Commentary

Blizzard '78 - 'You Done Good'

Hopefully when you read this, snow will be a thing of the past, miners will be back at work, the flood threat will have disappeared and we can get back to our primary mission of training.

However, before we forget the winter of 78, I want to express my thanks and appreciation to all of you who worked under miserable conditions to help your fellow citizens. With the total state affected, it was necessary to decentralize our operations. When commanders could not reach the armory, NCO's and junior officers took over and ran the show. You were all great! Sure, we had a few fumbles and sometimes we forgot to coordinate with all the local officials the way we had planned, but generally, your actions earned only high praise. (See letters elsewhere in this issue).

As an old sergeant I know would have said—"You Done Good!"

Now let's get with our training, recruiting and retention. With our free tuition bill we have the best education incentive package in the country and there are top quality high school graduates who will want to join the Guard. We just have to make sure they all hear about the advantages of Guard membership. Talk it up, be proud, and retain the favorable public image you have earned this past winter.

Work hard, play hard, shape up, and sharpen up so those Active duty will have to strain to keep up with you during annual training.

Governor Rhodes, Legislators Laud Guard Efforts

Hundreds of letters have been received praising the efforts of the Ohio National Guard during the infamous Winter Blizzard of '78.

Ohio Governor James A. Rhodes; The Honorable Oliver Ocasek, President Pro Tem of the Ohio Senate; and The Honorable Vern Riffe, Speaker of the Ohio House of Representatives, also took time to commend Guard men and women for their outstanding service to the state during this critical period.

Guardman emphasized, "Through your dedication and service, lives were saved and the suffering of our citizens was minimized." Mr. Ocasek expressed his appreciation on behalf of the Ohio Senate. He said, "As one who became stranded himself, I feel a special kinship to the hundreds of Ohioans assisted by the Guard."

Mr. Riffe asserted, "The words of the Ohio House of Representatives used in the resolution were 'courageous', 'praiseworthy', and 'committed.' These were fitting words that described the outstanding performance of the Ohio National Guard during the Blizzard of '78."

Special letters were also received from State Senators William Mussey and William Bowen; State Representative Harry C. Malott; and U.S. Congressman Doug Applegate. Unfortunately, we were unable to reprint these letters due to space limitations in this issue.

A Hearty Salute

From the AG

Guardmembers, Unit PAO's Commended

The Adjutant General has already commented on and complimented your actions in the recent snow emergency. He has also pointed out the need to get back to recruiting, retention and effective training. I enthusiastically echo the same sentiments.

There is one point which I would like to bring to your attention. Make sure that you all profit from our experiences. It is most important that the lessons learned be retained for future use, particularly in training for aid to civil authority. The Ohio National Guard has once again proven its ability to cope with emergencies and do it well.

Many times we go into situations that are in a way unprecedented. Thus, we are constantly training and rehearsing for the unknown. We have to be ready for whatever happens and the Ohio National Guard is well prepared.

The one thing that surfaces above and beyond everything else is the need for the chain of command. No organization can function effectively without it.

One item needs to be mentioned and that is the tremendous job that was done by our public relations people in the field. The coverage these unsung individuals gave the Ohio National Guard throughout the state was probably the best example I've ever seen of what people can do when they are interested in what they are doing and want to do it.

Please accept my congratulations added to those of the Adjutant General.

A Hearty Salute

Governor Rhodes, Legislators Laud Guard Efforts

Hundre...
Dear General Abraham,

Please accept my heartfelt appreciation for the efforts of your National Guard for their efforts during the Blizzard of '78 and the efforts of the Adjutant General and Guard units across the state. Unfortunately, we don't have space to publish all of the letters received. The following excerpts will provide some indication of their love and support for their National Guard. The Ohio National Guard provided timely and effective assistance to those who needed it. In fact, they were so helpful that they were able to express their personal gratitude for their assistance.

Sincerely,
CLARE BEIGHTLER

To the Editor:

Several unit members found David Cronin's article (Sogyg Battlefield Greets 1,500 Guardsmen, Reserve) in the December 1977 issue quite interesting.

However, we were somewhat disappointed to see no mention of the 200th Medical Company in the listing of the Ohio ANG "contingent." While our 127th Medical Brigade Headquarters was indeed represented, the 200th provided the medical care for Guardsmen during the conduct of Liberty Bell '77. Transporting patients was not easy in the pens reverberating with the sounds of a variety of vehicles. Two Guardsmen were not identified. Our enthusiastic shovel-using picture was SPA Larry Jones and, in the rear, was SGT (then SP4) Harold Cruse, both from the 200th.

GEORGE W. BLAND
CPT, MSC, Ohio ANG Exec. Officer/Unit PIO

(Continued on Page 16)

The Buckeye Guard

200th Left Out

EDITOR'S NOTE: The following letters were written by some of the sixth grade students of Grand Rapids Intermediate School, Grand Rapids, Ohio. They were given to LTC James Latronia, CAA for the 44th Eng. Cpl. in Walbridge, OH. Colonel Latronia forwarded the letters to the State Time-Lic. Affairs Office. Our personal thanks go to their teachers, Mr. Jerry Bost, for taking the time to send the letters to the Ohio Guard.

Dear National Guard,

Thank you for saving stranded people in their cars and on the streets.

Andrea Curry

Dear Sirs,

We would like to thank you for saving stranded people in their cars and on the streets. It was very cold and wet. You kept us warm and fed us and we were very grateful.

Your friend,
Scott Fouts

Dear Sirs,

Thank you for saving stranded people in their cars and on the streets. It was very cold and wet. You kept us warm and fed us and we were very grateful.

Your friend,
Willy Graf

Dear National Guard Members,

I would like to thank you for all the help you gave to people like me and all other people who were stranded. You were our savior and we are very grateful.

Your friend,
Jennifer Long

The Buckeye Guard

EDITOR'S NOTE: Hundreds of letters thanking both Governor Rhodes and the Ohio National Guard for their efforts during the Blizzard of '78 have been received and forwarded to the Ohio National Guard and Guard units across the state. Unfortunately, we don't have space to publish all of the letters received. The following excerpts will provide some indication of their love and support for their National Guard. The Ohio National Guard provided timely and effective assistance to those who needed it.

Sincerely,
John S. Evans

To the Editor:

We are very grateful for your help in Ohio and especially in Springfield.

Sincerely,
Evelyn Elms

The Buckeye Guard

The Ohio RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES observed the 10th anniversary of the first use of the help of the helicopter furnished to us it would have been several days later before we were able to return service to many thousands of rural electric consumers in Ohio. We would like to commend the pilots and other personnel who worked long and hard helping us with this effort.

TOLEDO EIDSON COMPANY said in a letter to Governor Rhodes. "The Ohio National Guard provides us with 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, full time service that helps us keep our businesses operating.

A letter from MRS. H. HARRIS, Waco.

TEXAS emphasized. "I should like to thank you for the fine job you are doing in aiding snow victims in Ohio. To me Guardsmen are all "unsung heroes' and they are always called to do more than their share.

BOB GRAHAM, News Director for WHIT and WNWO radio in NEARWORTH not only sent a personal thank-you letter to the Ohio National Guard but also sent the guardsmen who were involved with saving stranded people to a radio station to do a live broadcast to the public.

Nelson A. CASE, Vice-President, Mid-Continent Television Service, HUDSON had praise for Mrs. J. ROBERT ORR. "Through Col. Orr the Ohio Guard provided emergency helicopter support to transport our technical personnel to the sites of an explosion. The response of all persons associated with the Ohio National Guard has been gratifying.

A letter from Mayberry ANSIGRA of Lakewood commended the performance of the Ohio National Guard and the Ohio Army National Guard during the Blizzard.

The Ohio National Guard was able to provide assistance to thousands of stranded people.

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BUCKEYE GUARD Magazine has come a long way since the beginning of its present format in 1976. Since that time both readers' interest and unit submissions have increased at a dramatic and gratifying rate. In fact, this fantastic interest in our statewide magazine resulted in the addition of eight more pages beginning with the Feb. 78 issue.

We've sincerely tried to make BUCKEYE GUARD your magazine in every way possible. At the same time we've redesigned the interior pages; increased our use of "people" features and photos; added new regular features such as "Service Benefits Give You the Edge," "CSM Comments," Buckeye Bits, All About People, Recruiting Round-up, The Other Half; and, making their debut in this issue, columns providing updates on both the Ohio National Guard Office andtional Guard Associations.

We've also increased our coverage of wives' activities because we sincerely feel that a Guard wife is as much a part of the team as her husband.

Our back cover on each issue is even designed with recruiting and retention in mind.

If you've submitted an article to BUCKEYE GUARD and it hasn't appeared for some time please be patient. Your article or photo is automatically considered for the next issue. If you want to keep us from seeing it, be sure to let us know.

This year BUCKEYE GUARD Magazine has won two national awards and a Minaret Award from Fifth Army (story elsewhere in this issue). According to the judges, your magazine is the top National Guard publication in the nation.

We're extremely proud of these achievements; without your interest and assistance they certainly would not have been possible. We pledge to you, our readers, to continue to improve our magazine. Awards are super; but serving you is our main concern.

Bob McNeil

Buckeye Bits

Deadline for the June issue is April 28

The Buckeye Guard

Mariah Furlong

EDITOR'S NOTE: By the time you read this the Blizzard of '78 will be history. There are thousands of stories to be told about the valiant efforts of the Ohio National Guard; Active Army; Active Reserves; County Sheriff's; Disaster Service Agencies; city county; and state personnel and the countless Ohioans who volunteered their services during this crisis. The infamous blizzard took its toll. Nearly 30 Ohioans lost their lives as a direct result of the most devastating storm in the state's history. The blizzard brought our state to its knees. It also brought the state, together. Under the firm leadership of our Governor we survived the holocaust. This issue of BUCKEYE GUARD Magazine is dedicated to all of those who contributed to the largest disaster operation ever mounted by the Ohio National Guard.

BY SFC BOR DEVE

Ohio National Guard, Army Reserve and Active Army troops combined forces in January to battle a devastating winter blizzard that virtually paralyzed Ohio. During the peak near 300 Ohio Army and Air Guardsmen, 300 Army Reservists, over 300 personnel from the 27th Engineer Battalion, Ft. Bragg, N.C.; 55 Members of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Huntington District; representatives from the Federal Disaster Assistance Administration; and the State and County Disaster Services Agency teamed to battle the snow and provide emergency assistance to countless Ohioans.

A Special Report

Ohio Governor James A. Rhodes initially mobilized the National Guard to rescue stranded motorists and assist local authorities in emergency operations; but early during the first day of the blizzard it was realized that the blizzard was devastating in scope and had paralyzed the state, resulting in numerous power outages. Over 175,000 Ohioans were without heat or electricity in their homes for a two day period.

The Governor then gave the order to open every National Guard Armory in the state as a haven for stranded motorists and other refugees from the storm. The first night alone over 1,300 people were housed in Guard armories across Ohio. Hundreds of citizens throughout the state called the National Guard to offer assistance and the Red Cross provided food and emergency medical care to those housed in the armories.

FOUR WHEELERS

Citizens with four wheel drive vehicles aided the state highway patrol and local authorities in rescue efforts and delivery of emergency food supplies to those who were stranded. The Ohio Army and Air National Guard pressed into service nearly 600 of its vehicles and 45 helicopters to evacuate people stranded in their homes who were without heat, electric or food. It's estimated that over 10,000 Ohioans were rescued during this period. Helicopters alone completed over 800 missions.

Ohio National Guard helicopter operations were supplemented by active Army pilots and their crews of Fort Campbell, Ky., and choppers from the 83d U.S. Army Reserve Command headquartered in Columbus.

Mr. Campbell provided 10 helicopters, and their crews, to assist the Ohio Guard (Continued on Page 8)
federal troops and equipment from the 27th Engineer Bn, 18th Airborne Corps, Fort Bragg, to northwestern Ohio to as sist local authorities in emergency snow operations. 

The Ft. Bragg contingent of over 300 troops and over 60 pieces of equipment was airlifted into the Toledo Express Airport, home of the Ohio Air Guard's 181st Tactical Fighter Group. These federal troops remained on the scene until the danger to public health and safety was eliminated.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers was charged with identifying the primary areas across the state and hiring private contractors to open snow-clogged arteries. The Corps estimated over 8,000 miles of roads had been cleared at a cost of over four million dollars.

According to FDAA officials, federal actions during this crisis have been aimed at supplementing the more extensive efforts of state and local authorities and providing whatever emergency assistance was needed to save lives and protect property and the public health and safety.

**FEDERAL HELP**

President Carter's emergency declaration for the state made available three other sources of federal help for Ohio:

For the first time, the FDAA instituted a system of reimbursement to local government in-kind assistance, with clearance costs incurred through the awarding of private contracts for a 5-day period.

Farmers without other lines of credit became eligible for long term low-interest loans to help alleviate blizzard-caused livestock and production losses.

And taxpayers became eligible to write off storm-caused damage not otherwise covered by insurance on their 1977 federal tax returns.

**COUNTLESS STORIES**

There are countless stories to be told about the blizzard of 1977. Two people, Dublin, Ohio, firemen took from a cold trailer to the Beigler Armory were Darrell Alfredy and his nine-months-pregnant wife, Chris.

The Alfredys helped out in the state disaster operations center while they were at the armory, running errands and helping on telephones. And they slept with other storm refugees in a dormitory-like area where everyone's belongings could easily have been stolen.

When Alfredy prepared to leave he checked his wallet. There was $5.00, "I don't know how it got there and I still can't believe it. Why would anybody be so nice to us!"

Perhaps the most amazing story involved a Cleveland truck driver who was found alive in the cab of his truck after 5 1/2 days buried beneath a mammoth 20 foot snow drift. Members of the Ohio Air Guard's 179th Tactical Air Lift Group, Mansfield, rescued trucker James Truly who miraculously survived the ordeal by eating snow and punching an airhole through the snow with a piece of lead pipe. (See story and photo on Page 10).

The operation in Ohio was the most extensive Guard disaster operation in the history of the Guard.

The Ohio National Guard, active Army, Reserves, local law enforcement officials, State Disaster Services Agency and Governor Rhodes have received thousands of plaudits for their efforts during this crisis — the worst winter blizzard in Ohio.

The blizzard of '78 will long be remembered by both Ohioans and those who rushed to their aid.
Miracle on Route 13!

BY TSGT, ZANE ZIMMERMANN

It had been five days since Ohio’s disastrous blizzard struck. Air National Guard crews had been working around the clock, assisting stranded victims of this most vicious of all recorded Ohio winter storms.

Just north of Mansfield Lahm Airport there lay a 300-yard stretch of Route 13 completely covered with a monstrous 20-foot drift. Air Guard personnel from the 179th Tactical Airlift Group located at Mansfield Airport were working feverishly to open a path to abandoned vehicles lying within the crypt of snow.

As they walked atop the mountain of snow, they heard a sound. Faint as it was, it was quickly recognized as a signal beneath them. Immediately they began digging with their shovels and heavy equipment. Suddenly a CB antenna appeared and their efforts grew even more furious. The Air Guard’s huge front end loader was brought into action and after an hour’s labor enough of the white covering was removed so that they could scrape the snow from the window of the vehicle and look inside.

They saw a bearded face, feebie, but muttering a slight smile.

Tsgt. Ronald McClain was the first to greet James Truly and offer him a smoke through the open window of the buried semitractor.

Buried Alive!

TRUCKER JAMES TRULY survived five days buried in his semitruck under tons of snow. Air Guardsmen from the 179th Tactical Airlift Group in Mansfield were credited with his rescue. (PHOTO BY ZANE ZIMMERMANN)

The truck driver had been trapped under 20 feet of snow for 5 1/2 days. He had sustained himself by throwing a pipe out of a window and up through the snow to get life-saving oxygen and by melting snow for drinking with body heat. James Truly had truly survived a miracle on Route 13.

Air Guard’s 200th CES Serves 11

BY SGT. ALATA HOOVER

The Ohio Air Guard’s 200th Civil Engineering Squadron (HQR), Camp Perry, was activated to fight the February blizzard in one week. The first activation came on the morning of January 18. Twelve guardmen were first sent to Erie and Sandusky counties to open up vital roads in those counties. Tuned the night of January 19, they were sent to Bellefonte and Brown counties for the second activation. A total of 22 Officers and 21 enlisted men completed this assignment and were returned home on January 22.

Later that same month Ohio was hit with the worst blizzard in memory. Winds were clocked at 112 miles per hour in some areas. Many motorists were stranded and thousands of homes and businesses were left without heat and light. The 20th was once again activated.

The men, hampered by the raging storm and the distance between their homes and the base, pitched in and did what they could wherever they were during the first day.

SSGT Games and SSGT Sauer arrived at the base by snowmobile. For a while these two and the Commanding Officer, LTC Philip A. Williams, were the only ones available to make rescues and open up streets and roads. They were later joined by SSGT Baus. Their efforts included saving the lives of five stranded motorists.

In Fremont, unit members woke up to the noise of the raging storm. Two unit members, Tsgt Hoover and Ssgt Sauer hurriedly prepared to go to Camp Perry.

In their car, they got about one mile north of the city limits and had to delay their attempt and take a stranded motorist back to Fremont. Later they and two other unit members, Capt Phillips and Ssgt Lance, tried again in a 2 1/2 ton truck. Due to the zero visibility and massive drifts, they had to once again cancel their mission and return to Fremont. For the rest of the day, early on the 27th, Tsgt Hoover and Ssgt Sauer ran evacuation missions.

Through the efforts of these four, 31 lives were saved and 36 persons were evacuated to shelters.

By late on the 27th, enough personnel were able to reach Camp Perry to organize crews and begin clearing roads.

Three unit members were airlifted from Toledo via helicopter. Crews from the 200th worked continuously clearing roads in Ottawa and Sandusky counties.

They are also credited with clearing the Ohio Turnpike from exit 5 to exit 6 in both directions.

During the height of the activation, there were three officers and 16 enlisted personnel keeping very busy.

Air ‘Cooperation Was the Spirit’

216th Chews Through Snow’ Blockade

BY SFC STAN FLAUGH

Snow is a beautiful thing until it becomes a dangerous adversary. The 216th Engineer Battalion Headquarters Company found out quickly the strength and fury of the raging snowstorm when it was turned into an arctic wasteland by almost two feet of snow, that covered everything with a blanket of silence. Scioto County was all but paralyzed by the ice covered floor of winter. Nothing was moving. It was then that the authorities called for the National Guard’s help on January 18.

As temperatures dropped lower and lower, the wind piled up huge drifts. It was then the call went out for all Guardsmen to report for state active duty. On the first call only a few equipment operators were called.

It became apparent that more operators were needed as well as administrative, mechanical, cooks and communications personnel to support the men running the heavy equipment.

In short time the entire Headquarters Company of the 216th was busy at work. The men and women of the Guard had a tough time reporting to the Armory, as the snow was already deep, and more was coming its way.

The families of the Guardsmen and women were anxious about fuel, electric and food. No one knew how long the Guardsmen of the family would be away, so hasty preparations were made for their own families, and very soon all the members of the unit were on their way.

COOPERATION GREAT

Working directly with various officials was quite an experience for some of the Guardsmen. Cooperation and understanding was the order of the day for the entire winter months.

The Guard assisted the road crews in areas where the help was needed the most. Many of the road and equipment worked all over the county, and in Pomeroy.

We Guardsmen found even more respect and downwind admiration for state, city, county, and township road crews in Portsmouth, Ironton, Pomeroy and the counties of these areas, as well as the state highway crews. These people are the real heroes when it comes to keeping the roads clear and passable. It was an eye-opening experience for Guardsmen, people, who were never received and welcomed by these civilian crews.

The Buckeye Guard

PEOPLE HELPING PEOPLE

The emergency cut across social, business and political barriers. We all realized we were all just people helping people.

All the petty items were put aside and the entire area pitched in and dug out. A solid coat of white, two feet deep, became a ribbon of black highway as all the crews chewed, clawed, and bulldozed their way through the fluffy blockade.

EMERGENCY RUNS

Cleaning roads was not the only function for the National Guard. Emergency runs were made to move sick and injured to medical help. The Guard worked hand in hand with the local Community Action Organization to provide transportation for emergency fuel and food to persons selected by the Community Action officials.

SALUTE TO 372nd

The Headquarters Company of the 216th owes a debt of gratitude to the 15 men of the 372nd Engineer Battalion. These men from Kettering, Middletown, and Lebanon, brought with them two front-end loaders and their support equipment.

Local businessmen found common ground to stand upon. Two gentlemen of opposing views were seen to shake hands in agreement, proving once again that Americans are unique.
The snow began to fall on Jan. 26 in Northwestern Ohio with winds up to 60 miles per hour. The blizzard and strong winds combined to paralyze this portion of the state.

The Ohio National Guard responded to the pleas for assistance from their communities. Men and women of the 612th Engineer Battalion proved their devotion to duty and sincere concern for their fellow man time and time again.

SP William Waters, who walked over five miles to the Walbridge Armory to lend a hand in the crisis, received windburn and some frostbite to his face, but remained on duty for three days before he was ordered to go home.

SCG Donald Mominee of Alpha Company managed to get to the armory the first day and because of lack of manpower at the time he operated a bulldozer for about 48 straight hours. As a result he received both a severe cold and a stress throat.

SP Edward Lardee, also of Alpha Company, has been hospitalized with double pneumonia as a result of the many hours he monthly spent in sub-zero temperatures aiding blizzard victims.

DEDICATION

Such dedication was the norm during this winter emergency. Guardmembers assisted stranded residents and motorists with no regard for their own well-being.

Nearly 250 Guardsmen and women from both Headquarters and Alpha Company, 612th Engineers, used over 100 pieces of heavy equipment to dig out Company, 612th Engineers, used over 100 pieces of heavy equipment to dig out the Walbridge Armory. Armory personnel lend people mountainous snow drifts to reach the supplies; providing shelter for refugees 250 Guardsmen and women to the Walbridge Armory to lend a hand in the crisis.

MEMBERS OF FORT BRAGG’S 27th Combat Engineer Battalion were airlifted to Toledo to aid Ohio Guardsmen in the big battle against the Blizzard of ’78. The Walbridge Armory served as both their base of operations and temporary mess hall and barracks. (PHOTO BY SSgt ROBERT ANDERSON)

With the armory in sight we are stopped to aid stranded residents and motorists with no regard for their own well-being. Of course, they were the first 24 hours such perennial stalwarts as the Buckeye Guard respond to activities at the Guard. We are not surprised to see the familiar crackle of our radio as we step out of the cab of a duece-and-a-half or with a four-wheeler. Sometimes it was hard to find the main highway!

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The Buckeye Guard

BY CPT. CHESTER LEWIS

None of us knew, as we lay down to sleep that frigid Wednesday night, last January 26th, that soon we would be involved in the largest most demanding State of Ohio effort that any of us have ever been a part of in our lifetimes. As the winds gathered that night to 70 miles per hour many of us lay nervously in bed or jumped up time and again to peer out the windows at the blinding, blowing, drifting snow.

In the early morning hours before daylight, we all knew it was just a matter of time before the call to duty would come. When daylight came, most of us had already spoken quietly to our wives about the need to go and had methodically packed our overnight bags and winter gear.

When finally the call came we remembered the frustration of not being able to get our own cars out of the driveway and then thinking—if only I could get to the main highway! In desperation we call the armory for a ride and some long hours later creep toward the armory in the cab of a duece-and-a-half with a civilian volunteer in his “four-wheeler.” With the armory in sight we are stopped clear in our tracks by a car turned sideways in the road. The car in the road, and one of the Guardsmen, had drifted over with snow. We are a long way from help. The night was cold, the wind was howling, and snow, hard-packed by the wind, completely filling our headlights. All the way back to the armory we struggle with the discovery we take an alternate route, finishing up with a snowdrift in the main highway! On getting our car stuck at the bottom of our driveway, the Buckeye Guard was giv en the primary mission of clearing the roads while water trucks were used to haul drinking water to villages whose water supply froze. In conjunction, heating fuel was distributed throughout Montgomery County to 1,200 gal. fuel tanker working under the direction of a Red Cross Liaison team.

Huckels Assumes Command of Unit

Major Lawrence R. Huckels of Swanton was recently appointed Commandant of the Support Squadron, Major Huckels will be responsible for all support activities at the Guard Unit.

BYSG ROBERT ANDERSON

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The Buckeye Guard
OHIO NATIONAL GUARD helicopters were in the air around the clock during the winter crisis. Pilots averaged nearly 20 missions per day.

(Continued from Page 13) which reminded us of something you might see in a James Bond movie. It went from the snowmobile’s CB to the Sheriff’s, from the Sheriff in the next room to us, from us through the telephone to the airfield, and from the airfield by radio to the helicopter. We remember saying, “turn north, you’re a half mile too far south. It’s a white farmhouse with a red snowmobile and two flares burning in the front yard.” Within ten minutes the helicopter was setting in the front yard. By nightfall, an operations center and billeting were set up at the Shelby County Garage. The County Engineer, Steve Hubbell led the local Civil Defense Agency in rescue missions and the County Engineer and rescue missions in Paulding County—just 40 miles from the Ohio-Michigan state line. Within two hours our first team was on the road to Paulding.

Operations were shut down in Shelby County with most of the battalion headed to help in the north towards Monroe, 30 miles west of the original state task force, for mop-up operations in Paulding. It was at this time that we realized that we had almost cleared the western half of the state—from the Ohio River at Cincinnati to Monroe and Lake Erie. For this reason we named the state active duty "Operation Clean Sweep".

In an attempt to summarize what we have just been through let us say that we had mobilized quickly, we had operated independently in a swiftly moving situation, and we quickly consolidated operations at the point where help was desperately needed, and we leap-frogged past areas that we had almost cleared.

Mercy Mission...

Ohio Magazine Named Nation’s Best

18 MINARET AWARDS

CPT. Dennis Jankowski, State Recruiting and Retention Manager/Public Affairs Officer, and SFC Bob DeVoe, Assistant State Information Officer traveled to the 5th Army Public Affairs Conference in San Antonio, Texas recently, where they gave a presentation on Ohio’s unique RRAP program. The two also accepted 18 Minaret Awards on behalf of Ohio National Guard Public Affairs personnel.

(Continued on Page 16)
**Ohio Magazine Nation's Best**

(Continued from Page 15)

Those receiving Miner Awards included: BUCKEYE GUARD Magazine for overall excellence: CPT. Steven Stone, '76th Public Affairs Detachment, for three separate feature articles and photos and the cover photo on the Apr. 77 issue of BUCKEYE GUARD; MAJ. "Telly" Balnes of the Air Guard's 17th I.T.H., Springfield, for story and photos on the Winter of '77 in the April issue of BUCKEYE GUARD; SP4 Scott Sherry, '69th P.A.D., for his feature "Then and Now-Central Ohio" on Feb. '77 issue; SFC Bob DeVoe, special achievement for the production of the "VA-HA Home Loan Packet"; CPT. Thomas Chupka and Sgt. Stephen Kurz, '69th P.A.D., for production of the "Winter of '77" issue of the Guardsperson. The Buckeye Guard for an average of almost four years. However, the bulk of our new members are coming from the full time recruiters and they can't possibly handle the workload by themselves. Units must have unit recruiters who are willing and more important, their friends. The full time recruiting force at the main recruiting station has the mission to train and develop the unit recruiters into first class salespersons.

Any organization or unit which needs help in establishing a unit recruiting program (not just a short term blitz effort) can simply call the State Recruiting Office toll-free 1-800-282-7130, and we'll get some professionals in to help you get the ball rolling.

**R/R Literature**

Any unit which needs recruiting literature, including information on our tuition assistance program, can contact their main recruiting station. The volume of requests are heavy and we're trying to stay ahead of the ballgame, publication-wise, as best we can.

**Special Mention**

SFC GEORGE HENSLEY of Toledo, for doing a superb job in getting recruiting public service ads on radio and television in his area. CPT. CONRAD BOLLO over at the headquarters for the 437th MP Battalion in YOUNGSTOWN for establishing an exciting youth boxing program. It's getting good visibility in the local community, especially with young, potential recruits. If you're interested in establishing a similar program in your area, you can get some youths who can challenge these outstanding division commanders, he was the only National Guard division commander to retain his command throughout the war.

Beightler Armory in Worthington, state headquarters for the Ohio National Guard, bears his name. He lived near the Armory with his wife Clara.

The general was buried with full military funeral services in Oak Dale Cemetery, Marysville, Ohio.

A large article highlighting General Beightler's life appeared in the Feb. 78 issue of BUCKEYE GUARD Magazine.

**Heart Attack Claims General Beightler**

Retired Ohio National Guard Major General Robert S. Beightler, former commander of the famed Ohio 37th "Buckeye Division", passed away recently at the age of 85 after suffering his fourth heart attack at Riverside Hospital, Columbus. Beightler led the Buckeye Division for 43 months during World War II in the Pacific theater of war, all the way to victory in the Philippines. Recognized as one of World War I's outstanding division commanders, he was the only National Guard division commander to retain his command throughout the war.

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**Remember...**

**The ONG Third Annual Retired Officers' Conference will be held at Camp Perry on Sept. 23-24, 1978.**

The Buckeye Guard
The Enlisted Association of the Ohio National Guard has a program that will help both you and your family, plus per-
form the real meaning of the Guard! We all have a certain pride and comrade-
ship in the Guard. We feel that being remembered for deeds well done is an im-
portant part of everyone's memory. We remember deeds.

H. Cartwright, states that,

important part of everyone's remem-
bered for deeds does not get in-
volved in any political activity. The

Auxiliary, is to be supportive

of the

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organization.

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As posted in the

The State Convention will be held in

Newark on April 22. The registration fee

is $10 for a single and $20 per couple for

the dinner and dance to be held Saturday

night. Please remit your registration fee

to Mr. George L. Tuttle, 19 Horse Shoe

Drive, Newark, Ohio 43055, as soon as possible.

You must make your own room

reservations at the Sheraton Hotel or the

Holiday Inn in Newark immediately in order to get a room.

The convention will be held at

the Sheraton Inn, 50 N. Second Street.

The business meetings will start at 9:00 a.m.

on the 22nd. Throughout the day there will be

meetings, with a hospitality hour put on early in the

afternoon in Newark. A din-
nner and dance will be held at 7:00 p.m.

Evening entertainment will feature a

member of the Enlisted Association.

In order to become a member of our

Ohio Enlisted Association, either male or female, is

eligible for membership in the Auxiliary.

We would like to invite you to at-

tend the State Convention held on April 22 and to take part in our

meetings.

We are an Auxiliary whose function is to be supportive of the Enlisted

Association. We are available to back any

legislation, both state and national.

We are supportive of the Associa-
tion in all of its endeavors. We pro-

 mote the Guard at every opportunity.

Our membership has grown in the

last three years from 75 to 100. Any spouse of a member of the Enlisted

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The New Uniform for Women

In addition to the Army uniform inventory, the Army "Green Pant suit Uniform" may be worn year-round by all Army women. Currently the pant suit is available at post exchanges of major military installations and is scheduled for regular clothing issue to most Guard women. Soldiers putting insignia on the pant suit uniform should follow the same guidelines when attaching insignia to the Army Green Uniform.

Trainin' in the Sun

Truckin' to the main recruiting stations to the New Uniform for Women sold. The most Guard women. Soldiers putting in at Camp Perry this year on $100:

VETERANS DAY

Pardon Us!

Due to a typographical error the dates due in the Feb. issue of BUCKEYE GUARD Magazine for the Ohio National Guard Association Conference at Salt Fork should read "May 15-20" instead of May 8-20. Complete details on this conference have been mailed to all members.

'78 Reunion Set

The Ohio National Guard's Third Annual Reunion will be held at Camp Perry this year on Sept. 23 and 24. Retired officers and their wives are cordially invited to attend the affair. According to Col. John Simmons, Ohio Army Guard Chief of Staff, the 555th Air Force Band from Toledo will provide music for the reunion.

Additional information on the reunion will be published in future issues of this magazine.

Got a Problem?

Technicians, do you have a personal problem that is affecting your job performance? If yes, contact Major Paul Koreckis, your Technician Assistance Program Coordinator at Avonos 346-7058 or (614) 849-7058.

Round-Up

(Continued from Page 17)

372nd Engineers in LEBANON, for getting an article published in his Union Newsletter on our tuition assistance program.

Unit-Wise

Congratulations to the following units who have made notable double digit enlistment gains during December and January:

HHC 112 Engr Bn ...
HHC 112 Engr Bn ...
Spt Co 1/147 Inf ...
HHC 112 Engr Bn ...
135 MP Co ...
Co C 112 Engr Bn ...
322 MP Co ...
Trp L 3/107 AC ...
Co A 112 Engr Bn ...
How Brr 2167 AC ...

* Statistics for February were not available by press time. Units must remember that it takes a team effort to make progress, and they must report their accesses to the main recruiting stations to receive R & K funds.

SP4 JOHN SAFFELL, 145th Transportation Company, Worthington, was the Distinguished Honor Graduate in his recent course in avionics communications equipment repair at Fort Gordon, GA. As a result of this high academic achievement Saffell was promoted to his present rank.

LTC NORMAN GEFEKE of the Toledo based 180th Tactical Fighter Group returned in January with over 36 years of military service.

1LT ALLAN E. ZECIKERY, commander of the 121st Weapons Systems Security Flight, was named honor graduate of the Air Force's Security Officers' course. The ceremonies were held at the Security Police Academy, Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas.

ROBERT E. PRESTON, Columbus, has been promoted to colonel in the Ohio Air Guard. He has commanded the 178th Tactical Fighter Group at Springfield Airport since Dec., 1976.

BRIGADIER GENERAL HARRY L. COCHRAN JR., a Springfield resident who commands the 121st Tactical Fighter Wing at Rickenbacker AFB base Columbus, presented the symbolic eagle insignia to Colonel Preston. MRS. PRESTON was also on hand for the special ceremony.

SGT VICTOR J. LAIRD, Food Service Sergeant, 112th Medical Brigade, Headquarters Company, Columbus, was named "Soldier of the Month" for January. Under the "Soldier of the Month" Program, SSG Laird dined at the Commander's table during weekend drill exercise and received one-half day of leave with pay.

Ohio University President CHARLES J. PING was appointed an honorary Buckeye Colonel by GEN MAURICE ABBRASH, Assistant Adjutant General of the Ohio Army National Guard, during halftime ceremonies at an Ohio University basketball game.

PING received the award for helping to establish an experimental training program for Ohio National Guardmen in the early 1970's.

The program was so successful that the Ohio General Assembly recently passed a law allowing all enlisted Guardsmen to receive a four-year college education at any state or private school approved by the Ohio Board of Regents. The Buckeye Colonel award is the highest honor given to an enlisted man in recognition of a significant achievement and meritorious contribution to the ONG.

TSgt WARREN A. FENTON, Springfield, SSGT EARL CALL JR., Winchester, SGT DENNIS L. HUGHES, Xenia, and ATC MARK E. BUTCHER, Cincinnati, were recent winners of the 1977 LOADCO.

The annual aircraft weapons loading competition is conducted by the Ohio Air National Guard's 121st Tactical Fighter Wing at Rickenbacker Air Force Base. The competition involved teams from the Columbus unit, Springfield's 178th Tactical Fighter Group, Toledo's 180th Tactical Fighter Group and Pittsburgh's 112th Tactical Fighter Group.

Nine days to complete a 53 day course; Honor Graduate to boot? That's what TSgt KENNY AMOS of the 179th Tactical Fighter Group at Springfield Rickenbacker Air Force Base did.

The competition's Airman of the Month Award is the highest honor given to an enlisted man in recognition of a significant achievement and meritorious contribution to the ONG.

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Twist Slowly to the Right

SERGEANT BOB EASTWOOD, an Ohio State Highway patrolman, and SP4 Ronald Crogan demonstrate proper procedures for handling an unruly person using recent civil disturbance training conducted by 2/170th Armor Cav at the Canton Armory. SST Eastwood and Trooper Bob Warden, also of the Ohio Patrol, volunteered their services and instructional expertise to the unit. (PHOTO BY 1LT TIMOTHY PHILLIPS.)

The Buckeye Guard

"Twist Slowly to the Right"
Indoor Pistol Crown
Ohio Guard’s Pascarella Outshoots 64 Reservists

Sixty-five National Guard and Reserve shooters fired over the United States recently met at the Marine Base at Quantico, Virginia, to compete in the All-National Reserve Guard Championships.

Sargent Joseph Pascarella, the 1973 champion from Ohio, was also there to defend his title.

This year SSG Pascarella not only had to face the 64 shooters who were determined to outshoot him, but he also had to shoot a new experimental match proposed by the National Rifle Association that he had not shot before. SSG Pascarella got into trouble with the first official United States Army Reserve Team Match. SSG Pascarella fired a 260, putting him 16 points behind Army Reserve Jerry Wilder.

Next came the Standard Pistol Match. Here SSG Pascarella exploded with a score of 584, which was two points higher than the world record, but this record would not go into the record books due to the fact that the match was an experimental match.

So often recognition is not received by deserving individuals. It is hoped that those individuals who responded to the challenge during the recent snow crisis will be properly recognized. The many hours they worked during the adverse weather conditions were dramatized by the willingness, devotion and assistance given to complete the mission of the Ohio National Guard during this crisis.

Safetv is important

The time of the year is growing near when each of you will be going in many directions to attend annual training— "The theme is safety"—a very important item and should concern everyone.

In the past, we have experienced a number of accidents which were attributable to a breakdown in concentration and deviation from well-established safety training.LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

We sometimes refer to “real troop leaders,” let’s be on top of the situation and stress safety in every aspect— as you know, sometimes a little common sense will prevent an accident. Let’s watch our buddies and keep on top of the situation.

Card of Thanks

Our sincere thanks to everyone connected with the Ohio National Guard. Their help and concern was deeply appreciated during our husband and father’s illness and death. We tend to forget that our loved one was surrounded by such marvelous people.

Patricia Casagrande and children

The Buckeye Guard

The Buckeye Guard

200th Med Scores ‘First’

By CPL. G. A. KINNIGHT

The 20th Medical Brigade’s 200th Medical Company of Cleveland may have regrouped to fire this year’s 1st for Ohio Army Guard units and possibly a “first” in the nation for the Army’s newly appointed command.

Why? The 20th has three women on the team, two of which have been nearly as successful. Both women are registered nurses in Columbus, who has not been a small feat. History shows that the 400th was taken by Mrs. Nell Scott, who is busy as an accountant for the company. Lt. Kay Byron of Columbus, already serving with the company. Lt. Kay Byron of Columbus, already serving with the company.

Just who are these ladies and what will they be doing?

Lt. Byron, a recent State OCS grad completed her training in the 20th Medical Company Basic Course at the Academy of Health Sciences this summer is assigned as Platoon Leader in the Ambulance Platoon. Otherwise, she is busy as an accountant who helped by every bit of help. Lt. Kay Byron, a very successful and productive ward. Lt. Kay Byron, a very successful and productive ward. Lt. Kay Byron, a very successful and productive ward.

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Helping Hands...

Helping people...that's what the Ohio National Guard is all about. Whether it's fighting a killer blizzard or offering tuition assistance for college and vocational school, the helping hands of the Buckeye Guard are open to you.

For additional information call...

Akron-Canton .......(216) 453-7382  
Cincinnati ...........(513) 861-2659  
Cleveland ...........(216) 464-8009  
Columbus ............(614) 889-7195  
Toledo ...............(419) 666-5533 or  
Toll-Free .......... ...1-800-282-7310