REduced to Rubble

Engineers demolish one of Toledo’s "havens for crime"

Pages 6–7
Maj. Albert Hale smiles with relief as he crosses the finish line.

Tbe biker checked the tires of her Huffy 10-speed for air and made sure her water jug was full enough to last until the first rest stop. She wore spandex racing shorts that showed off her muscular legs and a black helmet that glinted in the morning sun with every move.

To anyone walking by, Deborah Smothers looked like a seasoned cyclist, ready to pedal her way through the MS One Day Bike Tour with ease. What passersby never would have guessed was that she hadn't ridden a bike in five years, or that she had been practicing for only the last week and a half.

Behind dark sunglasses, her eyes crinkled into a smile, "I'm definitely a novice. I'm pacing, not racing."

Starting and ending at Alum Creek State Park beach, the May 21 bikathon was geared for bikers at all levels, from the serious cyclist to the weekend athlete. Bikers chose their own route, going 25, 50 or 100 miles, and they could ride as individuals or as part of a team.

Smothers, a sergeant who works full-time for the Ohio Guard's Command Logistics office, was one of 27 volunteers who made up the "TAG Team." Consisting primarily of employees from the Adjutant General's Department and their families, the team was the largest group to race this year. Team captains included 1st Sgt. Ron Mohlmaster and Staff Sgt. Angela Marshall, both with HQ STARC.

Marshall coordinated the Guard's participation both this year and last. "This year, we wanted to do some more work behind the scenes," said the full-time staffer from the Ohio Guard's Personnel Service Branch. Guard volunteers color-coded the three routes on maps given to each biker, marked the roads for the 50-mile route and arranged for the loan of a tent for the finish line, all through the efforts of Marshall.

"She's been a real asset to this tour," said Jeanne Lay, director of development for the Mid-Ohio Chapter of Multiple Sclerosis. "It's hard to get volunteers, especially to mark the roads."

All the hard work and planning paid off because, overall, the event raised more than $41,000. The money will help provide counseling and support groups, as well as job programs and education to individuals with MS and their families. The funds will also support national research for the disease which has no known cause or cure.

Multiple sclerosis is a chronic, often disabling disease that strikes young adults, most often between 20-40. It can impair sight, speech, mobility, balance and coordination. Though bikers on all legs of the journey were challenged, for those who have MS, the challenge lasts a lifetime.

"Some people have full use of their limbs and don't use them," Smothers said. "Those who can't ride today are my motivation."
FEATURES

6  Cracking Down on Crack Houses
   612th Engineers demolish Toledo "haven for crime."

8  Team Lassoes Trophy from Rodeo '94
   121st Maintenance Crew wins top honors at international competition.

13  Family Days Youth Camp '94
    Dependents experience Guard weekend first-hand.

16  History on Horseback
    Buffalo Soldiers commemorate historic ride of Col. Young.

DEPARTMENTS

4  National Briefs  26  Buckeye Briefs
5  Feedback  28  All About People
25  Drug Demand Reduction  30  Benefits

ABOUT THE COVER: Reduced to rubble.
Soldiers from Toledo's 612th Engineer Battalion destroy abandoned home, safeguarding neighbors from risk of fire and crime. Photo by Sgt. Lori King, 196th Public Affairs Detachment.
DoD launches new medical program for gulf war vets. DoD is launching a three-point program to better understand the medical nature of mysterious illnesses reported by Persian Gulf veterans. The departments of Veterans Affairs and Health and Human Services are collaborating in the effort. The first part of the plan involves a “coordinated, aggressive and comprehensive” effort to determine the causes of the symptoms described by the veterans. In the second part of the plan, DoD asked Dr. Harrison C. Spencer, dean of the School of Public Health, Tulane University in Louisiana, to review existing and proposed plans for investigating the syndrome. The third part is creating a forum of national medical and public health experts to offer advice in the research and to offer a channel for public comment. Dr. Stephen Joseph, assistant secretary of defense for health affairs, said he is working with the services to implement the plan immediately. (AFIS)

End is near for SF-171. “Taps” will sound for SF-171 — the application form for federal jobs — Dec. 31. Still, don’t feel bad if you’ve just spent the money for SF-171 software. Applicants will have the option of using the old form, said Office of Personnel Management officials. “The intent of the proposal is to make it easier for people to apply for federal jobs,” said Jim King, director of OPM. Next year applicants may use a resume, an electronic file or a written format. Applicants for certain hard-to-fill jobs can already apply over the telephone. (AFIS)

Defense Dept. bans smoking in all work places worldwide. John M. Deutch, undersecretary of defense for acquisition and technology, signed an instruction March 7 banning indoor smoking in all DoD workplaces worldwide. The policy became effective on April 18. The ban will affect nearly 3 million uniformed and civilian personnel in hundreds of installations worldwide. Smoking will be prohibited inside all DoD-owned and rented offices. It will also be banned anywhere else meeting the definition of a workplace, including inside a tank, helicopter or airplane. The ban also applies to visitors. Smoking will still be permitted in family housing, designated areas of military barracks, clubs, recreational areas, restaurants and prison quarters. (AFIS)

Baca selected to run Guard Bureau. Career National Guardsman Maj. Gen. Edward D. Baca has been nominated by President William Clinton to be the new Chief of the National Guard Bureau. Baca, 55, the Adjutant General of New Mexico, was nominated May 3. He succeeds Lt. Gen. John B. Conway, who retired last November. During the interim, Maj. Gen. Raymond F. Rees has served as Acting Chief. Rees will return home to Oregon to fill the recently vacated adjutant general’s position. Baca has been the adjutant general of his home state since 1983, where he directed a major modernization of air defense artillery units and conversions of the Air Guard from A-7s to F-16s. (On Guard)

Warrant officers leave ‘thumbprint.’ All Army warrant officers are invited to be a part of warrant officer history by leaving their “thumbprint” (biographies and pictures) in the first hard cover 9x12-inch warrant officer history book ever published. The book will also highlight the official history of the corps from its inception in 1918 through today. Also included will be a description of warrant technical specialties, insignias and uniforms with illustrations. To obtain a brochure, write to U.S. Army Warrant Officers Association, 462 Herndon Parkway, Suite 207, Herndon, VA 22070, or call (703) 742-7727. Membership in the association is not required. (AFIS)
Reader enjoys historical perspective

Keep up the good work with the Buckeye Guard. For the past few issues, I have found especially interesting the information from the WWII era and print articles with a historical perspective. Because, I think the phase goes, “those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it.” I also enjoy the information that you supply on national issues and the articles on unit activities and individual achievements.

John M. Kowalchik
SFC (Ret.) Ohio ARNG
Brook Park, Ohio

“Sign of the Times” relevant to Guard experience

As commander of the 178th Medical Squadron, Ohio Air National Guard, Springfield, Ohio, I would like to commend your staff on the series of articles entitled “Sign of the Times.” I have a superb staff of women professionals in our unit, which I rely on quite heavily for their technical and administrative expertise. I believe that the Guard has taken a progressive stance in encouraging qualified professionals to assume leadership positions and fostering an attitude of empowerment in their people — regardless of demographics.

My recommendation to other commanders of units is to thoroughly acquaint yourself with the professional attributes, strengths and interests of your people and attempt to optimize the correspondence between civilian and Guard responsibilities.

What it gets down to, by providing an environment of respect for the individual’s professional capabilities and encouraging growth, both units and individual soldiers develop a synergistic sense of commitment and pride.

Annette L. Sobel, M.D., M.S.
Lt. Col., MC
178th MS, Springfield, Ohio

Not too late to support Red Ribbon

By the time you read this, October will be only days away. I'd like to encourage you and your units to make plans to recognize the Red Ribbon Campaign during your October drill. Though the campaign itself won't peak until the week of Oct. 23-31, the entire month is dedicated to celebrating life drug free.

Red Ribbon is more than just wearing a ribbon or signing a drug free pledge. It is about affecting positive change among school age youth. It is about setting a positive example to be followed every day. Youth have a certain respect for those of us who wear the uniform that is unparalleled in any other profession. They watch our every move and emulate us. It is not a respect that we have asked for... it is the respect that we and our fathers and mothers before us earned in places like Gettysburg, the Somme, Normandy Beach, Inchon, Ia Drang, Grenada, Panama and Iraq.

As the 1994 Red Ribbon Celebration Chairperson, I hope that all units participate with the same enthusiasm and vigor that we have in the past and make this the best year ever. It is not too late to make a difference.

2nd Lt Neal E. O'Brien
1994 Red Ribbon Celebration Statewide Chairperson

Senior Enlisted Advisory Council aims at helping airmen

Do you have questions on Space “A” travel, professional military education, retirement or awards and decorations?

The Senior Enlisted Advisory Council invites Ohio Air National Guard members to read the quarterly meeting minutes located on your unit or section bulletin board. Items that interest you, your unit and your significant others are discussed, acted on and elevated to the state staff, the assistant adjutant general for Air and the adjutant general. The council welcomes your input on the subjects discussed.

The council works on many issues to improve and continue the distinguished history of the Air National Guard and 4,500-plus enlisted members of the Ohio Air National Guard. Updates are sent to your unit newsletters and base bulletins. Please read them and make comments to your unit representatives.

Ohio has the second largest membership in the Air National Guard, and is often a test bed for many issues and policies. Have a voice in the future of your unit — tell council representatives your ideas and concerns.

Here's a list of your representatives:

121st Air Refueling Wing
SMSGt. Lance Harrod
CMSgt. Ralph Thompson
MSMGt. Ava Green

123rd Air Control Squadron
MSMGt. Ken Williams

124th Air Control Squadron
MSMGt. Dan Mullikin
CMSgt. Warren Drumm

178th Fighter Group
SMSGt. Jackie Grody
MSMGt. Ken Duffey

179th Airlift Group
SMSGt. Mike Cypfers
SMSGt. Sandy Finfgeld

180th Fighter Group
MSMGt. Scott Boyer
MSMGt. Kim Grimes

200th Red Horse CES
MSMGt. Pat Wahlers
MSMGt. Larry Ingham

220th E1 Squadron
SMSGt. Bernie Budde

251st CC Group
SMSGt. Phil Lambers
SMSGt. Bob Shay

269th CC Squadron
MSMGt. Chris Muncy
MSMGt. Steve Eubanks

FAX your Letters to the Editor to DSN 273-3820 or commercial (614) 766-3820. Mail letters to AGOH-PA, ATTN: BUCKEYE GUARD, 2825 W. Dublin-Granville Road, Columbus, Ohio 43235-2789. All submissions are subject to editing based on space and style considerations.
On the corner of two side streets in Toledo’s inner-city is a plot of land covered with sprouting green grass. The straw-covered area doesn’t look impressive, but many neighbors, local businesses and Ohio National Guard members believe the empty lot on 963 Pinewood Ave. is a life-saver.

What used to sit on that land was much more than an eyesore. A vacant, broken-down house occupied that space, and it was no secret that the building was a haven for crime.

The growing number of crack houses is a serious problem for anyone who lives near them or is victimized in them. Drugs, vandalism and sex crimes are easier to accomplish inside the empty and dark confines of four walls.

Toledo Arson Unit Lt. Bill Johnson described the Pinewood house as a typical hideout for juveniles, gangs and vandals. He also said that such houses are being set on fire by frustrated neighbors who want to see the buildings destroyed, by gangs tired of the temporary hang-out, or homeless persons careless with smoking. So not only do the homes attract dangerous hoodlums, he said they also pose serious safety hazards for his fire fighters.

“These houses subject our personnel to special hazards because they’re less structurally sound: holes in floors, punched-out walls, trash, removed doors, broken and hanging windows. These are dangers that don’t occur in normal dwellings,” he explained.

Johnson said this is a serious problem that is quickly becoming an epidemic in Toledo.

But there is a solution to this problem: The Ohio Army National Guard.

On Friday, May 20, about 30 engineers from Headquarters Company, 612th Engineer Battalion, in Toledo, assembled at the house on Pinewood Ave. to begin tearing down the property. With their heavy equipment, which included a SEE (Small Emplacement Excavator), a bulldozer, a front-end loader and a backhoe, they took down the garage and house in two days.

Neighbors gathered as the engineers skillfully eliminated the crime spot. The garage came down Friday. The house was demolished the following morning. On Sunday the lot was covered with grass seeds.

Capt. David Hill, the administrative officer for the battalion, said the Pinewood house was the first of six abandoned homes in Toledo to be demolished by the 612th this summer, serving the community under both the Drug Demand Reduction and the Domestic Action programs.

Hill believes the demolition project is the first of its kind
ON CRACK HOUSES

SFC John Harrigan talks to a curious neighborhood child about the 612th Engineer demolition project on Pinewood Ave.

in this state, and he hopes it catches on like wildfire.

“The houses we've chosen to tear down have been targeted as those used for gang activity and drug trafficking. They are havens for crime. It was obvious from looking at the Pinewood house that there was crime activity in it until the city boarded it up,” Hill said.

“This is certainly one of the best accomplishments by an engineer unit during peacetime. The soldiers think it's great, because they can make an impact in the city that most of them live in.”

The housing demolition project stemmed from a local rock radio station's idea of the National Guard's involvement in the city.

According to Hill, some of the unit members were discussing domestic action projects during an on-air interview with WXKR-FM last fall. On the drive home from work that day, the station's promotion manager, Trisha Wendel, saw a bunch of vacant houses and, recalling the interview, wondered if the National Guard could tear them down.

That idea grew into a reality when the city, local businesses and the Guard organized what the radio dubbed as the “Rock n' Roll Wrecklamation Crew.”

The governmental process to tearing down a house wasn't easy (there are 38 steps to complete prior to a house demolition approval), but the 612th Engineers proved it could be done. Besides getting approval to tear down the houses, the mayor of Toledo, Carty Finkbeiner, appointed a new department to streamline the demolition process for the City of Toledo.

“Hopefully, other communities and Congress will simplify the local and federal laws making it hard to demolish abandoned houses,” Hill said.

The reasons for vacant houses range from poor structure to expensive demolition costs to the homeowners. However, Hill stressed unless the city or National Guard tear them down, they will stay abandoned, becoming a hazard to the community.

The demolition project doesn't stop when the final load of rubble is carried off to the dump. With the help of the city and local businesses, the lots are converted into parks or playgrounds.

Hill said he is proud that his unit is responsible for the cleaner, safer neighborhoods. As for Johnson, the arson chief, he likes that he has fewer fires to worry about.

“Someone was using their head when they came up with this idea.”
Team lassoes trophy from Rodeo ’94

121st ARW maintenance crew wins first place in international competition

Story by Tech. Sgt. Mike Myers
Photos by Joe Pastre
121st Air Refueling Wing

Ten members of the 121st Air Refueling Wing (ARW) Maintenance Squadron proved they were the ‘Best of the Best’ during Rodeo ’94, bringing home the first place trophy for the preflight segment of Air Mobility Command’s worldwide competition.

They were accompanied by fellow guardsmen from the 121st ARW Security Police and Operations, who also encountered success as Rodeo ’94 shook McChord Air Force Base, Wash., June 25 through July 2.

The 121st ARW placed first among National Guard units and ninth out of 55 competing teams, which amounted to nearly 1,800 participants from 12 countries.

The fun started as Capt. Kelly Michels landed the unit’s KC-135 one second ahead of arrival time — this was after flying 2,000 miles from Rickenbacker. The 121st was awarded 196 out of a possible 200 points for this amazing test of precision.

At 2 a.m. the following morning, 10 members of the maintenance team began the effort which would carry them to a perfect score of 600 and a first place trophy in the preflight competition.

“The umpires pointed out several relatively technical aspects they really liked pertaining to the performance of our maintenance team,” said Capt. Jadon Maass, Rodeo team captain for the 121st.

The unit’s operations team followed the maintenance team’s lead, taking second place in the “Best KC-135 Aircrrew” competition. This consisted of aerial refueling, aircraft navigation, SIOP (Single Integrated Operations Plan) refueling and cargo loading. Timing and accuracy were the keys to doing well in these events.

“We definitely demonstrated our flying capabilities to the rest of the Air Force and to much of the world,” Maass said. “We took our own KC-135 and standard training from Rickenbacker and were able to go toe to toe against the very best. Keep in mind that these were members of the 121st who had never been to a Rodeo competition before.”

Meanwhile, the security police team was busy rescuing a ‘hostage’ during the combat tactics event. They posted an impressive second place finish by earning...
Security Police Officer Staff Sgt. Scott Beaver stays ahead of the competition during the combat endurance course.

490 out of 500 points. They went on to compete in the combat endurance course and the rifle and handgun firing events.

Maass credited the achievements of the security police to teamwork and the leadership skills of Master Sgt. Ken Griffis. "Griffis did an outstanding job as their leader. They are a very confident group, especially now that they proved they can perform as well if not better than every other security police team."

Maass was thrilled with the efforts from all members of the 121st who participated in Rodeo '94. "The maintenance guys set the tone very early by earning that perfect score and trophy. That really helped to motivate our other teams who wanted to do just as well," he said.

"I can't emphasize enough that our standard training at Rickenbacker was crucial to our performance in Washington. All of our teams performed very well," he continued. "There were several times during Rodeo '94 when competitors would ask us for information on how we do things because they were impressed."

Brig. Gen. John Smith, commander of the 121st, was able to observe the competition first hand.

"I really liked the whole concept of Rodeo '94 because it involved all of AMC (Air Mobility Command). While bringing together the allied nations for competition, it certainly promoted goodwill and camaraderie at the same time," Smith said.

"I'm proud of our participation," said the general. "There wasn't one event or category that we did not perform well in. We were as prepared as anyone else, and our plane was ready for the task. Maass did an outstanding job as the Rodeo team captain."

"This was a total team effort, and everybody should be proud of their contributions," he added.

Rodeo '94 was an opportunity for the world's best aerial refuelers, airlifters and ground operators to demonstrate capabilities and improve procedures in a competitive atmosphere. It also provided valuable training for all of it's participants.

Capt. Jim Reagan grins at the preflight checklist marked "No Defects."

Command Profile

Col. Steve Koper
Deputy Chief of Staff
Ohio Air National Guard

Age: 53
Occupation: Printing Consultant

Life has taught me: If I'm not sure I'm on the right track, I'm not! If I could have just one day all to myself, I would: Stroll along the coast of Maine.

The one film I would like to have starred in is: The Cheyenne Social Club.

When no one's looking I: Steal the last banana.

When I was little I wanted to be: A naval officer.

The worst advice I ever received was: "Just get your people there, your equipment will be there when you arrive."

The best advice I ever received was: "Son, don't get involved in the printing business."

If I could dine with anyone, I would invite: Jesus Christ.

The best moment in my life happened when I: Married my wife.


My favorite movie: The Pink Panther.

My one piece of advice for guardmembers is: Prepare yourself and seize every opportunity to serve.
Posing as a striker on a picket line, SFC David Stenger challenges engineers undergoing civil disturbance training.

TAKING IT TO THE STREETS

512th Engineers run riot control training

Story and photos by Pfc. Rick McGivern
196th Public Affairs Detachment

Sgt. Brian Collins was so drunk during last May's drill, he had to be arrested. Of course, it was all in the name of good training.

Collins and other select members of the 134th Engineer Group gave Oscar-caliber performances as part of a mock riot during drill weekend at Rickenbacker Air National Guard Base in Columbus.

Civil disturbance training, or MOUT (Military Operations in Urban Terrain), was the task at hand for the 134th and the 512th Engineer Battalion from Cincinnati. The 512th was tasked with developing training for the various units in the 16th Engineer Brigade, while the 134th provided personnel to support this training.

An isolated group of two-story barracks became a pseudo city for the engineers ready to learn the challenges of riot control. While Collins imitated an aggressive drunk who had to be detained, others played the roles of distraught spouses, snipers and bomb-wielding madmen, all in an effort to teach urban tactics to that weekend's group of trainees — Company C of the 216th Engineer Battalion.

According to Maj. Susan Petty of the 512th, creating realistic scenarios for the troops is all part of effective training. "It's a progressive type of (riot control) training that we're trying to develop," she said. Saturday classes provide instruction for situations that soldiers will have to face on Sunday.

"They'll encounter sniper fire and have to decide when to use deadly force," said Maj. Steve Wagner, detachment commander of HQ 134th Engineer Group. "They'll also encounter irate people in a riot scenario, giving them a chance to practice the procedures they learned in the classroom."

Six areas of instruction prepared the troops for riot situations.

A legal briefing explained the extent of authority National Guard soldiers have during a riot and the legal basis on which soldiers need to act. Capt. Gordon Ellis of the 512th taught this block of instruction with the voice of experience; he is also the police chief for the City of Heath.

"Their power is only that of an average citizen — the power to detain with probable cause," Ellis said. "It's important for the soldiers to understand their limits and their mission: to assist local law enforcement."

Immediate action briefings outlined the procedures to follow upon discovery of a sniper or explosive. Establishing control of the area and calling for appropriate reinforcements were emphasized.

Crowd control training focused on
the proper formations and dispersal techniques of controlling and moving a crowd.

Search and detain methods were taught with particular attention to detail, as these procedures are often used in a riot situation. Searching a suspect for weapons or contraband while maintaining control of the situation is imperative. Ellis explained that wall search, pat-down and prone position techniques for searching suspects are the same as used by local law enforcement.

Finally, hands-on training with the riot baton and shotgun were lessons the troops hope they will never have to apply. Sgt. Doug Besl of the 512th, a corrections officer with the Hamilton County Sheriff's Department, demonstrated the proper offensive and defensive positions with the baton.

"The baton is often used to maintain the integrity of a formation rather than to strike at a rioter," Besl explained. However, if the line is broken, soldiers are still prepared. "If they get through, you've got people behind you to take them down."

This training session was the fifth of 13 to be conducted by the 512th Engineer Battalion. "In order to be qualified to assist in urban disturbance control," Petty said, "each unit must get 16 hours of training this year and eight hours of refresher training each subsequent year."

According to the major, the Lucasville riot demonstrated the need for standardized training. "The 512th was tasked with developing that training, and it could become the basis for a statewide training package."
Labor of Love

Story by Sgt. Lori King
196th Public Affairs Detachment

The old saying “I don’t do windows” certainly doesn’t apply to one concerned Ohio National Guardsman.

When Spc. Kirt Bachman volunteered to help his unit clean the Ronald McDonald House in Akron, he threw that philosophy right out of one of the 30 windows he wiped squeaky clean.

He’s willing to do windows, but only for Ronald McDonald, he said. And the folks at the McDonald House can probably count on him to tackle the laborious chore next year, too.

Bachman, of the 5694th Fire Fighter unit in Shreve, said he’s willing to make sacrifices because he respects the mission of the McDonald House, and the sergeant who got the unit involved in the first place, Sgt. 1st Class Jim Lanning.

“Spring cleaning here gives us a feeling of accomplishment. Many people think the Guard doesn’t do much, so it’s nice to get in the public eye. And Sgt. Lanning appreciates it. He’s familiar with this place, and has a personal relationship with these people. That makes it all worthwhile.”

As Bachman went back to windows, Jim, the unit’s readiness NCO and the fire chief, sat down and explained his unit’s involvement with the McDonald House, a hospice for cancer and other seriously ill patients and their families.

It all started four years ago when his daughter, Melissa, then 17, was diagnosed with a rare type of cancer.

She was sent to Akron Children’s Hospital for treatment, which is more than an hour away from the Lannings’ Millersburg home. About 15 months later, she went into remission. But the joy of being cancer-free only lasted a year. In June 1993 she suffered a relapse and was sent back to the Akron hospital for surgery and chemotherapy, where she stayed for two months.

Because the travel was adding to the Lannings’ stress, Jim and his wife, Louise, accepted a gracious offer to stay at the McDonald House whenever their daughter was undergoing treatment. In the past four years, the couple have sought shelter at the home a total of almost six months.

Jim described the home as a “God-send,” and said he’s proud the 5694th is contributing to the house of goodwill. “The unit has been real supportive of my family since this ordeal.”

It was last November when the fire fighters made their first appearance at the home. Arriving with dust mops, glass cleaner and firewood, they spent an entire day cleaning and moving furniture. They even cooked a meal for the residents.

Six months later, the slight May drizzle didn’t prevent them from another one-day round of spring cleaning, this time adding landscaping to the list of chores.

“We’re doing it because it’s something that needs to be done, not because it’s an obligation,” Jim explained.

If Blanche Davy, the resident manager of the McDonald House, had a red carpet, she would have rolled it out for Jim and his fire fighters.

Davy said she looks forward to the arrival of the National Guardsmen “with a great element of anticipation.” She emphasized that the cleaning and manual labor not only saves her organization money, it is also meaningful to the endless number of people in need of shelter, food and loving support.

“The residents are thrilled with the help, and it’s very noticeable and appreciated by them,” she said.

“I, personally, am very grateful and thankful and look forward to their participation. Their presence makes it much easier for me to manage this place, just knowing the heavy duty work is being done.”

AUTHOR’S NOTE: At press time, Melissa was still very ill. We wish her well.
t's a good thing the Ohio National Guard Family Youth Camp was for kids, because only kids could have kept up with the hectic, non-stop, fast-paced schedule that filled an entire June weekend.

Despite frequent rain and cold winds that blew off Lake Erie, the organizers of the first National Guard youth camp gave the young campers a huge dose of Army life. If the kids didn’t understand what dad or mom do “in the field” before, they certainly understand now.

Not only were they issued dog tags and camouflaged shirts, the youngsters, ages 9-12, also learned how to march and sing cadence, ate MRBs,
shot pellet guns at the range, mastered knot-tying, enjoyed a carriage ride, sang and acted out skits at a campfire, raised and lowered the American flag, read a compass and navigated land, and even conquered the Leadership Reaction Course.

Sherri Parsley, an Ohio Volunteer Family Assistance Council member in Cincinnati, put it lightly when she described the weekend as “packed,” which is why the council hopes for a week-long camp next year.

But there were no complaints from either the kids, the volunteers or the parents, who bid farewell to their weekend warriors on Friday evening.

About 40 boys and girls, mostly dependents of guard members, reported for military duty at Camp Perry. After in-processing, the eager privates watched a drug prevention show, feasted on pizza and learned cadence — all before finally marching to their open-bay quarters. They secured their personal belongings in military lockers and then snuggled into their olive-drab wool blankets for the night.

Though the campers woke to pouring rain, it didn’t prevent them from participating in a flag-raising ceremony, or getting their group photo taken in front of an old tank, or doing push-ups and sit-ups during PT.

The rest of the day was stocked full with land navigation and leadership reaction courses, a military equipment display, skit practice and a campfire — which included a narrative history of Ohio, skits and karaoke. And finally, around 2300 hours, it was lights out, just hours away from the shooting range on Sunday morning, an activity that many of the kids were anxious to experience.

Trevor McAleer, 12, was all smiles as he talked about the camp. “I’m coming back next year because it’s lots of fun. You learn stuff like teamwork, how to march, and I especially like the shooting,” he said.

“I also like the way the counselors help you out and tell you what you’re doing wrong. And they’re fun to be around,” he added.

Trevor, whose father is in the Ohio National Guard, said he didn’t even mind that his mother and 16-year-old brother tagged along, undoubtedly keeping an eye on him. They were part of the volunteer force of 12 junior counselors and 10 adult team leaders.

Parsley said the success of this first camp will most likely ensure that kids will be attending the Ohio National Guard’s basic training camp for years to come.

“It’s a unique opportunity for them to get together with people from all over the state to experience Guard life.” She added that many kids take new pride in their parents’ membership in the National Guard.

Buckeye Guard
“Now (kids) will understand what mom and dad are doing one weekend a month.”

Sherry Parsley, OVFAC

One young recruit, Brian May, 11, almost missed the camp recruitment deadline, but his father, Sgt. 1st Class James May, of the 107th Armored Cavalry in Akron, was able to get his son and two of his son’s friends onto the camp roster.

When it was time to pick up the trio on Sunday afternoon, he witnessed Brian’s participation in a video show, taped by Sgt. Andy Allinson of the 196th Public Affairs Detachment. The show, put to music, featured all the kids and volunteers enjoying the countless activities over the weekend.

Even before the show began, the elder May expressed his enthusiasm with the youth camp and considered becoming a volunteer next year.

“I asked Brian how it was, and he said it was fantastic,” May said. “It’s definitely a positive program for the kids. It’s something they’ll always remember. As far as how his friends liked it, their smiles told it all.”

**HEY KIDS!!!**

If you missed this year’s camp, not to worry. Plans are in the works for a 1995 camp already. If you’re interested in becoming a camper, or if anyone in your family would like to volunteer, contact the State Family Program Office at 1-800-589-9914.

LEFT: SSG Donald Messersmith teaches campers how to properly fold the flag. BELOW: Kids enjoy a ride on Lt. Col. Larry Honsberger’s wagon.
Led by Maj. Don North (right), Atlanta Buffalo Soldiers commemorate the historic ride of Col. Charles Young.

BUFFALO SOLDIERS BACK IN SADDLE AGAIN

Story by Sgt. Diane Farrow
HQ STARC (-Det. 1-5)

Waving and smiling to residents of Washington Court House, Ohio, a caravan of black soldiers seemed to step out of time as they made their way through town on horseback.

With temperatures hitting the '90s before noon, the neckerchiefs, long sleeves, denims and knee-high riding boots seemed unbearably hot compared to the shorts and tank tops worn by onlookers of the parade. But this group didn’t seem to mind — their journey had just begun.

The Buffalo Soldier Reenactment group from Atlanta, Ga., was on the first leg of a 500-plus mile trip that would recapture the legacy of one of the original Buffalo Soldiers, Col. Charles Young.

Young, the third African-American to graduate from West Point, served with the 9th and 10th Cavalry Regiments, two of the first units that allowed blacks to serve in a peacetime army. Made up of former slaves and black freemen, these two regiments were instrumental in settling the west and fighting gangs of outlaws, bandits and profiteers.

Their battlefield skills earned them respect from one of their fiercest enemies — the American Indian — who dubbed them Buffalo Soldiers. According to historians, they were named after the sacred animal for several reasons: because of their bravery, because Indians thought their hair resembled that of buffalo and because they were given such poor rations that they had to supplement their diets with buffalo meat.

Young was assigned to the 9th Cavalry Regiment when he first earned his commission in 1889, and, in 1916, he commanded a squadron in the 10th under then-Brig. Gen. John J. Pershing. Though he’d faced racism from the troops he led as well as fellow officers throughout his military career, it was this assignment that challenged his future as an officer in the armed forces.

General Pershing, who was very impressed by Young during his expedition against Pancho Villa in Mexico, promoted the squadron leader to lieutenant colonel. From that point on, many white officers complained about serving under Young and some even requested transfers to avoid being in his command. One lieutenant not only refused to serve under Young, but also objected to being in the same regiment as him.

Army Capt. Charles Young

Buckeye Guard
According to Black Defenders of America, President Woodrow Wilson asked Secretary of War Newton Baker to replace the lieutenant with someone “who would not have equally intense prejudices.”

On July 17, 1917, Baker told Wilson the problem was solved, because Young was medically discharged for high blood pressure. Since this happened shortly after his promotion to colonel, he was denied the opportunity for promotion to general and a command post in World War I combat. His involuntary retirement was perceived as an act of overt discrimination and prejudice.

Intent on proving his health would not impede his ability to serve his country, Young set out for Washington on horseback. Leaving his home in Wilberforce, Ohio, on June 6, 1918, the colonel finished the 497-mile journey in 16 days. Inundated with letters of support from black and white Americans alike, the War Department reinstated Young on Nov. 6, 1918, five days before the armistice.

After the war, the colonel was sent to Liberia, where he helped reorganize the country’s army. In January 1922, Young died of kidney disease while on an expedition in Nigeria.

On June 13, 76 years later, the black men and women of Atlanta’s Buffalo Soldiers paid tribute to the colonel by re-enacting his historic ride.

LEFT: Atlanta Buffalo Soldiers ride through downtown Washington Court House, the first leg of their 583-mile journey to Washington D.C. ABOVE: Fred Jones, who joined the 10th Cavalry Regiment in 1943, is the only original Buffalo Soldier to take part in the re-enactment of Col. Young’s historic ride.

Sunday afternoon, I rode alone from Col. Young’s house to Wilberforce University, but the real kick off was Monday morning, when the whole group left from Washington Court House,” said Don North, president and founder of the Atlanta Buffalo Soldiers. Unlike Young, these soldiers traveled only 93 miles on horseback, trekking the rest of the route in private vehicles.

Traveling through Ohio and West Virginia, the re-enactors were supported by the National Guard of both states, which included military escorts, water buffalos and radio communications. West Virginia also provided tents for their two nights in the field.

“They were our modern day guides,” North said, “because they knew the area.” When the riders crossed into Virginia, the state militia provided support. The journey ended June 17 with a ceremony at Young’s grave site in Arlington National Cemetery.

The commemoration of Young’s journey depicts the untold battles fought by African-American officers and also recalls the role the Buffalo Soldiers played in settling this country. Today, a statue at Fort Knox, Ky. and a museum in Fort Huachuca, Ariz. stand in honor of these soldiers, and, most recently, a U.S. postage stamp commemorates their taming of the west.

AUTHOR’S NOTE: Portions of this story were compiled from articles published by American Forces Information Service.
Ohio training sites rich in history

Story by Candace J. Kline
Environmental Branch
Facilities Management Office

The history of the Ohio Army National Guard includes many well-known people and events. The people are honored and the events chronicled, but the buildings and structures that have contributed to our rich heritage are sometimes overlooked.

The environmental office conducted a survey of all federally supported buildings and structures in Ohio during 1993. In October, those buildings which were at least 40 years old were inventoried in accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966. This involves a review process which ensures that historic properties are considered during federal project planning and execution. The review process is administered by the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, an independent federal agency.

Steve McQuillin, building preservation consultant, conducted the historic preservation inventories. Although the survey was completed because of the letter of the law, the spirit of the law encourages the Ohio Army National Guard to preserve its heritage, including its buildings and other structures.

Many of the these buildings are located at Camp Perry, which dates back to 1906 when it was selected and built by Brig. Gen. Ammon B. Critchfield who became known as the “Father of Camp Perry.”

The baggage station was probably the first building to be constructed at the training site in 1906. It is located on a railroad spur that served the camp and is now used as a warehouse. The commissary (Building 2009) was built in 1908 as the Quartermaster’s storehouse and is now an administrative building for Guard units. The big mess hall (Building 1738) was completed in 1909. The commissary and mess hall were constructed by using a unique method of erecting pre-cast concrete walls.

The Commercial Center Building, now known as the arcade, was built in 1936 and housed the PX, Post Office, Western Union, Barber Shop, YMCA and Telephone Exchange. The guard towers at the main gate were erected in 1937. According to Mr. McQuillin, “The two guard towers are among the most impressive buildings of Camp Perry. They might be the same age as the fine cast concrete lighting standard set of brick pedestals that accent the major streets.”

Hough Auditorium, the post theater, was completed in June 1938 and saw such celebrities as Bing Crosby, Loretta Young, Bob Hope, Marsha Hunt and others who came to entertain the troops.

One of the most unique historic features of Camp Perry is the rows and rows of four-man huts which housed Italian and Nazi prisoners of war during World War II. Many of these huts are still in good condition and are used for housing during the National Rifle Matches.

Also notable is the continued use of the rifle ranges which were built in the early 1900’s, which retain the original abutments and machinery. These ranges are used for training by the National Guard and for the National Rifle Matches which have been held at Camp Perry since 1907. Four ranges were dedicated in 1954 to members of the 37th Infantry Division who had received the Congressional Medal of Honor.

According to Mr. McQuillin, Camp Perry is eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places as a historic district. “Concerning the eligibility of Camp Perry, I believe the entire facility or major portions thereof could qualify for National Register status,” he said. “Therefore, I am of the opinion that all surveyed properties are potentially eligible.”

After surveying motor vehicle storage buildings located near many armories, McQuillin concluded that the “buildings that conform to the prototype used throughout the state from about 1947-1953 will be eligible for National Register status when they reach 50 years of age. This prototype may be recognized by its rectangular ground plan, use of cement block for exterior walls, stepped gable end walls with garage bay doors at their center, distinctive square vents above and curved or shallow pitched gable roofs.”

Many members, employees and friends of the National Guard are interested in the historic preservation of some or all of the buildings and structures that have so greatly contributed to the history of our state militia, the areas around our facilities and the state of Ohio.

"Those devils in baggies," the nickname given U.S. paratroopers by German soldiers in World War II, are back.

On May 9, 1994, the Ohio Army National Guard welcomed Detachment 1, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion 19th Special Forces Group (Airborne) into its ranks. The “Green Berets” will be stationed at the Chagrin Falls Armory, formerly the home of Detachment 1 Maintenance Troop, 107th Armored Cavalry Regiment.

The detachment is made up primarily of members of the former 11th Special Forces Group (Airborne), U.S. Army Reserve, which had maintained its headquarters in Worthington prior to its inactivation. The transfer of Special Forces units from the Army Reserve to the National Guard is part of a much publicized “Guard/Reserve Swap” of combat and combat service support units under the Department of Defense’s restructuring initiative.

The transfer of the Special Forces unit into the Ohio Guard is the first such “swap” to effect units in Ohio. The battalion headquarters will be located in West Virginia, which will answer to 19th Group in Utah. The unit falls under Troop Command for administrative control, but will receive mission guidance directly from group headquarters.

“Special Forces has the reputation of being the Army’s elite,” said Maj. Jack Guy, former detachment commander under the Army Reserve. Guy briefed the Ohio Army National Guard general staff on the unit last May.

According to Guy, “Special Forces troopers undergo rigorous training at Fort Bragg prior to being placed on an operational ‘team.’ Their training starts with the Special Forces Assessment School (SFAS), where prospective Green Berets are tested in everything from land navigation to physical stamina and survival.” The major said the three-week school is the first step towards qualification in Special Forces and the awarding of the Special Forces tab.

“The attrition rate at SFAS is very high,” cautioned Guy. “Troopers who fail return to their unit, which determines whether or not the soldier should be given a second chance.

“We like to send soldiers to SFAS in groups,” he added. “They seem to come together as a team and help each other through.”

Upon completion of SFAS, the soldiers go to the qualification course, or “Q” course. Troopers receive qualification as junior NCOs in one of four MOS’s: 18B — weapons; 18C — combat engineer; 18E — communications; or 18D — medic. The “Q” course can take anywhere from 24 to 63 weeks. Senior NCOs may eventually receive training in operations and intelligence.

Once qualified, the Special Forces trooper receives his “SF” tab and green beret and is assigned to a Special Forces Operational Detachment Alpha (SFODA) or “A-team.”

SFODAs are commanded by captains. Each SFODA includes a warrant officer as the detachment technician and second in command. A master sergeant is the operations NCO who leads the assistant operations and intelligence sergeant, two medics, two communications experts, two combat engineer/demolitions specialists and two weapons sergeants.

The SFODs perform unconventional warfare missions, which may include training indigenous forces and advising coalition forces. While the “A-team” serves in a training or advisory capacity, the “B-team” coordinates SFODA operations and training. The company headquarters, or SFODB, is commanded by a Special Forces major.

The mission of Special Forces demands that the teams be cohesive units. According to Guy, “SF is all about teamwork.”

The demands put on the troopers mean that each must know the strengths and weaknesses of the other. Because of this cohesiveness, retention in SF has not been a problem.

“These guys stay with us for 10-15 years,” Guy revealed. “Their dedication to the mission is unprecedented.”

Brig. Gen. Steve Martin, Assistant Adjutant General for Army, said that the Ohio National Guard is “committed to the success of this unit.” It will be a Contingency Force Pool (CFP) unit, ready to provide soldiers to active Army SF teams. With the unit rated as a CFP, strength and readiness are immediate concerns; priority is given to qualified Special Forces and airborne personnel to fill positions.

Since the briefing, Maj. H.R. Mills has been named commander and Sgt. Maj. James Burch the top enlisted man for the unit, which is just under 100 strong. Both were formerly with Special Forces in the Army Reserve.

According to Burch, the introduction of an unconventional warfare unit into the Ohio Army Guard will provide many challenges. “We get to perform many real world missions which exceed the manpower resources of the regular Army Special Forces Groups,” he said.

Officers interested in applying to the unit may contact Maj. Mills at (216) 665-1859; SF qualified NCOs may contact Sgt. Maj. Burch at (216) 543-1782; and non-qualified enthusiasts may contact Sgt. 1st Class David Sagoes, Ohio Army National Guard Recruiter, at (216) 433-4363.

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**ARE YOU TOUGH ENOUGH?**

To be considered for Special Forces, soldiers must meet the following qualifications:

- Be airborne qualified (or volunteer for airborne training)
- Have a minimum GT score of 110
- Score at least 80 points on each event of the APFT in the 17-21 age group
- Complete PLDC
- Pass the Ranger/Special Forces swim test (50 meters, deep water, BDUs and boots)
Operation STEADY STATE

Air Guard monitors Colombian jungle, combats drug traffic

Story by Capt. David E. Corry
123rd Air Control Squadron

“Absolutely the best real wartime environment we could deploy our personnel to for training and performance of their job skills,” said Lt. Col. Ronald Harmon of the 123rd Air Control Squadron’s (ACS) deployment to Colombia, South America during March-April 1994.

Harmon, commander of the 123rd ACS and detachment commander for Detachment 4, Colombia, South America, deployed personnel from the 123rd ACS and 124th ACS, Cincinnati, Ohio, to support Operation STEADY STATE.

The operation’s mission is to assist South American countries interdicting the flow of cocaine directly at the source of production. The United States Air Force and Air National Guard placed detachments of field radar units in several Central and South American countries in order to provide 24-hour air pictures of the regions.

Ground radar units combined with E-3 Airborne Warning and Control System (AWACS) aircraft provide surveillance, tracking and reporting of aircraft flying into each detachment’s area of responsibility. Mission command and control, along with all logistical support is conducted from Howard Air Force Base, Panama City, Panama.

“These various radar sites have been literally built from the ground up,” Harmon said. “We previously deployed to this location back in December 1992 and had to operate and live out of tents in a small area cut into the jungle. Since then, various civil engineering units have improved the Colombian detachment dramatically. Kitchen facilities have been built along with Harvest Bare Trailers for personnel. Additionally, various shelters have been set up to conduct operations and maintenance activities.”

“Our life line is still Howard Air Force Base,” said Senior Master Sgt. Raymond Buda, maintenance chief at the site. “We are very remote here. The closest road to the outside world is over 300 miles away. Without the constant flow of C-130s and C-27s delivering supplies and fuel, we’d be out of business. It is very challenging and rewarding trying to keep the site operating,” he added.

Buda described how detachment personnel drew water two or three times a day from a nearby river. Personnel would fill two water trucks at the river, then drive back to the site and filter the water through the water purification system. “We were filtering approximately 4,000 to 5,000 gallons of water per day.”

The Colombian Army and Air Force placed camps next to the Air National Guard detachment to assist in operations and security of the site. “The Colombians provided air controllers to work along side of our controllers, and they were very helpful ensuring our security,” said Maj. Fred Reinheardt, director of operations at the detachment.

Harmon added that “Opportunities such as this prove the Air National Guard is a willing and capable full force component to our active duty counterparts.”

123rd wins Gicale Memorial Trophy

The 123rd Air Control Squadron received the Colonel Gicale Memorial Trophy during a ceremony at the Blue Ash Air National Guard Station on June 11.

The trophy is awarded to the Ohio information systems unit exhibiting sustained excellence in the areas such as effective manning, retention, professional military education, airman skill level manning, inspections, weight control, individual recognition, outstanding accomplishments and social actions. Eleven units were eligible.

With an audience that included Congressman David Mann and Blue Ash Mayor Walter L. Reuszer, 123rd ACS Commander Lt. Col. Ronald Harmon accepted the award on behalf of the unit. The squadron last received the award for its achievements in 1984.

The 123rd was noted specifically for controlling 1,700 flying events during fiscal year 1993 and supporting 11 flying units composed of active duty, Air National Guard, Air Force Reserve and Canadian Air Force. Submitted by Capt. Ann Coghlin, HQ Ohio ANG.

Buckeye Guard
Managing desert real estate

Story, photo by 1LT Keven R. Clouse
54th Support Detachment

Jet fighters scream by, seemingly mere inches overhead. A mirage of radar dishes whirl around through the blowing sand. This is Operation ROVING SANDS, the largest air defense exercise in the world and the 54th Support Detachment (Rear Tactical Operation Center) is there.

"The mission of ROVING SANDS is to test the combat readiness of various Army, Air Force, Marine and Navy units from around the world," said Lt. Col. Charles Drumm, commander of the 54th. Patriot, Hawk and other Army weapon systems combine with Marine early warning systems and stinger units and Air Force Airborne Warning and Control Systems, all while F-15 and F-16 fighter jets engage in simulated battles with other front-line Air Force and Navy aircraft.

The fifth such operation since 1988, this year's ROVING SANDS was the first time ever that an Ohio Army National Guard unit participated. As part of the exercise, about 300 aircraft and helicopters from Biggs Army Airfield and the Roswell Industrial Air Center flew more than 150 sorties daily. The mock flights took place over 14,000 square miles of desert stretching from southern New Mexico to western Texas, encompassing Fort Bliss, the White Sands Missile Range and the Roswell Industrial Air Center.

"ROVING SANDS was a totally new experience," said Sgt. Kelly Finney, NBC NCO for the unit. "When we went through REFORGER exercises in Germany, the temperature was 10 below zero; during ROVING SANDS, it was 100. Becoming acclimated in the desert was half the battle."

The detachment was responsible for assisting the 31st Army Support Group, Alabama National Guard, in sustainment, movement and terrain management for all the ground troops in the exercise area. The 54th participated in both the command post and field training phases of the exercise, which spanned over a five-week period.

"ROVING SANDS is the capstone exercise of all of our training. In many cases, the people we trained with will be the same that we'd deal with in a real contingency," Drumm said.

Evaluators of the joint exercise looked at the unit's capabilities in what proved to be a high-intensity, realistic, combat environment — comparable to the Persian Gulf War. Evidently the 54th fared well, because the detachment was invited to return again next year.

Guard adds adventure to Scout Jamboree

Story by 1st Lt. Andrea J. Offerle
Photos by Sgt. Audrey Sexton
134th Engineer Group

Who are all these people wearing khaki? The U.S. Navy? No, Boy Scouts. On May 21, more than 45,000 Boy Scouts, their families and friends converged with 312 members of the Ohio Army National Guard for the Boy Scout Family Jamboree. The event was held at Coney Island in Cincinnati, Ohio.

Members of the Ohio National Guard provided administrative and medical support, traffic control and ground assault demonstrations. Rob Pruden, program advisor for the jamboree said, "This is by far the best support I've ever had."

The Family Jamboree was the first event of this magnitude ever held in Cincinnati. Scouts from Ohio, Indiana and Kentucky enjoyed a fun-filled day of archery contests, BB gun marksmanship, tomahawk throwing and rappelling. Members from several local Guard units assisted in the activities.

"Every unit was more than willing to help in any way possible," said Capt. Gary Grand, member of the 134th Engineer Group and primary coordinator for the Guard's support.

The 1193rd Engineer Company carved sculptures in logs using a pneumatic chain saw powered by a Small Emplacement Excavator. Company B, 1/147th Armor Battalion, and the 134th Engineer Group demonstrated squad tactics from an Armored Personnel Carrier, and the
Honoring those who serve

Once again, nominations are solicited for the Hall of Fame and Distinguished Service Awards. Selected persons will be honored at the 1995 Ohio National Guard Association Conference.

Distinguished Service Award

Criteria are as follows:
1. Military or civilian personnel are eligible.
2. A person is eligible for nomination at any time.
3. This award may be given for a single act or for performance over an extended period of time.
4. a. An individual must have accomplished an outstanding achievement on behalf of the Ohio National Guard.
   b. The person must be clearly identified as having played a key role in the accomplishment for which the award is to be given.
   c. Although a single accomplishment may be deemed qualification for this award, particular consideration should be given to those individuals who have contributed outstanding service on a sustained basis.

Hall of Fame

Criteria are as follows:
1. Officers, warrant officers and enlisted personnel who have served in the Ohio National Guard are eligible.
2. A person shall become eligible for nomination three years after retirement from the armed services or three years after death. A member of the Ohio National Guard who is awarded the Medal of Honor while serving in a National Guard status or on extended active duty from the Ohio National Guard may be inducted into the Hall of Fame at any time.
3. Nominations for the Hall of Fame shall cover the entire military and civilian service of the nominee.

Sustaining exceptional performance of all duties, the institution of innovative programs which were unique to their time frame, the enhancement of the combat effectiveness of the Ohio National Guard and the enhancement of public support of the Guard are types of service to be considered.

Award of Merit

Personnel considered for this award would be those who have made a contribution which did not meet the criteria for the present awards, but whose contribution deserves recognition. This award is to be based on such areas as leadership, longevity, a meritorious act or deed, a project or activity which has contributed significantly to the benefit of the Ohio National Guard, military service performed at a level above the norm, or to an individual who has served the Ohio National Guard Association over and above what is reasonably expected from the member.

Nominations

The proposed citation should not exceed 800 words for the Hall of Fame and 500 words for the Distinguished Service Award. The language used should be readily understood by the news media and the general public. Acronyms and military jargon are to be avoided. Citations used in connection with previous awards may be quoted. The full text of these and other supporting documents may be attached for consideration of the Awards Committee.

The following outline is suggested: 1. Date and place of birth; 2. Date and circumstance into military service; 3. Chronological listing of career highlights to include duty assignments, promotions, noteworthy actions or accomplishments, excerpts from previous citations; and 4. Conclusion.

Anyone may submit nominations for the awards. Nominations along with proposed award citation text and a synopsis of no more than two pages should be submitted to the Ohio National Guard Association, ATTN: Awards Committee, P.O. Box 8070, Columbus, Ohio 43201 by Dec. 1, 1994.

Ohio shooters right on target

The 200th RED HORSE marksmanship team keeps raking in the awards for the Buckeye State.

The guardmembers from Camp Perry captured the first place standing of the overall team competition in the rifle category during the Chief of National Guard Bureau's Smallbore Rifle and Pistol Championships held at Camp Joseph T. Robinson, Arkansas, early last May.

The team took the event with a combined score of 2,888 points, beating out nine other four-member state teams. Team members included Tech. Sgt. Terry Eishen, Tech. Sgt. Orville Platte Jr., Tech. Sgt. Kenneth F. Strohm and Master Sgt. Raymond C. Cousino, Jr..

Strohm and Eishen also finished first and third, respectively, in the overall individual rifle championship. Strohm, from Galion, Ohio, shot a score of 765 out of a possible 800, while Eishen, of Lindsey, Ohio, shot 730.
Army Guard soldiers go air mobile
Units prepare cargo, deploy on Reserve airlift mission

Several Ohio Army National Guardsmen recently shared a tough lesson learned by many veterans of Operation Desert Storm: the importance of air mobilization and deployment in future military operations.

Patriot Express '94 taught 34 Ohio soldiers air load planning and loading operations during a two-week Air Force Reserve exercise in July.

The exercise used six C-130 aircraft from the Air Force Reserve to fly air-lift/aeromedevac missions five to six times a day, leaving Rickenbacker ANGB and Youngstown ARB headed for Niagara Falls ARB and Greater Pittsburgh IAP. More than 250 Air Force personnel supported the air operations.

According to Sg t. 1st Class Don Garner, Troop Command flight operation liaison, the Air Force requested the Guard's involvement so the airmen could train with unique Army equipment (trucks w/trailers, HMMWVs, etc.).

So, from July 10-18, Army Guard soldiers flew with their equipment to a designated station and returned to either Rickenbacker or Youngstown each evening. Units that provided personnel and equipment included: 337th Personnel Service Company; 1487th and 1484th Transportation Companies; 1st and 2nd Battalion, 137th Aviation; 2nd Battalion, 174th Air Defense Artillery; and Troop Command.

Garner asserted that this was some of the best mobilization and deployment training the units have ever received. According to Sg t. 1st Class Stevan Lewis, 337th Personnel Company, agreed, saying that air load planning with "hands on training" is very appropriate for the Guard.

"The Air Force used to be responsible for loading the equipment, now it's a combined effort," said Lewis, a graduate of the Army Air Load Planning Course. Soldiers that arrive with cargo are now required to weigh and measure their equipment and give the information to the Air Force. The Air Force computes the information and then does a final check.

In contrast, Garner explained that Army aviation units are still set up so that the aircraft's crew chiefs are solely responsible for loading cargo. "So this was a rare opportunity for our guardsmen."

With the new force structure and bases consolidating, the Air Force Reserve has been working with units all over the country. "Since Desert Storm, we have been working with the Army on a regular basis," said Tech. Sg t. Tim Daly, 34th Aerial Port Squadron, Wisconsin USAFR.

"We do this almost every weekend."

Guard members were instructed by Air Force Reservists on how to marshal and prepare their equipment for deployment. The training included four hours of instruction in loading/unloading equipment, weight and balance computing and manifest preparation.

The training also involved three practice inspections, known as Joint Inspections, before the soldiers actually deployed. After the vehicle or equipment goes through inspection, the whole process of computing and lining up in chalk order only takes a few minutes, Garner explained.

"We are trying to reach optimum center balance," said Spc. Douglas Bowman, 337th Personnel Service Company, referring to measuring and weighing a vehicle. "We give them the data, they print it out, and off we go."
112th Engineers honor D-Day vets
Ohio Guard unit reflects on past

Story by SSG Joseph P. Oney
112th Engineer Combat Bn.

On the morning of June 6, 1944, soldiers taking part in the world's greatest amphibious operation waited to begin the Allied invasion of Europe from the coast of northern France. Among those soon to make history were members of the 112th Engineer Combat Battalion, the only Ohio National Guard unit that took part in that landing.

The 112th Engineers, under the command of Maj. William A. Richards, landed on Omaha Beach and, together with the 116th Infantry, proceeded to push inland. The assault was not without heavy losses. By the time the beach was secured, Maj. Richards and nearly half of C Company had lost their lives.

On June 4, 1994, members of the 112th Engineers held a reunion honoring the unit's place in history, as they have since 1947.

Battalion Executive Officer Maj. Salvino Zingales poses with retired Lt. Col. Carroll F. Stowell, the unit's executive officer during WWII.

This reunion marked the 50th Anniversary of the Normandy invasion, and, for current battalion members, it was a rare opportunity to talk to their predecessors.

Eager to share their memories, these veterans talked into the night, recounting the events that turned the tide of the 20th century. "It truly was the passing of the torch," said Joseph Rosenblatt, Jr., former recon officer of the 112th.

Although the ranks have dwindled over the years, these brave men proved they still carry the same spark of patriotism that carried them ashore 50 years ago.

107th Armored Cavalry provided a Cobra and a UH-1H helicopter for display. The 324th Military Police Company and 383rd Medical Company were also on hand, speaking with the scouts and demonstrating equipment at the static displays.

"The Family Jamboree was a great opportunity for the Ohio National Guard to interact with the local community, the Boy Scouts and other organizations," said Capt. Larry Fanning of the 134th Group. "We were able to show the public that the Guard can and will provide valuable service to the community."

Adopt-A-School program still strong
After units reported Adopt-A-School figures to State Headquarters last April, the tally was described as "incredible" by Maj. Jim Boling, director of public affairs.

"These statistics show how our program continues to grow and is indicative of the commitment we have to our Adopt-A-Schools around the state," Boling said. Maj. Gen. Richard Alexander formalized the National Guard's Adopt-A-School program through the State Public Affairs Plan in 1990.

Units around the state have developed solid programs with schools by providing mentors and tutors, presenting the KiDSAFE program to grades K-4, working with high school kids on the ninth-grade proficiency test, setting up static displays, offering armories for school dances and activities, and assisting in drug awareness and prevention programs through supporting the Red Ribbon Campaign.

For the 1993-94 school year, the Adjutant General's Department provided 26 volunteers and 100 hours of service, the Army National Guard had 383 volunteers with 3,839 hours, and the Air National Guard offered 317 volunteers and 4,058 hours. In all, 726 volunteers provided 7,797 hours of support for Adopt-A-School programs across the state.
Red Ribbon Campaign projected as best ever

Under the direction of 2nd Lt. Neal O’Brien, the 1994 Red Ribbon Campaign will reach more people than ever before according to Patricia Harmon, executive director for Ohio Parents for Drug Free Youth. The Adjutant General’s Department is the lead agency for the state in this year’s campaign.

The Red Ribbon Campaign, scheduled for Oct. 23-31, represents a unified and statewide commitment to a healthy drug free life-style by honoring the work of former Drug Enforcement Agency agent Enrique Camarena, who was murdered by drug traffickers in Mexico.

Throughout the month of October, guardmembers and communities across the state will display their support a variety of ways. Many will raise “Drug Free and Proud” banners, displayed a drug prevention literature and collected over 80 signatures on the “Sign up for a drug free Ohio” poster. As part of the 220th Family Day in June, Master Sgt. Russ Harless collected 66 signatures from Guard and family members. “We see the week in October as a culmination of the year,” Harless said. “The 1995 Red Ribbon Campaign will start on Nov. 1, 1994 for us.”

Unit opens doors to local war on drugs

Being partners in your community’s war on drugs can sometimes be as simple as opening a door. Or so the 200th RED HORSE Civil Engineering Squadron discovered when it hosted a networking breakfast on April 20 for local civic groups and organizations working to keep today’s youth drug free. Approximately five guardmembers volunteered to set up the breakfast for the 40 youth and 30 adults who attended.

Students from Port Clinton High School, the unit’s Adopt-A-School, performed a dance and a tilt prior to the networking session. Event organizer Jody Gahn, who is also local chairperson for Citizen’s Awareness of Substance Abuse (CASA), welcomed several distinguished guests including Clara Dracka, the local Parents’ Resource Institute for Drug Education (PRIDE) group advisor. Dracka has been recognized by Parents for Drug Free Youth as a finalist for the Enrique Camarena Recognition Award.

The networking session allowed the different organizations to meet and make contacts with each other, finding ways to be force multipliers in the area’s war on drugs. Submitted by SSgt. Dwight Damschroder, 200th RHCES.

 Guardsmen support DARE

The first Madison County DARE Olympics, May 20-21, provided Army National Guard members with a new challenge in the Adopt-A-School Program. Members of the State Area Command Headquarters volunteered to help in the two-day competition.

The DARE Olympics, sponsored by the Madison County Sheriff’s Department, involved students in fifth through eighth grade. More than 500 participants gave it their all for the gold, silver and bronze medals handed out in each of the categories. Guard soldiers monitored and cheered for kids running the obstacle course.

Madison County Sheriff Steve Saltsman applauded the efforts of the volunteer guardsmen. “All the members of my staff are grateful for the participation of the Ohio Army National Guard soldiers in a program geared toward making kids more aware of the danger of drugs.” Submitted by SSgt Bob Mullins, HQ STARC (-Det. 1-5).

Athletes encourage teens to live drug free

On April 21, the Mayor’s Athletes Program was taken to four Newark elementary schools. “Lady Buck” Kati Smith, from OSU basketball fame, and former NFL football great Ray Griffin talked with school children about a drug free life-style and it’s importance in achieving their goals.

Newark Mayor Frank Stare coordinated the visits, which captured the attention of students and staff alike. The athletes and mayor were accompanied by Safety Director Bob White, Police Chief Paul Green, Drug Policy Director Charly Franks and Treasurer Jim King.

Master Sgt. Russ Harless of the 220th Engineering Installation Squadron in Zanesville helped distribute over 1,000 Air National Guard bookmarks. These souvenirs not only carried a message to stay drug free, but also kept the local celebrities busy signing autographs. Submitted by MSgt. Russ Harless, 220th EIS.

Fall 1994
Springfield wins ONGEA softball tournament

Guardmembers from the 178th Consolidated Aircraft Maintenance Squadron beat nine other teams in the 1994 Ohio National Guard Enlisted Association Softball Tournament.

Hosted by the 180th Fighter Group in Toledo, this year's tournament took place the second weekend in July.

While Springfield's team won first place, two Columbus teams also took home trophies — the 121st Air Refueling Wing and the Adjutant General's Department placed second and third, respectively. Other teams included: 178th Fire Department, Springfield; HHD, 112th Transportation Battalion, Middletown; 135th Military Police Company, Brook Park; and four teams from the host unit: Stingers 1, Stingers 2, 180th Fighter Group and 180th Security Police.

Staff Sgt. Jim Dickman, who organized the tournament, thanked members of the fire department arrived, but the four trained Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs) stayed with the paramedics.

“We thought it was a minor situation until we saw a lady come out of the car with blood and a kid come out crying,” Newsome said. “My first instinct was to help.”

First Lt. Doug Greenoe, scout platoon leader, credited fatherhood as his inspiration to help someone else's children. “We were pretty shaken up. But the kids needed some help.” Submitted by Spc. Nicole Smith, 196th Public Affairs Detachment.

Dayton's AF Museum honors Ohio Air Guard

May brought more than spring flowers to the Ohio Air National Guard this year. It brought a tree and plaque to Memorial Park at Dayton's Air Force Museum, dedicated in the name of past, present and future airmen of the Buckeye State.

Inscribed, “This memorial honors the men and women of the Ohio Air National Guard — Citizen-Soldiers at their best,” the plaque lists all Ohio Air Guard units which were active when the project began in August 1990.

Representing all of Ohio's flying units, a KC-135R Stratotanker, a C-130H Hercules and an F-16 Falcon marked the occasion by performing fly-bys. The 178th color guard as well as the 121st firing squad and bugler also participated in the ceremony. Guest speakers included Congressman David Hobson and Assistant Adjutant General for Air Brig. Gen. Gordon Campbell.

Retired Lt. Col. David Engwall, a former member of the 178th Fighter Group, initiated the project and, through donations, was able to purchase the memorial site, a tree and marker with plaque.

The memorial park started in 1972 with a single tree and plaque dedicated to the Prisoners of War/Missing in Action and has grown to more than 240 memorials. Memorial statues, plaques, trees and benches commemorate individuals, organizations and military units associated with the Air Force.

Louisiana offers bonuses to war veterans

A bonus of $250 will be paid to Louisiana citizens who served with the Merchant Marines from Sept. 16, 1940 through July 25, 1947. Eligibility is restricted to include only those who were granted veteran status by a military branch and was issued a DD 214, with an honorable discharge. Certain surviving spouses may also be eligible. Applications must be received on or before July 1, 1999.

Louisiana also pays a military bonus to its citizens who served in the Desert Storm/Desert Shield theater of operations, if such service was performed between Aug. 2, 1990 and April 11, 1991. An application for this bonus must be received on or before April 11, 1996.

Individuals who would like to apply for either bonus should contact the Louisiana Department of Veterans Affairs, Bonus Division, P.O. Box 94095, Capitol Station, Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9095 or call (504) 922-0500.

Ear plugs required

The wear of ear plugs not only represents concern with ear safety, but also symbolizes a commitment to safety in general, said Assistant Adjutant General for Army Brig. Gen. John S. Martin.

As stated in Adjutant General of Ohio Regulation 40-5, dated August 1992, ear plugs will be worn as part of the duty uniform. On the Battle Dress Uniform, ear plugs will be worn on the left breast pocket.

Buckeye Guard
connected over the inside button with the lid of the container facing the center of the body. On flight suits, they will be worn on the waist adjustment strap, and on the tanker suit, through the zipper eyelet on the left breast pocket. The container should be the green colored square type, free of all tape and markings.

NGAUS honors ACS units

The 123rd and 124th Air Control Squadrons of Blue Ash have both been awarded with Distinguished Mission Support Plaques by the National Guard Association of the United States.

The awards are presented to non-flying Air National Guard units that provide outstanding mission support to flying units and support to the Air Force. Only five plaques and one trophy are awarded nationally.

“This is the third year in a row for the 124th to win a plaque, and the fourth year in a row for the 123rd,” said Capt. Ron Taylor, who put the award packages together.

Lt. Col. Ronald Harmon, commander of the 123rd, will accept the plaques for both units in September at the National Guard Association Conference in Boston, Mass. Submitted by Capt. Ann Coghlin, HQ Ohio ANG.

Marathon team places 12th in nation, Edens makes ‘All-Guard Team’

Four Ohio runners cruised through the Lincoln Marathon with ease, making the Buckeye State stand proud with a national ranking of 12th place. Spc. William R. Edens finished with the top 50 National Guard runners, earning his place on the “All-Guard Marathon Team”—an honor Edens trained long and hard for.

“I trained for six months, running 70 to 80 miles a week,” said Edens, 27, who’s been a competitive runner since junior high. As a member of the National Guard marathon team, the 16th Engineer Brigade soldier will rival other top-notch runners in either the Marine Corps Marathon in October or the Blue Angels Marathon in February. “I’m waiting to hear which one I get to race in.”

“He really had a fabulous run,” said Ohio teammate Capt. Elizabeth Burns. The captain, a nurse with the 145th MASH at Camp Perry, also had quite a run, shaving more than 25 minutes off her time from last year.

“I was thrilled,” Burns said. Finishing the 26.2-mile marathon in 3 hours, 46 minutes and 55 seconds, Burns placed second in the “Women 40-44” category.

“Last year I was injured all winter. This year I had no injuries, so I went in much better prepared. I had a great training season.”

Capt. Mark A. Pierson, 337th Personnel Service Company, and Capt. J.R. Nolen, HQ STARC, also competed in what was the 11th annual running of the National Guard Bureau Marathon Trial.

211th Maintenance makes lifetime dream come true

For people born mentally disabled, joining the military is an all but impossible dream. But on May 14, an Army National Guard unit from Newark, Ohio, made that dream come true for Billy Anderson, who was diagnosed as mildly disadvantaged since birth.

Maj. Dave McCutchen has acted as Billy’s “Big Brother” since 1991, the same year that Anderson learned that he had a malignant brain tumor. Surgery was performed and the growth went into remission, but recent health problems and subsequent testing indicated the problem has again become active.

Now, just when his needs are greatest, fate has dealt Billy another bad hand. McCutchen, who has commanded the 211th Maintenance Company since 1991, was asked to transfer to New York by his full-time employer, Owens-Corning.

Before he left, the major made sure Billy would be able to realize at least one of his lifetime dreams...to join the Army. During May’s drill weekend, McCutchen conducted a ceremony which named Billy Anderson an honorary member of the 211th.

Outfitted with a set of BDUs and combat boots, the unit’s newest member continues to fight one of the toughest battles any soldier, or civilian, will ever have to face.

Join the U.S. Cavalry

Troop C, 2nd Squadron, 107th Cavalry (Sandusky, Ohio) is looking for “a few good men” to join the ranks of the United States Cavalry. Vacancies currently exist for 19K (tank crewmen, M-1 tank) and 19D (scout M-3 CFV) soldiers of all enlisted ranks. Preference will go to those who are MOSQ first, however highly motivated, dedicated soldiers should also consider joining our ranks. Please contact Troop C at (419) 625-2157 if you want to join a quality organization that’s going places.
School visit inspires generosity

When guardmembers speak to school children on the missions of their unit, the best they hope for is that kids gain a basic understanding of the role of citizen-soldiers.

Lt. Col. Thomas Criqui’s talk, however, inspired second-graders from St. Joseph’s School in Maumee to start collecting donations for children in war-torn Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Criqui, a C-130 pilot for Mansfield’s 179th Airlift Group, told his daughter’s class about Bosnian students having inadequate school supplies, reporting that a single pencil can cost as much as $1.50. The lieutenant colonel is just one of the unit’s pilots who flew air-land and air-drop missions to Bosnia between July 1993 and April 1994.

“With all the humanitarian relief going on — the collections of food, clothing and medical supplies — the one thing the country wasn’t getting much of was school supplies,” Criqui said.

The kids appealed to area church and community leaders and sponsored bake sales and penny collections. The campaign spread quickly to other schools in the Northwest Ohio area. So far, they collected more than 1,000 pounds of school supplies and raised more than $2,000 in cash contributions.

Criqui says the unit isn’t interested in taking any credit for these donations. “It’s all the kids. We may have lit the match, but they really kept the fire burning,” he said. “And Mrs. Heckman, Ann’s second grade teacher, is really the driving force behind it all.”

Pending Department of Defense approval, the Mansfield unit hopes to deliver the donations to a United Nations representative in Bosnia before the next school year.

Tamez earns Surgeon General’s “A” proficiency

Maj. Eloisa G. Tamez, a nurse with the 145th Mobile Army Surgical Hospital, Camp Perry, was recently awarded the “A” proficiency designator by the Office of the Surgeon General, U.S. Army. Tamez, the first National Guard nurse to be so honored in the state of Ohio, received the award for her outstanding qualifications in the field of medical surgical nursing.

To Army doctors and nurses, the A proficiency rating is one of the highest awards they can receive from the Department of the Army for their professional accomplishments. Few officers demonstrate the outstanding qualifications and exceptional ability that are the basis for this award, according to the Surgeon General’s office.

“This is the one opportunity the Army has to recognize us for both our military and civilian accomplishments,” Tamez said.

The major has chaired national level committees such as Strategic Planning and Research for the Army Nurses Corps, Army National Guard, at the National Guard Bureau in Washington, D.C. She has also represented the Army Guard at the tri-service research group for two years.

Tamez, who completed her doctorate in health education from the University of Texas, is the chief of nursing service at the Brecksville Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Cleveland. She is also an adjunct professor at Toledo Medical College, School of Nursing, and Kent State University School of Nursing.

Respects paid to former brigade commander

Retired Brig. Gen. George Fredrick Graf was laid to rest at Memory Gardens in Findlay, Ohio, on July 6, 1994. Full military honors were performed graveside by various elements of the 148th Infantry Battalion (Mech).

Graf enlisted in the Ohio National Guard in 1937 and was commissioned a second lieutenant in 1940. A veteran of World War II, he saw active duty from October 1940 to March 1946, which included three amphibious landings in the Pacific Theater. After his release from the regular Army in 1946, Graf commanded the 148th Infantry of the Ohio National Guard. He was recalled to active duty during the Korean Conflict, November 1951 to November 1953.

Graf returned to the Ohio National Guard, commanding the 148th Infantry again until he advanced to assistant division commander of the 37th Infantry Division. He assumed command of the 16th Engineer Brigade in February 1970, prior to his retirement in December of that same year. He retired as a brigadier general.

His military awards include the Silver Star; Legion of Merit with one oak leaf
cluster; Bronze Star with two oak leaf clusters; the Purple Heart; the Army Commendation Medal with cluster; and the Combat Infantry Badge.

Graf was inducted into the Ohio National Guard Hall of Fame and received the community service award from the 37th Division Veterans Association in 1984. The Military Affairs Committee of Findlay-Hancock County named the general “Veteran of the Year” in 1989, which resulted in the Hancock County Fairground being renamed “Camp Graf” for the annual Armed Forces Day celebration held there.

In 1991, the Bowling Green National Guard Armory was renamed in his honor. The armory was the site of Graf’s enlistment as an Ohio National Guard private in September 1937.

Scherer takes 3rd runner-up in Miss Ohio contest

Senior Airman Shannon Scherer walked away from the Miss Ohio contest all smiles after placing in the top four and winning $1,750 in scholarship money. Scherer, who has been competing in pageants for the last 10 years, said Miss Ohio was a good opportunity to showcase her talent, raise her self-confidence and earn money for college. Though she did not win the title, the airman won top honors in the talent competition by singing Patsy Cline’s songs. Though she didn’t win the title, the airman won top honors in the talent competition by singing Patsy Cline’s songs.

Honesty is best policy

All your life it’s drilled into your head that honesty is the best policy. Fortunately for a Michiganan, Ohio guardsman Staff Sgt. Bob Mullins takes that policy to heart.

Mullins, the public affairs supervisor at HQ STARC, was on his way to Toledo for an enlisted association meeting when he spotted a briefcase wedged under a guardrail along Interstate 75. He retrieved the briefcase and inside found a passport, income tax papers and several thousand dollars in cash and traveler’s checks.

Mullins contacted the man whose name was on the passport, Fredrick Finger of Curran, Mich. Finger lost the briefcase three days earlier when it came loose from his car rack during a trip from Cincinnati.

Finger picked up the case the next day and gave Mullins a $500 reward. Mullins said he tried to turn down the money, but Finger insisted. Although Mullins could have kept the case with all the loot, he never considered it.

“No other thought ever crossed my mind,” he said. “If it’s not your money, anything you might buy with it wouldn’t be yours either.” Submitted by Spc. Nicole Smith, 196th Public Affairs Detachment.

Stevens claims Army bowling trophy

Without help from one member of the Ohio National Guard, the Army bowling team may not have won the Armed Forces Military Men’s and Women’s All Events Championship. This was the first time the team has taken home the honor since 1978.

Chief Warrant Officer Elaine Stevens, of Headquarters, State Area Command, walked away with both gold and silver medals in this year’s All Army Sports Bowling Championship.

Stevens earned her slot on the team by competing against 23 other women at the All Army Bowling Trial held at Fort Knox, Ky. last spring.

“We played two three-game sets each day for a total of 24 games,” Stevens said. She made the All Army Bowling Team with the second highest score of 4,544, beating out competitors from both state-side and overseas Army posts. With a high series of 653 and a high game of 254, she averaged 189.3 in the 24 games.

On April 17, the six-member team headed to the Armed Forces Championship at Camp Lejeune, N.C.

“I went out there wanting to put the Ohio National Guard on the map in this event,” Stevens said. And as a contributing member of the women’s team, she did just that. With strong teamwork, the soldiers bested the team of Marines, taking first place and capturing the gold medal with a score of 6,367.

In the mixed doubles competition, Stevens teamed up with 1st Lt. Daniel Heinzelman from Fort Hood, Texas. They placed second, winning the silver medal with a score of 2,277.

Ohio’s top-rated bowler is already looking forward to competing again next year.

Stevens, who also holds a third degree brown belt in Shorinryu Karate, began bowling in the early 1970’s under the instruction of friend and mentor Mr. Spencer Mizelle. Within a year, she won her first tournament at Amos Lanes in Columbus. In 1974, she was named Professional/Amateur (Pro/Am) champion with the combined score of 1,396, having paired up with three different professional bowlers.

Working full-time as the Army Guard’s Personnel Records Chief, Stevens believes that the military is partially responsible for her success. “My discipline from being a member of the Army National Guard helps me stay focused when I bowl.

“I also try to compete against myself,” she said, “so I just keep getting better.” Knowing she maintains a career high game of 277 and a high series of 743, it’s easy to appreciate her consistent improvement.

Sounding like a true pro, Stevens added, “I really just go out there to relax and enjoy myself.” Submitted by Spc. Clifford Nicol, HQ STARC (-Det. 1-5).
Military flights made easier, more comfortable

Guardsmen flying space available now have fewer hassles at en route terminals, thanks to a recent change by the Air Force’s Air Mobility Command (AMC).

Passengers traveling Space-A now retain their initial sign-up dates and times when flying through en route terminals to their destination, giving passengers boarding priority over those beginning their flights at en route terminals. This applies to military and military-contracted aircraft.

Though all passengers must still sign up at all stops to continue their Space-A flights, they will receive an “in-transit” stamp on their travel orders indicating the date, time and location they entered the system.

In addition, any service members traveling on Ohio Army National Guard C-26 or AMC space available flights are now authorized to wear civilian clothing. This includes those flying on PCS, TDY or emergency leave orders. However, military personnel traveling in civies must carry a current military ID card, ID tags and either travel orders or a DD Form 1853.

Of course, personnel must ensure that their dress and personal appearance are appropriate for the occasion — tank tops, shorts, sandals and revealing or soiled clothing are considered inappropriate.

To get flight information on Space-A opportunities, Ohio guardmembers can contact the following airfields: Rickenbacker ANGB, (614) 492-4595; Wright Patterson AFB (513) 257-7741; Mansfield ANGB, (419) 521-0124; or Youngstown, (216) 392-1082.

AAFES sends sales fliers to your door

The Army and Air Force Exchange Service (AAFES) will mail free sales fliers to National Guard and Reserve members and military retirees living in the United States at their request. The fliers announce major exchange sales events. Members of the National Guard or Reserve and retirees who would like to be on the AAFES mailing list may call Becky Bleeker at DSN 967-2960, commercial at (214) 312-2960, fax (214) 312-3016, or write: Army and Air Force Exchange Service, ATTN: MK-V/S (Becky Bleeker), P.O. Box 660202, Dallas, Texas 75266-0202. (Off Duty)

AAFES credit cut

Service members in grades E-1 through E-4 recently took a cut in the amount they can buy at post or base exchanges when they sign up for the delayed payment plan.

The Army and Air Force Exchange Service recently placed a six-month $500 limit on purchases made by the lower-enlisted ranks.

The limit, an AAFES spokesperson said, is to help keep junior soldiers and airmen, especially those who have never had credit, out of financial trouble.

Although 97 percent of deferred payment customers meet their obligations, a large increase in charges by some patrons is causing concern for commanders, she said.

Although the original AAFES credit plan included limits based on rank, last year AAFES introduced an enhanced program with a credit limit based on the applicant’s disposable income, up to $5,000. Exchange officials said they will consider raising the new limits to soldiers who make timely payments during their six-month probation period. (AFIS)

Clinton signs Guard burial rights into law

During a special ceremony in the Oval Office on May 4, 1994, President Bill Clinton signed H.R. 821 into law, making it possible for all National Guard men and women, who have served 20 years or more of service creditable toward military retirement, to qualify for burial in a national cemetery. Their spouses and children may also qualify.

Congressman Henry Bonilla, original sponsor of the law, said the bill’s intent was to honor the duty and commitment of National Guard members and Reservists. “More than 200,000 Guard and Reserve personnel were called to serve their country during Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm, and thousands of others have been ready at a moment’s notice to help their fellow citizens during national disasters,” Bonilla said.

Formerly, only individuals who served on active duty were eligible for burial in these cemeteries. (National Guard)

Troops to Teachers

People leaving the military and federal civilian jobs can begin new careers as educators in the Teacher and Teacher’s Aide Placement Assistance Program. The program, more commonly called “Troops to Teachers,” will help finance teacher certification training for people leaving the military, Departments of Defense and Energy and some defense contractor jobs.

Individuals may apply for the program at base education centers and at transition assistance offices. More information may be obtained by writing to the Defense Activity for Non-Traditional Education Support (DANTES), 6490 Saufley Field Road, Pensacola, Fla. 32509-5243. Information can also be obtained by calling the DANTES toll-free number: 1-800-452-6616. (AFNEWS)
On June 13, the Atlanta Buffalo Soldiers began a 583-mile journey which honored a great African American military hero, Col. Charles Young, a native of Ohio. The trip was a re-enactment of one made by Young in 1918. The Col. Charles Young House was recently designated the National Museum of African American Military History, a joint project of the National Afro-American Museum and Cultural Center and the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. It is located at 1120 U.S. Route 42, Wilberforce, Ohio, east of Xenia. For more information on the museum, call Floyd R. Thomas at (513) 376-4944.

More on pages 16-17
Family Days Youth Camp '94