) 336-7002. *Submitted by 2nd Lt. Devin Braun, DDR Office.*



Photo by 2LT Devin Braun, DDR Office.

Ohio National Guardmembers representing the 123rd Air Control Squadron and the 512th Engineer Battalion supported the K-Mart Kids Race Against Drugs conducted in August in the Cincinnati area. Youth from ages 7 to 14 raced modified lawn mowers around a prepared course, aided at the controls by guardmembers like 123rd ACST Sgt. Hugh Beardsworth (seated, above). The event helped raise money for local drug prevention efforts.



Photo by Christine Santiago-Foos, State Public Affairs Office.

SGT Bob Alderson is greeted on the Tarmac at Rickenbacker by family and fellow guardmembers during the 196th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment's return in September after an eight-month deployment to Bosnia.

196th MPAD returns home from Bosnia

Members of the 196th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment were welcomed home Sep. 11 at Rickenbacker International Airport after an eight-month tour in Bosnia. The nine-member Ohio unit and its nine-member sister unit in West Virginia deployed to Bosnia as part of the NATO-led Stabilization Force in support of the Operation JOINT FORGE (formerly Operations JOINT ENDEAVOR, then JOINT GUARD) peacekeeping mission.

The detachment provided communications support for the nearly 7,000 U.S. soldiers working under the name Task Force Eagle, to deter hostilities and stabilize the peace. Task Force Eagle began following the 1995 NATO-imposed cease-fire, halting the destructive four-year Balkan conflict. To date, seven Ohio National Guard units from across the state have participated in the joint operation. *Submitted by the State Public Affairs Office.*

Air Guard unit vies for Top Dollar status

For one grueling week in June, a team comprised of contracting and finance personnel from the 121st Air Refueling Wing competed in the Air National Guard Top Dollar Competition, a joint contracting and financial management contingency operations competition conducted at Alpena, Mich.

The competition consisted of contracting and finance personnel working hand-in-hand to build and support bare base operations, including purchases of needed items, and providing cashier, military pay and travel transactions. Along with those skills, war-fighting skills such as M-9 firing, ATSO (Ability to Survive and Oper-

ate), obstacle courses and self-aid buddy care also were evaluated.

"The competition is meant to test our ability to go into a base and set up and operate in a hostile war environment," said Staff Sgt. Joel White, financial management technician and team member. "We actually ran a small finance office, without the luxury of any computers. Everything was done by hand."

The competition provided many obstacles to overcome. One was working with very little sleep. The average was

about two hours per night.

"They would throw scenarios at you and you would have to solve them," said team member Staff Sgt. Yolanda Clemmons. "We were given a message that the commander wants to do this. Can he do it? Where can he find it from? Does he have enough money? He wants it done now, right now! We would have to figure this out during an ATSO exercise, all the while taking chemical warfare gear on and off."

In another scenario, a member was killed and his wife, who was a foreign national with children, wanted to come back to the United States to bury him. The team had to figure out, according to regulations, which children she was allowed to bring with her.

Clemmons described other scenarios: "The base was hit by a flood and we were asked what kind of money could we pump into this flood and help all the people who live in the area. We're robbed one day, bombed another day — one of our team members was kidnapped."

Along with countless scenarios testing each member's knowledge of rarely seen or used regulations, the team had to negotiate the physical challenges of an obstacle course. Rifle marksmanship skills also were tested, along with tests for communications security and self-aid buddy care. The week could be best described as a cross between basic training and an ORI (Operational Readiness Inspection).

"If there wasn't enough to do during the day, they would come around just before bedtime and give us homework, or overnight scenarios to do for the next morning," Maj. Todd Folk said. "One of those scenarios was to devise an Ohio cheer to sing to everyone in the chow hall at breakfast the next morning."

Hard work paid off as Team Rickenbacker was awarded the Esprit De Corps trophy for exceptional teamwork and attitude at the end of the competition.

"We learned that we can deploy and work together, which we may not have had that feeling beforehand," Folk said. "All of us learned to do a little bit of everything, because it wasn't just one person doing travel, or mil pay, or pay collection. If you were free, you helped the other person, you didn't just sit there."

The competition closed with a simulated base being overrun by enemy forces. The team evacuated the base through trip wires and heavy fire. *Submitted by Tech. Sgt. Greg Rudl, 121st Air Refueling Wing.*

179th AW hosts first bone marrow drive

Members of the 179th Airlift Wing, Mansfield, always have had an outstanding reputation for helping the community, but recently the unit went a step further in helping to save lives.

On May 17, the 179th's Aerial Port Squadron hosted a bone marrow drive. This drive was the first of its kind in the Ohio Air National Guard. This campaign began when Staff Sgt. Adrian Colosimo, air transportation specialist, read an article in *Sergeant's* magazine about the need for bone marrow donors.

"I called the number that was listed in the article to volunteer," Colosimo said. "But they were wanting a unit drive."

Instead of being discouraged, Colosimo went straight to his commander, Lt. Col. Rory Fry and his section supervisor, Senior Master Sgt. Kathy Cyphert to convince them of the need for a bone marrow drive at the 179th.

"We're always looking for ways to get involved in community service projects," Cyphert said. "This drive was a good way to give something back to the community."

Never having conducted this type of drive before, Colosimo and Cyphert contacted the Department of Defense's Marrow Center in Kensington, Md. The center, which is managed by the Navy, places donors into the National Marrow Donor Registry, which searches for matches for more than 30,000 people a year in need of marrow transplants.

The DoD center sent equipment and a bone marrow drive coordinator to help advise unit members during the drive.

"The only cost to the unit was for cookies," Cyphert said. "DoD paid for everything — making this program virtually impossible for us not to do."

A line of eager participants had formed before the doors opened. For some unit members, the decision to volunteer hit closer to home.

"I have three family members that have needed bone marrow," said Airman 1st Class Joshua

Croston, aerial port squadron.

Bev York, a civilian employee at the 179th, also had first-hand knowledge of the need for marrow donors. Her grandson was diagnosed with leukemia and was in need of a transplant earlier this year. Luckily, his younger sister was a suitable donor, but York too said she realizes the need for a lot of people to register.

The unit estimated 10 percent of the base population would be willing to participate in the drive, however much to their delight, more than 165 people went through the process that day. The 10-minute procedure consisted of filling out a health profile and personal information paperwork and giving a vial of blood. The information is then sent to the National Registry where the blood is typed, and donors and recipients are matched.

"We've had a tremendous response from the base populous," Cyphert said. "I think people at the 179th know they can make a difference in someone else's life." *Submitted by Staff Sgt. Shannon Scherer, HQ, Ohio ANG.*

Ohio's Navy provides support to Guard

Ohio's Navy, known as the Ohio Naval Militia, was established on March 1, 1896, by an act of the Ohio General Assembly. Serving various functions throughout its history, the ONM's current mission is to provide range patrol at Camp Perry during firing exercises.

This year's annual training, held in August at Camp Perry, focused on safety, navigation and operation of the unit's vessels. Radio communication, vessel maintenance and scuba diving related to search and rescue were performed.

During the advancement and recognition ceremony, several ONM members received presentations. Highlighting the event was the presentation of the T. Cook Award for the year's outstanding sailor, which went to newly-advanced Chief Petty Officer Roger Joye. *Submitted by Robert Imel, Ohio Naval Militia.*

July 25 dubbed 'Ohio National Guard Day'

Prior to summer recess, the Ohio General Assembly passed legislation designating July 25 as Ohio National Guard Day. The bill was a positive result of efforts made by Maj. Scott Evans of the 416th Engineer Group to educate local officials and legislators about the Guard.

Introduced by state Rep. John Carey of Wellston, the bill became effective July 9.

The selection of July 25 is significant since the Ohio National Guard was originally orga-

nized as the Northwest Territory Militia in Marietta on that date in 1788. The passage of the bill was an example of the legislature's appreciation for the National Guard and its citizen-soldiers throughout history.

Though this was the first year for the observance, activities were admittedly low key.

"Since most of our Army Guard units were already committed to annual training at Camp Grayling on July 25, we were unable to organize any statewide ceremonies," said Capt. Neal E. O'Brien, public affairs director for the Ohio National Guard. "But plans are already under way for next year."

Open houses and orientation flights are a few events suggested for unit celebrations. *Submitted by Christine Santiago-Foos, AGOH legislative liaison.*

Recruiting begins early for 1999 season

Though the "Army-USMC Eagles" semi-professional football team was not able to recruit enough players to play in the 1998 season, team organizers are not giving up.

"We've started recruiting players and sponsors as early as September for the 1999 season," said Cpl. James Krych, general manager of the team and member of the Ohio Army National Guard's 112th Combat Engineer Battalion. The team will play at the Brookpark field, near the 112th military police squadron.

"This team is looking for players from all branches of the military, including the reserve components, retirees and veterans. It's open to civilians as well," Krych said. The playing season runs from July through late September.

For more information, call (440) 979-9295 or e-mail ab453@clevelandfree.net.edu.

OCS class graduates

The 145th Regiment, Regional Training Institute, graduated its 45th Officer Candidate School (OCS) class on Aug. 16.

Nineteen candidates graduated during the ceremony at the Fawcett Center in Columbus. The graduates were Jim Armendariez, Ray Benisek, Devin Braun, Anthony Chenault, Steve Gibbs, Dave Haynes, Jason Hundley, Alan Hustad, John Hutchinson, Reggie Johnson, Chris Klosterman, Dave Knight, Bill Lee, George Lesnak, Jim Lizer, Jodie McFee, Richard Merk, Mark Sanders, Rob Walker and Dave Willis.

Several awards were presented at the graduation ceremony. Recipients were: 2nd Lt. Chris Klosterman, 16th Engineer Brigade Award; 2nd Lt. Rob Walker, 73rd Troop Command Award; 2nd Lt. Dave Willis, Most Improved Award; 2nd Lt. Steve Gibbs, Physical Training Award; and 2nd Lt. Alan Hustad, Adjutant General's Academic Achievement Award.

Class President 2nd Lt. Jodie McFee and 2nd Lt. Bill Lee both received the National Guard Association of the United States Award, which is presented to the top 10 percent of the graduating class based on academics, leadership standing and peer evaluation. Lee also received the OCS Alumni Award, while McFee accepted the 37th Armor Brigade Award and Erickson Trophy, presented to the distinguished graduate.

With 442 academic hours, over 100 hours in the field, a junior and senior annual training and countless hours spent at home preparing for each of the 16 weekend drills, OCS is considered by many to be the most demanding course at the RTI. Officer Candidate School and all it entails is perhaps best summed up by the words of OCS alumnus Maj. Michael Ore in his poem entitled *Parallels*, found on page 3. *Submitted by the State Public Affairs Office.*

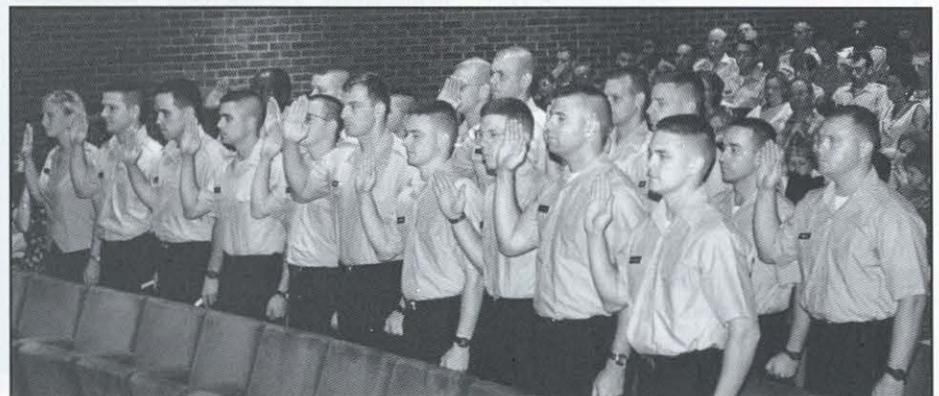


Photo by SSG Diane L. Farrow, HQ STARC (-).

This year there were 19 Ohio Army National Guard officer candidates who earned the right to accept commissions as second lieutenants. Graduates were recognized in an August ceremony held at the Fawcett Center in Columbus.



Photo by SFC Bob Mullins, HQ STARC (-).

One of the few female pilots in the Ohio Army National Guard, 1LT Vickie Quinn shows off a UH-1 Huey to a potential future pilot.

Dreams of flight very real for Quinn, Shutt

Life has its dreams and rewards. The National Guard has provided many people the opportunity to turn dreams into reality through training and experience in the military. Going from desire to flight has placed many in the seat of destiny and in control of a memorable career.

First Lt. Vickie Quinn, a member of Company A, 1-137th Aviation (ASSAULT) Battalion, remembers her first interest in flying. "As far back as I can remember I wanted to fly. In high school I was not aware of the military. I took classes in college to learn to fly fixed wing. I was also a collegiate athlete. It was nearly impossible to do both. A previous coach suggested that I join the military and pursue flying.

"I joined the Guard in 1992 after telling the recruiter that I wanted to be a pilot. I began my career as an enlisted soldier and an OH-58 observation helicopter mechanic. In 1995 I put my flight packet together and in 1996 began the most awesome year of my life with my parents being my greatest supporters.

"Flight school was very intense but all candidates were supportive of each other and everyone was working to achieve the same goal. Lifting the UH-1 Huey off the ground for the first time was something that I will never forget. I was a bit nervous about strapping an aircraft on but everything went great."

Since 1993, during the summer months Quinn has volunteered to work with the ONG Counter Drug Task Force. During the summer of 1997 she was the project officer/pilot for the reconnaissance team. Quinn plans to continue her education in aviation and pursue a fixed wing

license. She said, "I enjoy every aspect of the military including flying helicopters, maintenance and military order. I am now more aware of what true patriotism is and that is the one feeling that rally drives me to excel."

Capt. Geraldine Shutt joined the Pennsylvania National Guard as an enlisted soldier in 1982 and began her career with a military police unit. She was later assigned to the eastern aviation National

Guard training site at Fort Indiantown Gap, Pa., as a vehicle driver in flight operations. She has been flying since 1988. Shutt, currently assigned to 73rd Troop Command, has served in the 1-137th Aviation (ASSAULT) Battalion as a UH-1 Huey pilot.

Shutt was born in Harrisburg, next to Fort Indiantown Gap. "I observed the choppers flying in and out of the post when I was very young so I practically grew up in the Guard. I knew that I wanted to be a pilot someday."

"Flight school in 1988 and 1989 prepared me without question for my skill at flying and it was a tremendous challenge. My mentor, Lieutenant Colonel Rodney Bora, the operations officer, and my dad, my greatest supporter, helped pin my wings on," she said. "There is no feeling like lifting a chopper off the ground for the first time. My friends at first found it hard to believe that I was a pilot. I found out that there are no barriers to this dream. The end result is so rewarding. Flying is mental therapy for me, a freedom that cannot be experienced anywhere else. Each day you learn something useful for your career."

Submitted by Sgt. 1st Class Bob Mullins, HQ STARC (-).

178th FW member wins Beckley Award

Senior Master Sgt. Ron Ray of the 178th Fighter Wing recently received the Lt. Henry A. Beckley Award for an award-winning ground safety program and service in the community.

"Ron is a true citizen-soldier," said Col. Ralph P. Anderson, 178th commander. "He represents the spirit of everything for which the citizen-soldier stands."

The award was presented during the Springfield-Clark County 16th annual Armed Forces Day Luncheon May 12 at Casey's Restaurant in Springfield.

Ray's best-known community program is the Safety Dog program. Created one sleepless night in his basement studio, Safety Dog has become an ambassador to children, teaching many aspects of safety. Working with the security police, they incorporated an Ident-A-Kid program used when Safety Dog gives his safety presentation to children.

The program has been presented to children all over the Central Ohio area by Army and Air units in the Ohio National Guard. The program has received international recognition and other Air National Guard units, the active Air Force and several other countries have adopted the concept.

A humble man, Ray always gives credit to those who work with him, even when he is the main catalyst behind a program or project.

"The accomplishments we are able to do as NCOs are built on what NCOs before us did," Ray said. "We owe them and can honor them by striving to do our best and to continue to build on the solid foundations they laid."

Ray enlisted in the Navy as an avionics technician and served on the USS America during Vietnam. After his naval commitment ended, he spent time as a civilian.

But military service drew him back and he joined the 178th Fighter Wing in 1974 as a traditional guardmember serving as an avionics technician. In



Ray

1975 he became a full-time avionics technician at the base.

In 1986 Ray was chosen for the newly created Ground Safety position. Lt. Col. Dan Wolfe, unit safety officer, said that with Ray's usual thoroughness and attention to detail in developing the program, it received "Best Seen to Date" recognition during a Unit Effectiveness Inspection in 1989. The whole safety office earned a Superior Performer Award during the 1995 Quality Air Force Assessment.

Ray has graduated from Air Command and Staff College in seminar. This is almost unheard of for an NCO to take this course that is required for officers to be promoted to lieutenant colonel. He was able to take the course because of his civil servant rank.

Ray also is part of the Employee Assistance Program in which he counsels guardmembers

about employment problems, substance abuse and financial difficulties. Ray spearheads the Help-A-Needy Family program each year.

He is also active in his church. He and his wife, Thelma, live in Springfield. They have one daughter, Amy, who lives in Columbus.

The Armed Forces Day Luncheon recognizes and honors area military units, installations and assigned personnel who serve the Springfield-Clark County community, the state and nation in the preservation of freedom and the pursuit of world peace through strength.

The Lt. Henry Addison Beckley Award is dedicated to his patriotism, vision and lasting contributions to aviation and his county. The award is presented annually to a person or people whose contributions to aviation have advanced the cause of freedom or enhanced our quality of life. Addison was a Springfield resident and businessman who was a pilot during World War I. The award is sponsored by the Springfield Kiwanis, Rotary and the Miami Valley Military Affairs Association. *Submitted by Maj. Ann-Maria Coghlin, 178th Fighter Wing.*

TAG's retirement gala planned for January

The retirement of Ohio Adjutant General Maj. Gen. Richard C. Alexander will be celebrated from 5 to 11 p.m. Jan. 23 at the Radisson Airport Hotel in Columbus.

The maximum seating capacity of the banquet facility is 600. While there are a number of seats already reserved, about 200 should be available on a first-come, first-serve basis to anyone interested, either military or civilian.

For more information, contact the State Public Affairs Office at (614) 336-7000.

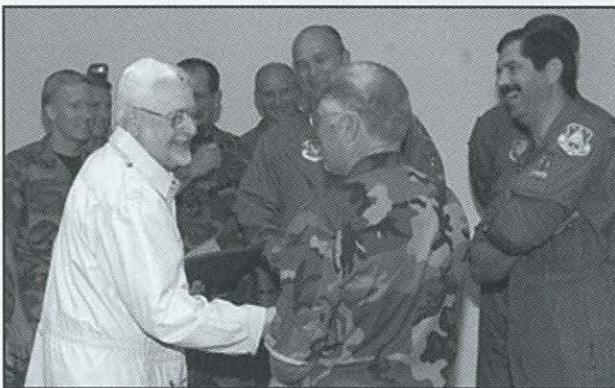


Photo by SrA. Kara Varner, 180th Fighter Wing.

World War II hero John Miligan is congratulated by members of the 180th Fighter Wing during his Bronze Star presentation ceremony in July at the Toledo Air Guard base. He waited 53 years to receive the award.

Patience is a virtue, especially in military

The next time you wait to be served at your unit's dining facility, stand in line for a long time to get a shot or look for your Leave and Earnings Statement in your mailbox, it may help to think of John Miligan.

Miligan, who should be canonized as the Ohio National Guard's patron saint of patience, waited 53 years to receive his Bronze Star.

Col. A.J. Feucht, 180th Fighter Wing commander, finally brought that wait to an end July 11 when he presented Miligan the award for his meritorious achievement during World War II.

"I can't tell you, it is just so great, so great. This is really a joy to me," exclaimed the 79-year-old war veteran.

Miligan was an engine mechanic with Cleveland's 112th Fighter Squadron when he was called up to active duty in November 1940.

He served until 1945 and was in Norwich, England, when the war ended. He believes everyone was in such a hurry to get home after the war that the award got lost in the shuffle.

"My son got on me years ago to pursue it, so I finally wrote a letter to (U.S. Sen.) John Glenn," Miligan said.

Glenn's office and Miligan's former commander, Col. Balin Woodward, worked to get the award officially presented, and in 1997 they succeeded. An official from Randolph Air Force Base, Texas, called Miligan and told him the award would be presented at Wright Patterson Air Force Base in Dayton.

Miligan, however, had to undergo surgery and couldn't make the trip from his Toledo home. He later called Glenn's office and requested the award be presented at the Toledo Air Guard

base. "When I came to the 180th, I saw a devotion to something I feel very proud of. You are very lucky to have Col. Pifer and Col. Feucht," he said.

Miligan served with Addison Baker, namesake of the 180th's Baker Building. Miligan was the crew chief for a B-24 "Liberator," flying 50 successful lead plane missions without an accident.

He said the bombs from that plane killed many people, so when he got out of the military he wanted to do something to give back to humanity. The former master sergeant did so by graduating

from the University of Toledo as a pharmacist, a profession he still practices today.

So, when you're having trouble remaining calm with a sea of BDUs lined up in front of you, be patient and think of John Miligan.

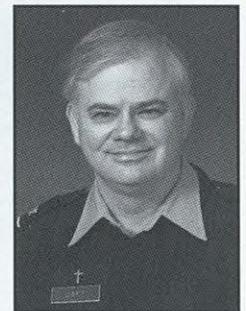
Thirty minutes of waiting is nothing compared to 53 years. *Submitted by Senior Airman Paul Lazorchak, 180th Fighter Wing.*

Army chaplains ready for highest of callings

American soldiers have always maintained a superior edge in battle—and in peacetime. The greatest challenge always has been to maintain the mental, emotional and spiritual well-being of the soldier. The Army chaplain and unit ministry team have taken great pride in helping to promote a high state of morale among troops.

The soldier's friend has found solace in the ability to move freely among the troops to try and diminish concerns through counseling and prayer.

The presence of the chaplain has commonly been referred to as a combat multiplier in wartime. As the commander's special staff officer, the chaplain advises the commander on issues and matters of morale as they affect and interface



Daft

with religion. The chaplain's primary responsibility is an endless quest to help soldiers maintain their faith in their chosen religion.

Col. Ken Daft, state chaplain for the Ohio Army National Guard, has been a chaplain for about 20 years.

"My greatest achievement is realized when I am able to respond to the spiritual needs of soldiers in times of crisis and concern," he said. Daft and 17 other Army Guard chaplains located throughout the state have congregational responsibilities in addition to functioning as military chaplains. Daft is the senior pastor of a United Methodist Church in Zanesville.

Chaplain's assistants also are assigned to each office to help comprise a part of the unit ministry team. Daft explains that becoming chaplain is not easy but it bears great rewards. A masters degree in divinity (seven years) must be obtained prior to applying for the honor of being assigned as a chaplain for the military. Chaplains must also complete required officer courses. *Submitted by Sgt. 1st Class Bob Mullins, HQ STARC (-).*

University of Akron offers scholarships to guardmembers

The University of Akron announced it is funding 25 scholarships to Army National Guard soldiers who enroll in the university's Army ROTC program. The scholarships, which pay 20 percent of a year's tuition, are the first offered by any Ohio public university specifically to National Guardmembers and are effective for the 1998-99 academic year.

"As this summer's violent storms and floods demonstrated, the men and women of the Ohio National Guard often are called upon to set aside their daily lives and place themselves in harm's way to preserve the safety and property of their fellow Ohioans. These new scholarships are as much an expression of gratitude as they are an investment in our state's future," said University of Akron President Marlon A. Ruebel.

Maj. Gen. Richard C. Alexander, state adjutant general, was at UA for the announcement. "We are grateful that the University of Akron has extended this benefit to our men and women," Alexander said. "It is a testament to their hard work and service and the University of Akron's commitment to providing increased educational opportunities."

Currently Ohio National Guard soldiers are eligible to receive a state tuition grant equal to 60 percent of a school's tuition. The new university scholarship, valued at approximately \$708 per year for up to four years, raises the total tuition assistance to 80 percent. Twelve National Guard soldiers already enrolled in the University of Akron's ROTC program had the first opportunity to apply for this scholarship, says Maj. Gary Gatrell, U.S. Army recruiting officer assigned to the University of Akron.

Scholarship applicants must have a minimum grade point average of 2.5 or minimum ACT scores of 19 or SAT scores of 920 to qualify. They also must be assigned to an Ohio National Guard unit. Students must maintain 2.0 GPA and remain in good standing with their Guard unit and the ROTC program to continue to receive the scholarship each year. Following



graduation and commission as a second lieutenant, Guard soldiers may apply for active duty or remain in the National Guard. (*University of Akron Communications Department*)

GI Bill payment increase approved

Veterans enrolled in the active duty or reserve component versions of the Montgomery GI Bill probably noticed a 20 percent increase in monthly education payments which began Oct. 1. The president signed the legislation June 9, approving the increase in benefits.

The benefit to full-time students increases from \$439.85 monthly to \$528 for active duty enrollees with three years' service. Total payments for the 36-month maximum will increase from \$15,834 to \$19,008. The rate for enrollees with two years' service goes from \$357.38 monthly to \$429, or an increase from \$12,865.68 to \$15,444.

Vietnam-era GI Bill enrollees who converted to the Montgomery GI Bill Active Duty Program will see their monthly rates increase to \$251, or to a maximum total of \$9,036.

Other veterans benefits improved under the law which took effect Oct. 1 include: A one-time allowance for disabled veterans needing modified controls or wheelchair lifts for an automobile increases to a maximum of \$8,000; a one-time specialty adapted housing grant for disabled veterans who have lost, or lost the use of, both lower extremities increased to \$43,000; the special housing adaptation grant for veterans who are blind, or have lost the use of both hands increases to \$8,250; and a \$50 monthly increase in pensions paid to low income veterans in need of regular aid and attendance.

The law repeals a 1990 law that permanently ended eligibility for dependency and indemnity compensation for a veteran's survivor who remarries. The new policy allows survivor benefits to be restored if the survivor's remarriage ends. (*American Forces Press Service*)

DoD creates website for teen-agers

The Department of Defense Office of Family Policy has activated a website for teen-age children of servicemembers and DoD civilian employees.

The site, "Military Teens on the Move" at

<http://dticaw.dtic.mil/mtom>, is an interactive information source for teen-agers seeking to connect with each other and explore the challenges and opportunities of military life.

"Military Teens on the Move" was designed to help teen-agers moving to new military installations. It provides information and hyperlinks on everything from homework to volunteer activities," said Carolyn Becraft, deputy assistant secretary of defense for personnel support, families and education. "A monitored chat room and bulletin board help teens keep in touch and enhance local youth-sponsorship efforts."

Links to Department of Defense Education Activity schools, the bulletin board, and chat room make it easy for military teen-agers to get information and get to know each other regardless of their locations.

The entry point to the site is <http://dticaw.dtic.mil/mapsite>, which links to Military Teens on the Move and other family support sites. (*Air Force News Service*)

Army correspondence courses go on-line

Soldiers seeking professional development now may enroll in the Army Correspondence Course Program via the Internet. The program became fully computerized Oct. 1.

"It is the first step in transitioning the program from a paper-based, manually controlled program to a fully electronic delivery and record-keeping system," said Mairilyn Hicok, chief of the distance learning support division, Army Institute for Professional Development (AIPD), Army Training Support Center at Fort Eustis, Va.

Students now can enroll by accessing the AIPD website at <http://atcscweb.atcsc-army.org/accp/aipd.htm>. Soldiers who don't own computers or aren't connected to the Internet can enroll through their units via the Army Training Requirements and Resources System.

The AIPD site has the latest version of the ACCP catalog and an update of new courses.

Hicok said the October 1998 ACCP catalog would be the last printed version. "Many of the new courses are either CD-ROM or web-based as the Army transitions into distance learning as the key method of training.

"Eventually, we intend to eliminate most of the paper products and keep only the materials that can't be digitized," Hicok said. (*TRADOC News Service*)



GuardCare remedies medically underserved

Story and photos by
Staff Sgt. Diane L. Farrow
HQ STARC (C)

A medical exam conducted by the Ohio National Guard gave Steve Oliver a rude awakening regarding the state of his physical health. Through this screening, Steve discovered he had a double hernia that requires surgery.

"He's complained of some discomfort, but it was never enough to make him see a doctor," said Kathy Oliver, Steve's wife and Ohio State University Extension coordinator. "If he hadn't undergone this exam, we never would have known there was a problem until it got much worse."

Mrs. Oliver represented one of 14 agencies in Hardin County that helped organize this year's GuardCare program. The Ohio Department of Health, Ohio Family and Children First Initiative and the Ohio Army National Guard worked with the county to provide care to the area's medically underserved.

A program that's been in place for five years, GuardCare has evolved from providing strictly immunizations to offering comprehensive medical assessments. With the Ohio Guard providing medical personnel, many services are provided free of charge to the selected community. Dental, hearing and vision exams; cholesterol, blood sugar and nutrition screenings; prostate and cervical exams; and EKGs and CBCs (heart function screenings and complete blood counts) were a few of the services available to community members at this year's GuardCare.

The Ohio Department of Health selects a community identified as medically underserved based on federal guidelines, according to Col. Louis Pomerantz, commander of Detachment 6, State Area Command. Det. 6 comprises the majority of medical assets and personnel for the Ohio Army National Guard.

"Last fall I heard we were one of five counties being considered for this year's GuardCare program," said Tonya Kahley, Hardin County Family and Children First coordinator. "As soon as we got the letter to confirm this in January, we put a

committee together and prepared a marketing plan to present to the Guard." The report described a community without primary health clinics and with a limited number of local medical specialists and family physicians. It also noted that few dentists in the area accepted Medicaid and that many insurance plans failed to offer eye care benefits.

"Preventative health care isn't available in the county and is not covered by most insurers," Kahley said. "This was a program we really needed."

By early spring, Hardin County was selected. Located in two of the county's larger cities, GuardCare sites were scheduled in Ada on Aug. 8-9 and in Kenton on Aug. 15-16. This set into motion a relentless effort in coordination between the state and local agencies.

Credited for coordinating on behalf of the Guard, Staff Sgt. Mike Brady, unit training NCO for Det. 6, said the biggest difficulty was having to send unit members from the floods in southeast Ohio, to annual training at Camp Grayling, Mich., to GuardCare — one right after the other. "Our last GuardCare meeting took place during the state emergency," he said.

Brady also admitted it was discouraging that more locals didn't take advantage of the program during the first weekend in Ada. "Only 137 people showed up — medical personnel outnumbered the patients both days.

"But this is a training event," he asserted. "The training value is the deployment and the set-up, whether there's one or 100 to receive treatment."

In response to the low participation, local organizers aggressively promoted the second weekend by word-of-mouth, handing out flyers and courting the media.

Hardin County Commissioner Robert Hubbell helped convince residents by being the first in line at the Ada event and singing the praises of the services that were provided. "I believe it was one best physicals I've ever gotten in the military," said Hubbell, a retired colonel with 38 years in the armed forces. "I was very impressed with the profes-



ABOVE: A consummate medical professional, 1LT Tamera Guzzo comforts a young girl who's upset about getting the immunizations she needs. RIGHT: MAJ Richard Miller conducts a glaucoma screening.



sionalism displayed by the Guard."

Evidently the publicity paid off. The weekend in Kenton greeted 132 before noon on Saturday, 274 total. Over the course of both weekends, 411 patients were examined.

Reasons for the visits varied widely among those who were seen. Many children came for physicals required by school, other patients wanted specific tests such as vision or dental, while still others said GuardCare was the only way they could afford a medical exam at all because they had no insurance.

"I have no family doctor!" wrote one 43-year-old female in response to a customer service survey. "I wanted some peace of mind."

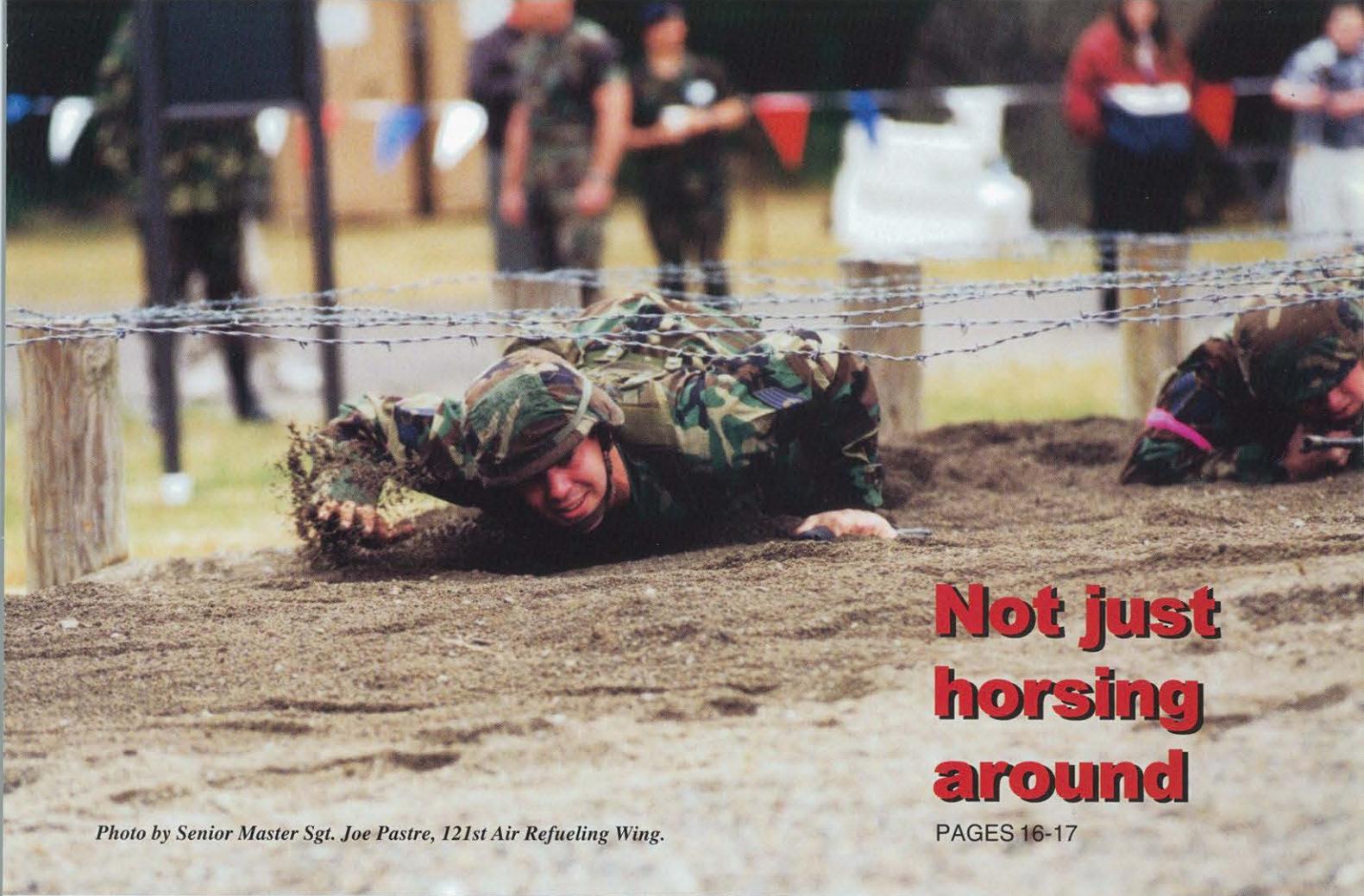
And peace of mind is exactly what most GuardCare recipients got. Respondents to the survey overwhelmingly agreed that the guardmembers were helpful, friendly and did things in a timely manner. Most wanted the Guard to return on a regular basis.

"They were so kind and professional in their approach with people," agreed Oliver, who had her two children screened as well as her husband. "The technician at the blood

draw put my kids at ease by explaining exactly what she was doing and by answering their silly questions. I wasn't surprised to find out she was a full-time pediatric nurse."

"People seem to readily accept that we are 'regular people' who do this (GuardCare) on the weekend and have regular jobs during the week," said Lt. Col. Stephen Ulrich, flight surgeon for Det. 6 since 1996. The lieutenant colonel, who runs a family practice in Perry County, provided adult and pediatric exams at both the Ada and Kenton events. "The amount of medical care we were able to provide out of a makeshift set-up was incredible," said Ulrich, who replaced Pomerantz as detachment commander on Sept. 1.

Though the unit is downsizing from 230 to 89 slots by December 1998, the new state surgeon says Det. 6 remains committed to GuardCare. "We may need to scale back, but we're looking at integrating the Guard's other medical assets to handle part of the mission," Ulrich explained. "Our number one job is to keep our National Guard troops deployable." ■



**Not just
horsing
around**

Photo by Senior Master Sgt. Joe Pastre, 121st Air Refueling Wing.

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