

WINTER 2000/2001

# BUCKEYE GUARD

MAGAZINE OF THE OHIO ARMY AND AIR NATIONAL GUARD

## Battling the Blaze

Fort Rucker facility ignites  
unique training opportunity  
for Army Guard firefighters

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# Sky's the limit for 'Con Air' pilot

## Dream of flying refuses to fade for Air Guard captain

By Master Sgt. Terri Vance  
220th EI Squadron

As a child she and her father would watch the take-offs and landings of military fighters, carriers and air refuelers at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Dayton. They would spend countless hours at the Air Force Museum learning about aviation and its history.

It was during these special trips that Capt. Becky Roman-Amador, 220th Engineering Installation Squadron, Zanesville, decided that she would grow up to be a pilot. And despite many ups and downs, she has made her dream come true.

Roman-Amador turned her disappointment in failing military navigator school into an intense desire to pursue a civilian aviator career. Now a commercial pilot, the young captain flies for the Harrison County Sheriff's Department in Gulfport,



**ABOVE:** Capt. Becky Roman-Amador stands on the wing of a King Air B200 passenger plane. **BELOW, LEFT:** At home in front of the instrument panel.



Miss. "Everything worked out the way it was supposed to," she said.

Roman-Amador started her Air National Guard career as an enlisted administrative specialist with Springfield's 178th Fighter Wing. While attending college for electrical engineering, she took some ground school courses and some flying lessons in hopes of one day fulfilling her childhood dream.

After getting her commission, Roman-Amador was offered a chance to fulfill her dream. "I was given a opportunity to attend Navigator School for a C-130 unit in Louisville, Ky. It was a way for me to get my foot in the door to become a pilot." After almost two years of navigator school, Roman-Amador failed her last check ride of the training, therefore failing the school. "It was the hardest time of my life. My dream of becoming a military pilot shattered. I took it very hard," she recalled.

Dealing with the failure, combined with a rare opportunity to spend a week at the "Oshkosh Fly-In" in Wisconsin, motivated Roman-Amador to pursue her civilian pilot's license. Oshkosh hosts one of the biggest conventions for aircraft and pilots in the country. "Oshkosh was noth-

ing but wall-to-wall pilots...it was awesome. It was there I learned only six percent of pilots are women, and I wanted to be one of them." And now she is.

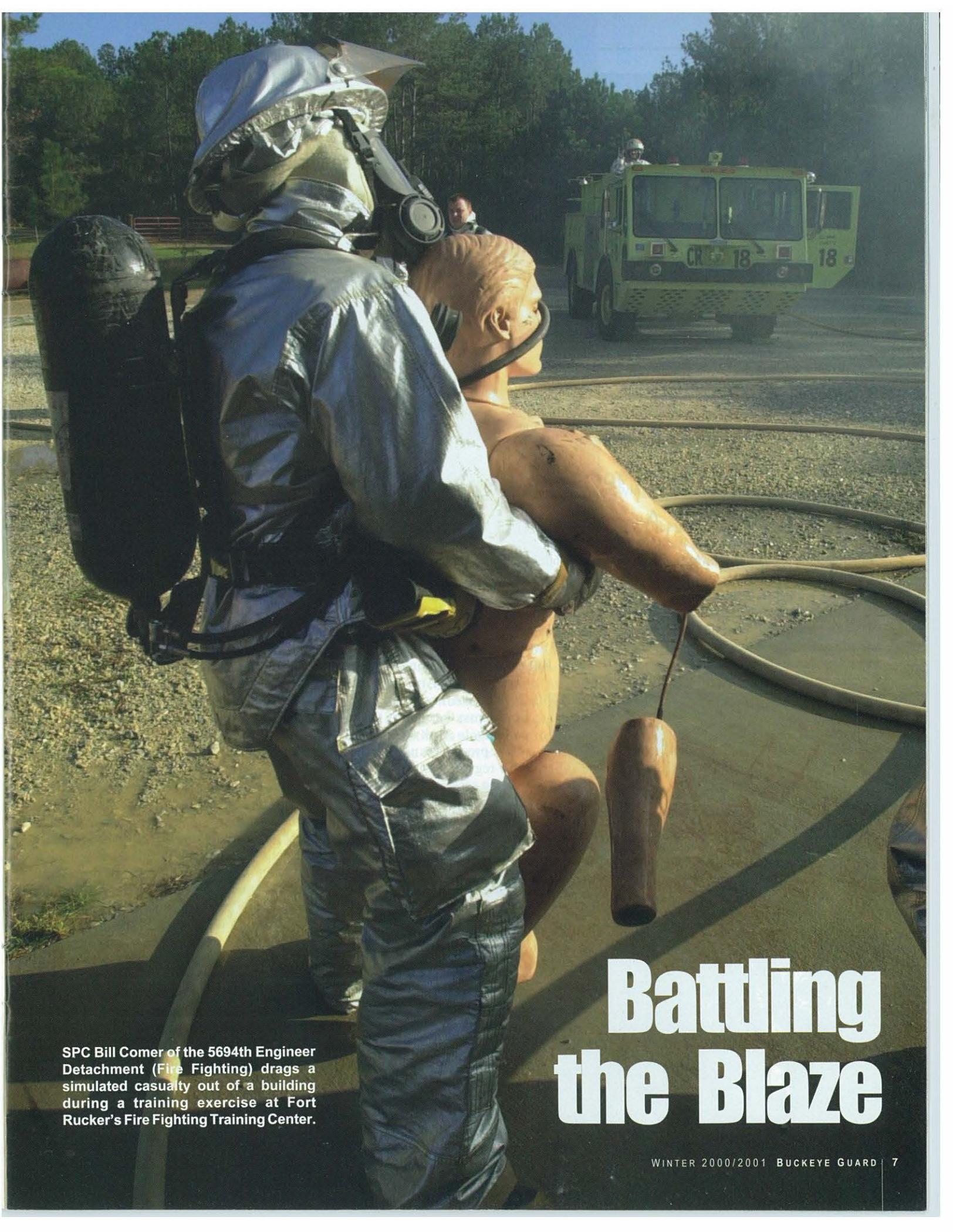
Roman-Amador has a commercial pilot's license with multi-engine and instrument ratings. While attending Communication Officer School at Keesler Air Force Base, Miss., she was offered a flight officer's position with the local sheriff's department. She transports prisoners who have been extradited on a 10-passenger King Air B200. Her co-workers at the 220th EIS joke that she works for "Con Air."

"It's a great job. I'm doing what I love the most—flying. Transporting prisoners makes it all the more interesting." She even wears a sheriff's uniform. Personal safety never has been an issue, since deputies escort the handcuffed prisoners, who are shackled to the chair and floor of the aircraft.

On one occasion a prisoner was escorted to the aircraft, and when he noticed Roman-Amador he said, "Is *she* flying this plane?"

"I took that comment as humorous, and I decided to hand-fly the entire 3 1/2-hour flight, never turning on the autopilot," smiled Roman-Amador.

She said she enjoys her current job, but still has her eyes in the sky, accruing the flight hours needed to fly for a major airline. ■



SPC Bill Comer of the 5694th Engineer Detachment (Fire Fighting) drags a simulated casualty out of a building during a training exercise at Fort Rucker's Fire Fighting Training Center.

# Battling the Blaze



# Battling the Blaze

Fort Rucker facility ignites unique training opportunity for Army Guard firefighters

Story and photos by PFC Haraz N. Ghanbari \*\*\* 196th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

**O**hio Army National Guard soldiers from Mansfield's 5694th Engineer Detachment (Fire Fighting) escaped the winter cold of Ohio with a "well heated" trip south, Nov. 10-12, to Fort Rucker, Ala.

The deployment allowed the Buckeye firefighters the opportunity to hone their blaze battling skills and expand their knowledge of fire prevention.

Fort Rucker's Fire Fighting Training Center offers Army National Guard and Army Reserve units from across the country the opportunity to work on crash and rescue procedures not practiced on a regular basis, with each training session designed for a unit's specific needs.

"Units come to our training center because they don't have access to aircraft where they are from. Here we have approximately seven real helicopters, an airplane and various other types of equipment the firefighters may encounter during an emergency situation," said Staff Sgt. Gary D. Miller, training noncommissioned officer for Rucker's Fire Fighting Training Center.

During the unit's three-day deployment, the soldiers received hands-on training in various crash and rescue procedures along with a live fire

**ABOVE: SGT Mike Johnson and SPC Jennifer Williams douse a helicopter during a simulated fire exercise. BELOW, LEFT: SPC Bill Comer (left) and SPC David Baker prepare to enter a building full of smoke and electronically-controlled fires.**

exercise. Using fire trucks provided by the training center, 5694th firefighters reacted to simulated accidents involving various aircraft.

Though the firefighters saw no visible flames at the scene of a helicopter crash, they responded as though the aircraft was set ablaze and victims were trapped inside. The firefighters also had to consider the danger of the aircraft itself and the risks associated with military passengers. The possibility of spinning rotors, a fuel explosion or weapons misfiring forced the firefighters to assess the situation.

"The crews responded to the aircraft as though it was a real emergency," said Sgt. 1st Class Leroy A. Ward, fire chief for the 5694th. "They executed their tasks and objectives, while extinguishing the fire and rescuing any victims that may have been in the aircraft."

Following a morning session of crash and rescue exercises, Miller instructed 5694th soldiers on the more conventional type of firefighting—structure fires. The training cen-





**ABOVE:** Upon entering a burning building, the first priority for firefighters is to search for victims. **BELOW, LEFT:** PFC Ben Rings (from left), PV2 Josh Stewart and SGT Bill Amspaugh (inside) hose down a fixed-wing aircraft simulator.

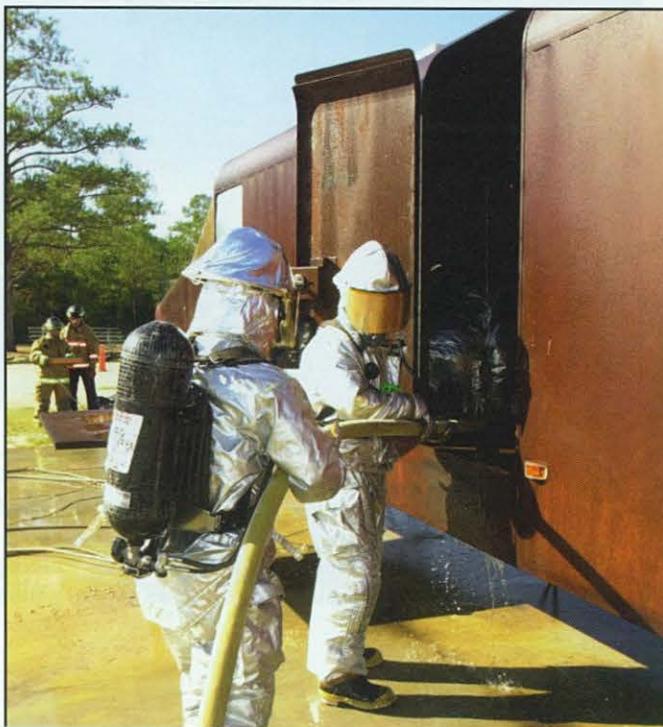
ter is equipped with a two-story multi-room structure that creates a realistic smoke- and fire-filled environment.

The 5694th was divided into three crews for the afternoon live fire exercise. Before the crews entered the building, Miller placed rescue dummies in areas that he felt the firefighters might overlook. The building was filled with billowing smoke, and electrically-controlled fires were ignited.

With a water-charged hose line, the crews entered the bottom floor of the building and searched for victims, then fought the fire. Before moving to the second floor, one soldier returned outside with a victim and began CPR. Meanwhile, the other soldiers carefully moved up the stairs and conducted the same procedures until the building was cleared.

Entering a smoked-filled building, firefighters can encounter temperatures in excess of 1,000 degrees

Fahrenheit, which increases the chances of disorientation and even death. So the ability to fight simulated structure fires proved invaluable to those who train to battle blazes just one weekend a month and two weeks during the summer—though military firefighting is simply an extension of civilian jobs for about a third of the unit.



“Although we train on many firefighting-related tasks such as structure fires, auto accidents and hazardous material accidents, aircraft crash and rescue is our primary mission,” said Staff Sgt. Linda S. Young, unit readiness noncommissioned officer for the 5694th. “Through the use of teamwork, this training helped to refamiliarize and expose the soldiers to the various types of aircraft while building unit cohesion.”

Young also credited the transportation support provided by Mansfield’s 179th Airlift Wing for making this training opportunity possible.

“Without the use of C-130 airlift, the ability to train at a live fire crash-rescue facility is nearly impossible on an IDT (drill) weekend,” Young said.

Normally, team-level training on crash-rescue firefighting can occur only during annual training periods due to limited availability of facilities. Having the opportunity to train at a collective level throughout the year has paid positive dividends to the unit.

“We can increase and maintain unit readiness through sustainment of team proficiency on collective tasks that normally cannot be trained during this time of year,” Young said. ■

# Path begins

## THE MAKING OF A WARRANT OFFICER



# with 28 days of challenges

Story by Steve Toth  
Adj. Gen. Dept. Public Affairs Office

**T**he mystique and prestige of the Army's Warrant Officer Corps attracts some into its fold each year, but the unknown factors about the corps and what it takes to become a member may keep some potential candidates from ever looking into joining the ranks of the "quiet professionals," as they are sometimes called.

"Part of it is the fear of the unknown. They've heard war stories about the warrant officer school, but I think primarily no one knows how to go about the process of applying to become a warrant officer," said Chief Warrant Officer 3 Ron Shuler, in charge of warrant officer procurement for Ohio.

In the Ohio Army National Guard, there are currently about 40 of 234 authorized warrant officer slots statewide that are vacant, according to Shuler. While most slots are in the areas of maintenance and logistics, the Ohio Army National Guard also has needs for warrant officers in fields including aviation, aviation maintenance, data processing, special forces, military personnel and electronic systems.

"Certainly the lack of those warrants has

had an adverse effect on readiness (for the OHARNG)," Shuler said.

Soldiers earn appointments as warrant officers based on a high level of technical and tactical competence in a certain field. With increased experience and training, warrant officers become experts in their field, while also assuming a supervisory or leadership role of some capacity. In contrast to commissioned officers, warrant officers usually remain within their chosen career fields for their entire careers.

Soldiers who are interested in the technical (non-aviator) warrant officer program must be in the age range of 18 to 46, and be in the grades of E-5 to E-8, Shuler said. To become a warrant officer in a certain field, a potential candidate must have a compatible enlisted feeder military occupational specialty (MOS). For example, to become a property accounting technician as a warrant officer, a soldier must have a background in supply.

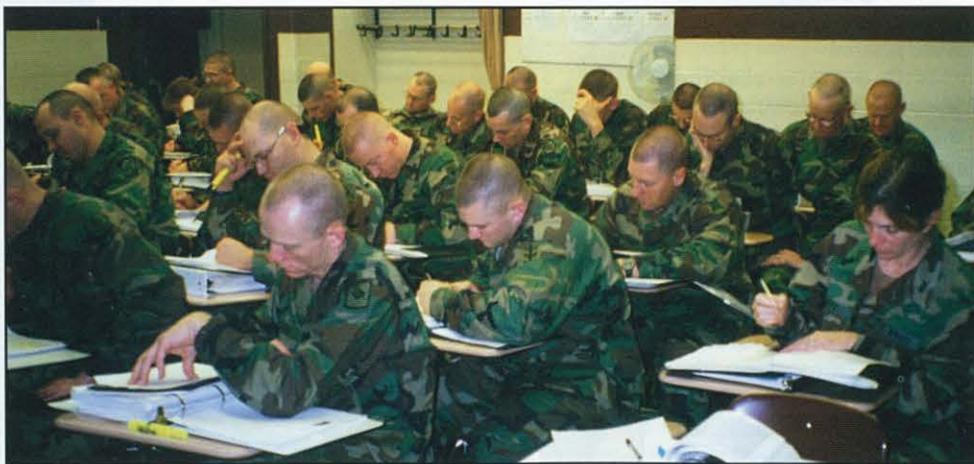
Soldiers who meet these requirements and certain others, such as minimum aptitude test scores and a commissioning physical, will then submit an application packet through the proper channels, Shuler said.

If accepted, fully qualified applicants are then eligible to take probably the most challenging step to becoming a warrant officer by attending Warrant Officer Candidate (WOC) School at Fort Rucker, Ala. It is the only warrant officer-producing school Army-wide, for both the active and reserve components.

The reserve component technical (non-aviator) course lasts 28 days. The aviator course, regardless of component, and the active course last six weeks, totalling 30 days. Training is conducted in a rigorous, high-stress environment where candidates are challenged in nearly every way imaginable. The pressure begins in the early hours of each morning when candidates are awakened and have exactly seven minutes—no more, no less—to get dressed, conduct personal hygiene and be outside in formation ready for physical training to begin the day.

In addition to physical training seven days per week, candidates receive formal classroom instruction in leadership, Army doctrine and tactics, drill and ceremonies, wear and appearance of military uniforms, military history and professional ethics.

Training-Advising-Counseling (TAC) Officers guide, mentor and coach candidates through



Photos by WO1 Denise Duffy, Massachusetts ARNG

**LEFT:** Warrant Officer Candidate School stresses a professional military appearance and actions at all times. Ohio Guard Candidate Ed Scott stands at a modified position of parade rest in line for chow. **ABOVE:** Many training days consist of classroom instruction and testing on subjects such as military history, leadership and doctrine.

the rigorous course, giving candidates multiple tasks that challenge them to prioritize and delegate work as members of a team, while maintaining their attitudes, clothing, equipment and appearance at the highest professional levels.

"We do hold (candidates) to a fairly high standard. Everything gets inspected from the first day on," said Chief Warrant Officer 3 Norbert Schmidt, senior TAC officer at the school. "If we don't hit them hard initially, it's going to take them so much longer to meet the standard."

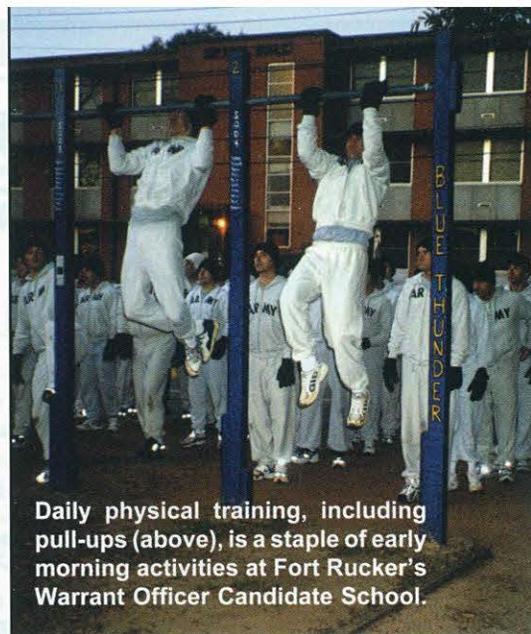
New Ohio Army Guard Warrant Officer Gary Tinnel related a story from WOC School about one day when a TAC was inspecting his personal clothing. The TAC got to his boots and asked Tinnel what was wrong with them. Eager not to be the focus of his TAC's attention for any length of time, Tinnel looked quickly over his boots—they looked like they were polished to standard, laces OK, everything seemed to check out—Tinnel scanned over them again and finally came to the decision that his boots were all right, which actually was the case. "I just wanted to see you sweat," his TAC said.

What may seem like some kind of bullying to the outsider actually enables TACs to evaluate a candidate's leadership and decision-making abilities while in stressful situations.

"I knew beforehand it was going to be physically and mentally demanding, but I had no idea about the emotional stress involved," said Lee Scott, another new Ohio Guard warrant officer. "You may think you're squared away but you never hear it from the TACs—who represent that position of authority—that you are doing a good job. You must develop self-confidence and know yourself, and that you are doing it right."

"Becoming a warrant officer is not for everybody," said Chief Warrant Officer 5 Thomas Flynn, the assistant commandant of the Army Warrant Officer Career Center at Fort Rucker. "We're looking for soldiers with a sound technical background who want to be challenged in different ways than they were as NCOs. We want people who want to learn to influence others through their actions and deeds rather than by the rank on their shoulder."

Soon after successfully completing WOC School, usually within a year, new warrant officers will go to their Warrant Officer Basic Course for their branch-specific training, much like commissioned officers, and go back for subsequent courses as they progress in their careers. ■



Daily physical training, including pull-ups (above), is a staple of early morning activities at Fort Rucker's Warrant Officer Candidate School.

Photo by WO1 Denise Duffy, Massachusetts ARNG

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** For more information on becoming a warrant officer in the Ohio Army Guard, call (614) 336-7442. Those with access to OH-TAGNet, the OHARNG internal website, can check warrant officer vacancies statewide and obtain other information at <http://oh-tagnet/mpmo/opb1/Default.asp>.

## SUSTAINING OHIO'S ARMY GUARD WARRANT OFFICER CORPS

### Five right number for Ohio's first warrant class of 2001

It is a solid year when the Ohio Army National Guard welcomes five new warrant officers into its ranks. But it still doesn't begin to keep up with regular attrition rates and the amount of vacancies throughout the state that already exist.

So when Ohio had five warrant officer candidates graduate from the *same* class at a Feb. 2 ceremony held at Fort Rucker, Ala., it was a significant event.

"The January start dates just seemed to work for everybody involved," according to Chief Warrant Officer 3 Ron Shuler, in charge of warrant officer procurement for the Ohio Army Guard. At most, there are usually only about one or two Ohio candidates in any of the seven reserve component Warrant Officer Candidate School classes conducted each year, he said.

After successfully completing 28 days of mentally, physically and emotionally demanding training at the WOC School, the

five guardmembers—Lance Curtis, Frederick Lavery, Lee Scott, Edward Scott and Gary Tinnel—joined 40 of their fellow "Red Rhinos" in Class 01-02 in pinning on the silver bars with the black squares.

"I think I speak for all (five) of us when I say that, as far as military schooling, it's probably been the most challenging school we've been to—both mentally and physically, it's very stressful," said Curtis, who made the school Commandant's List.

Curtis, formerly a master sergeant as well as first sergeant, will be a W-2 in the 216th Engineer Battalion because of his previous enlisted experience. Lavery, Tinnel and Ed Scott will be W-1s within the 737th Maintenance Battalion while Lee Scott will be a W-1 and automation man-

ager for the OHARNG's military personnel directorate.

The Red Rhinos class graduation was significant also because it was the first time in the history of the WOC School that the class was comprised entirely of National Guardmembers. Normally, there is a mix of guardmembers and Army Reservists.

Brig. Gen. Ronald G. Young, Ohio's assistant adjutant general for Army, traveled to Fort Rucker to honor the milestone class of Buckeye warrants, and also was the keynote speaker at the Red Rhinos' graduation.

"I feel good about the future with the group I see here," Young said. "For me it's a great honor to be with the first all-Guard warrant officer class." STEVE TOTH, ADJ. GEN. DEPT. PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE



Photo by Steve Toth, Adj. Gen. Dept. Public Affairs Office

BG Ronald G. Young (fourth from left), assistant adjutant general for Army, poses with new Ohio Army National Guard Warrant Officers Lee Scott (from left), Gary Tinnel, Lance Curtis, Frederick Lavery and Edward Scott during their class graduation festivities Feb. 2 at Fort Rucker, Ala.

# BEST OF THE BUCKEYE STATE 2000



**T**he best soldiers, airmen, noncommissioned and junior commissioned officers in the Ohio Army and Air National Guard for the past year were chosen from among the 15,000 men and women who serve in units throughout the Buckeye State.

For 2000, the Army Guard honored a traditional soldier and NCO of the year, and an Active Guard/Reserve (AGR) NCO of the year. Army Guard personnel were evaluated on their knowledge of military subjects, leadership, Army programs and current events. Candidates also were judged on personal appearance, military bearing, self-confidence and wear of the Army uniform.

The Air Guard selected an airman, NCO, senior NCO, first sergeant and second lieutenant of the year. Air Guard personnel were evaluated in performance, professional skill, knowledge and leadership.

## Ohio Army National Guard

### Traditional Soldier of the Year - Spc. Thomas J. DeMange

Tank Crewmember, Company C, 1-147th Armor Battalion, Greenville

Spc. Thomas J. DeMange is assigned to Company C, 1-147th Armor Battalion, with headquarters in Greenville. DeMange originally entered the Ohio Army National Guard in November 1995, and served in Company C, 1-147th for one year before enlisting into the active Army. He then served one year in Korea and two years at Fort Knox, Ky., before re-entering Company C, 1-147th in April 2000. DeMange is currently a full-time student at Columbus State Community College in Columbus. He plans to transfer to the University of Toledo beginning this summer to pursue a career as a pharmacist. DeMange is single, and in his spare time he enjoys lifting weights and exercising at the gym, as well as playing soccer.



### Traditional NCO of the Year - Staff Sgt. William R. Cousins

Rifle Squad Leader, Company A, 1-148th Infantry Battalion, Xenia

Staff Sgt. William R. Cousins is assigned as a rifle squad leader, Company A, 1-148th Infantry Battalion, with headquarters in Xenia. Cousins served more than four years on active duty, including an assignment with 1st Battalion, 75th Infantry Regiment, before joining the Ohio Army National Guard. Cousins is currently employed as a business analyst for General Electric Aircraft Engines. In addition, he is attending the University of Cincinnati where he is majoring in business information systems. Cousins is scheduled to graduate from college this spring. He currently lives in Cincinnati, and enjoys most types of outdoor sports and activities, including rock climbing, parachuting and skiing.



### AGR NCO of the Year - Staff Sgt. Linda S. Young

Readiness NCO, 5694th Engineer Detachment (Fire Fighting), Mansfield

Staff Sgt. Linda S. Young is assigned to the 5694th Engineer Detachment (Fire Fighting), located in Mansfield. Young enlisted in the Ohio Army National Guard during her senior year of high school, in February 1982, and was assigned to the 1486th Transportation Company, Ashland, where she was mobilized Nov. 17, 1990 to June 29, 1991 for Operation Desert Shield/Storm. She accepted a full-time Active Guard/Reserve (AGR) readiness NCO position in the 5694th in January of 1996; she was mobilized from July 6, 1997 to Feb. 23, 1998 for Operation Joint Endeavor/Joint Guard in Bosnia-Herzegovina. She has been married to her husband, Mark, for 17 years. They have two children, Kristie, 15, and Matthew, 13.



*Compiled by Master Sgt. Tonya Minor, Headquarters, State Area Command (-)*

# Ohio Air National Guard

## **Airman of the Year - Senior Airman Elizabeth J. Miller** HVAC Specialist, 200th RED HORSE Squadron, Port Clinton

Senior Airman Elizabeth J. Miller is a heating, ventilation, air conditioning and refrigeration specialist assigned to the 200th RED HORSE Squadron, Port Clinton. Born in Port Clinton and a 1998 graduate of Oak Harbor High School, Miller has deployed with the unit on several missions, including Operation Southern Watch in Doha, Qatar. She is active in leadership roles with many community organizations including St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Oak Harbor, the Ottawa County 4-H Program, Ottawa County Habitat for Humanity, American Cancer Society and American Red Cross. She attends Terra Community College in Fremont, and is working toward an associate's degree in heating, ventilation, air conditioning and refrigeration technology.



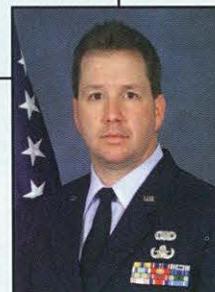
## **NCO of the Year - Tech. Sgt. Timothy A. Anglin** Medical Services Specialist, 123rd Air Control Squadron, Blue Ash

Tech. Sgt. Timothy A. Anglin is a medical service specialist assigned to the 123rd Air Control Squadron, Blue Ash. Born in Cincinnati and a graduate of Taylor High School, he began his military career in 1985 in the Marine Corps, and served in Operation Desert Storm. He has been a Cincinnati firefighter since 1996 and became the 123rd ACS fire chief in 1999. He is a graduate of the FBI Hazardous Device School and the University of Cincinnati's paramedic program. He recently passed the National Registry Paramedic exam, making him Cincinnati's first paramedic/bomb technician. For more than 10 years he has coached wrestling and swimming at the middle- and high-school levels. He also works with learning-disabled students at Three Rivers Middle School.



## **Senior NCO of the Year - Master Sgt. Richard R. Carson** Recruiting and Retention NCO, 200th RED HORSE Squadron, Port Clinton

Master Sgt. Richard R. Carson, Jr. is the recruiting and retention noncommissioned officer for the 200th RED HORSE Squadron, Port Clinton. He was born in Columbus, and graduated from Millersport High School. He began his military career in the Air Force in 1979, serving 10 years. After a short break in service, he became an information management specialist in the Ohio Air Guard with the 178th Fighter Wing, Springfield. In his current position with the 200th, Carson initiated a referral program, a sponsorship program and many other new initiatives that helped to create unprecedented community awareness resulting in the unit's present manning strength of 101.5 percent. Currently pursuing a bachelor's degree in psychology, Carson also is an active member in his church.



## **First Sergeant of the Year - Master Sgt. James J. Boyer** Logistics Squadron First Sergeant, 179th Airlift Wing, Mansfield

Master Sgt. James J. Boyer is the first sergeant for the 179th Airlift Wing's Logistics Squadron, Mansfield. He was born in Mansfield and attended Madison High School. Boyer enlisted in the Navy in 1967, and attended Aviation Ordnance School, Primary Fire Fighting School and police training prior to transferring to the Ohio Air National Guard in February 1980. The next 18 years he was assigned to the 179th Security Forces Squadron where he excelled as one of the chief negotiators of the base hostage negotiation team. Boyer has been with the Mansfield Police Department since 1973, and currently is assistant chief of police, responsible for day-to-day department operations. Married for 31 years, Boyer and his wife have a son and daughter, both of whom serve in the Air Force.



## **Second Lieutenant of the Year - 2nd Lt. Troy L. Shofstall** Military Personnel Officer, 121st Air Refueling Wing, Columbus

Second Lt. Troy L. Shofstall, a resident of Columbus, is the personnel officer for the 121st Air Refueling Wing's Military Personnel Flight, located at Rickenbacker Airport in Columbus. Shofstall is a graduate of Hamilton Township High School and Park College, where he earned a bachelor's degree in management. He enlisted in the 121st in 1984 and was commissioned in 1999. Shofstall created and implemented processes that helped the 121st ARW reach 100 percent manning strength. He constructed several incentive programs for the recruiters, which were instrumental in resolving recruiting obstacles. Highly active and visible in the community, Shofstall volunteers for the OhioReads program and is chairman for the 121st's Veterans Day Parade involvement.



*Compiled by Command Chief Master Sgt. Richard A. Smith and Master Sgt. Ealnor Grey, Headquarters, Ohio ANG*

# Ohio Guard unit provides veteran pilots to active Air Force in 'The Forgotten War'



Pilots and airmen of Columbus' 166th Fighter Squadron, some of whom served in the Korean War in 1951, pose with one of the unit's F-84 fighter aircraft.

Photo courtesy of Col (Ret.) Don Griffith

Story by Sgt. J.R. Lewis  
HQ STARC (-)

If the conflict in Korea a half century ago truly was "The Forgotten War" as some military historians claim, then the mission of the Air National Guard might be called the forgotten contribution of "The Forgotten War."

According to *The Air National Guard and the American Military Tradition* by Charles J. Gross, the Korean War was the Air National Guard's largest commitment to date, with 67 of the ANG's 84 flying squadrons mobilized.

One of those squadrons, the 166th Fighter Squadron out of Lockbourne (later known as Rickenbacker) Air Force Base near Columbus, was mobilized

on Feb. 1, 1951.

"We flew everyday training flights—fighter gunnery, air-to-ground and air-to-air to help bring the pilots up to speed," said retired Lt. Col. Kenneth Potts, who, at age 17, enlisted into the 166th in 1950 as a hydraulics mechanic.

Estimating that the unit was about 1,000 strong, Potts said the majority of the unit deployed overseas, while the rest remained stateside for what was supposed to be a two-year activation.

Potts said basically two types stayed behind—the really

young and the really old.

"They sent over the people who could help fight the war...the pilots, crew chiefs, gun loaders," Potts said.

Many of the pilots and noncommissioned officers assigned to the unit were trained in the Army Air Corps during World War II, said retired Col. Donald Griffith, who flew 60 missions in Korea.

Griffith said the ANG fighter pilots had maintained their proficiency by flying the P-51 aircraft with the Air Guard and made the switch to jets with the ANG's F-84-C.

The transition to the F-84-

Gs, F-80s and F-86s was less a problem than switching over to the Air Force's style of filing and filling out paperwork, Griffith said.

"After we were activated, the first thing we had to do was get the 166th looking like an Air Force squadron," Griffith said. "This was difficult mostly because the Guard did paperwork differently.

"Lessons were learned, though. Subsequent activations improved tremendously."

After six months of straightening out the individual personnel records, the Air Guard pilots started relieving active-duty Air Force pilots.

The 166th pilots were sent to join Air Force units in Europe and Korea as replacements for



Griffith

*“Many of us that got over there came from the World War II experience and we applied some of that experience in Korea.”* — Brig Gen (Ret.) Paul E. Hoover

pilots who were completing overseas tours. Two pilots were sent to Europe to fly the F-84-G, including Lt. Donald Goodwin, who was killed in an aircraft accident.

Drawing from World War II combat experience and flight hours logged, the seasoned guardsmen were a steadying force for their younger, active-duty counterparts.

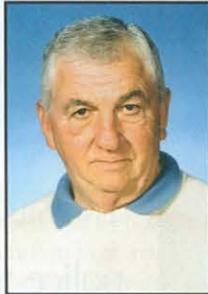
Speaking years after the conflict, retired Brig. Gen. Paul E. Hoover, at one time Ohio’s assistant adjutant general for Air, described the stabilizing effects the guardsmen brought to the theater.

“When we first got to Korea, we had a lot of youngsters, Air Force types that had been put through (pilot) training rather rapidly and they

were losing quite a few,” Hoover said. “Then as the reservists and Air Guard got there, the average age climbed quite a bit. With the experience of these individuals, our loss rate decreased rapidly.

“Many of us that got over there came from the World War II experience and we applied some of that experience in Korea. It reduced our losses considerably.”

During tours that lasted for one year or 100 missions, Air Guard pilots flew nearly 40,000 missions, destroying 39 enemy aircraft, with 101 American pilots lost in the line of duty.



Potts



Photo courtesy of Col (Ret.) Don Griffith

**Not an uncommon sight during the Korean War, a building in the city of Seoul sports a gaping hole in its side after being bombed.**

Along with Goodwin, who was killed in Europe, the 166th also lost Lt. William Prindle and Lt. Willis Thatcher, who were killed in combat in Korea, and Capt. Harold Powell, who died in an F-84 crash in Ohio.

Back home, the unit moved to the Youngstown Municipal

Airport in July of 1952 to continue the 166th’s mission with the Air Defense Command, with regular Air Force pilots filling vacancies created by ANG pilots flying in Korea.

After the Korean War began, the military was looking to increase its force size, recalled Potts. “The Air Force wanted to establish a presence in the area and they needed the Air Guard to open the base,” he said. “Everything was new—hangars, mess hall, barracks, it wasn’t even finished when we moved in.”

The Air Force took over the aircraft and equipment at Youngstown when the ANG pilots were deactivated on Oct. 31, 1952, thus ending more than a year of active-duty service for the Ohio Air Guard pilots.

“We left everything up in Youngstown for the Air Force, and the unit went back to Columbus and started from scratch,” Griffith said.

Griffith, who went on to fly combat missions in Vietnam, said the conflict’s reputation as “The Forgotten War” was justly earned. The colonel has seen the accolades for World War II pilots and the protests over Vietnam, but said no one seemed to notice those returning from Korea. “You’d come home from Korea and nobody seemed to care,” Griffith said.

But the colonel believes that, as always, the Korean activation was another example of Air Guardsmen completing an assigned mission.

“We had a mission to keep the (communist) Koreans out of south Korea and that’s what we did.” ■

## THE AIR NATIONAL GUARD IN THE KOREAN WAR: 1950-1953

### America’s citizen-airmen valuable asset to USAF in Korean War

**K**orea was the Air National Guard’s first war as a separate reserve component of the Air Force. In all, 486 units, including 22 of 27 Air National Guard wings and 67 of 84 flying squadrons, totaling 45,594 officers and airmen, were called to active federal service between October 1950 and April 1951. This was approximately 80 percent of the Air Guard’s total personnel strength.

Two wings, the 116th Fighter Bomber Wing (Georgia) and the 136th Fighter Bomber Wing (Texas) fought in Korea, entering combat in May 1951. Both wings had to transition from outdated aircraft to the F-84 Thunderjet before shipping off to war. The majority of the missions assigned to the F-84 in Korea were close air support of friendly ground troops and aerial interdiction of enemy troops and supplies behind the front lines. Three Air Guard wings deployed to Europe to reinforce NATO—the 117th (Alabama), 123rd (Kentucky) and 126th (Illinois).

Months before the two Air Guard wings entered combat in Korea, hundreds of individual guardsmen had shipped over to augment U.S. Air Force units.

Four Air Guard pilots became aces in USAF units flying F-86 Sabrejets. The two Air Guard wings also provided air defense for Japan.

The Air Force, which had little use for the Air Guard before the outbreak of the Korean War, was impressed by the performance it received from its citizen-airmen. Air Guardsmen flew 39,530 combat sorties, destroying 39 enemy aircraft and damaging another 149. The Air Force discovered that the Air Guard had a level experience and that paid big dividends in combat in Korea maturity—40 percent of the men mobilized were veterans with two or more years of service during World War II. In fact, a Fifth Air Force survey conducted in 1951 showed that 80 percent of that unit’s personnel were Reservists and Guardsmen recalled to active service.

NATIONAL GUARD BUREAU PUBLIC AFFAIRS-HISTORICAL SERVICES BRANCH





A squad of security police prepare to storm a town where terrorists have taken over.

# Keeping the Peace

Transition from security police to security forces means responsibilities beyond that of gate guard

Story by 2nd Lt. Shannon Scherer  
Photos by Senior Master Sgt. Larry Wilson  
179th Airlift Wing

To fulfill his Guard mission, Tech. Sgt. Jack Hughes is outfitted with weapons and devices commonly seen in action-packed Hollywood movies of today. Hughes is a member of the security forces squadron at Mansfield's 179th Airlift Wing.

"We have the typical grenade launchers and M-16 rifles," Hughes said. "But we also have starlight scopes for our weapons and a thermal imager that can see the heat of a person through a concrete wall."

With these "props," security forces personnel might seem like modern day action heroes, but the reality is their image is sometimes tarnished by a misconception of their jobs.

"We're trying to get rid of the rent-a-cop mentality people have of us," said Senior Master Sgt. Bruce Durr, security forces manager. "We are not security guards. We provide the military police function for the Air Force."

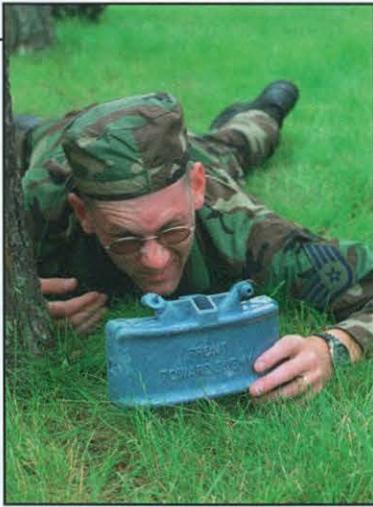
But you may be wondering what's the difference. Security forces does not just

check your identification at the gate and issue you a parking pass. They are responsible for the security of the aircraft, base property and personnel.

To protect these assets, security forces have teams for virtually every type of situation. A hostage negotiations team deals with adverse situations, a sniper team provides specialized levels of protection against hostile actions, and a Phoenix Raven team protects aircraft in high-risk areas. They even have specialized training for members in interrogation and verbal judo.

"Instead of using force you learn to talk your way out of situations," Hughes said. "We're trained in a lot of diplomacy, and how to control people and situations using verbals."

Their training begins at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas, at the U.S. Air Force Security Forces Academy. Would-be security forces specialists undergo a rigorous 25-week academy program where they learn everything there is to know about protecting property



### **SSgt David Rexrode positions a claymore mine during annual training in Alpena, Mich.**

and people. What used to be a six-week technical school expanded to a 25-week academy a few years ago when security police became security forces.

Maj. Joseph Wendling, 179th security forces commander, said the change forced individuals to be more widely trained. Instead of specializing in air-ground defense or combat arms, all members had to become more generalized, familiarizing themselves with all aspects of the job.

"There's a lot of diversity in this job," retired Master Sgt. Elvin Burnell said.

Wendling said many people think security forces are out to harass people or destroy personal property. "People don't understand what we do. They think we're bullies or power hungry, but sometimes that just has to be a part of the job."

Durr said the officers don't always like the job they have to do and know it doesn't always make them the most popular people on base. "We don't write the base regula-

tions, but we have to enforce them, so we look like the bad guys."

But in Mansfield, base personnel have a chance to try their hand at the sometimes notorious job. In as little as two weeks, members of any career field at the 179th can be trained as security forces augmentees. Because of the high demand for security forces—to support Air Expeditionary Forces, to augment active duty and to provide security for high profile events—there sometimes can be a shortage of personnel to protect home station.

"We train people in basic apprehension and investigation, search techniques and firearms," Wendling said.

Currently, more than a dozen 179th members assist the security forces squadron as augmentees.

The 60 members of the security forces squadron work as a tight-knit group to secure the people and property of the 179th Airlift Wing. Their training has taught them to be diplomatic yet tough. With the increased threat of domestic and international terrorism, their job is often a ceaseless, and sometimes thankless, effort.

"Sometimes we're annoying when we write tickets," Hughes said. "But the best part of this job is that we serve others. We serve and protect." ■



**A security policeman rounds the corner of a building where a terrorist is holed up and firing on the town.**

# The Changing Face of the Guard

By Master Sgt. Ealnor Grey  
HQ, Ohio ANG

One of the ways the Ohio Air National Guard diversifies its senior officer and enlisted ranks is by promoting women who are qualified for the upper levels of leadership.

In the past few months, the OHANG gained its first woman colonel—Nancy M. August—and the 121st Air Refueling Wing, Columbus, promoted two women to chief master sergeant—Lois J. Peterson and Vicki J. Householder.

All three women have been trailblazers in the Ohio Air Guard, in respect to their career paths and job duties.

Being first is the norm for August, executive officer for the Ohio ANG who was promoted to colonel in October in her traditional guardmember position.

“As an individual, you set personal goals



New ‘chiefs’ Lois J. Peterson and Vicki J. Householder.

Photo by MSgt Kim Frey, 121st ARW

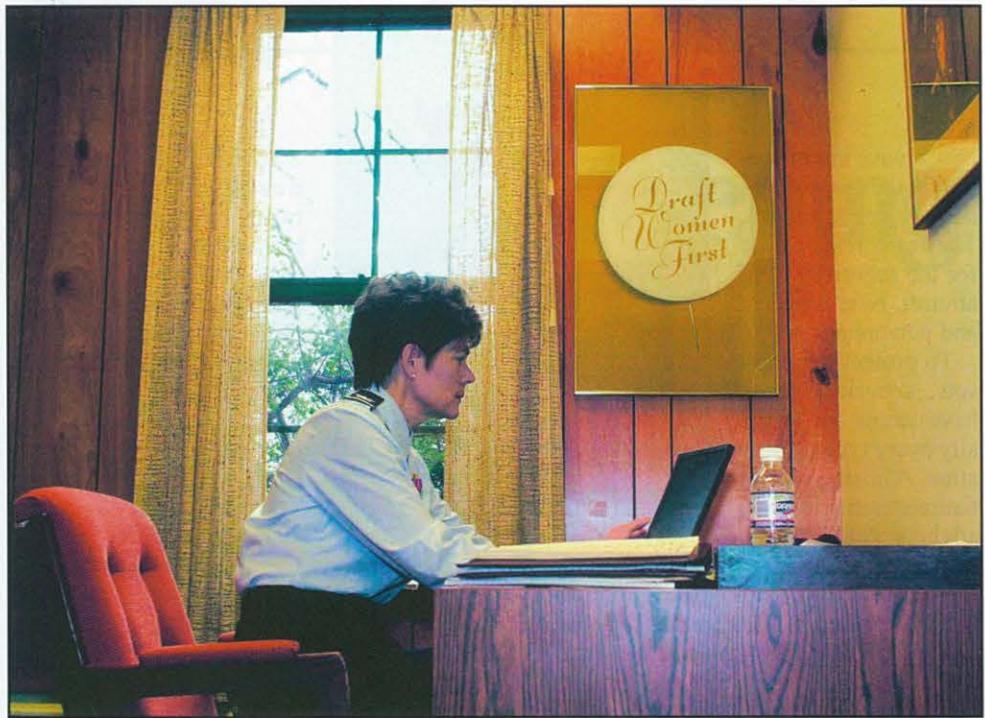


Photo by PFC Haraz N. Ghanbari, 196th MPAD

for yourself and map a career path. When you achieve a goal that also happens to be a ‘first,’ the outcome takes on a new connotation,” August said. “The focus changes to being the first woman and with that comes responsibilities for presenting a professional image of women in the military. The impact is beyond you as a person, it impacts all career women in the military.”

Beginning her military career in the Air Force in 1967, August was one of the first women to serve overseas. In 1971 she was among the first women assigned to the Strategic Air Command at Minot Air Force Base, N.D. She was among the first women to enlist in the National Guard, one of the first five women to be commissioned in the ANG at McGhee-Tyson Air Force Base, Tenn., and was one of only two women officers in the state when she joined the 180th Fighter Wing, Toledo. In 1994, August became the first woman to lead a squadron—the 180th Mission Support Squadron.

In her civilian career, August is employed with Owens-Corning Corporation. Throughout both her military and civilian careers August said she has made it a point not to make gender an issue. “I have been very careful not to let gender interfere with my career goals. It’s important to earn the op-

**Col. Nancy August, executive officer for Headquarters, Ohio Air National Guard, works at her office in Columbus.**

portunities,” August said. “If I were to take a position based on gender and not performance, it would have a negative impact not only on me, but other women in the Air Guard as well.”

As executive officer, August directs the activities and requirements for the headquarters staff, serves as representative of the chief of staff and assistant adjutant general for Air, and is the supervising official for Toledo’s 555th Air Force Band.

Promoted last August, Peterson is the first woman chief for the 121st. Currently the logistics squadron unit career advisor, Peterson also has 24 years experience in inventory management.

Peterson said her initial goal was to retire from the Air Guard as a master sergeant. She took the senior

courses for the retirement points, but they also made her eligible to be promoted to senior master sergeant three years ago. “Be prepared and have your requirements met, because you never know what openings will come up,” she advised.

Peterson worked eight years for the 121st as a supply technician, work experience that she

“When you achieve a goal that also happens to be a ‘first,’....the focus changes to being the first woman and with that comes responsibilities for presenting a professional image of women in the military.”

—Col Nancy August, OHANG

## HENDERSON 'ENGINEERS' PERSONAL SUCCESS IN ARMY NATIONAL GUARD

said helped her obtain her current full-time position with the Defense Supply Center-Columbus, where she has been an item manager for the past 15 years.

Her civilian and military jobs are interrelated. In her military occupation she is the customer receiving the products and services, and in her civilian position she provides retail services for the military customers.

Peterson said her Air Guard experiences have been positive. "I met my husband, I got my military and civilian jobs, and I got to see Europe all because of the Guard," Peterson said.

Householder, chief of 121st Base Services, was promoted in November. She smiled while discussing her new rank. "Who would have ever thought there would be women chiefs? I believe I did my job over the years, I've always worked for great people and I've been fortunate that way," she said.

In 1985 all flying wings received a requirement for one full-time technician position in charge of base services. Householder was hired for the position, and was instrumental in creating and defining the standard operating procedures for the wing's base services.

In addition to dining facility responsibilities, other duties include mortuary services, billeting, morale recreation and welfare (MRW), and the wing's honor guard.

Preparing for a Unit Training Assembly (UTA) weekend is a minor task compared to her daily and weekly responsibilities. Householder schedules all activities for the dining facilities; manages the MWR funds and billeting for deployed unit members; and coordinates the food, menus and servicemembers who prepare meals during the unit deployments.

Householder joined the Air Guard 21 years ago for college tuition assistance and planned to get out after her initial enlistment. "(But) I got a full-time job, I liked my work, and I liked the people I worked with," she said. "The rest is history." ■

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** *Currently, there are five women chief master sergeants in the Ohio Air National Guard. Two are assigned to the 180th Fighter Wing—Laurie K. Liebich in the medical squadron and Claudia J. Jones in the logistics squadron. Cindy L. Rasuleigh is assigned to Mansfield's 179th Airlift Wing Medical Squadron.*

*In addition, after this article was written, August attained another milestone in Ohio Air National Guard history when she became the first woman to be named a support group commander in February, at the 180th Fighter Wing, Toledo.*

Verna Henderson joined the Ohio Army National Guard in 1976 because she was looking for a change. She had a steady job and a good salary, she just needed something different.

With seven brothers and sisters—one in the Army, one in the Marines and one in the Air Force—there was a strong military connection in her family.

Henderson's father, a World War II veteran, wanted her to go into the Air Force. Fortunately for the Ohio Army National Guard, Henderson had met a military police (MP) recruiter and been impressed by his

"shiny boots and uniform," she said with a laugh. Her decision was made.

Henderson joined an MP unit and, to her delight, found she knew a couple of the soldiers, including one of her high school teachers. She enjoyed the time she spent, but after her three-year enlistment ended, she decided not to re-up.

"I loved the military structure and discipline and being part of the organization, but I was ready to get out," she said. Her first sergeant had other ideas. "He told me that I was one of the young soldiers who had her act together and that if I re-enlisted I would probably be an NCO before the year was out."

Within five months, Henderson became a noncommissioned officer and enjoyed the place she found for herself as a junior leader. She soon quit her civilian job and went to work full time for the Ohio Army National Guard.

Twenty-two years later, during the week, Henderson is the operations sergeant major for the OHARNG's deputy chief of staff for logistics and her responsibilities cover the entire realm of logistical support.

In March 1999, Henderson, working for Lt. Col. Alan Rogers, was part of the lead task force that prepared all of the property and equipment for Exercise New Horizons, a large-scale humani-

tarian mission in Central America. She later became the NCOIC of the team that deployed. When guardmembers returned in the fall that year, she became the NCOIC of the reconstruction team that was responsible for the return of all property from the New Horizons effort.

"When we brought all of the equipment back, there was a lot that didn't belong to Ohio. It all had to be inventoried and inspected then dispatched to the correct place," Henderson said. She truly enjoyed the job and the challenge. But now, according to Henderson, she has "the best job in the entire Army."

In April 2000, Henderson was selected as command sergeant major for the 216th Engineer Battalion, headquartered in Hamilton.

"After reviewing all of the applicants, I felt Command Sergeant Major Henderson was the best, most qualified person for the position," said Rogers, who currently is commander of the 216th in his traditional guardmember position. "Her supervisors and co-workers gave her outstanding, glowing remarks."

Henderson said she is proud to hold the position, not because she is the first woman in the state to reach command sergeant major, but because she is a hard working, dedicated soldier.

"Nicaragua was the first opportunity I had to work in direct contact with her and observe her work ethic, leadership abilities and organizational skills," Rogers said. "For the past 18 months or so, she has lived up to all my expectations."

Henderson said she evaluates how well she serves by the opinions and attitudes of the soldiers in the 216th.

"I'm in a position where my primary goal is to make life better for my soldiers," she said. "I want to create an atmosphere where all of the soldiers feel important and know that they are a member of the team."

Many drill weekends are spent at the units ensuring that the battalion's NCOs are taking care of their enlisted soldiers.

"We want to make sure all of the soldiers are gainfully employed and are performing constructive training that keeps them coming to drill," Henderson said. SPC MICHELLE MORGAN, HQ STARC (-)



Henderson



# The Gulf War *ten years later*

**T**he Ohio National Guard played a significant role in Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm. In all, more than 1,600 Ohio citizen-soldiers and -airmen left their jobs, homes and families, donned uniforms and answered their country's call to duty. Some were activated by their unit, some volunteered as individuals. Some deployed overseas, some remained stateside. Two Ohio National Guardmembers died. All who served did so with pride and honor.

## Ohio Army National Guard (1,050)

- 323rd Military Police Company Germany
- 324th Military Police Company Saudi Arabia
- 337th Personnel Service Company Fort Leonard Wood, Mo.
- 641st Quartermaster Detachment Saudi Arabia
- 838th Military Police Company Saudi Arabia
- 1485th Transportation Company Saudi Arabia
- 1486th Transportation Company Saudi Arabia
- 1487th Transportation Company Saudi Arabia
- 5694th Engineer Detachment (Fire Fighting) Saudi Arabia

## Ohio Air National Guard (594)

- 121st Security Police Flight Bahrain
- 121st Services Flight McDill AFB, Fla.
- 160th Air Refueling Group Saudi Arabia
- 160th Security Police Flight Stateside (various)
- 160th Services Flight Stateside (various)
- 160th SAC Clinic Stateside (various)
- 178th Civil Engineering Squadron Moody AFB, Ga.
- 178th Tactical Hospital Cannon AFB, N.M.
- 178th Services Flight Holloman AFB, N.M.
- 178th Security Police Flight Home Station
- 179th Medical Services Squadron United Kingdom/Andrews AFB, Md.
- 180th Civil Engineering Squadron Nellis AFB, Nev.
- 180th Security Police Flight Home Station
- 180th Services Flight Travis AFB, Calif.

## In Memoriam

**Spc. Brian K. Spackman**, 324th Military Police Company. Born on Jan. 13, 1969, Brian K. Spackman joined the Guard in September 1986. Before his unit was activated, Spackman was studying culinary arts at the University of Akron and was a qualified food inspector for the State of Ohio. On Jan 14, 1991, shortly after his unit reported to their mobilization station, Fort Bragg, and just one day after his 22nd birthday, Brian suffered a fatal heart attack during a physical fitness test.

**Sgt. Mark J. Gologram**, 838th Military Police Company. An active Army police officer from July 1986 to July 1989, Mark J. Gologram joined the 838th in May 1990. He was a freshman at the University of Akron and was planning to return to active duty as an officer. On March 18, Mark was driving his military vehicle down Dodge Highway—a narrow, heavily traveled road in Saudi Arabia—when he collided with another military vehicle. He was killed instantly.

## National Guard During Desert Storm

On Aug. 2, 1990, Iraq launched a sudden invasion of the small, oil-rich emirate of Kuwait at the head of the Persian Gulf. By occupying Kuwait, Iraq's Saddam Hussein hoped to increase his stature as an Arab leader and his control over the world's oil supplies. Within days, a United Nations coalition headed by President George H.W. Bush formed. Allied war aims were clear: Hussein was to withdraw from Kuwait and allow the full restoration of the Kuwaiti government.

On Aug. 6, Bush announced Operation Desert Shield, the buildup of allied forces in the Gulf. Placing a large force in Saudi Arabia would be impossible without the reserve components, so on Aug. 22 Bush called up guardmembers and reservists in the largest mobilization since the Korean War.

Between August 1990 and the end of Operation Desert Storm on Feb. 28, 1991, a total of 74,815 National Guard soldiers and airmen entered active duty. More than 42,000 Guard men and women served in the Persian Gulf, while 32,000 others trained and performed support missions in the United States, Europe and elsewhere. From the day Desert Storm began on Jan. 17 to end of the fighting six weeks later, the Guard presence in Saudi Arabia grew from 23,000 to 37,000.

## Ohio Does Its Part

For some Ohio Guardmembers, participation in Operation Desert Shield began as early as August 1990. Within a week of Iraq's invasion of Kuwait, most of the aircraft assigned to the 160th Air Refueling Group were providing refueling support to forces deploying overseas; after an official call-up in late December, about 40 percent of the unit deployed to Jeddah, Abu Dhabi and Dubai, where it joined other Guard and Reserve units to become part of three provisional wings.

"The loss of unit integrity was disappointing, but everyone realized it was required by operational necessity," said retired Col. Joseph C. Carr, then 160th deputy commander for maintenance.

Other Ohio units began receiving alert notifications from National Guard Bureau in November—adding to the number of units which were activated during the holidays.

The 121st Security Police Squadron departed Columbus on Dec. 20, arriving in Bahrain on Christmas Day; their job was to provide airbase defense at Shaikh Isa Air Base. Ohio's Army Guard deployed three of its military police units, with the 324th and 838th MPs landing in Saudi Arabia in mid-February, just days before the ground war started.

"We knew we (the 324th) were going to get called up," said 1st Sgt. Edward Swaney, now 46. "At first, we started as a guard escort company. Almost immediately we moved out and prepared to pick up prisoners of war—2,000 to 2,500 at a time, with only 40 MPs to watch them."

Other units that deployed into the Southwest Asia theater included the 1485th, 1486th and 1487th Transportation Companies—which transported equipment, am-



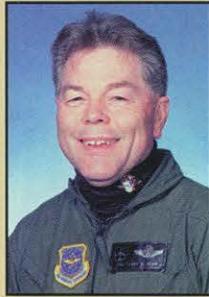
munition and supplies; the 641st Quartermaster Detachment—which performed water purification missions in north-west Saudi Arabia near the Iraqi border; and the 5694th Engineer Detachment—which conducted aircraft crash and rescue missions in northern Saudi Arabia, Kuwait City and Basrah, Iraq. The remaining units included in the call-up served at home station or at other active-duty sites, both stateside and abroad. Their duties ranged from personnel and medical services to civil engineers and security police.

## A Hero Among Us

The return leg of a refueling flight Feb. 13, 1991, during Operation Desert Storm proved to be the most dangerous part of the mission.

Ohio Air National Guard Chief Master Sgt. Terry K. Kerr was the first to react to a fiery explosion in the galley area of a 160th Air Refueling Group KC-135 aircraft. Despite sustaining second-degree burns on his face and losing 25 percent of his hair, Kerr used a fire extinguisher to put out the fire and allow the rest of the crew to implement emergency procedures to safely land the plane. Kerr was the last person to exit the plane, after ensuring the fire was completely out.

He received the Distinguished Flying Cross for his gallant efforts and, in celebration of the Air National Guard's Year of the Enlisted Force in 1999, a conference room at Scott Air Force Base, Ill., was named in Kerr's honor.



Kerr

## Ohioans Display Overwhelming Support

One of the most vivid memories of the Persian Gulf War is the symbolic color of orange, representing the care, love and support provided to families of deployed servicemembers. Though the founder of Operation Orange Ribbon, Cincinnati resident Ellen Lambing, died of ovarian cancer last August, the 10-year anniversary of the war brings back the memory of the campaign and her inspiration.

In 1991, Lambing explained to *Buckeye Guard* journalist Sgt. Lori King that the apprehension she felt about her son being on the U.S.S. Eisenhower in the Gulf led her to pray, and the campaign was the message she received back. "The color orange just flashed in my mind, and I knew it was the right thing to do." What started as a local campaign turned into an international show of support for the troops who served during the Gulf Crisis. A total of 200 Orange Ribbon Groups were established throughout the country, while six others were organized overseas.

"I didn't want to see another Vietnam, where the troops were forgotten," she said. Lambing envisioned the orange ribbons signifying safety for the troops wherever they were, while yellow ribbons traditionally symbolize a safe return. The 838th Military Po-

lice Company, Youngstown, was the last Ohio National Guard unit to be released from active duty, returning home on Sept. 7, 1991.

Though orange ribbons remained a prominent sight until the last servicemember returned from the Gulf, elaborate homecoming celebrations prevailed throughout the Ohio and the nation. Operation Welcome Home Ohio and its military parade revitalized the meaning of Veterans Day Nov. 9, 1991, as the celebration paid homage to the state's veterans of all wars.

## Gulf War Syndrome Still a Mystery

Even while Ohio citizens celebrated the return of Desert Storm veterans in late 1991, reports of a mysterious "Gulf War Syndrome" circulated the entire nation. While most veterans dismissed any troubling symptoms after they returned from the Gulf, health problems continued to escalate even as the Departments of Defense and Veterans Affairs established programs to address the enigma.

The "Ohio Desert Storm Research Report," completed in November 1997, stated that eight major areas of symptoms emerged during the study: respiratory problems, digestive problems, joint/muscle problems, skin problems, vision problems, chronic fatigue/pain/sensitivity problems, circulatory problems and cognitive functioning problems.

The report also said that veterans dealing with post-Gulf War health concerns were confronted with two other major problems: symptoms that could not be diagnosed and the differing VA policies in terms of treatment of veterans and billing of services.

Though a single cause for Gulf War Syndrome is highly unlikely, some symptoms have been linked to the misuse of pesticides and low-level exposure to chemical agents. Additional information can be obtained at the Gulf Link website, [www.gulfink.osd.mil](http://www.gulfink.osd.mil), or questions can be directed to the Office of the Special Assistant to the Secretary of Defense for Gulf War Illness at (800) 497-6261. ■



Community members come out in droves to welcome home Ohio troops from the Persian Gulf.

# The Gulf War *ten years later*

## Former POW recalls ill-fated mission, Iraqi prison

Story by Maj. Ann Coghlin  
178th Fighter Wing

For one member of Springfield's 178th Fighter Wing, the 10-year anniversary of Desert Storm brought back memories he'd much rather forget.

Lt. Col. Mike "MR" Roberts, then an active-duty fighter pilot assigned to the 614th Tactical Fighter Squadron, became a prisoner of war when an SA-6 missile exploded near his jet and lethally damaged his F-16.

"On the third day of the war (Jan. 19, 1991), we were tasked (with) the first daylight mission to downtown Baghdad," Roberts recalled.

Initially, his unit had targeted strategic sites such as chemical storage facilities and runways; its mission to downtown Baghdad was quite different. A package consisting of 64 F-16s, eight F-15s, eight F-4G Wild Weasels and a couple of EF-111s set their sites for the Republican Guard's headquarters, the air defense headquarters building and an oil refinery on the city's east side.

"The target I was specifically supposed to be dropping on was the air defense headquarters building," Roberts said.

"We're coming from south to north out of Saudi Arabia. As we got to just south of Baghdad, the weather covered up our targets," he said. "By the ROE (rules of engagement) we couldn't drop on any target in town unless we could—no kidding—see the target. The package commander called for us to drag out.

"Just as we started to turn back out and go south to our...secondary target, the bad guys realized that we were there."

Because the Weasels had already left the area to refuel, Roberts said the Iraqis felt safe turning on their radar. Weasels put down HARMs (high-speed anti-radiation missiles) that hone in on signals emitted by surface-to-air missiles and destroy them.

"So when the F-4Gs left...they just started turning everything loose," he said.

Though Roberts evaded the first missile that was shot at him, he wasn't so lucky the second go-round.

Roberts said he was trying to see the missile that was detected on his F-16's radar warning receiver, and was further alerted by the pilot behind him who called out, "SAM (surface-to-air missile) launch!"

"That's coming at me," he said. "I gotta find this thing." So he rolled upside down



Photo by MSgt Teresa Kinter-Buford, 178th Fighter Wing

and saw it coming up right underneath his airplane. "I had just enough time to try and overshoot the thing. It didn't hit me."

Roberts said if the guy behind him hadn't said anything, "It would have smacked me." Though he was able to get some distance from the missile, it still fused on the belly of the aircraft. When the Russian-made SA-6 missile stopped seeing closure on his F-16—because he had successfully evaded it—it exploded, throwing shrapnel all over.

Thinking the bump he felt was a shock wave from the supersonic missile and that he had again escaped unharmed, Roberts realized the extent of the damage as he tried to head out. "Lights started flashing in the cockpit. The airplane started to pitch over. I tried pulling the stick and nothing happened. I looked over my left shoulder and saw smoke just billowing out from underneath the left wing of the airplane."

At this point, he decided it was time to eject, but not without second thoughts. "For just a second I thought about what was waiting for me down there. I thought about riding it in, but then survival took over and I reached down and pulled the handle.

"I remember the canopy leaving and going up the rails, peeking out of the seat and just starting the face-forward fall towards the ground," he said. As he got closer to the ground, he could see about 200 people waiting on him—many with AK-47 automatic rifles. "They actually started shooting at me. I could see these combat tracers coming at me and hear the bullets zinging through.

Fortunately, their aim wasn't that good," Roberts said. Technically, one is still a combatant while parachuting down.

After Roberts hit the ground, he was swarmed by civilians before the local military captured him.

"For the next two-and-a-half days, it was pretty much constant interrogation," he said. "It was always the same thing—who are you, where are you from, what's the next day's target, etc."

Interrogations were characterized by intimidation. "They would bring me into a room blindfolded, hands cuffed behind my back. You couldn't see who was doing the interrogation, but it was an English-speaking guy with a couple of 'helpers.' If they didn't like your answers or didn't think you were answering fast enough, the helpers would hit you upside the head with hands, fists, whatever, and use a cattle prod every now and again," he said.

Roberts said he was confident they were not going to kill any of the POWs since he knew there were others being interrogated too and he had heard no gun shots. Roberts and some other prisoners were moved a couple times before March 1, when they were told they would be freed as a part of a peace agreement.

The POWs were taken to a hotel, turned over to the Red Cross and prepared to leave Baghdad. "Breakfast was served on a porcelain plate with an orange slice and parsley. It was toast with marmalade and a hard boiled egg. Earlier, they fed us out of what looked like dog bowls," he said.

All the allied forces' POWs boarded a plane to Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, while all former U.S. POWs were taken to Bahrain. Following thorough physicals, the Air Force POWs were flown to Andrews Air Force Base, Md., to be reunited with their families, and for more medical tests and debriefings.

Andrew Michael Roberts, who was then two-weeks old, got to meet his dad for the first time. He was born on Feb. 21, 1991, while his dad was a POW. "Thoughts of Patty (his wife) and the baby gave me a reason to look forward to getting out."

Roberts flew about 45 missions during Desert Shield and was shot down on his third mission of Desert Storm. He received the POW medal, the Distinguished Flying Cross and the Purple Heart. ■

# OhioReads making impact



Photo by Todd Cramer, Adj. Gen. Dept. Photo Lab

**Col Dean Boling spends 30 minutes each week tutoring 5-year-old Tuere Bartlett as part of the OhioReads program.**

**Story by Steve Toth  
Adj. Gen. Dept. Public Affairs Office**

**F**ive-year-old Corey Winton sprinted down the hallway at South Mifflin Elementary, located on Columbus' east side, much like he would on any day when he's changing classrooms and no teachers are looking.

But he picked the wrong day to be running in the hallway, for today was Wednesday, and there were about 30 more sets of adult eyes in the building.

"Stop running in the halls," boomed a man's voice. Winton stopped dead in his tracks and went to the floor on his knees out of surprise. However, as soon as he looked up and recognized who was speaking to him, his look of surprise soon changed to joy and a smile crept over his small face. "Hey, my tutor told me to stop running in the halls," Winton relayed to a classmate walking by in a more orderly fashion.

"That's right, get in here," the man said with a grin. Their rapport was evident, as Corey stood up promptly and entered the classroom to work with his tutor, retired Col. Richard Dreiman, the assistant quartermaster general for the Ohio Adjutant General's Department.

Dreiman is a volunteer tutor who goes to the school once a week to work one-on-one with kindergarten students as part of the OhioReads program, Gov. Bob Taft's commitment to education and developing children's reading skills.

In October, Maj. Gen. John H. Smith, state adjutant general, announced his plans

to partner Beightler Armory in Columbus with a local elementary school under the OhioReads program.

"It is this type of civic-minded community service that continues to bond the Ohio National Guard with the local community," Smith said. "Often we become so engrossed in our daily endeavors that we forget our obligation to the community.

"In reaching out in this manner, we present ourselves as role models and impart our values, morals and standards to the children."

Every Wednesday morning, about 30 volunteers from Beightler board a yellow school bus destined for South Mifflin.

"I think there's a need for it," Dreiman said. "Many of these kids don't have any kind of pre-school experience where they begin to pick up reading skills. So I'm trying to help fulfill those needs."

The time he spends each week with the kindergarten students is both rewarding and worthwhile, Dreiman said.

"Corey is a bright kid, he understands the exercises we do and understands the stories we read," Dreiman said. "And he's excited to see me every week, and I'm excited to see him."

Tutors spend 30 minutes each with two students each week. Sessions are usually

For information on how Ohio Guardmembers or entire units can become involved in OhioReads and partner with a local school, phone Lt Col Robert Baylor at (614) 336-6426 or send an e-mail to [robert.baylor@oh.ngb.army.mil](mailto:robert.baylor@oh.ngb.army.mil).



broken down into segments devoted to pronouncing letters, words and phrases, reading and a practical exercise.

"I believe it's a good cause," said Col. Dean Boling, director of human resources for the Adjutant General's Department and another regular tutor. "It's a good opportunity to have an impact in an area that we don't traditionally have an opportunity to be involved."

The adjutant general has authorized full-time guardmembers and employees to volunteer up to two hours per week in lieu of their regular assigned duties. Though they normally cannot be in a paid status when tutoring, traditional guardmembers can earn retirement points in an Active Duty Special Work (ADSW) status.

"OhioReads is the latest in the evolution of the Ohio Guard's Adopt-A-School program," said Lt. Col. Robert Baylor, Ohio National Guard counterdrug coordinator and the liaison with South Mifflin who coordinates the volunteer Guard tutors. "But OhioReads is geared more specifically toward getting the reading skills of students to improve, with the goal of improving proficiency testing."

Another challenge that presents itself to many of the tutors is that for some of the students at South Mifflin, English is not necessarily their native language.

"To even get (the students) to talk to you is an accomplishment," said Nancy Flanagan, a retired teacher who serves as one of the OhioReads site coordinators at South Mifflin. "They need individual attention when learning language. With a full classroom, a teacher can't do that."

Teachers said beyond improving reading, the program fosters relationships with positive adult role models. The military uniforms don't hurt the effect either.

"I don't think many children have the opportunity to talk with an adult one-on-one, with that adult's undivided attention, even at home," said Pat Jeffries, a kindergarten teacher at South Mifflin. "This is the one time for 30 minutes a week that a child has an adult's full attention. And it helps the children develop self-esteem because they know that another adult cares about them."

The Guard's first OhioReads endeavor appears to be reaping rewards already.

"Hopefully this will have an impact on the direction (the students) take in their lives," Smith said. "I cannot stress enough the importance of these encounters in letting the children see us for who we are and what we do." ■



Photo by PFC Haraz N. Ghanbari, 196th MPAD

**SSG Kevin Mettler (center), the top Ohio Army Guard recruiter for 2000, shares a laugh before cutting the cake with BG Ronald G. Young (left), assistant adjutant general for Army, and LTC Jim Lawson, OHARNG recruiting and retention manager.**

## Banquet celebrates year's best Army Guard recruiters

Army Guard recruiters from across the state recently held their annual Recruiting and Retention Command Awards Banquet to honor those who have made the greatest contributions toward meeting and exceeding the strength mission for the Ohio Army Guard.

The highlight of the evening was the presentation of the Chief's 50 Award and a Legion of Merit award.

Staff Sgt. Kevin Mettler, of the Southeastern Ohio recruiting area, received the Chief's 50 honor. The top annual recruiting and retention award, it recognizes the one noncommissioned officer from each state who has made the greatest contribution to end strength for his or her state during the fiscal year.

"Since being assigned to the Recruiting and Retention Command, Staff Sergeant Mettler has consistently performed above mission in an area that historically was under mission," said Maj. Daniel B. Jones Sr., Northern Ohio Recruiting and Retention officer-in-charge and banquet coordinator.

Mettler resides in Roseville, with his wife, Anissa Ann, and children, Cortney, Dakota and Colton.

A special recognition was presented to retired Master Sgt. Charles O. Jackson, former noncommissioned officer-in-charge of the Akron-Canton recruiting area. Jackson received the Legion of Merit, the highest peacetime award.

The Legion of Merit is awarded to a member of the U.S. armed forces or of a friendly foreign nation who has distin-

guished himself or herself by exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of services. **PFC HARAZ N. GHANBARI, 196TH MOBILE PUBLIC AFFAIRS DETACHMENT**

## Military Intel society forms

The Ohio (Buckeye) chapter of the Military Intelligence Corps Association has formed recently. The first general membership meeting is scheduled to take place in the April-May time frame at a location in the Columbus area

to be determined. The meeting is open to any military personnel or intelligence professionals who are interested.

For more information on MICA, write to: P.O. Box 117, Richmond, Ohio 43944-0117; or send an e-mail to Maj. Kirk Zecchini at [kzecchini@sms-sutton.com](mailto:kzecchini@sms-sutton.com) or Master Sgt. Bob Marsh at [msgmarsh@aol.com](mailto:msgmarsh@aol.com). **MICA, OHIO CHAPTER COMMUNICATIONS**

## Guard soldiers provide hope

It's 7 a.m. on a cold December morning. All is quiet except for the rumble of two Ohio Army National Guard "deuce-and-a-half" trucks. It's that time again for volunteers from Alpha Company, 1-107th Armor Battalion, and Bravo Company, 237th Forward Support Battalion, both located in Newton Falls, to get themselves geared up to help the Center of Hope, where they will unload a year's worth of contributions, food, clothing and toys for less fortunate families.

This year, as in the past six years, guardmembers lent a helping hand to the Center of Hope.

"It's an honor to work with soldiers, friends and brothers like these volunteers," said Sgt. 1st Class Tony Perez, one of the Guard volunteer coordinators. "The Guard is not just a weekend a month and two weeks in the summer, it's the above and beyond that no one really gets to see. There is no thought of reward or special favors, just a feeling of wanting to help others and to promote the Guard in a positive light. These soldiers have done just that."

Members of Detachment 2, 237th FSB, Ashtabula, have helped the Ashtabula County's "Share Your Christmas" pro-

gram since the mid-1980s. In addition to conducting its annual food drive, this year the unit provided volunteers and its armory to serve as a collection and distribution point for food and toys for more than 600 underprivileged families in a two-day period.

"One of Ashtabula County's greatest blessings is our own National Guard detachment, ready and willing to assist us," said Evelyn Schaeffer of Catholic Charities of Ashtabula County. "Share Your Christmas' and Catholic Charities of Ashtabula County are immensely grateful to be able to call on the Guard." **A COMPANY, 1-107TH ARMOR/237TH FSB PUBLIC AFFAIRS**

## Making a difference to families

The Ottawa County Family Resource Care-A-Van, and the 212th Missile Maintenance Company and Detachment 1, 372nd Maintenance Company, located in Port Clinton, joined together for a Kids Caring for Kids campaign for Make-A-Difference Day last October.

Guardmembers helped collect and sort nearly 8,000 used clothing items donated by elementary school students in Ottawa County. Clothing was sold to less fortunate families for \$1 per bag or \$1 per coat. The \$716 that was raised went to the Care-A-Van's Emergency Fund, which further helps those in need with clothing, food, medicine and housing support. **OTTAWA COUNTY FAMILY RESOURCE CARE-A-VAN COMMUNICATIONS**

## Ohio BMV eliminates extra fees for most military plates

The Ohio Bureau of Motor Vehicles Feb. 12 waived its \$10 additional fee for military plates including the Ohio National Guard, U.S. Armed Forces Reserves, U.S. Armed Forces Retiree or honorably discharged veteran, and Pearl Harbor.

Ohioans who wish to purchase military plates for the first time must show they are in good standing by issuing proper discharge papers or a letter from their commanding officer. The military license plates can be issued to passenger vehicles, non-commercial trucks, motor homes, house vehicles and non-commercial trailers.

The elimination of the \$10 fee was made possible with the passage of Senate Bill (SB) 232, which also includes a section which allows Purple Heart recipients to obtain Purple Heart license plates for any vehicle they own.

Previous legislation waived the fees for plates featuring Grenada, Vietnam, WWI, WWII, Persian Gulf, Panama, Lebanon, Korea, POW, Purple Heart recipient and disabled veteran. **OHIO BUREAU OF MOTOR VEHICLES**

## Wishing, washing for more charitable success in 2001

The second annual Make-A-Wish Wash is scheduled for May 19 at various Wal-Marts and Sam's Clubs throughout Ohio. Last May the Ohio National Guard raised \$4,000 for the Make-A-Wish Foundation of Ohio through this charitable car wash.

Organizers need help again this year. Last year car washes at some locations had to be canceled because of a lack of volunteer support.

This year there are 21 locations in Ohio that need staffed: Dayton, Beavercreek, Lebanon, suburban Cincinnati, Xenia, Hilliard, Tuttle Crossing (Columbus), Easton (Columbus), Lewis Center, Reynoldsburg, Marion, Norwalk, Canton, Akron, Ashland, Zanesville, McConnelsville (furniture store), suburban Cleveland, Medina, Athens and Toledo.

Volunteers are asked to work at the car wash anytime from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

The event is open to Ohio National Guard soldiers, airmen, retirees, friends and family. The first 10 volunteers at each site will receive a yellow Make-A-Wish T-shirt to wear with BDU bottoms or civilian attire.

This is an opportunity to once again show support for this charity that helps Ohio's children.

Contact Sgt. 1st Class Tim O'Neal by phone at (614) 336-7432 or send an e-mail to [timothy.oneal@oh.ngb.army.mil](mailto:timothy.oneal@oh.ngb.army.mil). **SFC TIM O'NEAL, DET. 4, HQ STARC**

## Wadsworth students become guardmembers for day

Headquarters 1-107th Armor Battalion, Stow, was visited by 12 students from Wadsworth Central Middle School on a school-sponsored field trip in January.

Students trained with the guardmembers on use of night vision equipment, compass orienteering, and communications and movement in tactical vehicles.

They were shown a video on life at basic training and highlights from the battalion's most recent annual training at Camp Grayling, Mich. The students also were named honorary Ohio Guardmembers by the unit. **SGT ERIC KORBEL, 1-107TH ARMOR BATTALION**

## Monument honors airmen

People gathered on Nov. 11 to pay tribute to the Tuskegee Airmen who were stationed at Lockbourne Army Air Base, now Rickenbacker, from 1946 to 1949.

Held on Veterans Day to remember and honor the service and sacrifice that all veterans have made for our country, the tribute was marked by the unveiling of a memorial to the Tuskegee Airmen, which features the Tuskegee Airmen logo on a black granite stone. It is located at the corner of Alum Creek Drive and Port Road at Rickenbacker International Airport in Columbus. **121ST AIR REFUELING WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS**

## Tank gunnery? No problem

Tank gunnery season is now under way for some members of C Company, 1-147th Armor Battalion, Greenville. Soldiers trained in preparation for the Tank Crew Gunnery Skills Test, also known as TCGST, at the Ohio Army National Guard armory in Oxford.

Most members of the unit had not been on tanks since last July, when the company returned from annual training at Camp Ripley, Minn. Training at Oxford provides a unique opportunity for the tankers, since there are no tanks at the Greenville armory.

Unit members said they were confident that the tankers would be ready for the gunnery cycle when they performed the TCGST in March at the Armor Training Center in Fort Knox, Ky.

The unit broke down into groups and conducted a team-building competition, which included a timed relay disassembly and assembly of various weapons systems, as well as a tank track block relay race and a game of "capture the flag."

The unit will be traveling to Camp Ripley again this year for annual training, where tank crews will be evaluated on their proficiencies of identifying, engaging and destroying probable enemy tank, tank-like and troop targets. **SPC TONY L. BAKER, COMPANY C, 1-147TH ARMOR BATTALION**



Photo by SSG Richard E. Niehe, 37th Armor Brigade

**The 37th Armor Brigade leadership recognizes AGR NCO of Year SSG Susan Skrzynski (fourth from left), Traditional NCO of Year SSG William Cousins and Soldier of Year SPC Thomas DeMange at the annual brigade ball.**

## Balls recognize 'Dragon' Brigade, St. Barbara

More than 300 members and guests of the 37th Armor Brigade gathered Nov. 11 for the eighth annual brigade ball at the Hyatt Regency in downtown Columbus.

Brigade Command Sgt. Maj. David Thomas recognized Spc. Thomas DeMange of Company C, 1-147th Armor Battalion, Greenville, as brigade soldier of the year; Staff Sgt. William Cousins of Company A, 1-148th Infantry Battalion, Xenia, as brigade traditional noncommissioned officer of the year; and Staff Sgt. Susan Skrzynski, of Detachment 2, Company B, 237th Forward Support Battalion, Ashtabula, as Active Guard/Reserve (AGR) NCO of the year.

The annual observance of St. Barbara's Day was held on Dec. 9 at the Officers Club of the Defense Supply Center-Columbus. Members and guests of the 1-134th Field Artillery Battalion, Columbus, and the 2-174th Air Defense Artillery Battalion, McConnelsville, gathered to pay tribute to the patron saint of all artillery.

Lt. Col. Philip C. Lootens, 1-134th commander, and Lt. Col. Michael D. Bish, 2-174th commander, led the "Buckeye Redlegs" in their celebration. Sgt. Noah Mayberry was named 1-134th soldier of the year and Sgt. David McQuaide garnered the 2-174th NCO of the Year award. **SSG RICHARD E. NIEHE, 37TH ARMOR BRIGADE**



Photo by Rosanna Grey

**SFC Steven Shepherd shows off some military gear to a Sullivant Elementary School student and the rest of her class.**

### Guardmember educates students about veterans

Veterans Day offered the opportunity for Sgt. 1st Class Steven Shepherd, Troop B, 2-107th Cavalry, Lebanon, to share his military experiences with elementary school students.

Shepherd took in pictures, field gear and a family history that dated back to the Civil War to share with the students in Rosanna Grey's fourth-grade class at Sullivant Elementary School in Columbus. The children were allowed to wear some of the gear and have their faces camouflaged.

"The students were extremely prepared and had done a great deal of research on this important holiday. The classroom was decorated to honor Veterans Day, and the students were very excited about the event," Shepherd said. "We talked about patriotism, the flag, military veterans and held an open discussion on all these subjects. Ms. Grey put forth a great deal of effort to honor veterans while educating her students."

COMPANY B, 2-107TH CAVALRY PUBLIC AFFAIRS

### Unit presents first Air Medal

Maj. Joseph P. Maslar earned the first Air Medal in the modern history of the 180th Fighter Wing, Toledo.

Due to Operation Northern Watch, the unit flew enough combat sorties in a theater of operations for pilots to earn the Air Medal solely based on their service with the 180th.

"I am very proud to have earned this award. I feel this is a reflection on the unit as a whole," Maslar said.

Maslar set himself apart from others while participating in sustained aerial flights as an F-16 pilot and mission commander while stationed at Incirlik Air Base, Turkey from April 7 to Oct. 3, 1999. SRA VICKEY COLLINS, 180TH FIGHTER WING

### Engineer uses skills abroad

Most of the time, Douglas Brunot designs roads and bridges for the city of Akron. But recently he used his engineering skills to help rebuild Vietnam.

Brunot is part of the first U.S. military engineering team to help the Southeast Asian nation since the end of the Vietnam War more than a quarter-century ago.

A 35-year-old civil engineer with the Design Division of Akron's Engineering Bureau, Brunot is also a captain in the Ohio Army National Guard.

Through the Guard, he worked with the U.S. Pacific Command Humanitarian Assistance Mission earlier this year to design and construct two health clinics in Vietnam. The mission also is helping neighboring Cambodia with the construction of five bridges.

Brunot was the only Ohioan attached to the mission. Last July and August, he and four other members of the team spent nearly a month in Southeast Asia on the first part of the mission. In late January, the team headed back to Vietnam to continue work.

Brunot has been in the Ohio National Guard for 10 years. He is commander of the recently activated 191st Engineer Company (Dump Truck) based at Rickenbacker Airport in Columbus.

Brunot said he volunteered for the overseas work because he wanted to help the Vietnamese people. "It is very exciting," he said.

The humanitarian mission was organized after what Brunot described as a "1,000-year flood that hit Hue province in November 1999."

The engineering team built "flood-resistant medical clinics that will also serve as emergency operations centers during future natural disasters in the province."

Brunot said the Vietnamese people, and the Cambodians with whom he worked, appreciated the work the U.S. military is doing for their countries.

Army Reserve Maj. James K. D'Arienzo, the mission officer in charge of the Southeast Asian project, said the role of the U.S. military "has changed significantly over



Brunot

the years.... These missions provide our engineers technical experiences in designing structures, bridges and roads under conditions that vary significantly from what they typically experience in the U.S. and often offer challenges in the

way of available materials and construction practices."

Projects such as this one, D'Arienzo said, are a "sincere expression of good will from the people of the United States to the countries in which we (conduct) them."

Brunot returned from Southeast Asia in mid-February. JIM CARNEY, AKRON BEACON JOURNAL

### Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame honors community heroes

Being honored by one's peers is always a nice surprise. For Brig. Gen. James Abraham, it was a humbling reward for his years of dedication and concern for country and citizenship.

Abraham, former Ohio assistant adjutant general for Army, was recognized along with 18 other veterans for his outstanding service to community in November at the Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame induction ceremony.

"This award reflects on all the people who are dedicated to this country and patriotism," Abraham said. "I'm very thankful, this is a great honor."

The Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame was started in 1992 by former Gov. George Voinovich as a way to recognize Ohio veterans for the service they give back to their communities after honorable military service. Currently, Ohio has the only Veterans Hall of Fame in the country.

Abraham, along with two other Ohio Army National Guardmembers, Maj. Gen.

J. Ronald Bowman, former commander of the 16th Engineer Brigade, and James Wallace, a sergeant with the 112th Medical Battalion (Clearing Company) in Westerville in 1946-49, were inducted into the class of 2000 with other veterans from World War II, Korea, Vietnam and even the Civil War.

While their military service was a qualifying factor for nomination, their outstanding service to their community and state is what got them inducted. A committee reviews more than 100 nominations from across Ohio each July. They select no more than 20 candidates for induction, with final approval by the governor.

The Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame is sponsored by the Governor's Office of Veterans Affairs and the Ohio Veterans Home. Ohio Army National Guard Col. Christine Cook is director of the Ohio Veterans Home and helps oversee the Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame.

"The Hall of Fame is one of the best programs I've been involved with while here at the Ohio Veterans Home," Cook said. "It recognizes veterans for what they give back to the community, and I think anytime you recognize veterans it's a good thing."

Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame Director Shannon Scherer said it is not unusual to see a significant National Guard presence.

"The National Guard has always been known as citizen-soldiers," she said. "These people were there when their country called them to defend freedom, and they came back to build and grow the communities they live in. They truly are remarkable people." **OHIO VETERANS HALL OF FAME COMMUNICATIONS**



Photo by Todd Cramer, Adj. Gen. Dept. Photo Lab

**Retired OHARNG MG J. Ronald Bowman (center) receives a plaque marking his induction into the Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame from COL Christine Cook (left), director of the Ohio Veterans Home, and Gov. Bob Taft.**

## Two students earn Guard Bureau YOFAM scholarships

National Guard Bureau designated the year 2000 as the "Year of the Family." As part of the celebration, a Year of the Family (YOFAM) Scholarship contest was sponsored, with \$18,000 in scholarship money available for children of 13 Air and 13 Army Guardmembers nationwide.

Of 26 total scholarships, the Ohio National Guard garnered two winners: Jennifer Lidke of Bellevue, daughter of Master Sgt. Dennis Lidke, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1-137th Assault Helicopter Battalion, Columbus, and Rita Longan, of Akron, daughter of Sgt. 1st Class John F. Longan, Company B, 3-126th Aviation Battalion, North Canton. **NATIONAL GUARD BUREAU FAMILY PROGRAMS OFFICE**

## Ohio airmen net national environmental awards

Members of four Ohio Air National Guard units received national recognition during the ANG Environmental Training Workshop Feb. 15 in Gulfport, Miss.

The annual workshop provides re-certification for environmental managers to ensure compliance with federal regulations and standards.

LeRoy Edwards III, state environmental specialist for the 121st Air Refueling Wing, Columbus, received the Recycling Award for Individual Excellence and the State Environmental Employee Award. Master Sgt. William W. Bice II of the 178th Fighter Wing, Springfield received the Bioenvironmental Engineering Technician Award.

The 2000 Voluntary Achievement Award was given to six Air Guardmembers: Master Sgt. Michael J. Stichler and Staff Sgt. Michael J. Welch of the 179th Airlift Wing, Mansfield, and Maj. Jeffery A. Lewis, Master Sgts. Craig Donnelly and Donald E. Phillips, and Tech. Sgt. Chad J. Helriggle of the 220th Engineering Installation Squadron, Zanesville. **MSGT EALNOR GREY, HQ, OHIO ANG**

## Soldier receives recognition for bravery, quick actions

Staff Sgt. Ed Porter of Detachment 1, Company D, 137th Aviation (AVIM), North Canton, recently was presented with the Ohio Distinguished Service Medal with Valor for his leadership and actions in providing medical assistance to men who were injured and trapped inside a danger-

ous collapsed building.

Two civilian contractors were in the process of dismantling a building located at the Ravenna Army Ammunition Plant when it collapsed on them Oct. 28, 1999.



Porter

Porter immediately entered the building to locate the victims, assisted by Spc. John McGuire and Pvt. Andy Dubois. They found the men and administered first aid to the victims until

more medical help could arrive and the men could be evacuated. Unfortunately, the victims later died from their injuries.

At the time, Porter was NCOIC of the medic section at Ravenna that was providing support in conjunction with the return of personnel and equipment from Task Force Esteli in Nicaragua. **SSG T.J. MILLER, DET. 1, COMPANY D, 137TH AVIATION (AVIM)**

## Recruit donates college savings to high school

Not every high school senior decides to give away half his savings. But Jason Askins, a student at Lima Central Catholic High School, did just that.

Askins, also a newly recruited member of Company C, 1-147th Armor Battalion, Lima, donated \$1,000 to his school on Dec. 8 to help with the school's capital campaign, a fund-raiser to pay for upgrades to the school.

As a member of the Ohio Army National Guard, Askins does not have to worry about college tuition with the Ohio National Guard Scholarship Program, which pays 100 percent of tuition costs at a four-year public university.

"I just thought I could afford it with (working for) the Guard," he said. "I think the school could better use it."

He has worked in the family business, TJ's Pizza, for about 10 years and has been saving his money for the past two or three, he said.

Askins said he hopes his donation helps people realize that his school needs the funds and everyone should pitch in.

"I thought it might encourage other people to give," he said. **VALLY FINNEY, THE LIMA NEWS**

## Reservists have commissary challenge for 2001

Officials with the Defense Commissary Agency are issuing a challenge to reserve component members in 2001—shop regularly in the commissary and they guarantee that families will save more than \$2,000 in grocery costs during a 12-month period.

The key for unlocking the door to savings is the Commissary Privilege Card (DD Form 2529) issued annually to reservists by their units.

The card contains 24 blocks to record dates of the 24 authorized visits during the calendar year. Personnel who have not received their Commissary Privilege Card should contact their unit. Neither commissaries nor the Defense Commissary Agency issue the cards.

“Gray area” reserve component personnel—those who have retired from the reserve components and will be entitled to retired pay at age 60, but who are not yet 60—also need the Commissary Privilege Card in order to take advantage of their 24 annual commissary visits. Commissary Privilege Cards for “gray area” personnel are mailed annually from locations where their military personnel records are retained.

Commissary patrons purchase items at cost plus a 5 percent surcharge, which covers the construction of new commissaries and the modernization of existing stores. **DEFENSE COMMISSARY AGENCY PUBLIC AFFAIRS**

## VA extends home loan program for reservists

National Guardmembers and reservists now have until Sept. 30, 2007, to apply for the Department of Veterans Affairs home loan guarantee.

“Our objective, though, is to make this a permanent option for reservists,” said Mike Cline, executive director for the Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States.

Started in 1992, the VA loan guarantee program was originally intended to expire in 1999. Since then, it has received two extensions: One to 2003, and just recently to 2007.

Cline said there’s a great push—not only in his organization but in VA as well—to permanently extend the program for reservists.

According to Bob Gardner, national

veterans field representative for the Veterans of Foreign Wars office in Washington, VA guarantees loans for refinancing and purchasing homes—including condominiums and manufactured homes.

Another benefit that VA offers the purchaser is the option of not making a down payment on the home, according to Chuck Owen, senior real estate loan officer for Armed Forces Bank at Fort Leavenworth, Kan.

Owen said the only required investment is a “funding fee,” a one-time cost that the veteran doesn’t have to pay up front.

“You can either pay the fee at once or finance it into the loan amount,” he said.

Owen said the fee varies from 2.75 percent of the loan amount for a first-time purchase to 0.5 percent of the loan when the owner refinances.

Gardner said mortgage companies also benefit due to the loan’s protection factor.

“With a VA guarantee, the company is protected against loss up to the amount of the guarantee if the borrower fails to repay the loan,” he said.

According to Gardner, to be eligible for a VA loan a member of the Guard or Reserve must have completed six years of service, have been discharged under other than dishonorable conditions or currently be serving.

Gardner said the process for applying for a VA-guaranteed loan is relatively simple. First the veteran submits VA form 26-1880, or “Request for Determination of Eligibility and Available Loan Guarantee Entitlement,” to a local VA office. Along with this form the veteran will need to submit his or her discharge form, or a statement of service if still serving.

Gardner said VA Form 26-1880 can be

obtained from VA or most mortgage companies. On this form, the veteran lists all periods of military service. VA verifies the periods listed and then issues to the veteran a certificate of eligibility that officially confirms his eligibility status. The veteran

is then able to approach a mortgage company to begin the process for qualifying to buy a home. **ARMY NEWS SERVICE**



## SGLI coverage sees increase

Servicemen’s Group Life Insurance (SGLI) automatically increases to \$250,000

for all members effective April 1 with the premium increasing to \$20 per month.

Members desiring a reduced coverage must submit a new Veterans Affairs SGLV Form 8286, after April 1.

Other new additional SGLI options and monthly deduction rates (in parentheses) are as follows: \$210,000 (\$16.80); \$220,000 (\$17.60); \$230,000 (\$18.40); and \$240,000 (\$19.20). **UNITED STATES PROPERTY AND FISCAL OFFICE FOR OHIO**

## Program offers scholarships to public service-minded

Students considering a career in local, state or federal government could earn up to \$1,000 for college through the Public Service Scholarship Program.

The program has been offered since 1985 by the Public Employees Roundtable, a nonprofit organization that promotes interest in public service careers.

This year 10 to 12 \$500 and \$1,000 scholarships will be awarded. The \$500 scholarships will be awarded to part-time graduate students.

Deadline for applications is May 18, Undergraduate and graduate students can apply. Applicants must have a 3.5 grade point average in all college work and are required to submit a two-page essay discussing their specific career goals and vision for the future. Scholarships will be awarded in late July.

For more information or an application: visit [www.theroundtable.org](http://www.theroundtable.org) on the Internet; mail a self-addressed, stamped envelope to Public Employees Roundtable, P.O. Box 75248, Washington, D.C. 20013-5248; or call (202) 927-3650. **AMERICAN FORCES PRESS SERVICE**

### ONGSP APPLICATION DEADLINES

Fall term, July 1  
Spring semester/Winter quarter, Nov. 1  
Spring quarter, Feb. 1  
Summer term, April 1

It is the sole responsibility of a student/guardmember to turn in a completed application to the **Ohio National Guard Scholarship Program** office, located at the Adjutant General’s Department, 2825 West Dublin Granville Road, Columbus, Ohio 43235-2789, by the deadlines listed above.

This must be done prior to each term a student attends school.

For more information, call (614) 336-7032 or toll-free (888) 400-6484.

# Refueling wing leads aircraft recovery training

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

Somewhere, a military aircraft skids off a runway and plows to rest in a muddy field. Incoming planes are diverted as the runway is closed. Emergency crews race out. Aircrew and passengers evacuate the crippled bird. The remaining problem is how to quickly get this multimillion dollar aircraft out of the mud, back on the ramp and into a hangar for repairs without damaging it any further.

While a ditched automobile simply requires a tow truck and a cable hook-up to the vehicle's underside, pulling on the landing gear of a \$50 million aircraft would only add to the plane's existing damage. Rather, a slow and careful process is required.

At the forefront of this responsibility for the 121st Air Refueling Wing is Master Sgt. Ed Noce of the unit repair and reclamation shop. He recently helped put together the fourth Canadian Air Force and U. S. Air National Guard Crash Recovery Exercise, held at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Ariz.

The exercise hosted about 58 students from the Canadian and U.S. Air Forces, as well as two from the German Luftwaffe. Two members of the British Royal Air Force also attended the exercise, wanting to observe the latest techniques in aircraft recovery. With 12 instructors on hand, the airmen went through numerous recovery exercises using mothballed planes like the C-141 Starlifter, C-130 Hercules, F-15 Eagle and KC-135 Stratotanker.

"There's no other exercise like it in the entire world," said Noce, who, along with a counterpart from the Canadian air force, was instrumental in creating the first exercise in 1997. Before, there were only conferences with book work and discussion—no hands-on training.

"We have an Air Force directive that says every unit will have the capability (to conduct



recovery operations)," Noce said. "I approached it as a safety factor...(the military) trains me on everything else, why not on this?"

In order to put the exercise together, Noce had to find a location with aircraft with which to practice. The aircraft graveyard at Davis-Monthan AFB proved to be a suitable site with plenty of out-of-service planes. He also took the lead in making travel and lodging arrangements, and creating training scenarios for participants and instructors—all on a budget that was almost non-existent.

"We are spearheading this effort," said Tech. Sgt. Philip Lovejoy, 121st fuel systems technician and a past participant of the exercise. "Ed took it upon himself to develop some sort of annual training for this type of recovery, because there was nothing (else) in place."

The basic process of recovery begins by assessing what attitude (position in relation to the landscape) the crippled aircraft is in and what type of damage it has.

Next, large, black airbags are placed on platforms made of cribbing (a stack of heavy wooden planks). These are positioned under the aircraft in key areas and then the airbags are slowly inflated.

Once the aircraft has risen sufficiently, sledges (vehicles with low runners used for transporting loads) are placed underneath the wheels. Running on rails, the sledges move the aircraft back to the runway and then into the hangar for repairs.

According to Noce, the 2000

**Personnel tether an F-15 jet to the ground to stabilize the aircraft so it can be raised on top of lifting bags.**

exercise was significant because "this was the first time that a C-141 or any other aircraft of this size has been moved in this manner." The Starlifter is 168 feet long, with a 160-foot wing span and maximum take-off weight of 343,000 pounds.

"It seems strange, but before you can lift an airplane, you must tie it down to stabilize it," said Noce, describing one of the first steps in the process.

"You have to find the center of gravity (CG) of the aircraft with plumb bobs and then maintain that CG during the entire move," Lovejoy said.

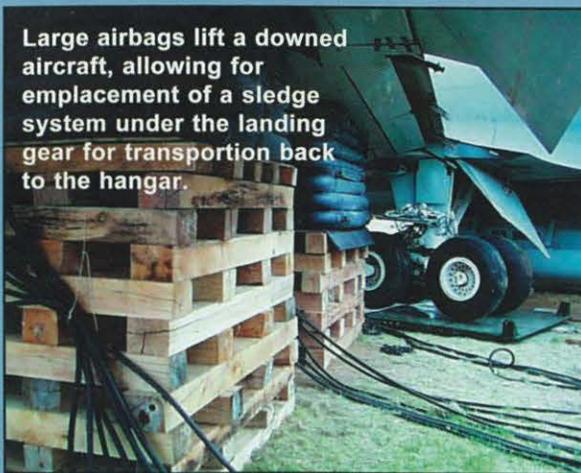
He described an episode at a past exercise where the nose of the plane being raised had changed its intended position by only eight inches. "Because the plane had shifted, it pinched and punctured one of the airbags. The entire recovery had to be aborted.

"The whole concept behind this (exercise) is to train for (aircraft recovery), be prepared, have the equipment, and hopefully...never have to use it," Lovejoy said.

"We are on the cutting edge of this because of Ed Noce, who saw a need and developed a program."

The 2000 exercise was Noce's last as he is taking a new position in the wing. The reins are now in the hands of Tech. Sgt. Glenn Davis, of the repair and reclamation shop, who will coordinate all future exercises. ■

**Large airbags lift a downed aircraft, allowing for emplacement of a sledge system under the landing gear for transportation back to the hangar.**



# Keeping the Peace

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Photo by SMSgt Larry Wilson, 179th Airlift Wing

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