The Ohio National Guard Alumni Newsletter



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The Ohio National Guard webpage is: <u>http://www.ong.ohio.gov/</u>. Click on Alumni Affairs to register for the data base and direct receipt of the newsletter.



Photo taken by CMSgt (Ret) Tom Foster, 160th Retiree Association.

Major General Gregory L. Wayt welcomes 102 guests to the 2010 Ohio National Guard Alumni Reunion at Rickenbacker Air National Guard Base on Sept. 18, 2010.

Sixty-two Army and twenty-seven Air alumni were accompanied by 13 guests. Maj. Gen. Kambic, assistant adjutant general for Army and Brig. Gen. Heady, deputy assistant adjutant general for Air briefed about the status of the Army and Air National Guard respectively. New Ohio National Guard missions and deployments were showcased. Col. Ashenhurst briefed the Homeland Response Force accomplished by the JTF 73 and Col. George Smith briefed the MQ-1 Predator mission coming to the 178 FW in Springfield. Equipment static displays provided included the KC-135, F-16, UH 60, Homeland Response Force (HRF) command and control vehicle, Security Forces Weapons Display, the 437th Armored Security Vehicle and HMMWV and the 1-137th LMTV. Tours of the new 121 ARW Security Forces building and shuttles to the base exchange were also provided. Col. Jill Faris provided a TRICARE update and Mr. Bob Osborn briefed about Veterans Affairs issues. Tabletop display vendors included TRICARE, Delta Dental, the Ohio National Guard Association, the Ohio National Guard Enlisted Association, 37th Division Veterans Association, Employer Support of Guard and Reserve and the RAPIDs ID card machine.

The Alumni Affairs program thanks you for your participation and the following units for their support: 121 ARW, 178 FW, 180 FW, HRF, 1-137th AVN, 437th MP BN, and 2-19th SF GP.



The Ohio National Guard Office of Community Outreach is pleased to announce that Mrs. Wendy McWherter is the new Alumni Affairs Coordinator. Mrs. McWherter brings to this position an in-depth background in developing volunteer organizations, marketing, communications, fundraising and event planning. She was instrumental in founding and leading three start-up community-based membership-driven organizations. She also holds a bachelor's degree in organizational communication and will complete her master's degree this year. She is the wife of Col. Larry McWherter, Joint Forces Headquarters Director of Intelligence and Security and Ohio Air National Guard member, and the proud mother of Jordan, Hailey and Nathan. Both Jordan and Nathan have served or are serving in the Ohio Air National Guard at the 121 Air Refueling Wing.

In September, Air Force Gen. Craig McKinley, chief of the National Guard Bureau, accompanied Maj. Gen Gregory L. Wayt to Serbia as a part of a capstone National Guard State Partnership Program event. "I have had the opportunity as chief of the National Guard Bureau to see 62 partnerships around the world in all combatant commands," McKinley said. "The partnership between Serbia and Ohio is a relationship with a country who desperately wants to interact with the United States of America. So all that chemistry makes this one of the most outstanding partnerships I've observed." This military to military exchange was one of the more than 75 exchanges that have occurred with Serbia in the past four years. It covered medical, noncommissioned officer professional development and other topics.

"The State Partnership Program between the Ohio National Guard and Serbia has been very important and valuable to us," Ambassador Mary Burce Warlick said. "We believe that the defense and security partnership between the U.S. and Serbia is very strong and that the Ohio National Guard in particular has played a critical role." During this exchange, dawn-to-dusk engagements took place with State Department officials, Ambassador Warlick, the Serbian media, military leaders and Parliament members. It was an especially poignant moment when Gen McKinley symbolically thanked the Serbian military for their support during World War I and World War II during a wreath laying ceremony in Mount Avala, Serbia at the Monument to the Unknown Hero on September 11, 2010.

'Graduate level' State Partnership Program with Hungary evident. Hungary's State Partnership Program with Ohio was initiated in 1993 as it was emerging from behind the Iron Curtain. Fast-forward 17 years later, Hungary is now a member of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and the European Union (EU) and has jointly deployed its fourth Hungary-Ohio Operational Mentor and Liaison Team (OMLT) to Afghanistan. On Sept. 15, 2010, in Tata, Hungary, Maj. Gen. Wayt pinned 28 Ohio Commendation Medals – a state award – on Hungarian Soldiers, recognizing their OMLT service in Afghanistan. "It's amazing to think how far we've come in this partnership, to a professional army here in Hungary, an Army that's well-respected in Europe and in NATO, to partner with them, and to deploy with them to a combat zone in Afghanistan," Wayt said. "This is graduate-level work."

Ohio National Guard provided funeral honors to former U.S. Attorney General and U.S. Senator William Saxbe on Sept. 5, 2010. Due to Mr. Saxbe's many years of public service, he received 19 cannon rounds fired in his honor and full military honors which included three shot volleys from rifles.

Five Ohio National Guard supporters received National Guard Association Patrick Henry Award in August. The award recognizes local officials and civic leaders who, in a position of great responsibility distinguish themselves with outstanding and exceptional service to the Armed Forces of the United States, the National Guard or NGAUS. Following his 2009 Coaches Tour visit to troops at U.S. military installations in Germany, Turkey, Iraq, Kuwait, Djibouti and Spain, head football coach at The Ohio State University, **Jim Tressel,** actively sought out avenues to support military members, especially Ohio's hometown servicemembers. He also established a staff position of director of military appreciation, and recorded public service announcements supporting recruiting in the Ohio National Guard.

Over many years, **Barb Ewing**, district representative for U.S. Rep. Tim Ryan, worked to find creative solutions to a range of issues affecting military members, maintained the focus of the Washington office on the issues and concerns of the National Guard, and contributed heavily to Ohio's efforts to develop the Camp Ravenna Joint Military Training Center into a world-class, multi-component training facility.

As the Director of Military Appreciation for the Ohio State University, **Bob Tucker** has coordinated military appreciation events honoring Ohio service members with free admission and on-field recognition during nationally televised hometown football games in front of capacity crowds of more than 100,000 people. During the 2009 OSU season, he provide opportunities for more than 500 Ohio National Guard Soldiers and Airmen to attend the OSU vs. New Mexico State football game, an unprecedented gift of free game tickets.

Jim Albright from Commercial Point Area Support Group went above and beyond the call of service in support of men and women of the 1-137th Aviation Regiment by organizing fundraising events that made a lasting impact.

Bill Allen served as a member of Ohio Employer Support of Guard and Reserve for over 22 years. Mr. Allen worked tirelessly on behalf of servicemembers and the families of Ohio while serving as state and regional Ohio ESGR director. **Maj. Gen. Frank Vavala, the Delaware adjutant general, elected chairman of the board of the National Guard Association of the United States.** Vavala is the 51st chairman of NGAUS, which was established by military officers in 1878 to petition Congress for better equipment and training. This mission continues today. Vavala said the current fiscal climate creates challenges and opportunities for NGAUS and the National Guard. "It's time for the nation to start talking about cutting the active-component military and growing the Guard," he said. "Relying on the Guard may be the only way we can truly hold the line on defense spending without cutting American military power."

The Ohio Veterans Bonus Program launched in August 2010. Ohio Veterans could be eligible for a bonus if they served on active duty with U.S. armed forces, including the Ohio National Guard, anywhere in the world during specified periods of time. The active duty service must be for purposes other than training. Applicants must have been legal residents of Ohio when they went on active duty and also must be Ohio residents when they apply for a bonus. To apply for the bonus, applicants should go to www.veteransbonus.ohio.gov and complete the online application. Qualifying applicants may receive \$100 for each month of active duty service, based on locations and timeframes. The estimated processing time for bonus applications is approximately eight weeks. Applicants with specific questions can call 1-877-OHIO-VET or go online at www.veteransbonus.ohio.gov. There are also other bonuses available to eligible veterans or families of deceased veterans. For these eligibility details and specifications, please visit: https://veteransbonus.ohio.gov./odvs_web/Eligibiliy_Requirements.aspx.

The Ohio Army National Guard Historian received decorated ceiling tiles from the Camp Grayling NCO Club in July 2010. They were discovered by members of the 73rd Brigade alumni who make an annual trip to Camp Grayling. If you would like to see them, please contact SFC Joshua Mann at (614) 336-7311 or joshua.mann@us.army.mil.

Reminders

The Guard Recruiting Assistance Program (G-RAP) is a contracted program designed for traditional guard members and retirees who voluntarily apply online to serve as Recruiting Assistants (RA). Sometimes the best National Guard recruiter is a past National Guard Soldier. By talking about your experiences and the many benefits of serving in the Ohio National Guard, you can bring new recruits into the Guard – and earn up to \$7,500. The Guard Recruiting Assistance Program (G-RAP) pays you \$2,000 for each new recruit you refer who enlists and reports to basic training, and \$2,000 for each prior service member you refer who affiliates with a unit for four months. And, you can earn up to \$7,500 for officer referrals. Get good people to serve in the Guard, and get good money at the same time. To apply online to serve as a voluntary recruiting assistant, visit https://guardrap.com, or call G-RAP at 1-866-566-2472 or www.guardrecruitingassistant.com for more details.

The Military Injury Relief Fund (MIRF) provides grants to service members injured in the line of duty, which includes Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) while serving under Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF) or Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF). The grant monies will vary based on contributions from Ohio taxpayers collected for the tax year and number of grants approved. Your County Veterans Service Office can assist you with any questions you may have. Applications for this fund may be completed at any of the 88 county offices. The application is not available online. To find the contact information for your county click on <u>http://dvs.ohio.gov/default.aspx?TabId=58</u>. For additional information, contact your County Veterans Services Office or call the Ohio Department of Veterans Services at 1-888-296-7541 (option 5) or visit their website at http://www.odjfs.state.oh.us/veterans/.

The Reserve Component Survivor Benefit Plan (RC-SBP). This the sole means for a reserve component Soldier with 20 years of qualifying reserve service for retirement to provide a portion of their retired pay to survivors if the soldier dies before non-regular Reserve Retirement. RC-SBP is paid as a monthly annuity to eligible survivors. RC-SBP elections are voided if retired from active duty. You are responsible for updating your retired pay within one year of an event if you marry, remarry, have a child, are widowed or divorced and need to make or update a Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) election. Please ensure your beneficiary understands how to submit for a Survivor Benefit Claim.

Retired-applications generally are sent out at age 58, except for Air National Guard members, who receive applications six months before age 60 from Army Human Resource Command (AHRC). Retired reservist and Guard members must apply for retired pay. Retired pay does not automatically start at age 60. Those who apply late will get pay retroactive to the day they were eligible. If you don't apply until age 66 you will be paid retroactively, but a penalty of one day's pay for each day of delay may be applied. The application must be completed, signed, dated, witnessed, and returned to the Retiree Records office. The data must be entered into our computer system at least nine months prior to your 60th birthday. For more information call the Retiree Records Services Officer, Chief Warrant Officer Rick Cosgray, at 614-336-7447.

Former Ohio Army National Guard Soldiers can obtain discharge records from the Retired Records Section located at The Adjutant General's Department of Ohio. The retired records include DD Form 214, NGB Form 22, NGB Form 23, orders, etc. All record requests must be signed by the Soldier. If the soldier is deceased, then a death certificate or obituary must be provided. Point of contact is Ms. Jeanette Coughenour at 614-336-7038 or email at retiredrecordsoh@ng.army.mil. Discharged Air National Guard Airman can call 614-336-7191.

Ohio Air National Guard Wing Events

121st Air Refueling Wing: Space Available flight information: Schedule Recording (614) 492-3143 Sign up on-line at: <u>www.takeahop.com</u> 121st ARW Website: <u>www.121arw.ang.af.mil</u>

9 Aug - 28 Oct Non Commissioned Officer Satellite Course
13-17 Sept External Environmental inspection
18 Sept Alumni Reunion
19 Sept Hometown Heroes award ceremony

19-23 Sept Vulnerability Assessment
18 and 28 Sept Blood Drives
17 Oct Ability to Survive and Operate exercise
6 Nov Military Ball
Currently deployed: 11
For additional information contact:
Major Holly Mitchell at holly.mitchell@ang.af.mil or (614) 492-4371.

178th Fighter Wing:

11 Sept Hometown Heroes Salute at VFW Post 1031
18 Sept Water Station provided for the Air Force Marathon
5 Oct Springfield Chamber of Commerce Meeting
12 Oct Miami Valley Military Affairs Association meeting at WPAFB
30 Nov Last local flying date for the Dutch
Currently deployed: 24
For additional information contact:
Major Laura Powers at laura.powers@ang.af.mil or 937-525-2557.

179th Air Lift Wing:

14 Aug Historic Commemorative Event and First C-27 Ceremony
24 Aug Last C-130 departed Mansfield
17-24 Oct Operational Readiness Inspection
13 Nov 10 Wing Annual Awards Banquet
Currently deployed: 8
For additional information contact:
LtCol Robert Dunlap at robert.dunlap@ang.af.mil or (419) 520-6305.

180th Fighter Wing:

3 Oct Hometown Heroes/ORI celebration
6 Oct NW Ohio Honor Flight
14 Oct Waterville Chamber of Commerce Meeting
21 Toledo City Council Tour
21 Oct ESGR Quarterly Meeting
Currently deployed: 9
For additional information contact:
Major Gary Bentley at gary.bentley@ang.af.mil or (419)868-4380.

Recent News Releases

Education center to enhance Vietnam Veterans Memorial

by Donna Miles American Forces Press Service

9/27/2010 - **WASHINGTON (AFNS)** -- A major fundraising effort is under way to build an underground education center next to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial that will place faces and stories with the names etched in the smooth, black granite known simply as, "The Wall."

"There is magic in that wall with its 58,000 names," said retired Army Gen. Colin Powell, honorary chairman for the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund's education center campaign. "We want to make sure those names never become anonymous to future generations."

As it keeps their memories alive, General Powell said the center also will "pay tribute to all generations of GIs who answer the call to serve."

The education center, as envisioned by Jan Scruggs, founder and president of the memorial fund, will provide interactive exhibits and primary source materials to help visitors better understand the profound impact of the Vietnam War on service members' families, their communities and hometowns and the nation. Planned exhibits include a "Wall of Faces," to feature photos of those lost in Vietnam and a gallery of the more than 100,000 items left in tribute at the memorial's wall since 1982.

Retired Army Gen. Barry A. McCaffrey, VVMF's advisory board chairman, said the center will ensure that the memory of those who made the ultimate sacrifice in Vietnam lives on.

"This moving underground facility will pay tribute to our veterans and will educate the public about these honorable men and women who gave their lives for their country," he said.

Mr. Scruggs expressed hope that the center will help visitors understand the importance of the Vietnam Memorial Wall and the role it continues to play in healing the physical, emotional and societal wounds left by the war.

Construction of the center will cost \$85 million, all to be raised through private donations. So far, nearly \$25 million in pledges has been raised, with donations from corporations, organizations, veterans groups and individuals. Major donors include: Time-Warner Inc.; the Heisley Family Foundation; Veterans of Foreign Wars; Peter M. and Julianna Hawn Holt; Lockheed Martin Corp.; Boeing Company; FedEx Corp.; and the Tawani Foundation.

Peter Holt, owner of the San Antonio Spurs National Basketball Association team, promised his fellow Texans to match up to \$1 million in their donations.

"Raise a million and I'll match it," he challenged.

History Channel officials recently announced a \$10,000 contribution to the campaign as they also help the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund get teaching materials about the Vietnam War into America's classrooms. They are helping VVMF officials distribute "Hometown Heroes," an educational guide designed to help teachers and students identify Vietnam veterans and family members within their communities.

"Education is at the core of VVMF's mission," Mr. Scruggs said. "Everything we do, from teacher training to building an education center on the National Mall, is geared toward fostering a deeper knowledge of the Vietnam War and those who served."

Mr. Scruggs expressed his appreciation for the generous monetary support received so far, adding he's confident that it will continue until reaching the \$85 million mark.

"As people begin to learn about the education center, we know they will find ways to help us build it," he said. "It's an opportunity to tell the stories behind every name on 'The Wall,' and to honor all of those who have served and those who will serve this great country in the future."

Changes of Command, Change of Responsibility and other Personnel Changes

Effective October 1, 2010, COL John Harris is the Army National Guard Chief of Staff, LTC Buck Bramlish is J1 and LTC Julie Blike is the Director of Family Programs.

1 Battalion 134 Field Artillery Regiment, CPT Jeff Christy will assume command from CPT Jerry Mourn on October 16, 2010 at 1600, 920 West Lafayette Rod Medina Ohio.

216th Engineer Battalion, 811th EN CO, SFC John Botts will assume responsibility as the incoming First Sergeant from outgoing First Sergeant 1SG Abraham Johnson on November 6, 2010, 11495 Chillicothe-Lancaster Rd, Amanda, Ohio.

216th Engineer Battalion, 1LT Sephan Frazier will assume command from CPT Daniel Eakins on November 7, 2010 at 0900, 10050 Woodlawn Blvd, Cincinnati Ohio.

Call to Duty Ceremonies

1-174 ADA (RADAR) – 19 Nov 10

The following units recently deployed: 1-174 (C-RAM) – 15 Sept 10 292 EN Det – 21 Sept 10

Welcome Home Ceremonies

200th Red Horse Squadron – 12 Oct 10

OMLT 1.5 – 21 Dec 10 (tentative)

The following units were also welcomed home: 174 ADA Task Force Phoenix – 3 Sept 10

For call to duty and welcome home ceremony event information, please visit the Community Outreach Events calendar at: http://ong.ohio.gov/outreach/outreach_index.html

Other Upcoming Events

Rickenbacker Automobile Car Show is October 1-3, at Motts Military Museum in Groveport. For additional information, contact Warren Motts at <u>info@mottsmilitarymuseum.org</u>

2010 Northeast Regional Air National Guard Bowling Tournament is October 9-10, at Columbus Square Bowling Palace, 5707 Forest Hills Boulevard, Columbus, Ohio, 43231. For additional information, please contact TSgt (Ret) Keith "Skeeter" Coe at 614-693-7771 or <u>keith.coe@dfas.mil</u>.

Central Ohio Stand Down for homeless Veteran men and women is on October 19, 2010, from 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Veterans Memorial, 300 West Broad Street, Columbus Ohio. For additional information, please contact Outreach Chair Dan Willis at 614-855-8328 or www.centralohiostanddown.org.

Armed Services Blood Drive is October 22, 2010, at Beightler Armory from 0930-1300 hrs. Appointments can be made online at https://www.militarydonor.com/index.cfm.

2010 Fort Knox Retiree Appreciation Days on 29-30 October at The Leaders Club. Activities include flu shots for retirees, spouses, and surviving Family members with military ID only, ID cards and DEERS (one-stop), vehicle registration, veterans services, raffles, give-aways, PX and commissary sales, post agencies and local organizations. Banquet is at 1830 Friday Oct 29, 2010, cost is \$20 per meal. Reservations must be received NLT 15 Oct 2010 to ATTN Retirement Services Bldg 1379, Rm 2, 26 Pershing Drive, Fort Knox, KY 40121-4215. For additional information, please call (502) 624-7236 or 1765.

The first Annual Ohio State Football Steak Fry/OSU Tailgate Party and Organizational General Meeting of the Northwest Ohio Chapter of the AUSA is 16 October, Findlay, Ohio, 423 Trenton Ave, Cost is \$15 per person, \$25 per couple; please sign up by 12 Oct at www.centralohioausa.com. For additional information, please contact LTC (Ret) Terry VanSky at tvansky@act-i.com.

Save the Date - Retirement Dinner for Maj. Gen. Harry "A.J." W. Feucht, Jr., assistant adjutant general for Air, Saturday, October 30, 2010, National Museum of the United States Air Force, Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio. More details to follow.

Lake Erie Monsters Salute to the Military is on Friday, November 12, 2010 at 7:30 pm at Quicken Loans Arena in Cleveland, Ohio. Tickets for Veterans are \$22 or \$16 per person. For additional information, contact Jessica Naderer at 216-420-2402 or <u>inaderer@lakeerimonsters.com</u>

The 4th annual 112th Transportation Battalion Veteran's Day Ball will be held on November 13, 2010 at 5:30 p.m. at the Embassy Suites, Dublin, 5100 Upper Metro Place Dublin. The event will include a social hour, photos, dinner, guest speaker, awards and dancing. Meals range from \$28 to \$46 per person depending on meal choice and rank. Point of contact is 2Lt Ryan Swensen, 614-336-7043 or <u>richard.swensen@us.army.mil</u>. RSPV no later than October 24, 2010.

The 2011 Ohio National Guard Ski Trip will be February 13, 2011 at Holiday Valley Resort in Ellicottville, New York. Reservations are first come, first serve; rates start at \$190 and include lift tickets but not rental equipment. To learn more about Holiday Valley, visit http://www.holidayvalley.com. Trip point of contact is Major Laura Powers, at 937-525-2557 or laura.powers@ang.af.mil.

With sorrow, we announce the passing of the following members of the ONG family:

Elva Aukland, Sept 24, 2010, mother of Duncan Aukland, Joint Staff Judge Advocate.

Carol Lewis, Sept 8, 2010, stepmother of SFC Doug O. Lewis, 1487th Trans Co, Det. 1.

Mark Andrews, Sept 1, 2010, father of PV2 Bryan Andrews, 637th Chemical Company.

William Lang, Aug 30, 2010, father of SFC Randall Lang, 145th RTI and employee at CSMS.

Richard E. Bloomfield, Aug 23, 2010, father of SSG James Bloomfield, HQ 174th ADA.

Lamonte Jones Jr., Aug 22, 2010, brother of SFC Terell Jones, 945th Engineer Company.

SFC (Ret) Glenn Roop, Aug 22, 2010, former Medical Platoon Sergeant of the 3rd Squadron 107th Armored Cavalry

Barbara J. Herrington, Aug 21, 2010, mother of LTC Barbara Herrington-Clemens, CPJTC; motherin-law to SMSgt Ken Clemens, 200th Red Horse; grandmother to SPC Rich Clemens, JFHQs.

CW4 (Ret) Earl "Pete" Carle, Aug 11, 2010.

Websites of Interest:

http://www.tricare.mil TRICARE

To receive TRICARE benefit updates via e-mail, go to www.tricare.mil/subscriptions

http://www.defense.gov/ Defense Link

http://ohmr.ohio.gov/ Ohio Military Reserve

http://navalmilitia.ohio.gov/ Ohio Naval Militia



Ohio National Guard news and information is now available for viewing on social media. As the electronic media has grown, so has our ability to get the information out to you through different websites. Following is a breakdown of the content available not only to alumni and current military members, but to anyone who has access to the Internet.

FaceBook

http://www.facebook.com/TheOhioNationalGuard

Become a fan of the Ohio National Guard FaceBook page by clicking 'Like', and you'll receive timely notifications anytime a new photo, video or announcement is posted.

Flickr

http://www.flickr.com/photos/ohionationalguard

Pictures of our Ohio soldiers and airmen from local exercises to worldwide operations can be viewed on Flickr.

Twitter

http://twitter.com/ohnationalguard

You can follow important announcements and information from the Ohio National Guard on Twitter and be notified anytime pictures are posted to Flickr and YouTube.

YouTube

http://www.youtube.com/OhioNationalGuard

Become a subscriber of YouTube for free and you'll be notified every time a new Ohio National Guard video gets posted.