

BUCKEYE GUARD

SUMMER 2011

Fired up about **SAFETY** PAGES 8-9

Ohio National Guard members learn valuable principles to implement back at their units during State Safety School



FINAL ISSUE:

This will be the last printed issue of the *Buckeye Guard*. Learn about some of our new media initiatives in place, and how you now can get your Ohio National Guard news, on page 4.

LINEAGE LINK UP

1486th Transportation Company Mansfield



MISSION:

To provide transportation for the movement of containerized, non-palletized, dry and/or refrigerated containerized cargo, bulk water products and bulk petroleum products.

DATE & PLACE OF BIRTH:

15 July 1876, Ashland, Ohio

PARENT UNIT:

Company F, 12th Infantry

CAMPAIGN CREDIT:

War with Spain: Santiago

World War I: Meuse-Argonne,
Lorraine 1918, Ypres-Lys

World War II: Northern Solomons,
Luzon (with arrowhead)

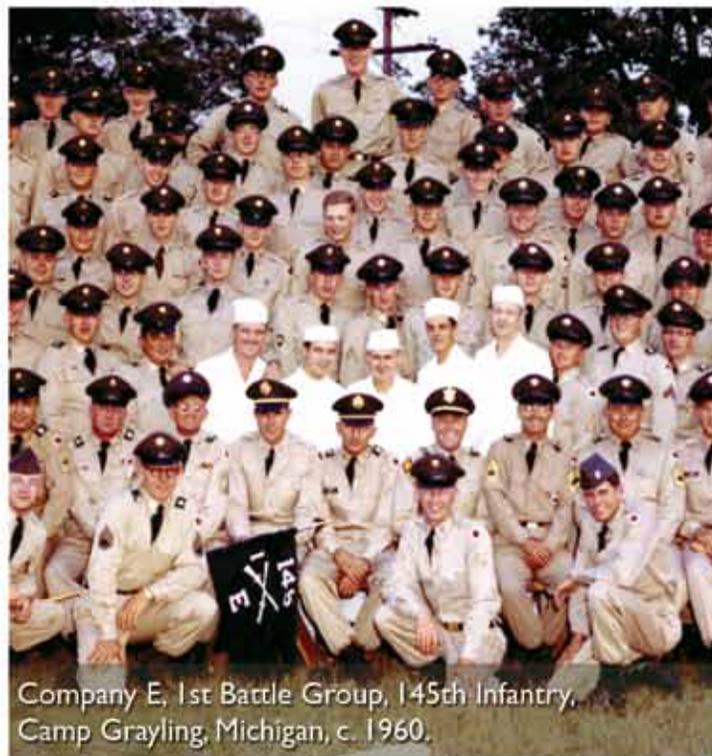
Southwest Asia: Defense of Saudi
Arabia, Liberation and Defense of
Kuwait, Cease-Fire

War on Terrorism: Campaigns to be
determined

AWARDS:

Meritorious Unit Commendation
(Army), Streamer embroidered
SOUTHWEST ASIA

Philippine Presidential Unit Citation,
Streamer embroidered 17 OCTOBER
1944 TO 4 JULY 1945



Company E, 1st Battle Group, 145th Infantry,
Camp Grayling, Michigan, c. 1960.



1486th Transportation Company, Kuwait, 2004.



Spc. Ryan Frizzell, 1486th Transportation Company, checks out his mirror before starting through the obstacle course at the 112th Transportation Battalion "roadeo" in 1990.



BUCKEYE GUARD

Volume 34, No. 2

roll call

Summer 2011

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Spring, February 15
Summer, May 15
Fall, August 15
Winter, November 15

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Adjutant General
Maj. Gen. Deborah A. Ashenhurst

Assistant Adjutant General, Air
Brig. Gen. Mark E. Bartman

Assistant Adjutant General, Army
Col. John C. Harris Jr.

Command Sergeant Major, Army
Command Sgt. Maj. Albert M. Whatmough

Command Chief Master Sergeant, Air
Chief Master Sgt. Tamara Phillips

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Army and Air National Guard Photojournalists
Unit Public Affairs Representatives



Sgt. Corey Giere (right) of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, Special Troops Battalion, 37th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, provides suppressive fire with blank rounds as the rest of his fire team runs for cover during an urban operations training exercise this spring at the Camp Ravenna Joint Maneuver



SGT. SEAN MATHIS / 37TH INFANTRY BRIGADE COMBAT TEAM PUBLIC AFFAIRS

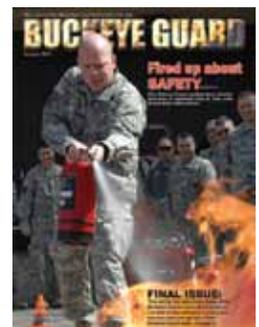
Training Center in Northeastern Ohio. For more on the 37th preparing for its upcoming deployment in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, see pages 14-15.

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ON THE COVER

Chief Warrant Officer 4 William M. Hallas, an OH-58 Kiowa helicopter pilot with Detachment 2, Company B, 1st Battalion, 112th Aviation Regiment, North Canton, douses a propane fire during the annual Ohio Army National Guard state safety school at Ohio State University's Mount Hall in Columbus. For more, see pages 8-9. Photo by 1st Lt. Kimberly Snow / Photo illustration by Steve Toth / Adjutant General's Department Public Affairs

The Ohio National Guard on the Internet

- Facebook <http://www.facebook.com/TheOhioNationalGuard>
- Twitter <http://twitter.com/ohnationalguard>
- YouTube <http://www.youtube.com/OhioNationalGuard>
- Flickr <http://www.flickr.com/photos/ohnationalguard>

We are doing great things: Let's make sure we're looking out for one another

BY CHIEF MASTER SGT. TAMARA PHILLIPS
 COMMAND CHIEF MASTER SERGEANT, OHIO AIR NATIONAL GUARD

Many of you who have attended town hall meetings where I had the honor and privilege to speak might have heard me go on and on about how great the Ohio Air National Guard is. When I started in this job as the state command chief, I was overwhelmed by the positive attention Ohio receives at the national level and throughout the other 53 states and territories. Going to national conferences was like being the popular kid in school and I was known as Ohio rather than Chief Phillips. Everyone knows who you are and many want to be you. Just a couple of months ago, during the state awards banquet, we recognized 12 Airmen who have won national-level awards in various categories. We also heard about how our Ohio units are labeled as "firsts" and "only" in mission sets, deployment concepts, training scenarios and inspection ratings. In many areas, Ohio has and is doing what no other state's Air National Guard in the nation has done. You are extraordinary!



TODD CRAMER / ADJ. GEN. DEPT. PHOTO LAB

Although we have been somewhat set apart, we are not much different from other wings and units because we are dealing with the same challenges as everyone else in the nation. We are busier than ever with deployments, inspections and countless hours of job and ancillary training. It often seems there's just not enough time to get it all done. We are experiencing changes and challenges such as never before in our economy, our mission sets, national policies (enlisted grades review and the new fitness test to name a few) and leadership at every level of our organization. These changes are just a few from a list of many external causes of stress.

When we drill down to the personal level, there are many additional challenges like relationship/Family issues, financial problems, hectic schedules and major life changes. No one is exempt from the impact of these challenges. At the same time, not everyone is impacted in the same way nor will everyone react in the same way to them. Busy times are here.

There are Airmen among you who have many additional challenges — they come to work every day wearing fake smiles and deep down inside they are swelling with emotional stress caused by the pressure of these additional challenges. They continue to do the great work expected of them. They are the epitome of military bearing and professionalism. They are the ones you expect to see in top leadership positions in the future. Some of them are in leadership positions now. We haven't noticed their pain because they are great make-up artists and they hide it well. Everything appears to be fine so we trudge along, we keep driving onward... we have a mission to complete.

Our mission is to fly, fight and win. But it takes a whole team to put an aircraft into flight. It takes resiliency and tenacity to fight. It takes all of the team to win. Yet we are unwittingly leaving Airmen behind, something we vowed to never

do in our Airman's creed. The mission is not more important than the people who complete it. So, let's make sure the Wingman concept is not just a concept and that it is working in our organizations. Let's put it into action. Let's see the faces of our brothers, sisters, sons and daughters in the faces of our fellow Airmen so that it raises our level of concern for our fellow Airmen.

There's not much I wouldn't do for my Family and I bet you are the same. Every person in your section, flight and squadron must truly be like Family and they must have a Wingman. It's easy to have "eyes-on"

the full-time members of your organization and I hope you are doing that well. But 80 percent of our force is traditional. Who's putting their eyes on them? Who's checking in on them? Since we don't see them every day, at the very least, every traditional Guard member should receive

a couple of phone calls between drill weekends to check on them. Use whatever forum works best — if texting or some other social media is the best way to communicate, use that medium. We have got to stay connected. We have to make sure the whole team is well. The only way to make sure our team keeps turning out national-level winners, and continues being "first" and "only" and winning well into the future is to make sure the whole team is well. **86**

There's not much I wouldn't do for my Family and I bet you are the same. Every person in your section, flight and squadron must truly be like Family and they must have a Wingman

How you can help Outreach cultivate ONG Ambassadors

Outreach
to communities to employers
OUT Lt. Col. Kathy Lowrey



The Office of Community Outreach needs your help cultivating Ambassadors for the Ohio National Guard. An Ohio National Guard Ambassador is the embodiment of someone who shares our story and promotes the well-being of our service members and their Families through their actions.

Ambassadors are champions with whom we can develop meaningful civilian-military partnerships that will promote the readiness and well-being of our Soldiers and Airmen.

You and your organization can magnify the reach and impact of organizational outreach efforts by doing simple things. Examples include:

1. Keep in touch with employers during deployments and notify them of your upcoming deployment as far in advance as possible, and provide them a copy of your mobilization orders.
2. Help service members find jobs by referring civilian hiring managers to Ohio AMVETS' "Ohio Vets Can" at www.ohiovetscan.com and the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services' "Ohio Means Veterans Jobs" at www.jfs.ohio.gov/veterans.
3. Meet or exceed unit employer nomination quotas for quarterly joint employer events.
4. Distribute Outreach "Asks" to known civic leaders (centers of influence) and forward the tear-off sheet to Outreach. The "Ask" provides meaningful ways to connect civic leaders to the Ohio National Guard more closely, and brigade personnel officers and wing executive support officers keep a supply on hand.
5. Nominate eligible civic leaders for the annual women's (April), physicians' (May), media (July), minorities' (September) and educators' (October) orientation flights at Rickenbacker Air National Guard Base. Attendees observe an in-air refueling and can handle and climb on board Army equipment static displays. Refer candidates to Outreach for consideration no less than four months prior to the flight.
6. Refer prominent local community leaders to Outreach to be considered for invitations to special VIP civic leader events with Ohio National Guard senior leaders.

7. Invite community members to quarterly Regional Inter-Service Family Assistance Committee (RISFAC) meetings to get to know area military leaders and their Families and find ways to support them.

8. Join the Ohio National Guard's volunteer Speakers Bureau. Gather business cards of interested influential community members and forward them to Outreach for inclusion in the contacts database.

9. Create opportunities to communicate with influential professional or trade association leaders of employer, physician, attorney, women, minority and educator groups.

We just witnessed a striking example of Ambassador cultivation when Lt. Col. Duncan Aukland, as vice chair of the Ohio State Bar Association's Military and Veterans Affairs Committee, was offered an important and timely speaking opportunity. Maj. Gen. Deborah Ashenurst, Ohio adjutant general, was invited to explain why we need an Ohio arm of the American Bar Association's Legal Assistance to Military Personnel (LAMP). This program builds awareness about the unique legal needs of service members and encourages attorneys to provide these services pro bono. Through this project, committee members are now becoming Ambassadors.

As we settle into our "new normal," of ongoing deployment rotations and adjust to the ever-increasing, resource-constrained environment, being able to lean on civilian partners for goods and services is of mounting importance. Taking simple proactive collaborative steps can powerfully shape the cultivation of meaningful civilian-military partnerships. Won't you help Outreach cultivate Ohio National Guard Ambassadors? **OG**

Lt. Col. Kathy Lowrey is the director of community outreach for the Ohio National Guard

Employers get dose of troop life



OHIO NATIONAL GUARD PHOTO

Nearly 20 employers spent a day this spring traveling to different Ohio National Guard facilities and learning about the various missions of the organization's Soldiers and Airmen.

The 2011 Employer Outreach season opened March 5 with a joint employer event at multiple locations in southwestern Ohio—Woodlawn Training and Community Center, Blue Ash Air National Guard Station and Springfield Air National Guard Base.

Maj. Gen. Deborah Ashenurst, Ohio adjutant general, explained how the Ohio National Guard supports the state and nation, emphasizing the importance of employer support for Soldiers and Airmen and the significant impact they can have on mission success.

Highlights of the day included nearly 20 employers receiving hands-on training with M16 rifles and the Avenger missile system, at Woodlawn, and at Springfield, participants learned about the unit's new missions as a ground control station for the MQ-1 Predator and an extension of the intelligence analysis mission from the National Air and Space Intelligence Center. Employers also feasted on Meals-Ready-to-Eat—or MREs—which troops often eat in the field, before receiving a demonstration of hazardous material evidence collection procedures. **2ND LT. JENNIFER GREEN / ONG EMPLOYER OUTREACH OG**

NOTE: For more information on the Employer Outreach program or to nominate your employer for a similar event, call 614-336-7077 or send an e-mail to jennifer.j.green2@us.army.mil.

Farewell to an icon: *Buckeye Guard* in transition

As we look to the future, we are transitioning the way we deliver news and stories about Ohio's Citizen-Soldiers and -Airmen. We will no longer print and mail the paper copy of the *Buckeye Guard* magazine.

We will continue to evolve our information delivery platforms to provide you access and updates to Ohio National Guard stories, photographs and videos through emerging social media channels like Facebook, Twitter, Flickr and YouTube, as well as a traditional website. We are aware of some of the current server-based technical issues related to our website, and are working toward building a more robust and consistent web presence. Please join us and engage in our social media space at:

www.ong.ohio.gov

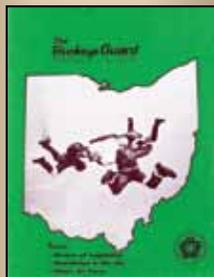
www.facebook.com/TheOhioNationalGuard

www.twitter.com/OHNationalGuard

www.youtube.com/OhioNationalGuard

www.flickr.com/ohionationalguard

Our mission to tell the Ohio National Guard story remains nearly identical to how it was outlined in the very first *Buckeye Guard* magazine (February 1976, above, left) by Maj. Gen. James C. Clem, then-Ohio adjutant general: "...the *Buckeye Guard* is intended to keep all members, as well as our many supporters, informed on the activities of the Ohio National Guard...as well as advising the public of our goals and mission." We strive to continue doing that, utilizing some greater-reaching, more timely and cost-effective platforms that are available in the 21st century. Featuring some covers of the publication that has told the Ohio National Guard story for more than 30 years, we bid adieu to the printed edition of the *Buckeye Guard* — winner of several military media honors, including five Department of Defense Thomas Jefferson awards as top magazine in the U.S. military, eight Department of the Army Keith L. Ware Communications Competition first-place awards and 12 National Guard Bureau Media Contest first-place awards. **OG**



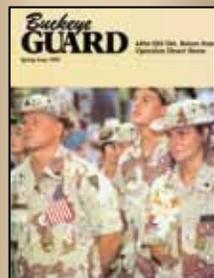
February 1976



April 1980



Fall 1990



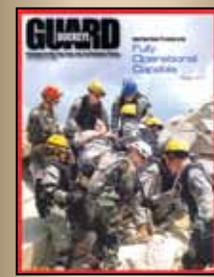
Spring 1991



Summer 1993



Winter 2001-02



Fall-Winter 2008



Fall 2009/Winter 2010

Alumni News Update

staying connected

Jim Moore



Reunion set for this fall

Ispent a couple of weeks recently visiting various locations to gather information on possible sites for this year's alumni reunion, and I was thinking about what makes a good site for a reunion. What events, sites, amount of socializing time and information should be available to the alumni who attend the Ohio National Guard alumni reunion? I came up with the following necessities for a successful reunion.

We should offer briefings to update attendees on the organization and where it's heading. We should offer displays showing some of the latest and greatest equipment the Ohio National Guard has fielded for use in combat and day-to-day operations and tours of new facilities to show how the organization has progressed and the improvements it has made through the years. We should give you plenty of time to socialize and provide you with a good lunch and a good space to enjoy it. We should include vendors from military service organizations such as Military OneSource, Department of Veterans Affairs and AMVETS to provide beneficial and relevant information for retirees. But most importantly, a successful alumni reunion should recognize the attendees and the service they gave — and continue to give — the Ohio National Guard.

Alumni recognition is essential because it's these individuals who so often offer help to our current Air and Army National Guard members. These individuals are Ambassadors for the Ohio National Guard — they share our stories and promote our service members' and Families' well-being. Our alumni know that our service members are carrying on where they left off. They also know it's time to give back to the current service members so they too can be successful and complete their missions.

After considering alumni reunion surveys from previous years and information from my site visits, we conducted an alumni council vote and chose to hold this year's alumni reunion Sept. 10 at the Defense Supply Center Columbus. The agenda for the upcoming reunion is under review, I hope all alumni can attend. Let us make this an event to remember! **OG**

Jim Moore is the Ohio National Guard alumni affairs coordinator.

Ohio Legislature reforms child custody law for service members

On June 9 Gov. John Kasich signed Amended Substitute House Bill (HB) 121 into law. The new law reforms Ohio child custody laws as they apply to parents who are in the military.

Although the Ohio Adjutant General's Department had advocated for changes in custody law for years, HB 121 is the first substantive legislation that has become law.

Most significantly, HB 121 prohibits a court from finding that past, present or possible future active military service is a change in circumstances that justifies modifying an existing custody order. Previously, judges could deny custody to parents in the military because of their military service.

It also authorizes a parent who has court-ordered visitation to apply for a temporary order that: (1) delegates the parent's visitation rights to a relative or to another person with a close and substantial relationship with the child; (2) requires the other parent to make the child available for visitation when the parent is on leave, and; (3) requires the other parent to facilitate contact between the parent and child while the parent is on active military service.

It requires a service member seeking a temporary parenting time order to notify the child's other parent and apply to the court as soon as reasonably possible and include the date active military service begins on the application. The bill requires that a temporary custody order based on a parent's active military service terminates within 10 days of notice that the parent's active military service has ended.

The bill allows a court to permit a parent who is called to active military service to participate in custody or visitation proceedings and present evidence by electronic means to the extent permitted by rules of the Supreme Court of Ohio.

Finally, the bill also includes an emergency clause, meaning that it took effect on the day the governor signed it.

U.S. House adds pro-Guard provisions to National Defense Authorization Act

In May, the House version of the fiscal 2012 National Defense Authorization Act

legislative look

with Johann Klein



passed with an amendment that would designate the chief of the National Guard Bureau as a full member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

This provision is part of the National Guard Empowerment and State-National Defense Integration Act of 2011. This act also would stabilize funding for Guard domestic missions, provide

more transparency in equipment procurement and require the Pentagon to assess the cost savings and feasibility of shifting more responsibility for the nation's defense to the Guard and Reserve.

The issue moves on to the Senate, where the co-chairs of the Senate National Guard Caucus introduced legislation earlier this month that includes nearly identical provisions. Officials for the National Guard Association of the United States (NGAUS) said they hope all of these provisions will be included in the Senate version of the NDAA.

Other amendments to the NDAA that affect Guard members include:

- * Directing the Defense Department to provide mental health assessments to service members during deployment

- * Requiring the Defense Department to report to Congress on its plans to identify, refer and treat service members with possible traumatic brain injuries who may have slipped through the cracks prior to a policy change in June 2010

- * Removing the Defense Department location requirement for licensed health-care professionals to allow Guard and Reserve members easier access to care

- * Requiring the Defense Department to submit a report outlining a plan that would ensure access to the Guard and Reserve for missions short of war, as recommended by the Quadrennial Defense Review. **AG**

Command profile



Col. Steven S. Nordhaus
180th Fighter Wing Commander

AGE: 44

HOMETOWN: Ottawa, Ohio

FAMILY: Wife, Shannon (22 wonderful years); daughter, Whitney, 20; and sons, Clay, 18, Luke, 10, Noah, 7, and Austin, 7

WHEN I WAS YOUNGER, I WANTED TO: Fly planes and go fast

MOST RECENT ACHIEVEMENT: Built a tree house for my kids

THE LAST GOOD MOVIE I SAW WAS: "True Grit"

THE BOOK I'M READING IS: "Science, Strategy and War, The Strategy Theory of John Boyd"

MY FAVORITE RECREATIONAL ACTIVITY IS: Hunting

THE ONE THING I TREASURE MOST: My Family!

HEROES: Abraham Lincoln and all those who serve others before themselves

NOBODY KNOWS I'M: a guitar player

I'M BETTER THAN ANYONE ELSE AT: Playing euchre

I'D GIVE ANYTHING TO MEET: Clint Eastwood

MY BIGGEST PET PEEVE IS: Negativity

THE THREE WORDS THAT BEST DESCRIBE ME: Competitive, compassionate, positive

IF I COULD LEAVE TODAY'S GUARD MEMBERS WITH ONE PIECE OF ADVICE IT WOULD BE: Stay positive, negativity never solved anything!

Johann Klein is legislative liaison for the Adjutant General's Department

HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHT

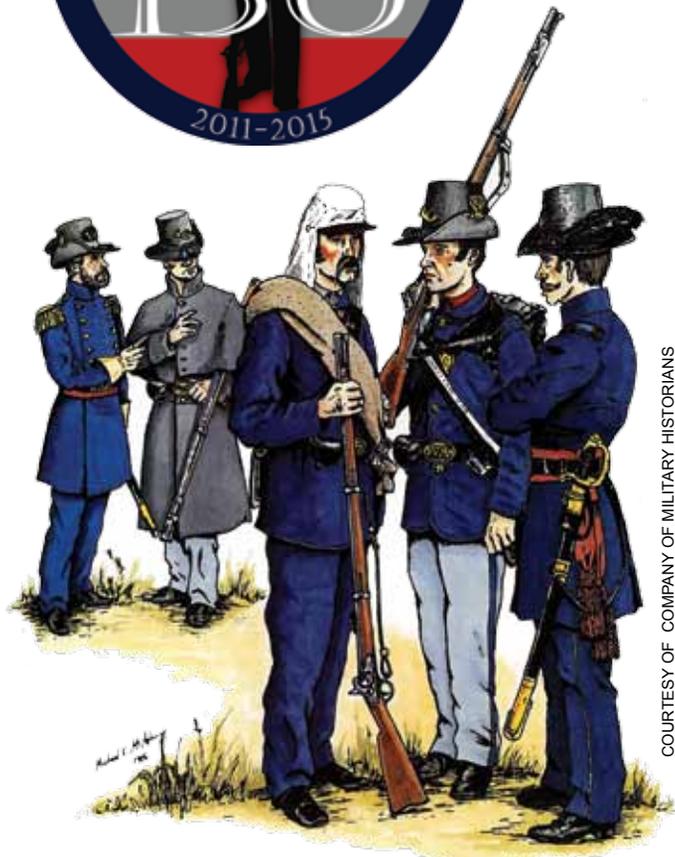
OHIO ANSWERS CALL IN WAR BETWEEN THE STATES

Story by Sgt. 1st Class Joshua Mann
Ohio Army National Guard Historian

On April 15, 1861, President Abraham Lincoln called for 75,000 volunteers to help defend the union. Almost immediately, Ohio's independent volunteer militia companies offered their services. Among these units were the Cleveland Grays, Dayton Light Guards, Cincinnati Rover Guards and Columbus Fencibles. All told, 20 independent companies quickly arrived in Columbus and were assembled together April 17, 1861, as the 1st and 2nd Regiments of Ohio Infantry.

Concern for the safety of Washington led to the immediate dispatch of these two regiments to the nation's capital. At 3 a.m. April 19, without uniforms, arms or equipment, the first two Ohio regiments boarded trains and headed off in defense of a divided nation. While in Pennsylvania, the regiments were issued clothing and equipment that were as similar to the U.S. Army issue items as they could procure. Each man received one blue flannel blouse, two red flannel shirts, one pair of cadet grey pantaloons, one black overcoat and one black felt hat with ornaments.

The regiments reached Washington in early May and later participated in the First Battle of Bull Run before their three-month term expired. In response to the first call for troops, Ohio raised 23 infantry regiments for three months. More than 319,000 men from Ohio would eventually recite that oath and answer the call to defend the Union. The 112th Engineer Battalion perpetuates the lineage of the Cleveland Grays, forever linking them to Ohio's first answer to the call for the Civil War. **OG**



COURTESY OF COMPANY OF MILITARY HISTORIANS



LEFT: Civil War artist Alfred Waud captured this scene of a scouting party from the 1st Ohio on June 17, 1861, near Vienna, Va. **ABOVE:** Michael J. McAfee's 1st and 2nd Ohio Volunteer Infantry Regiments, 1861, Military Uniforms in America Plate No. 598. In late May 1861, the regiments were issued clothing from the War Department to replace their state-procured first uniforms. The clothing included dark blue trousers, forage caps and the M1861 rifled musket.

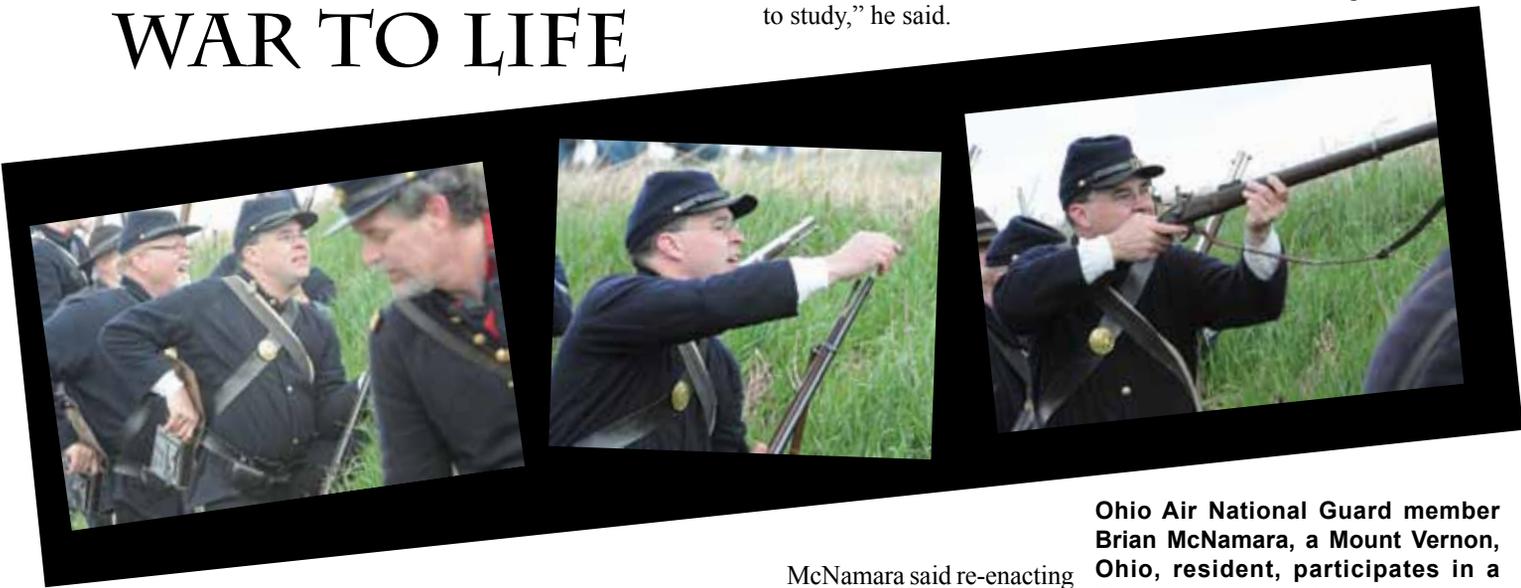
COURTESY OF LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

OHIO NATIONAL GUARD AIRMAN PORTRAYS SOLDIER TO BRING CIVIL WAR TO LIFE

Columbus-based 121st Air Refueling Wing, who is also a member of the 41st Ohio Volunteer Infantry, a re-enacting unit from Northeast Ohio. McNamara, a 20-year veteran of the Air Force, got involved in re-enacting in 2010 at the urging of his son, Conner. "At one of the events he convinced me to give it a try and I've been hooked ever since," McNamara said.

Since then, Conner has also recruited his brother and grandfather into the ranks. "It has been great learning and experiencing what it was like to be a Civil War Soldier with my sons, and I think that it has helped all of us have a better appreciation for what the Soldiers went through," McNamara said.

Like so many other re-enactors, McNamara, a Mount Vernon, Ohio, resident, has a great love of American history and finds the Civil War a very important part of that. "So many things changed in this country because of the Civil War and that makes it so interesting to study," he said.



Story and photos by Sgt. 1st Class Joshua Mann,
Ohio Army National Guard Historian

COLUMBUS — To commemorate the 150th Anniversary of the Civil War in 2011, thousands of Americans will visit battlefields and other historic sites to view re-enactments. Hobbyists, known as re-enactors, are the dedicated individuals who recreate these battles and the grueling lifestyle the American Civil War Soldier endured.

"We try to be as authentic as we can in bringing the life of a Civil War Soldier to the spectators at our events," said Bob Minton, who has been re-enacting since 1993 and leads Ohio's largest re-enacting group — the Army of the Ohio. "We don't bring the lice, disease or rancid food, but we do try to present, as much as possible, what it was like in the Army of the 1860s."

These enthusiastic re-enactors spend their weekends sleeping under the stars, wearing hot, wool uniforms, drinking out of canteens or tin cups, cooking over fires and drilling in Civil War tactics rather than drinking out of pop cans, eating Pop-Tarts and candy bars and sleeping in campers so they don't give the impression that it was easy to be a Civil War Soldier. These dedicated individuals are more than men and women in period clothing, they are living historians.

One of these living historians is Tech. Sgt. Brian McNamara, a KC-135 Stratotanker refueling aircraft crew chief assigned to the

McNamara said re-enacting has given him the opportunity to do more than read about the history — he can live and experience it. He recalled a time when his company marched onto the battlefield and started to engage the Confederates. "Our company performed just as we had trained, maneuvering and firing volleys at the advancing Confederates, when all of a sudden, the Confederate cavalry flanked us and captured us," he said.

While he admits it was not a shining moment for his unit, it was at that point that he started to understand what the Soldiers in the Civil War went through. "In battle, the only thing you think of is loading as fast as you can and the commands from your officers," he said. "You are so focused on that, that you do not even realize what is happening around you."

He said people are fascinated by the hobby and want to know more about it when he tells them about re-enacting. "It really is a lot of fun and not difficult to get involved in I would recommend anyone with an interest to find a unit and check it out," he said.

The best part of re-enacting is having the opportunity to do it with his sons, he said.

"As a parent there are not a lot of things we can participate in with our kids as an equal, and this has turned out to be one where we are equals," he said. "That is, as privates." **OG**

Ohio Air National Guard member Brian McNamara, a Mount Vernon, Ohio, resident, participates in a Civil War re-enactment battle as part of the 41st Ohio Volunteer Infantry Regiment. The Ohio National Guard is commemorating the 150th anniversary of the Civil War this year.

Fired up about SAFETY

Guard members learn valuable principles to implement back at their units during State Safety School



Story and photos by
1st Lt. Kimberly Snow
Adj. Gen. Dept. Public Affairs

COLUMBUS — Nearly 140 unit safety officers from 89 units and directorates throughout the Ohio Army National Guard spent a weekend this spring putting out fires.

The troops attended the weekend-long State Safety School, organized by the State Safety Office, March 19-20 at The Ohio State University's Mount Hall auditorium.

Instructors from the safety office and guest speakers taught classes and offered presentations on a wide variety of safety-related topics including home safety, accident reporting procedures, emergency preparedness and safety officer responsibilities at home station and annual training.

The school is critical in emphasizing the importance of safety at the unit level, said Lt. Col. Ed Mikula, the state safety officer, who planned and hosted the annual training event.

"Sometimes those young commanders are out there moving 100 miles an hour and you've got to have somebody out there that will be able to wave that flag to slow them down," he said.

Mikula changes the conference significantly every year, never repeating the same schedule twice. He said the conference has changed much since he was a young lieutenant and a student at the school.

"They didn't apply anything to what you did at the unit level," he said. "They didn't really emphasize anything thing as far as what you should be looking for. I really left there going, 'Who do I talk to about

ABOVE, TOP: Staff Sgt. Heather Clemens (right), a medic assigned to the Ohio Army National Guard Medical Detachment, douses a simulated fire in a BullEx, Inc. fire safety trailer while BullEx representative Mike Hennes (left) observes. **ABOVE:** Col. John Harris (right), Ohio's assistant adjutant general for Army, addresses Soldiers gathered for the state safety school at The Ohio State University's Mount Hall while State Command Sgt. Maj. Albert Whatmough looks on.

getting my two days back?"

This year, Mikula broke up the first day of briefings by bringing in representatives with Cintas Corp. and BullEx, Inc. to conduct indoor and outdoor fire safety training and a chemical and hazardous material spill clean-up demonstration.

"They have the tools and the people and the experience to have the best training," Mikula said. "That's why we bring them in."

Deraldo Hooper, a Cintas sales representative, offered attendees instruction on proper use of a fire extinguisher, then tested each Soldier using the extinguisher to douse a controlled propane fire. Thomas



Ohio Army National Guard Soldiers exit a BullEx, Inc. fire safety training trailer.

W. Williams, another Cintas representative, provided chemical spill clean-up training at a separate station.

Representatives from BullEx, Inc. brought the company's fire safety trailer, an interactive training aid that simulates common house or industrial fires in a realistic but safe environment. In the trailer's kitchen, BullEx representative Mike Hennet taught troops how to react to common kitchen fires in an oven, stove top or cabinet. After instructing the students, Hennet gave them a laser training extinguisher and tested them on how quickly they could extinguish the "fires." Non-toxic simulated smoke poured into the tiny room as each student began battling the blaze and dissipated as they correctly followed procedures, adding realism to the experience.

In the trailer's bedroom, BullEx product training specialist Kyle Haines taught the troops how to properly react to a suspected fire outside a bedroom door. Again, simulated smoke poured into the room, and after checking the door for heat, blocking the smoke pouring in from underneath the door with wet towels, students exited the trailer to safety through an exterior window equipped with an escape ladder.

Later that day, Maj. Patrick Durbin, the Ohio National Guard strategic planning officer, brought more realism to the home fire safety training, sharing his personal experiences and lessons learned from a fire that nearly burnt his home to the ground this past August after a lightning bolt struck the roof of his Pickerington home. In order to address the students, Durbin had to take a break from moving back into the Family's newly-restored home, something that he and his

Family had greatly anticipated doing for some time.

On day two Mikula played a compelling safety video he received from motivational speaker Mike Mullane titled "Stopping Normalization of Deviance," in which the former NASA astronaut recounts the disturbing — and ultimately preventable — events that led to the tragedies aboard space shuttles Challenger in 1986 and Columbia in 2003 in which 14 crew members died.

"This is not an additional duty for a fraud. ...Your eyes and ears count because this is a real-life duty. The essence of the safety program is you. We need your 'A' game every day, all the time."

— Col. John C. Harris, Ohio assistant adjutant general for Army

Col. John Harris, Ohio's assistant adjutant general for Army, and State Command Sgt. Maj. Albert Whatmough, visited the school on day two to place command emphasis on the safety school and the unit safety program. Harris spoke to the students about how the concept of safety has evolved from nearly non-existent when he was a junior officer to a top priority at all levels today. He spoke about unsafe behavior that was considered acceptable, and sometimes even expected, in his earlier years. He also told of how that behavior led to the accidental drowning of a friend and

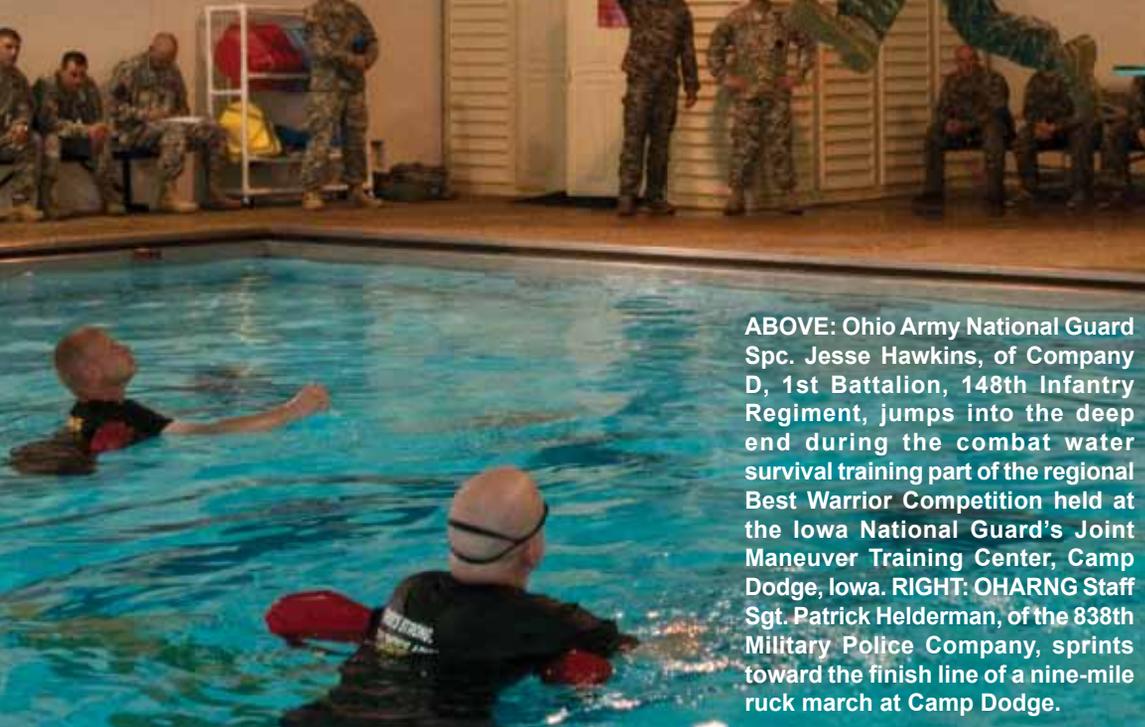
retired Guard member in an alcohol-related incident.

"I love the Guard today because it's not alright to be like that," he said.

Harris acknowledged the difficulty and at times seemingly contradictory nature of being safety officers in a military organization, telling the Soldiers while they must be "lethal at the point of attack," they must also be ruthless with safety checklists and regulations.

"This is not an additional duty for a fraud," Harris said. "Your eyes and ears count because this is a real-life duty. The essence of the safety program is you. We need your 'A' game every day, all the time." **86**

Top Ohio Soldiers take on challenge of Best Warrior Competition



ABOVE: Ohio Army National Guard Spc. Jesse Hawkins, of Company D, 1st Battalion, 148th Infantry Regiment, jumps into the deep end during the combat water survival training part of the regional Best Warrior Competition held at the Iowa National Guard's Joint Maneuver Training Center, Camp Dodge, Iowa. RIGHT: OHARNG Staff Sgt. Patrick Helderman, of the 838th Military Police Company, sprints toward the finish line of a nine-mile ruck march at Camp Dodge.



SGT. CHAD D. NELSON / 135TH MPAD, IOWA ARNG

Story by Spc. Cassandra Monroe
135th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment
Iowa Army National Guard

CAMP DODGE, Iowa — Climbing ropes and conquering towers. Plunging into deep water, weighed down by equipment. Nighttime treks through the wilderness with nothing but a compass and a map.

Soldiers competing in the Region IV Best Warrior Competition conquered all of these challenges May 9 -12 at Camp Dodge, Iowa.

The competition included both the Soldier and Noncommissioned Officer of the Year categories. Seven Soldiers and six noncommissioned officers from Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio and Wisconsin competed to vie for top honors in each subcategory. Soldiers first won at the state level in order to represent their states at the Region IV competition. The winners move on to the national competition at Fort Benning, Ga.

The competition included a variety of tasks and skills, which evaluated each Soldier's skill as a war fighter.

"Every one of the tasks we test here are Soldier-type skills, to include the combat water survival tasks, the marksmanship training and the physical readiness... it's all tied at what warriors do either in combat or during their unit missions," said Command Sgt. Maj. John H. Breitsprecker, Iowa Army National Guard senior enlisted adviser.

Each competitor had a sponsor who helped them prepare for the competition and kept them organized once the competition started. For Staff Sgt. Matthew Ward, a Green Bay, Wis., native and infan-

tryman with Company A, 1st Battalion, 128th Infantry Regiment, 32nd Brigade Combat Team, preparing his Soldier, Sgt. Steven Dahl, also of Company A, for the competition was second nature.

"I'm (his) squad leader actually, and I looked to him and said, 'You can pick anyone you want as your sponsor,' and he ended up picking me," Ward said.

The pair prepared for the competition by modeling their training to mirror past competitions and by utilizing local training areas.

"We used a local armory to train, and we also came up to Fort McCoy (Wis.) twice to do some training as well," Ward said. "Whatever resources we could get a hold of, we used."

This training and preparation was critical to be competitive, and each individual had to perform at their peak in each event to have a chance at winning. The first event was the Army Physical Fitness Test, which measured the Soldiers' strength and endurance with pushups, situps and a two-mile run.

A combat water survival training event measured the Soldiers' proficiency in swimming. Soldiers maneuvered through the water with a combat load and an M16 rifle in order to receive points.

After a quick change of uniform, the competitors moved on to M9 pistol and M4 rifle qualification events. To wrap up their day, they completed a land navigation course, where each had to plot and reach five out of seven points within three hours. The Soldiers then had to complete the course at night.

Best of the Ohio Army & Air National Guard – 2010

“The land navigation made me a little nervous because you don’t know what to expect, but once I got on the course, I kind of settled down,” said Spc. Matthew Kosloski, a Lansing, Mich., native and a cable systems installer maintainer with the 126th Network Signal Company, 46th Military Police Brigade. “I’m not worried about the personal scores, I’m just trying to do my best and drive through them all and keep my eye on the big picture.”

With little sleep, the Soldiers began the second day on a confidence course with obstacles that required the Soldiers to climb, jump, crawl and sprint their way to first place. Their final task was a nine-mile ruck march carrying 35-pound rucksacks. Trekking through curvy roads and hills, most competitors sprinted to the finish line.

The competition tested the Soldiers’ mental fitness through written essays and exercises where they had to think their way through and demonstrate proper ways to handle scenarios. They also donned dress uniforms and presented themselves to a board of command sergeants major — a critical piece in grading the troops’ mental agility.

“It’s a fairly intimidating event because (there are) three senior command sergeants major sitting in front of the room with the Soldier and (they) fire questions at them,” said Command Sgt. Maj. George Stopper, Wisconsin state command sergeant major and senior enlisted adviser, who acted as president of the enlisted board. “We had 90 questions in a period of 30 minutes, but the reason we give them so many questions is that so when they get to the next level in the competition, they’ve had exposure to a lot of different topics.”

After all the grueling physical events and mental evaluations, the winners and runners-up were announced at an award ceremony in the Iowa Army National Guard Freedom Center.

Wisconsin swept the event, with Dahl earning Soldier of the Year and Sgt. Brandon Swanson of Abbottsford, Wis., an infantryman with Company A, 1-128th, winning the Noncommissioned Officer of the Year event.

“It’s a lot of weight off my chest, that’s for sure,” Dahl said. “I’m relieved now... Hopefully next year I can sponsor one of my Soldiers and take it again to give him a heads up.”

Kosloski was chosen as the Region IV Soldier of the Year runner-up, and Staff Sgt. Patrick Helderman of Medina, Ohio, a military policeman with 838th Military Police Company, was chosen as the Noncommissioned Officer of the Year runner-up. **AG**



**Ohio Army National Guard
Soldier of the Year**

**Spc. Jesse T. Hawkins
Company D, 1st Battalion,
148th Infantry Regiment
Sandusky**



**Ohio Air National Guard
Airman of the Year**

**Senior Airman Lauren Dortmund
121st Air Refueling Wing
Columbus**



**Ohio Army National Guard
NCO of the Year**

**Staff Sgt. Patrick C. Helderman
838th Military Police Company
Youngstown**



**Ohio Air National Guard
NCO of the Year**

**Staff Sgt. Charles Holloway
121st Air Refueling Wing
Columbus**



**Ohio Air National Guard
Senior NCO of the Year**

**Master Sgt. Troy Siebenaler
200th Red Horse Squadron,
Detachment 1
Mansfield**



**Ohio Air National Guard
First Sergeant of the Year**

**Master Sgt. Daniel Crock
178th Fighter Wing
Springfield**



Sgt. Diana McClure, a medic with Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, Regimental Troop Squadron, 278th Armored Cavalry Regiment, provides medical care to a child having a seizure June 16, 2010, during a United Nations mission in Baghdad.

SGT. MICHAEL CARDEN / 196TH MOBILE PUBLIC AFFAIRS DETACHMENT

Reporting from the front lines: military journalists return from Iraq

Story by Justin McIntosh
(614) Magazine™

It was a dry, hot day like many others in Baghdad; Soldiers were handing out soccer balls and hard candy to a swarming parade of Iraqi youth, kids who are often without shoes — let alone toys or snacks. The excitement in the crowd, needless to say, was percolating.

Ohio Army National Guard Sgt. Michael Carden, 29, of Westerville, Ohio, had just loaded into his vehicle and put on his headset when, through the window, a gunner noticed a boy lying on the ground, unconscious.

“I’m shoving my door open and before I could do that the medic had raced past me and another guy was cradling this kid, this boy who was about 10 and looked like he had just had a seizure,” Carden remembered. “He’s passed out and they’re pouring water on his neck and using a spoon to keep his tongue from rolling back in his head.”

The little boy’s eyes spin into off-white marbles and another Iraqi boy runs off to get his fallen peer’s father, who arrives shortly after, justifiably concerned.

Once the boy cools down, he wakes up, looking a little groggy. The medic learns the boy has a history of seizures and was likely a little dehydrated and excited, which triggered the seizure. She had probably saved the boy’s life.

“After some back and forth with the interpreter (the boy’s father) said ‘Thank you,’ and we pack up and keep rolling. The last thing we see is the little boy walking off hand-in-hand with his dad,” Carden said.

Stories like this might not make the front page of *The New York Times* or the nightly round-up of CNN headlines, but word of the event did get

back to that medic’s Family, thanks to Carden, who was taking pictures of the scene the entire time and eventually wrote a news article about it. Carden, like the rest of his comrades in the 196th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment of the Ohio National Guard, was charged with covering the Soldiers’ daily work in Iraq. The stories they wrote and the broadcasts they produced were distributed not only amongst the Soldiers through military newspapers and TV stations, but also to the hometown media outlets of any Soldier featured in their pieces.

It’s this last aspect — and not the news writing awards he won through military media organizations for the piece — that makes the work worthwhile for Carden.

“I got an e-mail from (the medic) two weeks after I put (the story) out, and she said her mom and dad saw it and thought it was great,” he said. “As people, you can hear things all over the place, but when you see it in the newspaper or on the news it becomes real in a way that just knowing it happened doesn’t. So for her Family to see that and go, ‘Wow, you’re really there,’ brought it home to them what she was doing and the necessity of it.”

“You could argue that it wasn’t our job, that we should have called an ambulance and sent him on his way,” Carden continued. “But we were there and he needed help and it was the right thing to do.”

Carden and the rest of the 196th MPAD returned home earlier this year to Columbus to a welcoming ceremony, fresh off their second deployment in the last seven years. The latest deployment lasted from March 2010 through February 2011.

The deployment began in Balad, located about 50 miles north of Baghdad, but once the troop downsizing began last fall, the detachment split, with Soldiers moving to various locations in

and around Baghdad. The Soldiers making up the detachment consist mostly of college students studying journalism or communications and those who have already studied the field and have industry experience in the civilian world.

Ohio Army National Guard 1st Sgt. Steve Toth is an example of the latter.

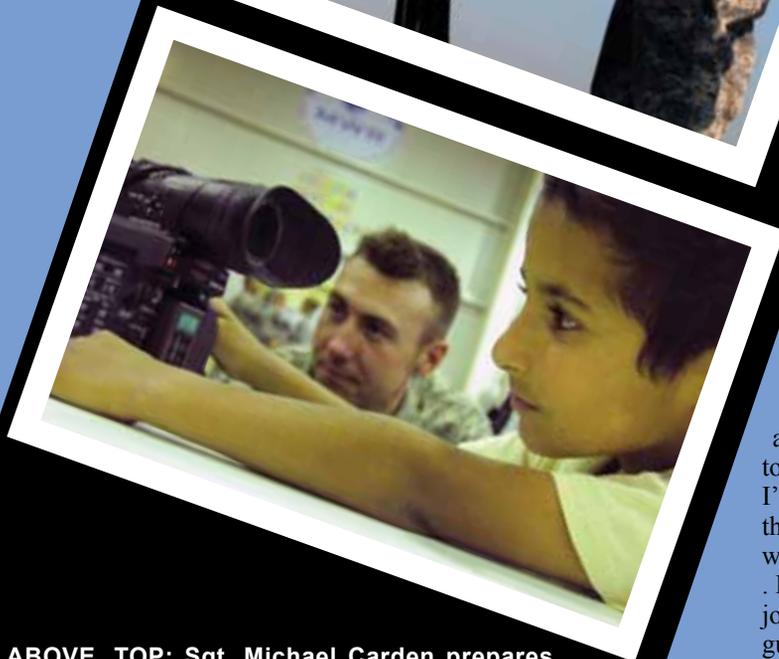
Toth, 39, originally from Somerset, but a Columbus resident since 1997, joined the National Guard nearly 19 years ago after he began studying journalism at Ohio University. Toth also worked for the Ohio National Guard as a civilian writer/editor before joining the 196th MPAD. The differences in civilian reporting and military reporting aren't as vast as many would believe, he said.

"Your writing doesn't change," he said. "A lot of people think you have an agenda, but really our biggest role is to tell the Soldier's story. We focused on bringing people's awareness, whether the military or the public, to what our Soldiers were doing over there."

Stories weren't only directed toward American military and civilians, he said. A lot of stories were



PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE 196TH MOBILE PUBLIC AFFAIRS DETACHMENT



ABOVE, TOP: Sgt. Michael Carden prepares to shoot a photo while on a mission. **ABOVE, MIDDLE:** Staff Sgt. Joel Gottke records video during an assignment. **ABOVE, BOTTOM:** Sgt. Jacob Fadley (left) shows an Iraqi boy the basics of a video camera at a cultural outreach event.

also sent to the Arab media. One of the job requirements of the 196th was to focus on Iraqis and their accomplishments working with U.S. forces.

"That goes a long way toward showing the (Arab) media — and by extension the civilians and other people who are reading and viewing our stories — that progress is being made and stability is being created," he said.

Stories covered by the 196th were as varied as those in other news outlets. One story focused on a father and daughter who were deployed together but stationed in different locations and were able to find each other for Thanksgiving. Another featured transportation units hauling tanks back and forth from Baghdad and other locations. Another featured the military's water purification efforts in Iraq. Another featured a chess competition.

In all, said Ohio Army National Guard Maj. Marshall Jackson, 40, the 196th reported on more than 400 stories during its latest deployment.

"Anything that was interesting, we'd do a feature story on," said Jackson, the unit commander.

For Carden, that makes this better than any job he ever dreamt of holding.

When he left active duty in the Army in 2002, he immediately joined the National Guard in order to stay close to home to be near his brother whose lung had collapsed during a wrestling meet.

"I literally went and talked to the (National Guard) before I was out of duty and signed the contract," he said. "I said, 'I live in the Columbus area, what's in my area?' They said there was a job in a public affairs unit, and I said, 'We have a public affairs unit?'"

Carden was hooked.

"One of my drill sergeants told us to do this as long as it's fun, as long as you get up in the morning and you have a smile on your face."

Carden's been smiling about his job for the last 11 years.

"I've had so many times I've had (sources) come back and give me an e-mail weeks or months later, and they'll say, 'My mom saw this, my dad saw this ... and they framed it and put it on their wall.' That makes what we do real. These guys are out there making unbelievable sacrifices and doing unbelievable jobs and I get to cover that. I get to tell people about (Soldiers) jumping out of planes at 10,000 feet while I'm taking pictures of them jumping over my head and I'm strapped to the plane. Then I get to go down to help clean up Katrina, or to Iraq to write about putting shoes on kids who have never had shoes before . . . I could literally go on for hours about the things we got to do and the job our guys have done. It's unbelievably humbling to see what these guys do, to have the sheer and utter joy of being able to go out and tell their story to their Families and to anyone who will listen." **86**

EDITOR'S NOTES: This article originally ran in (614) Magazine™ and is reprinted with permission. Check out the work of the 196th MPAD online at www.dvidshub.net/tags/news/196th-mpad.



Capt. Michael A. Barnauskas (crouching, left), brigade C-BRN officer assigned to the Headquarters, 37th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, conducts basic detainee operations as his instructor evaluates his training this spring at the Camp Ravenna Joint Military Training Center.

SPC. KIMBERLY LAMB / 37TH INFANTRY BRIGADE COMBAT TEAM PUBLIC AFFAIRS



Ohio's 'Buckeye' Brigade training to make history

Story by Spc. Kimberly S. Lamb
37th Infantry Brigade Combat Team
Public Affairs

CAMP RAVENNA JOINT MILITARY TRAINING CENTER — More than 750 Soldiers of the 37th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, Ohio and Michigan National Guards, participated in pre- and post-mobilization training April 5-20, in preparation for their upcoming deployment to Afghanistan later this year.

Each Soldier completed about 100 individual training tasks during the two-week training period, readying the brigade for its scheduled fall 2011 deployment of 3,600 Soldiers in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

“This brigade has a long history of combat deployments dating back to the first World War, and the Soldiers who serve today all joined knowing there is a war on and they’re going to deploy,” said Command Sgt. Maj. Roger Jones, brigade command sergeant major.

Though many units within the brigade have deployed individually in support of Kosovo peacekeeping operations, Hurricanes Katrina and Rita relief efforts and Operations Noble Eagle and Iraqi Freedom, this will be the unit’s second deployment as a brigade, with its six battalions—four in Ohio and two in Michigan—and 30 company-sized elements.

“They’re training hard,” Jones said. “They have the best equipment that can be provided. They’re getting the best training. They have the best leadership. The brigade is in very good hands and postured well to go to Afghanistan and do our part for the war on terrorism.”

The training consisted of two one-week training iterations that included instruction in land navigation, man-to-man combat, small-arms and automatic weapons, hand grenades, detainee operations, individual movement techniques, improvised explosive device detection and chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear and explosive agents.

“The whole training is very effective,” said Sgt. Kenneth Samuels, a chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear operations training instructor assigned to Company D, 1st Battalion, 145th Armored Regiment. “We are training the Soldiers on more advanced techniques that they did not learn in basic (training) in order to survive and come home safe.”

Soldiers were trained in the Army’s standard crawl, walk, run approach using classroom instruction, hands-on training and final evaluations, but due to the upcoming deployment, some Soldiers said this training is anything but standard.

“I’ve learned to take it a lot more serious,”

said Spc. Alexander Goodrow of the Michigan-based 1st Battalion, 125th Infantry Regiment. “It’s starting to click in my head that people will shoot back at you and you need to react versus just knowing the information.”

Goodrow, a first-time deployer, said he is



Pvt. Charles Shidler, of Company A, Special Troops Battalion, 37th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, searches for a fighting position during individual movement techniques training this spring at the Camp Ravenna Joint Military Training Center in northeastern Ohio. The brigade Soldiers must complete more than 200 common training tasks before they deploy to Afghanistan this fall in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

STAFF SGT. SEAN MATHIS / 37TH INFANTRY BRIGADE COMBAT TEAM PUBLIC AFFAIRS

excited for the opportunity and is using the training to prepare as best he can.

"I feel like it's just a refresher for some things, but a lot of this stuff I haven't learned before, so I'm taking a lot out of it," Goodrow said.

Hundreds of the brigade's Soldiers had al-

ready received the training in August 2010. Every Soldier of the 37th is scheduled to complete mobilization training in its entirety later this year at Camp Shelby, Miss., prior to deployment.

"We will be ready to accomplish whatever

the Army asks of us," Jones said. "I have no doubt, when it's all said and done, when we get on the airplane to go to Afghanistan, we will be ready individually and collectively to perform any mission that the Army assigns us." **86**

TROOPS TO TEACHERS: Service members utilize program to help get jobs in classrooms

Have you ever considered putting the skills you've acquired defending your country back into action serving again as a teacher? If your answer is yes, then you owe it to yourself and your country to contact your state Troops to Teachers Program coordinator to find out the details of becoming a guide and role model for America's future generations.

Established in 1994 as a Department of Defense initiative and later written into the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act of 2001, the Troops to Teachers program is currently managed by the Defense Activity for Non-Traditional Education Support (DANTES).

Reflecting the spirit of the NCLB, the program's primary objective is to help recruit mature, self-disciplined and dedicated veterans interested in teaching in elementary and secondary public, charter and vocational schools. Focused on relieving teacher shortages, especially in the high-needs areas of math, science, special education and English as a second language, the program includes stipends up to \$5,000 to help pay for teacher certification costs or bonuses of \$10,000 to teach in high-needs, low-income schools.

Spc. Juanita Darden-Jones is an example of an Ohio National Guard member who has benefited from using the TTT program. Currently a dental technician with the Ohio Army Guard's Medical Detachment, based at Defense Supply Center Columbus, Darden-Jones is an instructor at Sinclair Community College in Dayton.

Darden-Jones was already a licensed educator when she entered the program, but she found many benefits of the program to be attractive, including resources such as the job-search assistance, guidance on obtaining teaching certification, career counseling and financial incentives.

She said she has recently been approached about becoming a mentor for other Soldiers considering a career in education. "I was excited about the task and did not hesitate to agree," Darden-Jones said, adding that she looks forward to sharing both the rewards and challenges of being an educator with other potential teachers.

The Troops to Teachers Program is not a certification/licensing program. Individuals in the program still need to become licensed teachers in the state they in which they plan to teach.

"I am a Troops to Teachers product," said retired Ohio Air National Guard Staff Sgt. Tracy Kawasaki. "I was hired six years ago to teach here at the Pickaway-Ross Career and technology Center. My primary teaching duties are to be the science and math teacher for the applied programs, (for) students who are educationally disadvantaged."

Kawasaki was a 24-year member of the Guard and also served as federal technician at the 121st Air Refueling Wing at Rickenbacker Air National Guard Base in Columbus, until he became disabled and retired.

"As I was processing out of the Guard, I became aware of the Troops to Teachers program and Ohio's Expanding the Pool of Qualified Teachers Program," Kawasaki said. "The TTT/EPQT office helped me to qualify for the funding I needed to complete my education as it related to my teacher certification. I earned my teacher certification at Wright State University and am in the master's program there."

To date, nearly 13,000 Troops to Teachers participants have been employed as teachers in public education in the United States. Since the enactment of NCLB, nearly 6,000 TTT participants have received financial assistance through the program, money that enabled them to complete any additional training and development needed to obtain licensure in their home states. To register with Troops to Teachers contact your base/post education center or download a registration

form from the TTT Home Page. Eligible active duty, National Guard and Reserve service members may register with TTT at any time. For more information, contact DANTES Troops to Teachers on the Internet at www.ProudToServeAgain.com, call toll free at 1-800-231-6242, or e-mail TTT@navy.mil. **AG**

Submitted by the Troops to Teachers program. Douglas Nicodemus, Adjutant General's Department Public Affairs, contributed to this report.



Juanita Darden-Jones answers student's questions and reviews materials before administering an exam to her mathematics class. Jones is an instructor at Sinclair Community College in Dayton, and a participant in the Troops to Teachers program.

DOUGLAS NICODEMUS / ADJ. GEN. DEPT. PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Col. Mike Roberts sits on a ladder beside the cockpit of his F-16 Fighting Falcon jet

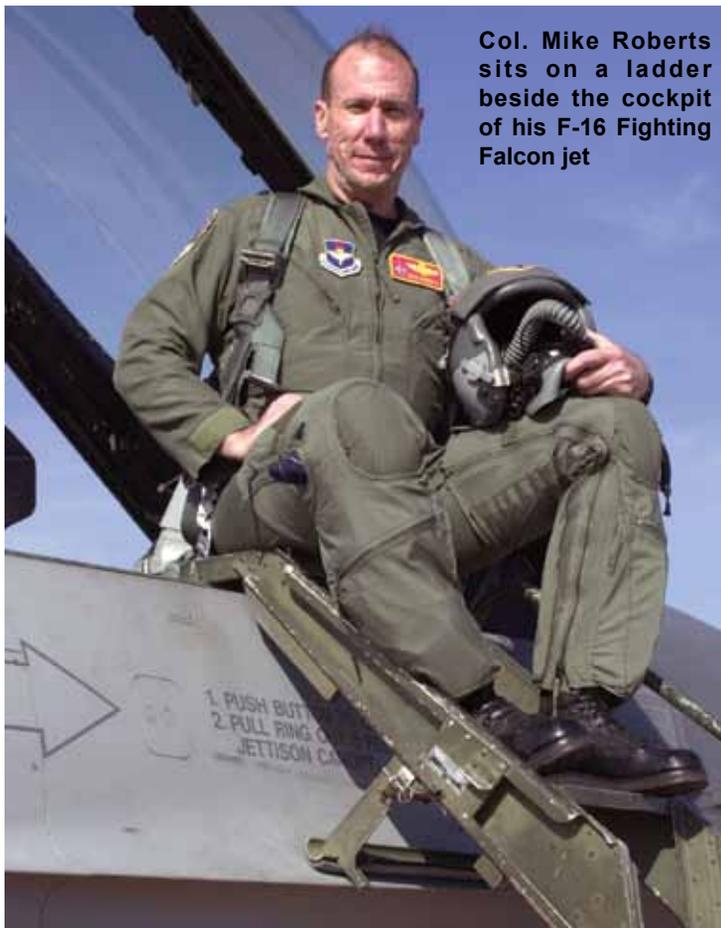


PHOTO COURTESY OF 178TH FIGHTER WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

20 years later: Former Gulf War POW, current Ohio Air National Guard member remembers experience in captivity

Story by 1st Lt. Kimberly D. Snow
Adj. Gen. Dept.
Public Affairs

COLUMBUS — The colonel in the olive drab flight suit picks up a remote control lying on his desk, aims it at the television mounted to his office wall and pushes play. The screen flickers on to a crude black and white video overlaid with numbers and symbols — some fixed to the screen, others tilting with the horizon. A man's breath-

ing, raspy and ragged, pours from the speakers. On the screen, from this bird's-eye view, jets careen through a morbid and magnificent fireworks display as Roman candles and bottle rockets race up from below. The horizon tilts sharply as just ahead, a rocket finds its target. "Stroke One took a hit! Stroke One took a hit!" says an adrenaline-laced voice that transports the colonel in the flight suit back 20 years into the cockpit of his F-16 fighter jet. A moment later, another missile

finds its mark.

"That's me getting shot," the colonel says softly, matter-of-factly. He continues watching, his tone even, his piercing glacier-blue eyes impassive and calmly describes the action unfolding on screen.



Capt. Mike Roberts arrived at his new duty station at U.S. Air Base Torrejon, near Madrid, Spain, in June 1990, with his pregnant wife and two stepchildren, 14 and 10 years old, in tow. Assigned to the 614th Tactical Fighter Squadron there, he had been training for the unit's nuclear alert mission for about two months when on Aug. 2, Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein's military forces invaded Kuwait — Iraq's oil-rich neighbor to the south — and his mission abruptly changed.

By the end of August, Roberts' squadron had deployed to Qatar, and after tying up some loose ends at Torrejon, he joined them in the beginning of October. The squadron spent the fall patrolling and defending Saudi Arabia's northern border with Iraq and conducting training missions to prepare for what appeared to be almost certain war with Iraq. Although the U.S. and Soviet Union were nearing the end of their Cold War, the rivalry had long shaped how the American military trained for war.

"We had always thought that the next war was going to be in Germany in the Fulda Gap and everything would be low altitude, trying to stay below the Soviet SAMs (surface-to-air missiles) and Soviet radar. That was how the Air Force was built. That was our training program," Roberts said. "When we got to the desert, we recognized that the real threat down low was going to be triple-A (anti-aircraft artillery), just a huge mass of triple-A that they had."

With a relatively short amount of time to adapt, they immediately adjusted their training to prepare for this new reality. They began incorporating high-altitude release bombs and medium-altitude ingress plans at about 20,000 feet, as opposed

to the low-altitude — about 500 feet — plans they had previously trained on.

In November, two months out, the plan for the first few days of the air war was set. Although the air tasking operation document was classified secret and kept in a safe, the pilots were allowed access. The squadron's first two days of missions were "nothing big," Roberts said — airfields in Talil and Basra. However, the plan for day three — the Republican Guard headquarters building, air defense headquarters building and an oil refinery, all in Baghdad — gave them pause.

"I remember thinking, 'Wow, day three, downtown Baghdad in the daytime. They'll change that by the time we get there,'" he said. "But sure enough, day three came and no changes. Everybody was pretty nervous about it. A lot of guys were writing the letter home to leave in their helmet box when they left. I said, 'I'm not doing that, that's bad luck to be doing that.' So I didn't write a letter."

On day three, Jan. 19, 1991, a fleet of 48 F-16 Fighting Falcons — including the 16 from Torrejon — along with eight F-4G Wild Weasels, eight F-15 Eagles and two EF-111 Ravens, pushed north into Iraq. The first 32 airplanes successfully bombed their target — a nuclear plant about 17 kilometers southeast of Baghdad — then peeled off south, while Roberts' group continued north over downtown Baghdad.

Intermittent clouds partially obscured the city, and because the rules of engagement dictated pilots could not bomb targets in cities unless they could visually identify them, they were forced to call off the mission. Just as they received the abort order, their warning systems sounded, alerting them to the enemy SAMs racing up from below. Roberts successfully defeated the first missile when an airplane behind him called out another SAM launch. He rolled his F-16 to look for it and saw it coming up beneath him. He maneuvered to avoid it and felt a slight bump in his airplane as the missile exploded. At first, he thought he was safe.

"I remember trying to light the burner on the airplane to get some air speed back, and instead of feeling that kick in the pants from

the burner lighting, I felt the motor just dying underneath me,” he said. “We have what we call ‘Bitching Betty’ in the airplane — a voice warning system that starts talking to you when things are going bad — and Betty’s bitching and lights are lighting up everywhere and the motor had quit running, the flight controls weren’t responding. I was in sort of a negative-G pitch over and I couldn’t pick the nose of the airplane back up. Nothing was working.”

He glanced back over his left shoulder and saw smoke pouring from beneath the airplane. He tried once more to restart the motor, but nothing happened. It was time to get out.



Roberts felt all of his 195 pounds being pushed up off the seat, watched the canopy eject away, and began falling face first toward the ground. Just as he started to worry about his rapidly-decreasing altitude, his parachute deployed. As he floated down, breaking through the clouds, he saw Baghdad off to his left and a four-lane highway running south out of the city. He used the wind to maneuver away from the city, but as he got closer to the ground, he could see the tracers from rounds being fired at him.

“I’m just thinking about getting skinny, living through the next fifteen seconds at a time,” Roberts said. “I could see these cars on the median and the side of the road as I got close, kind of forming up a little welcoming party for me.”

After landing about 500 yards east of the highway, he dropped his parachute, grabbed his survival kit and began running away from the highway until a mob of angry AK-47 assault rifle-toting civilians blocked his path, firing off warning rounds. He surrendered and the angry mob stripped him of everything they could, leaving him with his flight suit and survival vest only because they couldn’t figure out how the zippers worked.

“Fortunately, within just a few minutes, these military folks came up and they ran off the civilians,” he said. “And I say ‘fortunately’ because the civilians were getting a little rowdy and I don’t know what they were planning, but it wasn’t anything good, I don’t think.”



The Iraqi troops loaded Roberts into the back of a station wagon and drove him to a building about a half a mile down the highway, where they blindfolded him and cuffed his hands behind his back. Inside, they began what was to be the first of many interrogations. At first, the young pilot feigned amnesia.

“That worked pretty well for about the first 7 1/2 seconds of it,” Roberts said. “After that, if they felt I wasn’t answering quick enough or giving the correct answers to the questions, two helpers would just start wailing with some kind of baton or something — hands, fists —

you know, just add a little encouragement to the interrogation.”

Over the next few days, Roberts was moved several times and interrogated again at each new stop. On the third day, his captors took him to a facility where they had begun consolidating the downed pilots now being held as prisoners of war. Although he remained blindfolded, he could feel and hear other POWs being taken past him into an interrogation room. He could also hear their screams.

When it was Roberts’ turn, the Iraqi soldiers escorted him into the room, removed his blindfold and handcuffs and told him they were allowing him to make a video to show his friends and Family that he was alive and well. At first, the soldier giving the instructions simply wanted him to identify himself, his unit and his aircraft.

“Then he started on this thing of ‘Repeat after me. The innocent people of Iraq are being wrongfully harmed by the people in power in America,’” Roberts said. “You know, all this kind of stuff. Like everybody else in front of me, I said, ‘Well, I’m not going to say that.’ And then the fun and games started again.”

After another beating, the soldier who appeared to be running things told the others to take Roberts outside and cut off his leg. They dragged him off, blindfolded and handcuffed him again, knocked him down and beat him even more severely.

“I just remember curling up, my hands behind me, in the fetal position and everybody there just laying in with boots on me, and one guy had a baton and was beating on the back of my head and neck,” he said. “For lack of anything better to say, I just said ‘Why do you want me to do this? Why do you want me to do this video?’ And this guy just wailed on me and said because of this! It was getting pretty serious and I said ‘OK, let’s go do the video.’”



Back in the United States and on the U.S. air base in Torrejon, little was known about Roberts’ fate. His plane had been shot down Jan. 19 and he had not been heard from since. Only one pilot that afternoon thought he might have seen Roberts eject from his airplane, and although Roberts tried to call out on his radio just before he ejected, no message was relayed.

Three days after his F-16 went down over Baghdad, an 8 1/2-months-pregnant Patty Roberts sat at the hospital on U.S. Air Base Torrejon awaiting a prenatal checkup. Her fighter pilot husband, Capt. Harry “Mike” Roberts, was listed as DUSTWUN: duty status and whereabouts unknown. She watched the television, tuned to CNN, hungry for

news of her husband, when suddenly, he materialized on the screen. He appeared tense and haggard, but he was alive.

“I guess that was my good fortune out of all of that,” Roberts said. “Now that the bad guys had showed their hand, all of us — at least that they had videos on — now they had to account for everybody.”



After the POWs recorded their videotaped messages, they were loaded onto a bus and taken to a temporary prison facility where they stayed for about a week and an half. It wasn’t too bad, Roberts recalled. They were fed and the young Iraqi troops who were guarding them left in the evenings, allowing the POWs to talk among themselves and take an accurate roll call.

“They would bring around in the morning a piece of bread, and in the afternoon, a bowl of rice covered in some boiled onions or something. At nighttime, just before sunset, they would bring around a big bucket that had a bunch of boiled goat meat or something,” Roberts said. “I don’t know what it was, not great stuff, but enough to keep you alive.”

Soon after, on Jan. 31, the prisoners were moved to a prison in the Ba’ath Party intelligence headquarters. “That was not a good place,” Roberts said.

The prisoners were kept in solitary confinement and unable to communicate. They were not being fed and the interrogations and beatings began anew. Keeping track of time became a way to occupy his mind and he found a rock on his cell floor and used it to scratch a calendar on his wall and mark off the days. When he began thinking about Vietnam veterans, wondering if he, too, could be kept five, six, seven years, he forced his mind to other topics, and he did a lot of praying.

In early February, a guard told Roberts the ground war had begun and 70,000 Americans had been killed during the invasion. He knew it was a lie. For three weeks, the prisoners had listened to bombs devastating the city night after night, and as time went on, heard Iraqi counter fire less and less. “By the end, you could tell they were getting pounded and there was just nothing they could do about it,” he said.

But eventually, those bombs found him. On Feb. 23, three coalition F-117 Stealth bombers dropped four 2,000-pound bombs on the headquarters building. When the first bomb hit, the Iraqis scattered, leaving the prisoners to fend for themselves. It was the first time Roberts thought he might not survive the experience. “It was like being on a boat in the ocean, the building was just rocking,” he said. “I was ready to go then. I thought for sure I was done.”

When the bombs stopped, the city was eerily quiet. The impact had badly damaged many of the cells, blowing the walls out of some, freeing those occupants while trapping others, including



Roberts, in their cells. Miraculously, none of the prisoners was seriously hurt, Roberts said. The bombs had impacted the opposite end of the building from where they were being held.

Several prisoners made their way out into the hallways. They thought about escape, but the night was so black, they couldn't see to move through the rubble, and even if they could, their yellow prison suits and western countenances made them easy targets. They began shouting to one another, exchanging names and stories. They had been in solitary confinement for three weeks and finally had a chance to connect and find out who was there.

"A couple doors down from me I hear 'I'm Bob Simon, CBS News.' You know, the '60-Minutes' dude," Roberts said. Simon and his crew had been picked up on the Kuwait-Iraq border, accused of spying and held with the POWs.

Across the hall from Simon was downed A-10 Thunderbolt pilot Richard Dale Storr, who had been unable to get out a radio call before he ejected. Because his wingman had not seen him eject, Storr was initially categorized as killed in action and his fellow Airmen even held a memorial service for him at their base in Saudi Arabia. When Storr realized a CBS correspondent was there, he got excited.

"He said 'Oh yeah! Bob Simon, CBS News, you gotta get my name! This is Dale Storr, I'm Dale Storr! You

gotta get my name out, nobody knows I'm here!'" Roberts said. "And Bob Simon says, 'Sorry dude, but I'm right here with you.'"

A few hours later, the guards came back and started collecting the prisoners from the rubble. Several remained pinned inside, including Roberts, and were left there until morning. When they finally walked out into the daylight, they saw just how fortunate they had been — most of their multistory building had collapsed down on top of itself.

The ground war began just a few days later, and for the next couple of weeks the prisoners were moved frequently. Then one day, an Iraqi guard walked from cell to cell and told them the war was over and they'd be going home soon.

"I'm thinking 'Yeah, right, whatever. Just another line of B.S. that some guy's feeding me,'" Roberts said. But that night, for the first time, he heard no bombs. The next morning, the prisoners were moved one last time.

"This Iraqi opens up my cell door and kind of turns his nose up at me, you know, like a 'You stink' kind of look and threw in a new prison suit," Roberts said. "I'd been wearing the previ-

ous one for about 40 days or so."

They also finally brought the prisoners some food. Roberts, who carried a healthy 195 pounds on his 6-foot frame when the war started, had dropped to an anemic 160 pounds during his month and a half of captivity. "My only possession during most of this was my one blanket and like a Rubbermaid tub or pail that looked like some Iraqi had been soaking his feet in it for the past few years," he said. "Anytime they would bring a little bit of food or some water, they would just dump it in that thing, but this time, they bring in — on a porcelain plate — a hard-boiled egg, a slice of toast with a little pat of butter and a sprig of parsley sitting on the side."

The guards told the prisoners to clean

...if they felt I wasn't answering quick enough ... two helpers would just start wailing with some kind of baton or something — hands, fists — you know, just add a little encouragement to the interrogation.

— Col. Mike Roberts



1ST LT. KIMBERLY SNOW / ADJ. GEN. DEPT. PUBLIC AFFAIRS

themselves up and put them all together, allowing them to see and communicate with one another. "They lined us all up in the hallway to get us on a bus and as we were going out the door I remember this one guy spraying us with a bottle of perfume as we were walking out," Roberts said with a laugh.

Their Iraqi captors put them on a bus, took them to a hotel in downtown Baghdad, turned them over to the International Committee of the Red Cross and drove away. Their ordeal was nearly over. Because a sandstorm grounded their flight out, the prisoners spent one final night at the hotel in Baghdad. The next day, two Swissair C-9s dropped off about 300 Iraqi POWs as part of an initial prisoner exchange. "You could tell they were not real happy about being back home," Roberts said. "But they got off the airplane, we got on, and we flew out, and that was that."



Twenty year later, Roberts' thoughts turn again to Baghdad and captivity. He has just returned from Pensacola, Fla., where he

attended his 20-year reunion — not a high school reunion, but a POW reunion. His group has held them at the one-, five-, 10- and now 20-year marks. Not all could make it, but about a dozen showed up this year. He enjoyed the camaraderie and bonding that formed during and as a result of the experience, but downplays the impact it had on his life afterward.

"It was only six weeks, such a short period of time," he says. "Comparing that to what guys went through in Vietnam that went before me ... I mean, how much can you be changed in six weeks? We didn't go through the same absolutely brutal torture and abuse that those guys did."

Physically, he has recovered. His busted eardrums, chipped teeth, bumps, scrapes and bruises have all healed or been repaired. He doesn't suffer nightmares. He tries to look at the big picture these days and tries not to "sweat the small stuff." He tries to remember that things could be a lot worse than they are here, free, in America.



After his release, Roberts stayed on at Torrejon until it closed down in 1992. Following three-year stints as an instructor pilot at MacDill Air Force Base in Florida and Luke Air Force Base in Arizona, he came to the Ohio Air National Guard's

178th Fighter Wing in Springfield. In 1997, he returned to southwest Asia and Iraq with the 178th, supporting Operation Northern Watch enforcing the no-fly zone over northern Iraq. "I was a little nervous, admittedly, when I first was going back into Iraq, just hoping I didn't have engine failure or something that put me back in there again," he said.

Roberts, who plans to retire this year, has been with the 178th since landing there 15 years ago, serving as wing commander since January 2008. The unit took on a new mission about a year ago. The F-16s are gone now, making way for a new high-tech mission with the MQ-1 Predator unmanned drone. Perhaps it is just as well for the man who entered the Air Force Academy at 17 and only ever wanted to fly airplanes. His retirement paperwork has been filed, the date has been set. It's time to move on.

The colonel in the olive drab flight suit turns back to the television and the grainy, black-and-white images and powers it down. Watching and remembering, he says simply, is better than being there. **86**

AROUND THE OHIO AIR NATIONAL GUARD



E+I = Efficiency: utilizing ANG assets saves Air Force more than \$25 million

Story by Capt. Matt Molinski
Ohio Adj. Gen. Dept. Public Affairs

ROME, N.Y. — Moving an antenna sounds like a relatively easy task for most people. However, when it is one of the most sophisticated radar research antennas in the world and is perched on a tower made of several tons of steel, things become complicated. Factor in a total of four antennas, no capability to move them and a tight time line, the easy task becomes nearly impossible.

Moving four antennas and their towers fell on Rick Shaughnessy, chief of operations for the Sensors Directorate, Air Force Research Laboratory in Rome, N.Y. From the beginning, Shaughnessy knew the project would be daunting.

The Sensors Directorate consolidation, as directed by the Defense Department's 2005 Base Realignment and Closure recommendations to Congress, required the lab's sensor research to be relocated to Wright-Patterson Air Force Base near Dayton — specifically the surveillance facility consisting of four radar systems, the control room and calibration range. The four radar systems were an S-band, C-band, L-band and bi-static sensor array mounted on towers averaging 15,000 pounds.

Shaughnessy's first step was to secure bids from contractors, which came in ranging between \$25 to \$30 million. The proposed cost to the Air Force was staggering, but Shaughnessy pressed on and began working to validate contractors' expertise in this type of project. The contractors provided resumes for engineers to supervise the highly-technical removal and reinstallation of the radars, but none seemed qualified.

Shaughnessy quickly realized no company that submitted bids was qualified to do the work, but he did have another available option.

"I had three tours with engineering installation squadrons in the Air Force and I knew they might have the expertise to help," Shaughnessy said.

During the spring of 2007, Shaughnessy talked with officials at National Guard Bureau, who suggested he visit the 213th Engineering Installation Squadron at Stewart Air National Guard Base in Newburgh, N.Y. He presented an overview of the BRAC requirements affecting the move. During the meeting, he confirmed that this type of



PHOTO COURTESY OF RICK SHAUGHNESSY

Engineering installation squadron personnel, including Staff Sgt. Jason Ogle (bottom), of the 220th Engineering Installation Squadron, out of Zanesville, prepare a S-band antenna for removal.

unit might be able to do the job. He started working with Air National Guard units from around the country and confirmed they had the skills and manpower to do the work.

"There wasn't one EI unit that could do the entire job. We had to get expertise from around the country," he said.

In the end, six Air National Guard and one active-duty unit worked to complete the project. Once approved to use Air Force and Air National Guard EI units instead of contractors, the cost seemed more reasonable. Shaughnessy's concept ultimately cost the Air Force \$3.6 million — 88 percent less than contractor estimates.

The 220th EIS, based in Zanesville, Ohio, was among the EI units committed to the multiyear project. Air National Guard engineering and installation units contributed resources and management teams. In spring 2010, after three years of planning, several units gathered at the Rome facility to initiate decommissioning operations. The 219th was the first to arrive and began the tedious task of removing the S-band antenna which weighed more than 15,000 pounds. Each piece was taken down and meticulously labeled to ensure accurate reassembly. The 219th self-transported the tower back to Camp Gruber, Okla., where it will be used for training at a site that couldn't afford a new one. The antenna was refurbished and packaged at the lab for shipment to Wright-Patterson.

By the end of June 2010, the other antennas and their respective towers quickly followed the same process. Fort Indiantown Gap received the bi-static radar tower for use at the installation's Lightning Force Academy, and the antenna was prepared for installation at Springfield Air National Guard Base, Ohio. The C-band tower was shipped to Selfridge Air National Guard Base in Michigan, and the L-band tower was recycled.

Once all four radar antennas were completely decommissioned, inventoried and staged for relocation, structural assessments of all antennas were performed. Corrosion issues were mitigated on site and when the final pack-up was performed, each appeared brand new.

The antennas arrived at Wright-Patterson and the 220th began assisting with tower reconstruction. The completion of work at Wright-Patterson in 2010 set the stage for completing the entire project during late spring 2011. Through the winter of 2010-2011, Springfield Air National Guard Base prepared for the construction of the last tower, which would receive the bi-static antenna. Once the concrete foundation for the tower was poured, the engineer units sent personnel to begin construction.

"The tower manufacturer did the foundation, and the EIS guys provided the labor, knowledge, expertise and experience to build the structure," said Staff Sgt. Keith Anderson from the 243rd, a team chief for the Springfield portion of the project. "This is what we would do in war, so this project is a training opportunity too." **86**

Toledo's 180th Fighter Wing, Airmen, earn national honors

Story by Lt. Col. Tim Moses
180th Fighter Wing

TYNDALL AIR FORCE BASE, Fla. — Members of the Swanton, Ohio-based 180th Fighter Wing traveled to Tyndall Air Force Base, Fla., to accept unit and individual honors Feb. 28 during the Continental United States North American Aerospace Defense Command Region-1st Air Force Warrior Air Sovereignty Alert (ASA) Awards banquet. Tech. Sgt. Jeff Rosebrock and Senior Master Sgt. Paul Martin received two of four individual awards for 2010 and the 180th Fighter Wing won the overall Unit of the Year Award.

Rosebrock, who earned the ASA Maintainer of the Year Award, functioned as the critical ASA communications security responsible officer, volunteering to assist sister ASA units in preparation for inspections and actively helping fellow unit members achieve fitness goals.

Martin was recognized as the ASA Command Post Controller of the Year. Martin's team reported no deficiencies during the 2010 ASA Alert Force Operational Assessment and the NORAD Alert Force Evaluation and the NORAD inspector general reported that Martin's command post team was the best they had seen. Martin's expertise and programs have been nationally recognized and his assistance has been solicited by other ASA units to help them stand up the ASA mission at their base and to assist with inspection preparation.

The 180th Fighter Wing was awarded the overall ASA Unit of the Year for 2010. The award cited 100 percent ASA sortie effectiveness for all practice, exercise and active air scrambles in support of Operation Noble Eagle and Homeland Defense, and the unit responded to all 158 ASA sorties during the year within response time requirements. The wing reported an unprecedented zero discrepancies in both the maintenance and command post sections, and all inspected areas were deemed mission ready. Unit members volunteered to help stand up two other ASA units and provided staff-assisted visits to help prepare other units for their ASA inspections.

The 180th managed these accomplishments within three years of standing up the ASA mission. **AG**

EDITOR'S NOTE: The 180th Fighter Wing also earned the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award for its accomplishments from Nov. 1, 2008 to Oct. 31, 2010, its fourth such award.



PHOTO COURTESY OF 180TH FIGHTER WING

Members of the 180th Fighter Wing, including Col. Steven Nordhaus (left), wing commander, traveled earlier this year to Tyndall Air Force Base, Fla., to receive several awards, including recognition as the overall top Air Sovereignty Alert unit for 2010.



PHOTO COURTESY OF 178TH FIGHTER WING

Ohio Air National Guard Master Sgt. Amanda Conaway (center) was selected as the ANG Rookie Retention Officer of the Year.

178th's Conaway receives top rookie retention recognition

Story by Senior Master Sgt. Joseph Stahl
178th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

ORLANDO, Fla. — An Airman from the 178th Fighter Wing earned national honors March 29 when she was selected as the national Rookie Retention Officer of the Year at the Air National Guard Retention Conference in Orlando, Fla.

Master Sgt. Amanda Conaway, retention office manager, was selected among candidates from all 54 states and territories. Nominees for the rookie award must have been in the job for less than two years.

After dealing with a reduction in force caused by a mission change and starting several wing outreach programs, Conaway decided to compete for the award.

"With everything going on, I thought that I would have a good package," Conaway said.

Since taking over the position of retention office manager, Conaway has tackled a number of challenges. She said addressing and processing a two-year backlog of student loan repayments was the most high-profile accomplishment of her first two years on the job. After only a few months on the job and before going to technical school, Conaway, with the help of her counterpart from Mansfield, Master Sgt. Michael Schaefer, managed to process all student loan repayments for a highly-visible program about which commanders were receiving many complaints.

Conaway said she is most proud of her unit outreach programs.

"With my outreach programs, I am going to people where they work, letting them know that I care and getting stuff out there," Conaway said. "When I say outreach, I mean the e-mails that I send out, quarterly newsletters, Transition Assistance Program briefings, career fairs, job fairs — that's all part of reaching out."

Conaway credits much of her success to her fellow retention office managers in Ohio who she said all work together as a team and depend on one another to make their individual programs successful.

"There is no way that I would have won Rookie ROM if it weren't for the other ROMs in the state of Ohio," Conaway said.

1st Lt. Matthew Smith, director of personnel, along with Senior Master Sgt. Mark Wolfenden, Ohio recruiting and retention superintendent, helped Conaway with her comprehensive submission for the competition. **AG**



Pfc. Andrew Kim (left), a gunner, and Spc. David Stevens, a team leader with Battery B, 2nd Battalion, 174th Air Defense Artillery Regiment, demonstrate spotting an incoming target aircraft when converted to the man-portable air-defense system (MANPADS).

GUARDING THE D.C. SKIES: OHIO NATIONAL GUARD AIR DEFENSE SOLDIERS PREPARE FOR SECOND TOUR IN NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION

Story and photo by
Sgt. Peter M. Kresge
174th Air Defense Artillery
Brigade Public Affairs

MCCONNELSVILLE — Soldiers train hard for the opportunity to employ their skills on real-world missions. For members of the 2nd Battalion, 174th Air Defense Artillery Regiment, the opportunity comes in the form of a unique mission, both because of its important contribution to national security and because it remains the sole ongoing air defense mission for the unit's Avenger missile system.

Although the unit's Soldiers drill far from the limelight of Washington D.C., in the small Midwestern town of McConnelsville, they will soon be propelled onto the national stage when they mobilize in support of Operation Clear Skies later this year. Sol-

diers of the 2-174th are veterans of this homeland defense mission, having mobilized in 2006 for the same mission.

The troops will drill extensively between now and their mobilization to ensure they are primed for defending the nation's capital from air threats, a mission that was put into place after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks.

"Not everyone gets this kind of opportunity to translate their training into a real-world mission with this type of importance," said Sgt. 1st Class Jeffery Wise, an operations sergeant with the battalion's Headquarters Battery and veteran of the National Capital Region mission.

When on mission, the air defenders focus on protecting the skies over the District of Columbia by monitoring the Avenger missile system and remaining on alert for potential threats. In preparation, they carefully

rehearse each step of their alert system again and again through a variety of classroom scenarios, hands-on training activities and table-top simulators.

"The talking piece is the most important," Wise said, referencing the table top simulator training. The troops use the simulators to rehearse their roles within the Avenger system as gunners, team leaders and noncommissioned officers-in-charge. "The communication has to be precise. God forbid, but if the time comes, all the training up to that point comes into play and muscle memory kicks in."

"The training is excellent," said Pfc. Andrew Kim, a gunner with the battalion's Battery B and student at Otterbein College in Westerville. "This is a once-in-a-lifetime experience to help defend the nation's capital."

Kim studies political science and international studies at Ot-

terbein and was scheduled to graduate soon. "The nice thing is I don't have to worry about getting a job when I graduate," Kim said, adding he hopes to make the best of his time in the district.

The Soldiers are thrilled to be back on the system, Wise said.

"It's a very versatile system," said Sgt. Andrew Woldbold, a team leader with Battery B. "The Avenger can fire in place or on the move."

Woldbold enlisted with the battalion in 2007 when it was mobilized to the National Capital Region for the first time. As a member of the rear detachment he heard a lot about the mission and thought it would be a great opportunity. Now the battalion has come full circle.

Woldbold said he is excited to go, and will enjoy the opportunity to see many of the national monuments and historic landmarks he will be guarding. **BC**

Ohio Special Forces Soldiers descend on Camp Atterbury, Ind., for training mission



STAFF SGT. DAVID BRUCE / CAMP ATTERBURY PUBLIC AFFAIRS



STAFF SGT. MATT SCOTTEN / CAMP ATTERBURY PUBLIC AFFAIRS

LEFT: Soldiers with the Ohio Army National Guard's Company B, 2nd Battalion, 19th Special Forces Group check their course during a foot patrol while training recently at Camp Atterbury Joint Maneuver Training Center, Ind. **ABOVE:** Soldiers with the Ohio Army National Guard's Company B, 2nd Battalion, 19th Special Forces Group descend to earth after jumping out of a CH-47 Chinook helicopter at Camp Atterbury.

**Story by Staff Sgt. David Bruce
Camp Atterbury Public Affairs**

Author's Note — Due to the sensitive nature of the U.S. Army Special Forces mission, the names of the individuals have been withheld at the request of the unit.

CAMP ATTERBURY JOINT MANEUVER TRAINING CENTER, Ind. — They wear different uniforms, a hodgepodge of patterns. Some are in Army Combat Uniforms — the gray-green digital pattern that is the current wear of the Army, others wore the older Battle Dress Uniform that was phased out of service. They addressed each other by first name as opposed to rank and last name. While to some this informality would indicate a lack of discipline, to the Soldiers of the Company B, 2nd Battalion, 19th Special Forces Group, it is just how business is done.

The Ohio Army National Guard unit trained recently at Camp Atterbury Joint Maneuver Training Center for a quarterly exercise.

Whereas a typical National Guard unit will have a two-day drill weekend, this unit sometimes consolidates their drill days into a number of weeklong drills, said the acting commander.

This allows us to get out here and do more in one drill period than we would using the conventional drill schedule," he said. "This

also works out for our team members that live a significant distance away."

During their training at Camp Atterbury, the Special Forces Soldiers performed airborne parachute jumps from 12,500 feet and 5,000 feet. They also qualified with their individual weapons systems and conducted reflexive fire ranges.

One of the tasks during their training was conducting foot patrols in the wilderness.

"We want to get back to the woods," the acting commander said. "There has been a lot of focus on urban operations, but that is one facet of what we do. So we're out here doing basic combat foot patrol. We travel by the hardest route possible simply because no one would expect anyone to be there and that gives us the element of surprise."

The patrol started like any other mission: with pre-combat checks and inspections, ensuring all team members had all their mission essential gear. During the course of the patrol, the squad-sized unit would refine their movement techniques and communication through hand signals.

"What we are also doing is collecting as much 'intel' about our surroundings," said the acting commander. "When we stop, we're looking, listening and smelling, using all our senses to check an area."

While the concept of walking a foot patrol may seem mundane for these highly-trained Soldiers, without the basics, you can't do the high-speed things, said the team's training

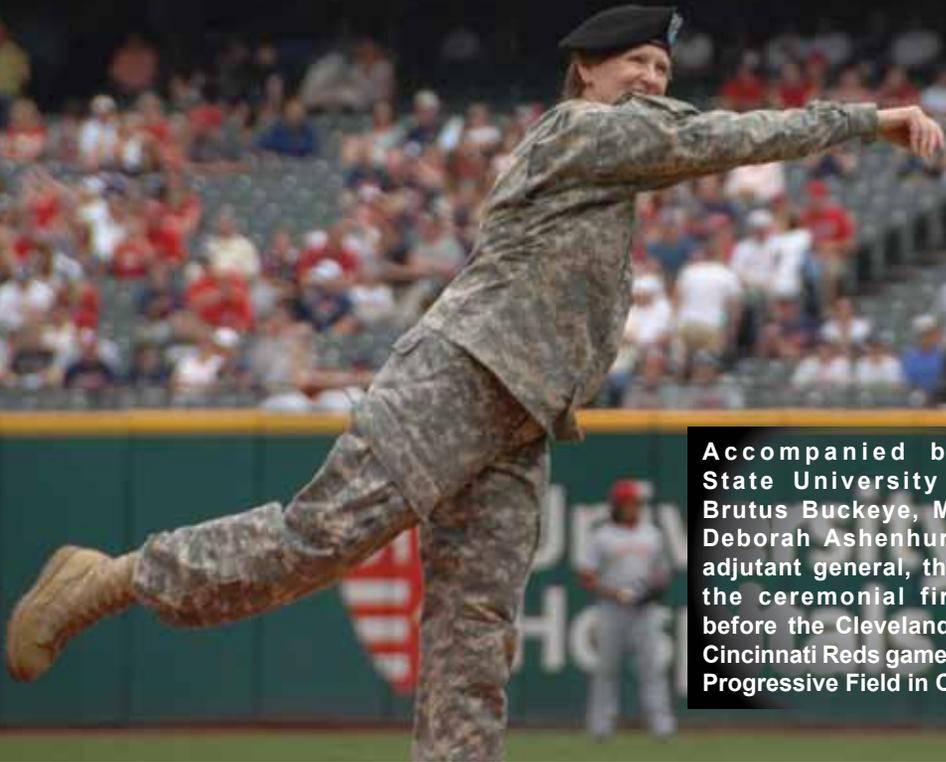
noncommissioned officer.

"You can't do advanced operations until you master the basics," he said. "As an Operational Detachment Alpha, it's important for us to ensure every one of the team has the foundation of the basics. We do a lot of sustainment training. We still have to maintain proficiency in skill level three, four and five since we're all noncommissioned officers. We hit the ground running when we got here with three military free fall operations, two drops at 12,500 feet and one at 5,000 feet. There are so many facets and aspects to our training and the credentials we have to maintain; airborne proficiency is just one of them." The Soldiers said Camp Atterbury is a good location for their training.

"We come here about four to five times a year," said the training noncommissioned officer. "We're a relatively local unit. The amenities here at Camp Atterbury give us a lot of opportunities to train, whether its areas for patrolling to ranges or the airfield. The staff here is very helpful and makes our training easier to accomplish."

EDITOR'S NOTE: Company B, 2-19th Special Forces Group (Airborne) holds a monthly information brief the first Tuesday of every month, at Rickenbacker Air National Guard Base in Columbus, to provide basic information on becoming a Special Forces Green Beret to any interested males. For more information, call 614-336-6630. **SG**

Indians honor Ohio National Guard during baseball's Battle of Ohio: Adjutant general throws out first pitch before contest vs. Reds



Accompanied by Ohio State University mascot Brutus Buckeye, Maj. Gen. Deborah Ashenhurst, Ohio adjutant general, throws out the ceremonial first pitch before the Cleveland Indians-Cincinnati Reds game May 22 at Progressive Field in Cleveland.

Story and photos by Sgt. Chad Menegay
196th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

CLEVELAND — Ohio National Guard Soldiers and Airmen converged May 22 on Progressive Field for the Battle of Ohio between the Cleveland Indians and Cincinnati Reds.

Maj. Gen. Deborah A. Ashenhurst, Ohio adjutant general, delivered the ceremonial first pitch before the interleague rivalry game. The Indians organization and fans honored Soldiers and Airmen on “Ohio National Guard Day.”

Guard members marched around the warning track prior to the game, and a color guard rendered the colors during the national anthem. Shout-outs from deployed Soldiers and Airmen to Family members back home played on the Jumbotron throughout the game.

“It’s nice that the community continues to recognize military service, even though the war on terrorism has been going on for 10 years,” said Army Staff Sgt. Christopher Lyman, color guard member and Mansfield native.

Most military members’ lives are consumed by deployments, whether they are National Guard or active duty, Lyman said. “Members of the military are only 1 percent

of the country, so it’s important that the general public never forgets the sacrifices that veterans past, present and future make so that we can enjoy sporting events such as this.”

Lyman, who stayed to enjoy the game after his pregame color guard duties, has been working so much with the Ohio Honor Guard that he hasn’t had a chance to attend games and support the resurgent Indians, he said.

The honor guard annually services more than 2,000 funerals at more than 300 locations throughout Ohio at cemeteries around the state, honor guard members said.

“Today was different, because it’s a huge stadium and there are a lot of people here,” said Air Force Master Sgt. Rachele Newson, assistant

noncommissioned officer-in-charge of the 179th Airlift Wing Honor Guard and a Mount Gilead native. “I was nervous and my heart was beating (fast), but it’s not really any different of a feeling than I get when I do a funeral, because the whole show is on you there too.”

It was amazing that the honor guard was invited to do such a significant event like the baseball game, especially as a joint service force, Newson said.

“I stayed to watch the Reds kick the Indians’ butt, so I can harass my husband and rub it in his face, because he’s an Indians fan,” Newson said.

This day, the Indians defeated the Reds 12 to 4, completing a three-game sweep of the series for the weekend. **OG**



Staff Sgt. Christopher Lyman (left), a member of the Ohio Honor Guard, prepares to perform color guard duties as part of pregame festivities May 22 at Progressive Field in Cleveland.

4th Annual Warrior Challenge clean sweep for OHARNG RSP's 'Charlie' Company



SGT. 1ST CLASS TRACY BALLOG / OHARNG RECRUITING AND RETENTION BATTALION

On their way to a win, Company C team members crawl through a mud pit on an obstacle course at Camp Lazarus in Delaware, as part of the 2011 Ohio Army National Guard Recruit Sustainment Program Warrior Challenge.

DELAWARE — It was a clean sweep for both Company C, Recruit Sustainment Program teams, which captured top team and company honors in the Ohio Army National Guard 2011 Warrior Challenge held April 30-May 1 at Camp Sherman in Chillicothe and Camp Lazarus in Delaware.

Each of Ohio's 10 RSP companies sent two teams of five warriors each to compete in the event, now in its fourth year.

"I thought the Warrior Challenge was awesome. We did a lot of extra training beforehand for the competition and the extra effort put us over the top and helped us win," said Company C team member Pvt. Brian Green, a Pickerington native.

The Saturday event at Camp Sherman consisted of individual testing on military tasks including drill and ceremony, medical evaluation of a casualty and map reading. During the Sunday event, held at Camp Lazarus, the warriors relied on speed, endurance and each other to negotiate a demanding 1 1/2-mile challenge course with obstacles including a low-wall climb, litter carry, mud crawl and ravine rope climb.

"The event is all about esprit de corps, and they really learn what it means to be on a team and encouraging your team to win," said Lt. Col. Daniel Shank, Recruiting and Retention Battalion commander.

The Ohio RSP was created in 2006 to help new recruits prepare for the mental and physical challenges of basic training, and has been central to Ohio's continued recruiting successes. SGT. 1ST CLASS TRACY BALLOG / OHARNG R&R BATTALION **86**

Tournament partners pro anglers with Ohio, Indiana National Guard members

PORT CLINTON — In conjunction with the National Guard Forrest L. Wood Walleye Tournament May 14 on Lake Erie, about 40 Soldiers from the Ohio and Indiana Army National Guards partnered with pro anglers for a day of competitive walleye fishing in the Soldier Appreciation Tournament.

The National Guard FLW Walleye Tour is the nation's premier professional walleye fishing circuit.

During the Soldier Appreciation Tournament, each team — consisting of two Soldiers and one pro — was allowed to catch and present up to three walleyes for weigh-in, with the highest total weight capturing the win.

Chief Warrant Officer 4 David Corbi, of Johnstown, and Chief Warrant Officer 3 Aaron Rod, of Oxford, from Ohio's 1st Battalion, 137th Aviation Regiment, won bragging rights for Ohio as the duo, which fished with pro angler Rich Mealey, caught three walleyes weighing in at 23 pounds, 6 ounces to give the Ohio Guard members the win.

Chagrin Falls, Ohio-resident and pro angler Jeff Graves took home the FLW Walleye pro tour's first-place trophy and \$50,000 prize by catching a three-day total of 117 pounds, 6 ounces, of walleye. SGT. 1ST CLASS TRACY BALLOG / OHARNG R&R BATTALION **86**



SGT. 1ST CLASS TRACY BALLOG / OHARNG RECRUITING AND RETENTION BATTALION

Chief Warrant Officer 4 David Corbi (right) and Chief Warrant Officer 3 Aaron Rod (left), from 1st Battalion, 137th Aviation Regiment, won bragging rights for Ohio during the Soldier Appreciation Tournament held May 14 at Lake Erie in Port Clinton. The duo, who fished with pro angler Rich Mealey (center), caught three walleyes weighing in at 23 pounds, 6 ounces, to give Ohio Guard members a win over their Indiana counterparts.

Hutt first command sergeant major for Recruiting and Retention Battalion

With his Family in the background, Scott Hutt (second from left) is promoted to command sergeant major of the Ohio Army National Guard Recruiting and Retention Battalion May 1; also pictured is Col. John Harris (left), Ohio assistant adjutant general for Army, and Lt. Col. Dan Shank, R&R battalion commander.



COLUMBUS — A far more experienced Soldier shared the spotlight with the young Soldiers who competed at this year's Ohio Army National Guard Recruiting and Retention Battalion's Warrior Challenge, at least for a short time on May 1, during the event's closing ceremony at Camp Lazarus in Delaware.

Sgt. Maj. Scott E. Hutt was promoted to command sergeant major, making history as the first Soldier to reach this rank in Ohio's R&R Battalion.

"My highest priority is to ensure that the Ohio Army National Guard's Recruiting and Retention Battalion continues to recruit, enlist, support, mentor, train and retain the noble and patriotic Americans that choose to join our team," Hutt said. "Our mission will continue to focus on providing the best and brightest trained American Warriors to the company commanders and first sergeants who are fighting our nation's wars and defending the freedom of the citizens of the United States of America." OHARNG R&R BATTALION **86**



STAFF SGT. AMANDA CAIN / 121ST AIR REFUELING WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Master Sgt. Derek McElrath (right) instructs Staff Sgt. Lofton Hayes, both of the 121st Air Refueling Wing Force Support Squadron, on proper time and dating procedures for the salad bar.

121st ARW Mission Support Flight nets two bests in Air National Guard

COLUMBUS — Since the merger of the Mission Support Flight and Services Flight in September 2009, the 121st Air Refueling Wing Force Support Squadron has seen a lot of change, but has always strived for excellence.

With 2010 coming to a close, the squadron competed for two ANG awards. The Maj. Gen. Eugene L. Eubank Award recognizes the best installation FSS in the Air Force. The 121st FSS won the award at the Air National Guard level. The Senior Master Sgt. Kenneth W. Disney Award recognizes the top sustainment services flight for food service. The 121st FSS was named a finalist and was evaluated by a team from National Guard Bureau in March. In April, they were named the winners. The team traveled to Chicago in May to receive their trophy. This is the second time the flight has won the award. They were the overall winners in 2007 and the runners-up in 2004. **CASSANDRA L. SEWARD / 121ST AIR REFUELING WING**

OHARNG logisticians earn several unit, individual CLEA awards

RICHMOND, Va. — The 2011 Combined Logistics Excellence Awards Ceremony was held May 12-13 at the Richmond Convention Center. Nearly 100 awards for the 2010 year were presented to various active Army, National Guard and Reserve units throughout the world. Sgt. Maj. of the Army Raymond F. Chandler III presented the Ohio Army National Guard with the following awards:

- Army Maintenance Excellence 2010 winner, Army National Guard MTOE-Large Category — 216th Engineer Battalion, Woodlawn;
- Army National Guard MTOE-Small Category — Battery D, 2nd Battalion, 174th Air Defense Artillery Regiment, McConnellsville;
- Supply Excellence Award, 2010 runner-up,

Army National Guard-Property Book Operations (MTOE) — 1486th Transportation Company, Ashland;

■ Deployment Excellence Award, 2010 runner-up, Army National Guard-Supporting Unit Category — JFHQ-Ohio, Columbus. **SGT. MAJ. REBECCA GEORGE / JFHQ-OHIO**

Ohio HRF part of large homeland defense response exercise

VOLK FIELD COMBAT READINESS TRAINING CENTER, Wis. — The Ohio National Guard Homeland Response Force participated in Vigilant Guard 2011—a weeklong disaster response exercise in May that simulated devastation caused by two tornadoes and a major leak at a collapsed chemical plant.

The Ohio troops joined nearly 3,000 participants from nearly 50 federal, state, county, volunteer and private agencies. The exercise, sponsored by U.S. Northern Command in conjunction with National Guard Bureau, took place in several locations, but the largest scenario was at Volk Field—a Wisconsin Air National Guard base near Camp Douglas, Wis.

“I believe we produced the largest, most complex Vigilant Guard as far as number of different activities and number of civilian agencies involved,” said Lt. Col. Steven Sherrod, exercise director. “We still have a lot to learn about supporting our civilian partners.”

Within the Ohio HRF were Soldiers from the 637th Chemical Company, who set out from their Kettering, Ohio, readiness center May 15 with 17 vehicles. The Soldiers met up with the ground convoy portion of the HRF component including Ohio Soldiers and Airmen from the 437th Military Police Battalion, 155th Chemical Battalion, 811th Engineer Company, 121st Medical Group and 73rd Troop Command, in Davenport, Iowa, and after bedding down for a night, joined the exercise in Wisconsin on May 16. The rest of the HRF members flew in on C-130 Hercules cargo planes and KC-135 Stratotanker refueling aircraft. Once on site, the Soldiers set to work in their respective areas to provide assistance and deal with “casualties.”

The Ohio HRF—one of the two first such units in the country—provides timely, life-saving capabilities within the first 48 hours of a chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear or high-yield explosive (CBRNE) event, and to establish when necessary, a command and control structure to synchronize employ-

ment of similar National Guard response forces, including civil support teams (weapons of mass destruction) and CBRNE Enhanced Response Forces and prepare for follow-on forces.

The unit is comprised of about 570 National Guard Soldiers and Airmen who provide security, search and extraction, decontamination, medical triage and command and control capabilities. The HRF has a six- to 12-hour response posture and is equipped to deploy via ground transport to incident sites.

EDITOR’S NOTE: *Compiled from staff reports — The Wisconsin National Guard Public Affairs office and Sgt. Kim Chapman from the 637th Chemical Company contributed to this report.*

Deploying unit recognizes employer for Soldier support during transition

COLUMBUS — Most Ohio National Guard members know gearing up for deployment involves a lot of hard work, long hours and dedication. Along with this comes the added stress on not only the Guard members themselves but also on their Families and employers.

As the 684th Medical Company prepares for its fall mobilization to Afghanistan, some unit members took time to recognize the management team of a local Target store with the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve Patriot Award.

1st Lt. Tyler Wiltshire, executive officer for the 684th, had been employed as a senior team leader with Target for one year until Feb. 15, when he was called to active duty in support of the unit’s pre-mobilization efforts. While employers are required by law to hold a Soldier’s job during activation, Target went above and beyond the standard.

“The leadership team of Target made my transition to active duty status seamless and fought to help me keep key employee benefits,” Wiltshire said.

Unit leaders held a small recognition ceremony at Target No. 1972 on Broad Street in White-



SPC. RANDALL SCHUMACHER / 684TH MEDICAL COMPANY

First Sgt. Kevin Runyon (from left), 1st Lt. Tyler Wiltshire (fourth from left) and Capt. Brad Kennedy, all of the 684th Medical Company, present Maria Taft and Tammy Cennamo — representing Target, Wiltshire’s employer — with certificates for outstanding employer support of their Citizen-Soldier.

hall. Capt. Brad Kennedy, unit commander, unit 1st Sgt. Kevin Runyon and Wiltshire presented the awards to store team leader Maria Taft, human resources executive team leader Tammy Cennamo and to executive team leader Chelsey Cooperrider. **SFC. RANDALL SCHUMACHER / 684TH MEDICAL COMPANY PUBLIC AFFAIRS**

Field Maintenance Shop No. 17 earns prestigious ISO certification

CAMP PERRY JOINT TRAINING SITE — The International Organization of Standards on Feb. 24 awarded the Ohio Army National Guard’s Field Maintenance Shop 17 its ISO 9001:2008 certification.

The ISO 9001:2008 is an international standard to facilitate consistency in the quality of goods or services. It provides a methodology to measure performance and a focus on continual improvement. ISO certification recognizes a commitment to quality and is a significant achievement in an organization’s history. **ADJ. GEN. DEPT. PUBLIC AFFAIRS**

Ohio Guard recruits Families, civilians to help combat suicide

COLUMBUS — Nestled in a lodge among the majestic pines, winding waterways and rocky gorges of the Mohican State Park, a concerned group of Ohio National Guard Soldiers, Family members and civilian employees gathered for a weekend of sharing, interacting and learning. The tranquil surroundings offered a soothing backdrop to help attendees open up to discuss and learn how to combat a difficult and distressing problem — the rising suicide rate among National Guard and Reserve troops.

The group converged on the state park in north-central Ohio for an Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training — or ASIST — workshop June 11-12, the fourth such training weekend for Ohio Guard members this year, and the first ever to include Family members and civilian employees.

“I am unaware of any other states who are training Family members in ASIST,” said Master Sgt. Marshall Bradshaw, National Guard Bureau (NGB) suicide prevention program manager. “(The Ohio National Guard) has been on the forefront of using ASIST and probably has trained more personnel over the years than any other state.”

In fact, although NGB requires only two ASIST trainers per state, State Chaplain Col. Andrew Aquino said the Ohio Army National Guard currently has six and plans to add three more. Col. John C. Harris Jr., Ohio’s assistant adjutant general for Army, set a requirement that one in every 50 Soldiers will receive the training, and so far, nearly 600 have been trained.

“We are actually at a 1-20 ratio right now,” Aquino said. “We actually want to get to one in eight — then you can get all these little teams. We are going to take about two more years to

get there.”

Ohio National Guard leaders are trying this holistic and aggressive approach to combat the problem that has perplexed military officials, and for which they have been struggling to pinpoint specific causes or indicators. In fact, in a press conference this past January, Maj. Gen. Raymond Carpenter, acting director of the Army National Guard, said that less than half of the Army National Guard Soldiers who committed suicide in 2010 had deployed. And while active duty Soldier suicides decreased modestly in 2010, the rate doubled in the Army National Guard during the same period. However, the problem is not exclusive to the Army Guard. According to a 2009 Air National Guard community suicide prevention briefing at *wingmanproject.org*, suicide is second only to accidents in Airman deaths; and for every Airman killed in combat, seven commit suicide.

In Ohio, five Army National Guard Soldiers committed suicide in 2010, compared to one in 2009 and two in 2008. The Ohio Air National Guard had no recent suicides until 2011; they have had three this year.

The ASIST curriculum aims to reduce these grim statistics significantly by focusing on skill acquisition — specifically, how to identify and help people at risk. During the first half of the first day’s training, attendees are formed into small discussion groups and encouraged to get in touch with their own attitudes about suicide, because their attitudes affect how they’re going to help others, Aquino said. During the second half of day one, they learn about the suicide intervention model — a structured way of identifying where you are in the helping process. On the second day, attendees role play.

“The group gets a chance to reflect and to look at it and practice it as they do it one at a time,” Aquino said. “It gives them an opportunity to feel a little better about doing an intervention. That’s the real value of it, is everything is done in small workgroups.”

This weekend’s class roster included 16 Soldiers and 21 civilians. Because trainers want to encourage attendees to talk openly and without being inhibited by rank or position, Soldiers shed uniforms in favor of civilian clothes and address one another on a first-name basis.



1ST LT. KIMBERLY SNOW / OHIO ADJ. GEN. DEPT. PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Staff Sgt. Amy Baker (left) of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 371st Sustainment Brigade, participates in a practical exercise with her small group during an Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training class June 11 at Mohican Resort Lodge, near Loudonville.

Most of the civilian attendees are Family members who volunteer in unit Family readiness groups and comprise what ASIST trainer Chaplain (Maj.) Nicholas Chou calls “the first line of defense.” Among them was Dayton-native Janice McCurdy, Family readiness group leader for the Middletown-based Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 155th Chemical Battalion, and mother of unit operations officer Maj. Tonia McCurdy. Janice had several reasons for attending the weekend training — one was to be in a better position to assist her daughter.

“She does a lot of casualty assistance and she has also had to go out and find Soldiers that have texted her that they were ready to end their life,” Janice said. “And a lot of times, she pulls me in. ‘Mom, why don’t you come along and talk to the Family or just be there for support for the Family.’ So I figured I need to know something or how to help. And that’s why I came.”

Janice, who like many attendees has been touched by suicide, also wanted to learn how to identify warning signs and to be in a position to help those people who may be contemplating ending their own life.

“In the last year, we’ve had a suicide within the Family,” she said. “We thought we had done everything that we knew to do, but yet he still committed suicide. There must have been something further we could have done and maybe I can find the answer with this class.”

As a brigade medical readiness noncommissioned officer, a Family readiness group liaison and a military spouse, Staff Sgt. Amy Baker, of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 371st Sustainment Brigade, had multiple reasons for attending the weekend workshop. In her role as a military first-line leader, she’s dealt with suicidal thoughts and behaviors in the

ranks on several occasions. Although she said she innately knew how to handle some situations, she wanted more practical information — like how to help a Soldier understand that having suicidal thoughts is not uncommon, but it’s important to work through and move past them.

In her role as a military liaison to the FRG and as a military spouse, she understands the challenges facing the Families of deployed Soldiers, including the range of emotions during and following a spouse’s deployment. She wants to use those viewpoints and the weekend training to help the Soldiers and the Family as a whole, she said.

“My husband deployed and came back somewhat of a different person,” Baker said. Those are the big issues coming up in the group discussions — as the Family member that’s here, how do I handle my Soldier coming home a different person, and the Soldier saying, ‘I don’t know how to deal with myself as a different person.’”

Baker said she plans to take everything she learned over the weekend back to her unit, her Family readiness group and even to her home. The skills she learned can help everyone and everyone needs to know about them, she said.

“We’re the people who are going to be with these Soldiers and Family members that have these thoughts and feelings,” Baker said. “It’s not the doctor that’s going to be that person who helps you — it’s me the wife, and me the Soldier, and me the first-line leader.”

The next ASIST workshop is scheduled for



SGT. SEAN MATHIS / 37TH INFANTRY BRIGADE PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Wearing pink National Guard T-shirts and carrying loaded rucksacks, 16 members of the Ohio National Guard’s Headquarters, 37th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, march during the Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure 5-kilometer walk May 14 in Columbus.

September. Although no Family members are currently enrolled, Aquino said he’d like to train as many as are willing to complete the intense two-day course. He likens the course to CPR and its graduates to first responders and lifeguards.

“When you identify the person with (suicidal ideations or) thoughts, and (he or she) is making an attempt, this person — the ASIST-trained person — will get that person stabilized so they can be taken care of by the long-term people — the professionals, the doctors, the psychologists,” he said. “We can’t have enough. Anybody that can come to it, we strongly encourage because you can’t have too many lifeguards at a pool. You can’t have too many people ready and willing to do an intervention.”

1ST LT. KIMBERLY SNOW / ADJ. GEN. DEPT. PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Camo in pink: ONG Soldiers help fight war on breast cancer

COLUMBUS — Waves of a pink sea slowly rippled down city streets and between skyscrapers as more than 50,000 people wearing pink T-shirts, ribbons, wigs and all manner of pink accessories, walked and ran to show their support for women fighting breast cancer.

Amid the tides of pink, drifted a handful of camouflaged figures—16 members of the Ohio National Guard’s Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 37th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, who marched in the Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure 5-kilometer walk May 14 to show their support. Wearing pink National Guard T-shirts tucked into their Army Combat Uniform

pants, the Soldiers carried rucksacks weighing 20-40 pounds each through the crowded city streets.

“My mom’s best friend just died of breast cancer,” said Sgt. Joseph Hand, who organized the Soldiers’ participation. “I thought it was a good cause.

“We could have all bought flowers for my mom’s friend’s funeral or we could give money for this,” Hand said.

The Soldiers were sponsored by the Pat Ankrom Insurance Agency out of Worthington, and with personal funds from Hand’s Family.

Overall, the 19th annual Race for the Cure raised more than \$2.5 million — 75 percent will be used to provide breast health research, diagnostics, screening, treatment, services and education for uninsured or underinsured women. **SGT. SEAN MATHIS / 37TH INFANTRY BRIGADE COMBAT TEAM PUBLIC AFFAIRS**

THE FIRST 100 DAYS: ATAG-ARMY

Scan Quick Response (QR) code below using smart phone bar code reader app to view video message from Ohio’s assistant adjutant general for Army



STAFF SGT. STEVE ENGLE / OHIO ADJ. GEN. DEPT. PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Col. John C. Harris, Ohio assistant adjutant general for Army, recently passed a milestone marking his first 100 days at the helm of the Ohio Army National Guard. In the video, he describes where the OHARNG is and where it is going. He addresses challenges from current operations and other issues impacting the organization as well as his expectations and his commitment to the future.

DOUGLAS NICODEMUS / ADJ. GEN. DEPT. PUBLIC AFFAIRS



1ST LT. KIMBERLY SNOW / ADJ. GEN. DEPT. PUBLIC AFFAIRS

GUARD SNAPSHOTS

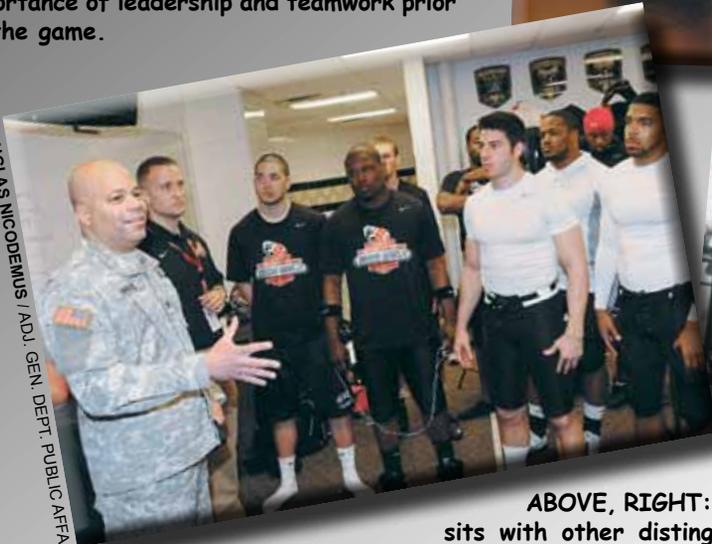
ABOVE, LEFT: Walter Hunt (from left) escorts his father Earl, who receives awards from Brig. Gen. Rufus Smith, commander of the 174th Air Defense Artillery Brigade, and congratulations from U.S. Sen. Rob Portman during an awards ceremony March 27 at the Ohio Army National Guard flight facility in North Canton, which recognized several U.S. military veterans who had earned medals for their wartime service but had not previously received them. ABOVE, RIGHT: Sgt. Maj. William Dillon, noncommissioned officer-in-charge of Operational Mentor and Liaison Team 1.5, embraces his wife, Tina, moments after stepping off a bus June 9 for his unit's welcome home ceremony in Reynoldsburg. OMLT members mobilized jointly with Hungarian Defense Force counterparts in July 2010, and trained in Europe before deploying together to work with the Afghan National Army.

RIGHT: Mallory Crabtree, 6, daughter of fallen Ohio National Guard Special Forces Soldier Sgt. 1st Class Daniel B. Crabtree, dots the "i" in Gov. John R. Kasich's signature June 20 during a bill signing event at the Ohio Statehouse in downtown Columbus as Kasich (right) and Rep. Courtney Combs, the bill's primary sponsor, look on. House Bill 65 named several Ohio roads in honor of fallen service members, including Highway 619 in Hartville, named in honor of Crabtree, who was killed by a roadside bomb June 8, 2006, while serving in Iraq. BELOW: Col. John C. Harris, Jr., assistant adjutant general for Army, Ohio National Guard, speaks with players and coaches from the North Team at the Army National Guard Senior Bowl II April 23 in Columbus. Harris spoke about the importance of leadership and teamwork prior to the game.



1ST LT. KIMBERLY SNOW / ADJ. GEN. DEPT. PUBLIC AFFAIRS

DOUGLAS NICODEMUS / ADJ. GEN. DEPT. PUBLIC AFFAIRS



CAPT. MATT MOLINSKI / ADJ. GEN. DEPT. PUBLIC AFFAIRS

ABOVE, RIGHT: President Abraham Lincoln, portrayed by Gerald Payn of Wooster, sits with other distinguished guests from the Ohio National Guard, Ohio Historical Society and Capitol Square Review and Advisory Board during Ohio's Civil War 150th Anniversary Ceremony April 10, 2011, in Columbus. The ceremony commemorated the sesquicentennial of the first Ohio unit federalized during the American Civil War.

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E + I = Efficiency PAGE 20

Utilizing Air National Guard engineering installation assets, including the 220th Engineering Installation Squadron, out of Zanesville, is estimated to have saved the Air Force more than \$25 million on a major project to move and reuse four sophisticated radar research antennas. Here, EIS personnel prepare to disconnect the feed horn from the L-band antenna at the Air Force Research Laboratory in Rome, N.Y. *Ohio National Guard photo courtesy of the 220th Engineering Installation Squadron*

