

**STATE OF OHIO  
ADJUTANT GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT  
2825 West Dublin-Granville Road  
Columbus, Ohio 43235**

6 April 2012

To the Soldiers, Airmen, Civilian Employees and Family Members of the Ohio National Guard:

We are saddened by the loss of three of our Soldiers, Captain Nicholas J. Rozanski, Sergeant First Class Shawn T. Hannon and Sergeant First Class Jeffrey J. Rieck, along with the brave men who were seriously injured while supporting Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan.

It was a terrible shock to hear the news, and we are all finding ways to cope with this tragedy. I wish to express my personal condolences and deep regrets to the Family, friends and fellow Soldiers of these men. It takes a special individual to sacrifice their comfort and safety for their country, and that's what these men did on a daily basis.

These men were superb Soldiers, having previously served in places including Iraq, Kosovo and Louisiana for the Hurricane Katrina response. They excelled in their civilian careers and were dedicated to their loved ones. When called they served their Nation again, and did so without hesitation.

These husbands, fathers and sons gave their lives in the name of freedom, but will not be forgotten.

During this Easter weekend, traditionally a time for Family and faith, please keep in mind the loved ones of these Ohio National Guard Soldiers, and be thankful for the time that we all have together with people who are important to us.

The Ohio National Guard has committed its full support to the Rozanski, Rieck and Hannon Families at this time.

I want to offer my thoughts and prayers, along with those of a proud and grateful Ohio National Guard Family, state and Nation, for the great sacrifices these men made in service to their country. While most people are sleeping, the few—the less than one (1) percent of American citizens who are serving in the U.S. military—are protecting all of our freedom. We would not be living the way we do now if it weren't for bravery of Soldiers like Nicholas, Shawn, and Jeffrey.

Sincerely,



Deborah A. Ashenhurst  
Major General  
The Adjutant General