

BUCKEYE GUARD

Winter 1999/2000

GLOBAL IMPACT

Worldwide missions of Ohio Air
Guardmembers showcased during
visit by lieutenant governor

PAGES 10-11

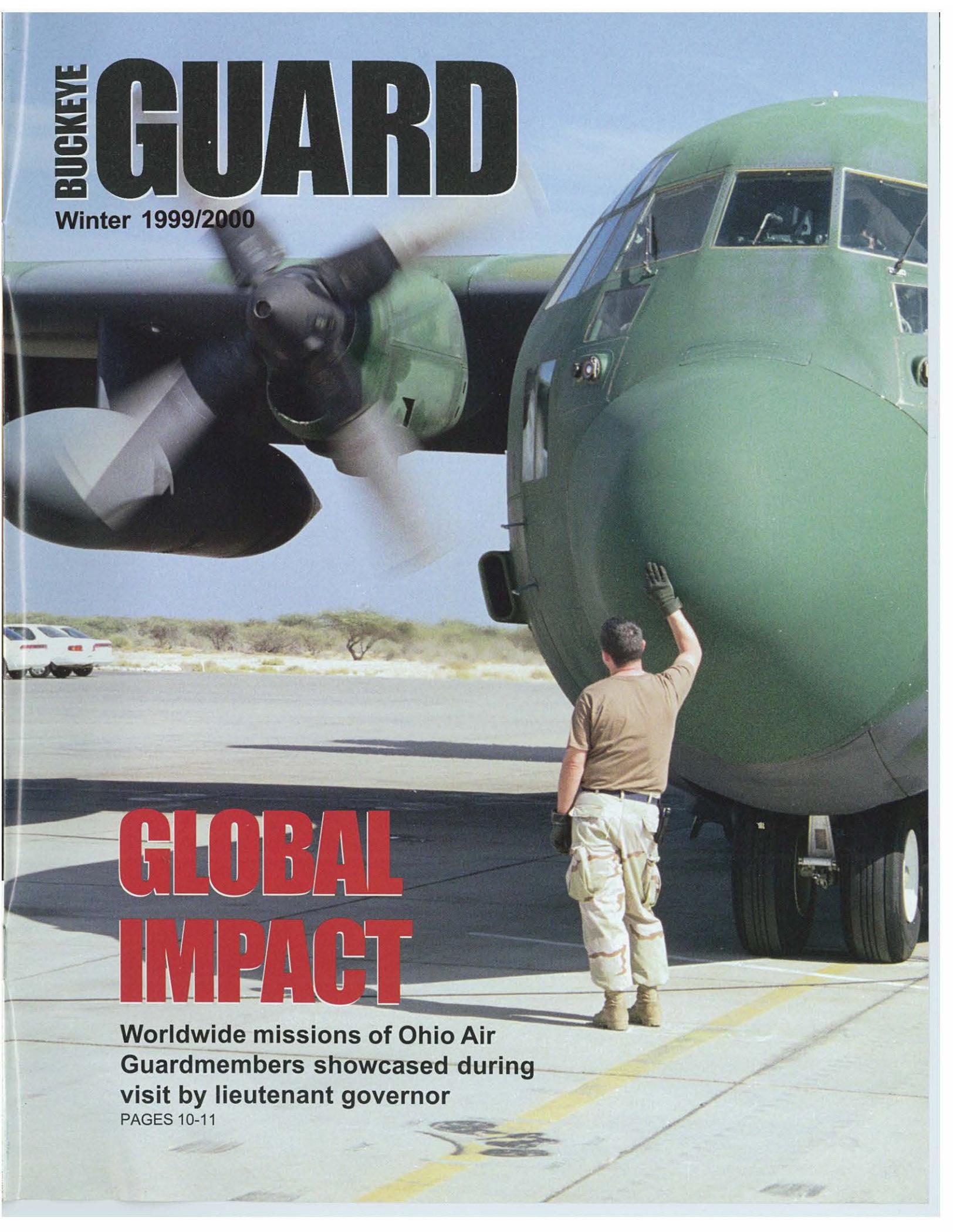




Photo by MSgt. Kim Frey, 121st Air Refueling Wing.

Army Aviation undergoes overhaul

SSG Larry Gladman (seated) and SSG Dale O'Hare, 1-137th Aviation, work on a UH-1 'Huey' utility helicopter at the Army Aviation Support Facility #2 in Columbus. Gladman is a former member of 2-107th Cavalry, which officially moved to North Canton in January. For more about the restationing of aviation assets, see page 19.

BUCKEYE GUARD

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Guardmembers and their families are encouraged to submit any articles meant to inform, educate or entertain *Buckeye Guard* readers, including stories about interesting Guard personalities and unique unit training. E-mail us at buckeye@tagoh.org.
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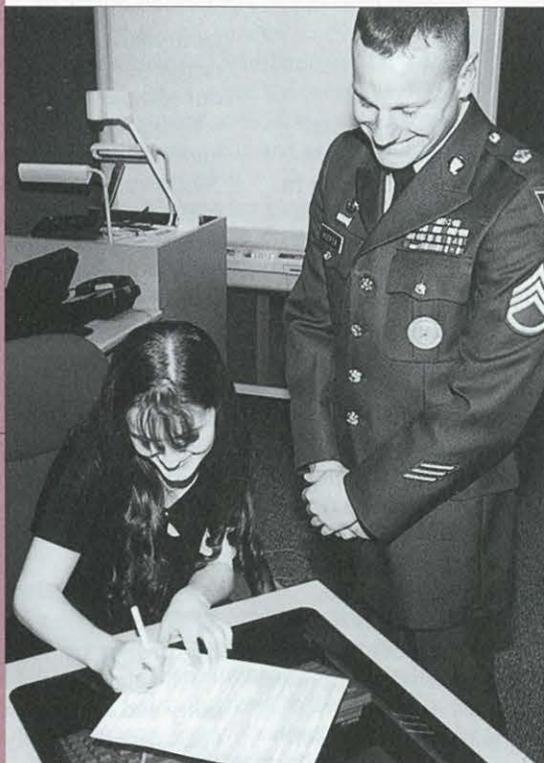


Photo by SFC Bob Mullins, HQ STARC (-).

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Brothers share commitment, passion for military, in same Lebanon-based unit.

Amanda Wood is first in 21st century to enlist in National Guard as her recruiter, SSG Robert Hooper, looks on. See page 7.

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Photo by SGT J.R. Lewis, HQ STARC (-).

Ohio contingent visits guardmembers supporting U.S military operations in Europe, Southwest Asia. See page 10.

ABOUT THE COVER: A member of the 179th Airlift Wing, Mansfield, guides in a C-130 'Hercules' transport aircraft at an air base in Seeb-North, Oman. The 179th deployed to Southwest Asia in support of the southern no-fly zone over Iraq. *Photo by SGT J.R. Lewis, HQ STARC (-).*

www.state.oh.tagnet.com

Log on to the Ohio National Guard website to learn more about the organization.

Strength campaign plan key to success



BY BRIG. GEN. RONALD G. YOUNG
ASST. ADJUTANT GENERAL, ARMY

When Army Chief of Staff Gen. Eric Shinseki pondered the state of recruiting in the Army, he determined that “every soldier in the Army is a recruiter.” I am determined to take the chief of staff at his word, however, here in Ohio, we also must remain focused on retaining the soldiers we have invested our time and energy in during their term of enlistment.

We have reached a point where the active participation of every member of the Ohio Army Guard is needed to improve our personnel readiness situation. Ohio has experienced a tremendous amount of force structure turmoil over the past 10 years. The deactivation and reorganization of many of our units has had a demoralizing effect on our soldiers and undermined our retention efforts. The first step to stabilizing our force structure and protecting our units, is improving personnel readiness.

Looking at our own personnel readiness situation in the Ohio Army National Guard, we determined a three-pronged approach that emphasizes recruiting, retention and reduction of attrition to be the best attack plan. The result of that approach is “Buckeye Force 21,” our strength management campaign plan.

To ensure we do not become overrun with unnecessary paperwork, the plan eliminates regulations, reduces required reports to higher headquarters and focuses energy into a single source document for clear communication and vigorous execution. But the success of our campaign plan rests on the shoulders of each soldier from the time of enlistment into the unit. It starts with the recruiter who puts the soldier into the unit, and moves to the battle buddy who shepherds the new soldier through their early drill days. It relies on the first-line leader who will make that initial impression of the leadership commitment we’ve made.

Our current situation is challenging but not insurmountable. The economy is in overdrive, and we have stiff competition from civilian businesses and other services. But our greatest challenge is mentorship. Only six percent of potential recruits ages 17-21 have a parent who has served in the military. This is why we must each find a young adult to mentor and convince them of the tremendous opportunities available in the OHARNG. Our greatest source of referrals, and thus recruits, are our soldiers. No amount of advertising dollars can replace the one-on-one relationship that takes place when one of us talks to a peer about joining the Guard.

Our mission is clear—achieve 100 percent strength. Resourcing decisions made at the strategic level are based on unit combat readiness, which comes from having combat-ready soldiers.

We are short qualified and available soldiers. The three underpinnings of the campaign plan are mutually supporting and require

us to assist the *recruiting* command in finding new soldiers, *retain* our great soldiers in uniform who are already members of our team and reduce the *attrition* through non-ETS losses. Absents Without Leave and transfers to other reserve components are unacceptable. Leaders at every level, especially first-line NCOs, must take charge!

We have extensively surveyed recruits and soldiers to learn why they join and why they stay. Our feedback indicates that we have the best package of benefits currently on the market. Our 100 percent scholarship program and all of the other incentives available make this the best time to join and stay in the OHARNG.

It is vital that we work hand in hand with our recruiters to find new soldiers. The Blue Streak Program gives each soldier \$100 or more for each referral resulting in an enlistment. A soldier in the 2-174th Air Defense Artillery (Avenger) Battalion recently received \$1,250 for recruiting new soldiers. The recruiting ribbon and 20 STPA points can be earned for two new enlistment referrals.

First impressions last. We must fully integrate new soldiers into the unit and mentor them. It is the first-line leader’s responsibility to sponsor and mentor a new soldier. All leaders in the officer and NCO chain of command need to execute an aggressive sponsorship program, making new soldiers feel welcome.

All soldiers must be accountable for their individual responsibility and loyalty. Going AWOL is unacceptable and must be dealt with decisively. We must return to the basics of military discipline and standards that are enforced in basic training: be on time, in the correct uniform, prepared to train hard.

Awards are important. Leaders at every level must take time to recommend deserving soldiers for the awards they earn through hard work, mission accomplishment and professional excellence.

Employer support is critical to our success. We can reduce employer tension by recognizing them as part of our team, but most importantly, by ensuring they understand your commitment to the Guard. Appreciation certificates, lunch and a tour at the armory during drill or at annual training, or a letter from

the commander are just a few ways we can gain their support. “My Boss is a Patriot” nomination applications have been sent out in previous editions of the *Buckeye Guard*, and are also available on-line at www.ncesgr.osd.mil.

Finally, our families are truly why we serve. Protecting them and their future is what drives us to endure, sacrifice and commit everything to winning. We need to continue thanking and recognizing them for their sacrifice as part of the Guard family.

Our nation relies more than ever on its citizen-soldiers to shoulder the burden of national defense. Recently, the 49th Armored Division, Texas National Guard, took command of Operation Joint Guard, the peacekeeping mission in Bosnia. Over the next two years, the 28th (Pennsylvania) and 29th (Virginia) Infantry Divisions will follow the 49th, making this the first use of these National Guard divisions since World War II. Unit combat readiness and effectiveness are measured first and foremost by 100 percent assigned, qualified and highly motivated soldiers. To get there requires the effort of every soldier.

Together, we will win. ■

BUCKEYE FORCE XXI

Article on guardmember's accidental shooting raises safety questions with reader

I found the article about Bravo Company, 612th Engineer Battalion soldiers using combat lifesaver (CLS) skills disturbing.

Do not get me wrong, when I first read the article I was impressed with the calm and professional actions taken by the soldiers assisting another wounded soldier. But, then I began to think about why a jammed weapon was allowed to leave the range.

It is my understanding that a soldier encountering a jammed weapon on a range should have attempted to clear the weapon through the proper misfire procedures. If the individual cannot clear

the misfire, the weapon is left at the firing point until NCOs (noncommissioned officers), part of the range detail, try to clear the weapon. If they cannot clear the misfire, the weapon is left at the firing point and range control is notified to send out personnel to handle the weapon. All of this information should have been given to the soldier during a safety briefing before entering the range.

Doing realistic training and going to live-fire ranges is good. All soldiers benefit from this unless thoughtless acts occur, resulting in the injury or death of a soldier. SAFETY always needs to be priority one during any training activity.

SPC CHRIS AGUILAR
HHC, 1-107TH ARMOR BATTALION, STOW

Officer Candidate School provides challenges, rewards

An exciting and rewarding opportunity exists in the Ohio Army National Guard. Ohio currently needs about 70 men and women to serve as junior officers in a variety of positions throughout the state. One way to become a commissioned officer is through the state's Officer Candidate School (OCS), offered at the 145th Regiment, Regional Training Institute, located at Rickenbacker Army Enclave, Columbus.

But why would anyone in their right mind

put themselves through the rigors of Ohio's Officer Candidate School? A typical day at OCS involves waking up at 5 a.m. to begin an action-packed day of physical training, inspections and academic classes. Every minute of the day is utilized until lights out at 11 p.m. OCS is not for everyone, but for those who want a challenge and want to grow both personally and professionally, it is worth it.

There are plenty of benefits of attending Officer Candidate School. If money is your motivator, then it is good to know that candidates receive an administrative promotion to staff sergeant (E-6) for pay purposes for the duration of the program. In addition, candidates who are eligible for the Montgomery G.I. Bill can receive a "Kicker" of \$350 a month after completing the Phase I annual training during the first year of the course.

But there is more to OCS than just money. The objective of the OCS program is to teach individuals who want to become officers

in the Ohio Army National Guard to take initiative, think clearly, take orders as well as give them and be able to set the example for the personnel they will lead.

The 145th RTI provides the means for commissioning using the same program of instruction and evaluation requirements as dictated by the Army Infantry School at Fort Benning, Ga. Completion of the program results in a federally recognized appointment to the rank of second lieutenant.

There is so much to learn at OCS. Not only do you learn about yourself and how others perceive you, but you also learn about leadership and management skills while gaining a greater understanding of how the Army works as a whole.

Candidates receive academic classes in tactics, engineering, communications, operations, combat service support, leadership, artillery, training management, land navigation and intelligence.

Feedback and evaluation are a critical part of leadership development. The Teach, Assess and Counsel (TAC) Staff evaluates leadership. TAC officers observe, instruct and correct candidates in all non-academic activities by informing them of their personal weaknesses that need improvement in order for the candidate to become a more competent officer.

OCS is not easy, but there is a certain prestige that comes with becoming an of-

ficer and a leader. Not only will you earn greater respect from your friends and family, but you will also gain a greater respect for yourself. If you are interested in learning more about the OCS program, there is an orientation March 25-26 at the 145th RTI, in building 920. This is an informational meeting and you do not have to make a commitment at that time.

If you know that you want to attend Officer Candidate School, your first step is to let your unit know and attend the orientation. The first drill is April 1-2. For more information, you can call the RTI at (614)336-6448.

OC DON FLOWERS
HQ STARC (-), COLUMBUS

Soldier seeking twins in Guard for 'Twins Days'

I am a 19D (cavalry scout) course manager-instructor at the 145th Regiment, Regional Training Institute, located at Rickenbacker Army Enclave. I have 4-year-old twin daughters, and our family has attended 'Twins Days' in Twinsburg the past 4 years.

Last year at the parade, I got the idea to enter the Ohio National Guard in this year's parade, scheduled for Aug. 4-6.

Twins Days is the world's largest annual gathering of twins. Every August since 1976, twins, supertwins and parents of the same from around the world descend on this small town just south of Cleveland for a weekend of socializing, celebration and fun.

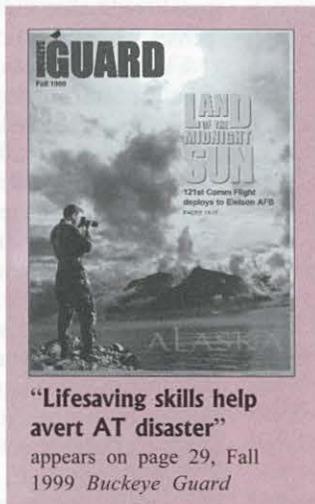
I am looking for any interested Ohio Guardmembers who are either twins in the Guard or have children that are twins to attend this year's Twins Days and ride an Ohio National Guard twins float in the "Double Take" parade beginning at 9 a.m. Aug. 5, which is a Saturday.

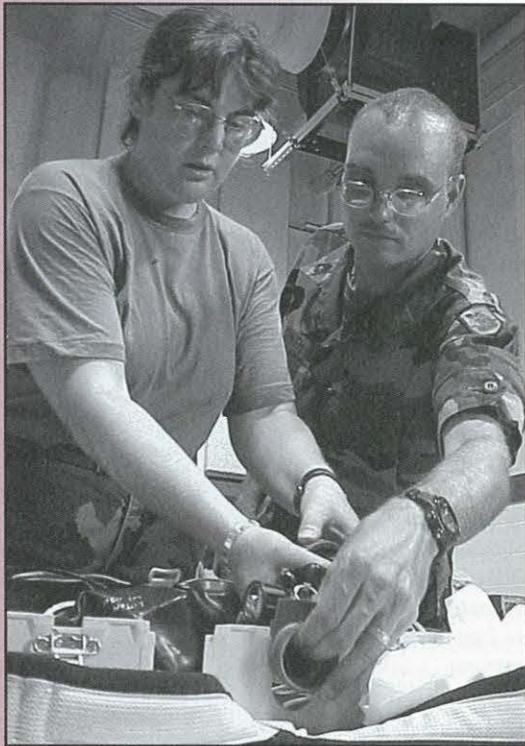
Anyone interested should contact me by phone at work (614)891-6600 or mobile (614) 496-2270 or by e-mail at michaelmb@clsi-oh.com.

SFC MICHAEL M. BLANKENSHIP
145TH REGIMENT, RTI, COLUMBUS

Correction

In a news brief and photo that ran on page 24 of the Fall 1999 *Buckeye Guard*, Staff Sgt. Walter Mihalik, an Ohio Army National Guard recruiter in the Youngstown area, was identified by an incorrect first name.





Department of Defense photo.

These Washington National Guard members, shown taking apart an air regulator, are among more than 200 guardmembers nationwide who have received training to respond to incidents involving weapons of mass destruction.

DoD tabs Ohio to receive one of additional WMD Civil Support Teams

The Department of Defense announced plans Jan. 13 to form 17 more Weapons of Mass Destruction Civil Support Teams, including one in Ohio, bringing the total nationwide to 27.

The teams, originally called Rapid Assessment and Detection teams, would deploy and assist civil first responders in the event of a weapons of mass destruction incident, said Charles Cragin, principal deputy assistant secretary of defense for reserve affairs.

The federal government will train, equip and develop doctrine for the teams, Cragin said. The teams will always work in support of civilian agencies and unless federalized will remain under the control of the host state governors.

Other new teams will be based in Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Florida, Hawaii, Idaho, Iowa, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Minnesota, New Mexico, Oklahoma, South Carolina and Virginia. They will come on line in 2001 be-

tween March and July.

The first 10 designated teams are completing training and are scheduled to come on line in April of this year in Colorado, Georgia, Illinois, California, Massachusetts, Missouri, New York, Pennsylvania, Texas and Washington. Cragin said the teams consist of 22 full-time members of the Army or Air National Guard. The personnel selected for these additional teams will undergo 15 months of rigorous individual and unit training, and then will be evaluated for operational certification. AMERICAN FORCES PRESS SERVICE

Cohen puts halt to cutting Guard more

Defense Secretary William Cohen has deferred plans that would have cut another 25,000 personnel from the Army National Guard and Reserve.

The 1997 Quadrennial Defense Review had recommended reserve component cuts of up to 45,000 personnel. Reductions of 17,000 in the Army National Guard and 3,000 in the Army Reserve have already been completed.

Charles Cragin, principal deputy assistant secretary of defense for reserve affairs, said three factors prompted deferment of the cuts. First, the Army is currently conducting a redesign of National Guard divisions. Second, DoD had scheduled to begin the process of conducting another QDR in January 2001, which will provide another opportunity to analyze existing force structures and future requirements. Third, DoD is highly dependent on reserve component forces for operations throughout the world.

"We couldn't do it without them," Cragin said. "They are critically important, and in many instances they have at least a majority of core competencies needed in ongoing operations." AMERICAN FORCES PRESS SERVICE

2001 budget marked by 3.7 percent federal pay raise

The president's proposed fiscal 2001 defense budget calls for a 3.7 percent military and civilian pay hike, proposes eliminating out-of-pocket off-post housing expenses and aims to fix the military health system.

The Clinton administration is asking Con-

gress for a \$291.1 billion defense purse. This is a \$13.5 billion increase over the actual fiscal 2000 defense authorization. AMERICAN FORCES PRESS SERVICE

Government travel card now required for service members

Federal employees, including military members, no longer will be able to use their personal credit charge cards for authorized expenses while on official government travel.

Use of the government Visa travel card by all federal employees becomes mandatory May 1, according to revised policies dictated by the Travel and Transportation Reform Act of 1998.

The act created the requirement to enable the government to take advantage of rebates from charge card companies, and to help track travel expenditures, Defense Department officials said.

Defense Department employees will be required to use the government travel card primarily for hotel costs, car rentals and air travel. AIR FORCE PRINT NEWS

All military personnel to be trained on homosexual policies

The Department of Defense has approved service plans to train military personnel in the intricacies of the "don't ask, don't tell, don't harass" homosexual policy.

Service members will receive training in the policy at all levels of professional military training. They will also receive periodic "refresher" training at their units. AMERICAN FORCES PRESS SERVICE

Guard adopts official song

"And when my country calls me — from within or from afar — I'll be first to answer; Proud to be the Guard."

A three-minute ballad that resonates with the history and the spirit of America's citizen-soldiers and airmen—from Concord Bridge to Desert Storm—has been adopted as the National Guard's official song.

"I Guard America" is a song written and performed by country singer and songwriter James Rogers, a Tennessee Army Guard soldier in the 1970s, that has been endorsed by top leadership at the National Guard Bureau. Rogers, 50, wrote the song for and donated it to the Tennessee National Guard in 1990. The Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States made "I Guard America" its official song in August 1998. ARMY NEWS SERVICE

Top Air National Guard enlisted man to bring about changes

By Maj. Ann Coghlin
178th Fighter Wing

Enlisted members of the Air National Guard have the top guy going to bat for them, working issues that will improve their career in the Guard.

Command Chief Master Sgt. Gary Broadbent, the Air senior enlisted advisor at the National Guard Bureau, Washington, D.C., visited Springfield's 178th Fighter Wing during the unit's January's drill. Broadbent briefed unit members on various issues of concern. "There's great stuff going on for enlisted folks in the Air National Guard," he said.

One big change that can be implemented immediately is that the lowest enlisted grade

on a manning document will be staff sergeant. Also, under the new enlisted grades policy, 3,800 technical sergeant slots, 3,800 master sergeant slots and 400 senior master sergeant slots will be added Guard-wide. Chiefs will continue to be two percent of the total force, or about 2,000 slots, he said.

Broadbent strongly emphasized his beliefs on force management. "Promote only those who are deserving—it should never be a give away. Keep credibility in the program," he said.

The exceptional promotion program adds slots for chief and senior master sergeants for each state based upon its Air National Guard population. Ohio fared well, getting three additional chief and three additional senior slots. This three-year test program is in its second year.

National Guard Bureau is working to finalize an enlisted feedback program soon. The Ohio Air Guard will have the option to continue its Feedback 360 program or adopt the new one. "It's all part of taking care of

our people," he said.

The aptitude knowledge test—which will allow recruits to bypass three-level schools if they already have the skills needed for their career field—is being implemented. Contracting and security forces are the first two aptitude tests that will be written, expanding to safety, vehicle maintenance and computer operator school tests next, Broadbent said. "This is not something that will happen overnight...but we're on the right track."

He acknowledged the problems with getting to technical school slots in a timely manner, but he said the Bureau is diligently working the issue at the national level.

Another initiative Broadbent is working currently is to give wing-level commanders the authority to "float" E-9 billets. What this means is that if a billet is tied to an Air Force Specialty Code career field and the personnel with that AFSC are not ready to be promoted because of incomplete professional military education, time-in-grade or service requirements, the commander should be able to float the billet and let senior master sergeants who are eligible compete for the promotion.

Broadbent said that Air National Guard-wide, chief vacancies have been as high as 300 at any one time. He said his goal is to have a proposal in place for leadership to review by June.

The command chief joined the Air Force in 1974, serving four years as a fuels specialist. He served full-time in the New Hampshire Air National Guard from 1979 through 1997, then was assigned the senior enlisted advisor, 1st Air Force, before taking his current position.

As senior enlisted advisor to Maj. Gen. Paul Weaver, director of the Air National Guard, Broadbent is responsible for all affairs concerned with the enlisted

personnel of the more than 100,000-member Air National Guard.

For more information on the command chief's initiatives, check out his website at <http://airguard.ang.af.mil/ccc/index.htm>. ■



Broadbent

Broadbent strongly emphasized his beliefs on force management. "Promote only those who are deserving—it should never be a give away. Keep credibility in the program," he said.

NORTH CANTON

Command profile



COL Matthew L. Kambic

37th Armor Brigade

Age: 43.

Occupation: Director of Plans, Operations, Training and Military Support, Ohio Army National Guard.

I grew up in: Girard, Ohio.

When I was little I wanted to be: a professional athlete.

My favorite time of year is: summer.

The one thing I treasure most is: my family—wife and two sons.

My favorite junk food is: Hostess Ding Dongs.

My biggest pet peeve is: intolerance.

My favorite recreational activities are: golf and reading.

If I could travel back in time, I would: want to have dinner with Gen. George C. Marshall and take counsel with him.

If I won \$20 million in the lotto I would: retire my wife, invest my money and then report for duty.

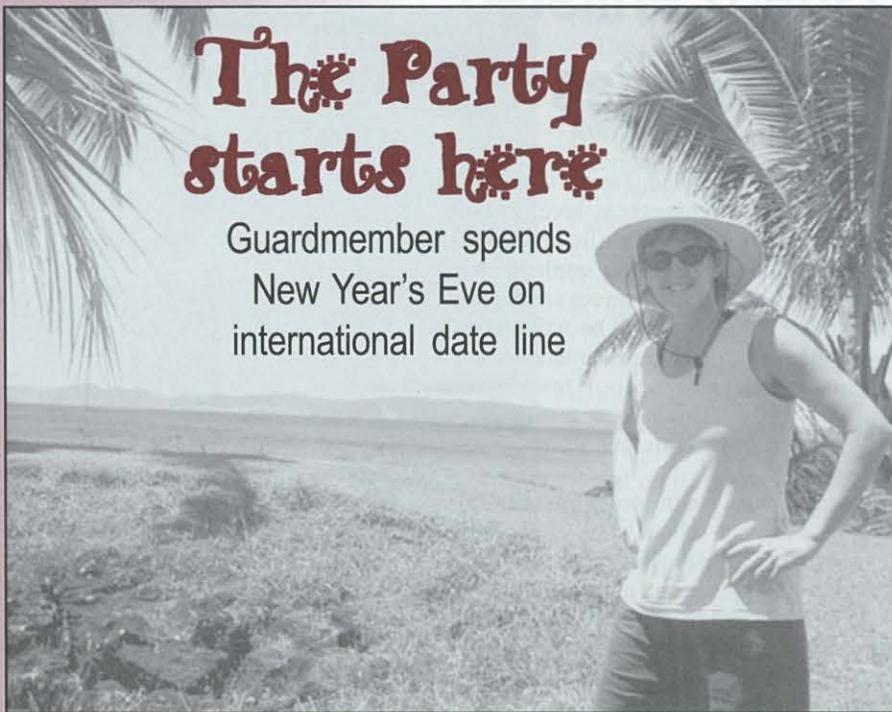
The older I get, the more I: appreciate individual contributions to our organization's many successes.

When I retire, I want to: be the greatest grandpa in America to my grandchildren and play golf.

If I could leave today's guardmembers with one piece of advice it would be: You are America's "quiet" heroes who must wake up every day to win that day's fight through your personal development, contribution to your organizations and willingness to share the burden of leadership that will ensure your unit successfully accomplishes its mission.

The Party starts here

Guardmember spends New Year's Eve on international date line



Courtesy photo.

TSgt. Lori King enjoys the tropical paradise of the Fijian island of Taveuni.

Story by Staff Sgt. Diane L. Farrow
HQSTARC(-)

Many people who don't ordinarily celebrate New Year's Eve made special plans this past holiday to welcome in the year 2000—a blow-out party at a downtown hot spot, a romantic evening at an upscale hotel or even a celebration at home with extended family invited.

But one Ohio Guardmember can stake a claim to fame that few can match—she literally witnessed the dawn of the new millennium.

Tech. Sgt. Lori King, 180th Fighter Wing, agreed two years ago to travel with a group of friends to Taveuni, the third largest of the Fiji islands. Their goal was to be the first to celebrate the turn of the century.

"The 180th meridian (global longitude line) cuts diagonally through the island, one of only five pieces of land it touches," King said. The line is also known as the international date line—which designates the start of a new calendar day, she explained. "Standing astride the 180th meridian, you have one leg in today and one in yesterday."

The whole idea began with King's friend, Teeny Guynes, an avid

collector of globes and maps. "This was her dream, to be at the first place to turn 2000. She's been planning (the trip) for about six years," King said.

"Anytime the subject came up at a party or get-together, a few more of us decided, 'Hey, I want to be there too!'" she said. King also thought the event would provide a great photo opportunity for the *Toledo Blade*, where she's employed as a staff photographer.

The technical sergeant's photojournalism career began in the military in 1979 while serving eight years on active duty in the Army. She joined the Ohio Army National Guard in 1987 and later transferred to the Air Guard. Being in a reserve component allowed her career as a freelance photographer to grow, shooting assignments for various organizations such as the Associated Press.

"Since New Year's was 18 hours earlier in Fiji, the *Blade* wanted to run some of my photos

Fijian women welcome in the new year with traditional song and dance of the islands.

on New Year's Day," King said. So she packed her laptop and digital camera, and turned the trip into a working vacation. A contact from *The New York Times* also asked that she send a photo of the first sunrise to the newspaper for publication.

Of course, that photo was shot several hours after the much-awaited strike of midnight. And the Fijian celebration was nothing like the New Year's traditions found in America.

The island resort where King's group stayed hosted a party on a grassy embankment next to the rocky coastline. "We sat in a circle and watched ritual dancing and singing of the Fiji natives," she said. "There was a feast with roasted pig, chicken, fish, lots of rice and other food.

"Right before midnight, we were given candles to hold and a prayer was said." While that event ended somewhat quietly—with simple hugs rather than obnoxious noisemakers—the group returned to the shore the next day for a second celebration at 6 p.m. "That was midnight here (in America), so we had the countdown and sang 'Auld Lang Syne.'"

Since the 180th meridian divides Taveuni in two, the north side of the island held its New Year's celebration another six hours later. "So we could have celebrated three times," King said, "but we were just too tired."

King is planning to retire from the military in July. She leaves with many awards for her exceptional skill as a photojournalist, including the prestigious National Guard Bureau Journalist of the Year for 1994. She will be greatly missed by the staff of the *Buckeye Guard*. ■



Photo by TSgt. Lori King, 180th Fighter Wing.

Few problems for Guard with Y2K rollover

By Diana Kelly
Army News Service

The Y2K bug may not have been around for the New Year's weekend, but the active Army, National Guard and Reserve were.

The Army Operations Center stood up a Y2K crisis action cell at the Pentagon from Dec. 30 through mid-day Jan. 4. The cell monitored installations worldwide and communicated with major command Emergency Operations Centers.

More than 7,000 National Guardmembers were on duty nationwide. The Guard staffed operations centers in all 50 states, the District of Columbia and four U.S. territories on New Year's Eve. National Guard military police helped patrol the streets in Washington, D.C., ready to help civilian police control crowds and traffic. Other guardmembers remained on standby at armories to help deal with potential civil disturbances that never occurred.

Miriam Browning, the Army's Director for Information Management, said less than six minor Y2K-related problems were reported Armywide over the New Year's weekend. These did not affect any Army operations, she said. In fact, they were not severe enough to be monitored at the Department of the Army or Department of Defense level, and were fixed within a day or two, she said.

It was widely reported in the news media that a DoD ground-based computer system, which relays information from satellite intelligence, had failed for a number of hours over New Year's Eve. Officials said the computer system belonged to the National Reconnaissance Office and was not an Army asset.

All 191 Army installations reported green on Y2K, which meant that their power, water, computers and facilities on and off post reported success in terms of rolling over with the Y2K bug, Browning said.

The first Army installation to successfully pass into the new millennium was Kwajalein Island in the Pacific. The last was Johnston Atoll, also in the Pacific, on the other side of the international date line. Those in between passed through the millennium just as smoothly.

Upcoming is the rollover from 2000 to

RECRUITING AND RETENTION



At one second past midnight Jan. 1, Ohio Adjutant General Maj. Gen. John H. Smith swears in Amanda L. Wood, who is believed to be the first National Guard enlistee of the 21st century in the continental United States.

Y2K brings nation's first Guard recruit to Ohio

Story and photo by
Sgt. 1st Class Bob Mullins
HQSTARC(-)

The Ohio Army National Guard wasted little time combating the Y2K recruitment challenge as it enlisted the first soldier of the 21st century shortly after the stroke of midnight Jan. 1.

Columbus native Amanda L. Wood, a 1998 graduate of Briggs High School, became the first enlistee in the National Guard, and perhaps the entire armed services, for the new millennium in the continental United States.

The swearing-in ceremony was performed one second after midnight Jan. 1 by Maj. Gen. John H. Smith, adjutant general for Ohio.

Taking advantage of the new Ohio National Guard Scholarship Program, Wood will receive a scholarship which will pay 100 percent of her college tu-

ition, in addition to a \$5,000 enlistment bonus and Montgomery G.I. Bill benefits. Wood said she plans to attend either Ohio State University or Columbus State Community College, and major in journalism.

"My goals in the military are to do whatever job I am assigned and do it well," Wood said. "Both my grandfathers, my father and my uncle were in the Army, so I decided to join for both the educational benefits and to serve my country."

She has been assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1-137 Aviation Battalion, Columbus. Basic training was scheduled to begin for Wood March 1 at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo.

After basic training, Wood will attend her advanced individual training at Fort Lee, Va., where she will train to be a petroleum supply specialist. ■

2001, and the period from the end of February to the beginning of March in 2001.

"The Y2K bug should not be a serious network or computer problem in the future, because we took a lot of steps to fix it," Browning said.

"It was a very good success story in terms of internal cooperation within the

DoD. I'd like to thank everybody in the Army: military, civilian, contractors, active, Reserve and Guard; they did an absolutely super job over the past couple of years in making sure that the Army had no problems," Browning said. "Everyone who had a hand in fixing Y2K needs to be congratulated." ■

BEST OF THE BUCKEYE STATE 1999



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

For 1999, the Army Guard honored a traditional soldier and NCO of the year, and an Active Guard/Reserve (AGR) NCO of the year. Army Guard personnel were evaluated on their knowledge of military subjects, leadership, Army programs and current events. Candidates also were judged on personal appearance, military bearing, self-confidence and wear of the Army uniform.

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

Ohio Army National Guard

Traditional Soldier of the Year - Spc. Eric J. Moorehead

Medical Specialist, Det. 6, State Area Command, Columbus

Spc. Eric J. Moorehead is assigned to Detachment 6 (Medical), State Area Command. Moorehead joined the Ohio Army National Guard in December 1994 immediately following his service on active duty as a flight medic. His last duty assignment before entering the Ohio Guard was at Fort Riley, Kan. Moorehead graduated in May 1998 from the College of Mount Saint Joseph's, located in Cincinnati, with a bachelor's degree in nursing. He currently works as a nurse for Shriners Burn Hospital in Cincinnati. Moorehead currently is pursuing a commission as an Army National Guard Nurse Corps officer. He is single and enjoys hunting, fishing and outdoor sport activities. He resides in Erlanger, Ky.



Traditional NCO of the Year - Staff Sgt. Glenn A. Fisher

Finance Specialist, HHD, State Area Command, Columbus

Staff Sgt. Glenn A. Fisher is assigned as a finance specialist for Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, State Area Command, Columbus. Fisher joined the Ohio Army National Guard in June 1998 after serving in the Marine Corps Reserve. Fisher is also employed as a federal technician—a military pay clerk—with the Ohio Adjutant General's Department in Columbus. He recently graduated from Franklin University in Columbus with a bachelor's degree in business administration. Fisher is currently pursuing a direct commission as an Army National Guard finance officer. He enjoys playing football, softball and reading. Fisher and his wife, Diane, reside in Grove City.

AGR NCO of the Year - Staff Sgt. Robert J. Hooper

Recruiting and Retention NCO, Det. 4, State Area Command, Columbus

Staff Sgt. Robert J. Hooper is assigned as a recruiting-retention noncommissioned officer in the Columbus area for Detachment 4 (Recruiting Command), State Area Command. Hooper joined the Ohio Army National Guard immediately following three years of active-duty service as a cavalry fighting vehicle crew member. His last duty assignment was at Fort Bliss, Texas. Prior to his tour as an AGR recruiting-retention NCO, Hooper was assigned to Company C, 1-107th Armor, Stow, as an M1 Abrams armor crew member. He has worked as a recruiting-retention NCO since January 1998. Hooper is currently working on a bachelor's degree in history from Kent State University. He is single, and enjoys golfing and skiing.



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

Ohio Air National Guard

Airman of the Year - Airman 1st Class Erin M. Grass

Information Specialist, 178th Fighter Wing, Springfield

Airman 1st Class Erin M. Grass was born at Travis Air Force Base, Calif. She attended Beavercreek High School and excelled in academics while participating in softball, band, color guard and choir. After graduating high school in 1998 at age 17, she enlisted in the Ohio Air National Guard and left for basic training. Upon completion of basic training, Grass began technical training as an information manager helper at Keesler Air Force Base, Miss. Grass is a volunteer member of the Airman-NCO Advisory committee, the Force Management Team and works on the 178th's base beautification project. Grass has completed her freshman year at Ohio State University, and plans to major in public relations.



NCO of the Year - Tech. Sgt. Jeffrey C. Wandell

Food Services NCO, 200th Red Horse Squadron, Port Clinton



Tech. Sgt. Jeffrey C. Wandell was born in Elmira, N.Y. He graduated from Horsehide High School, where he was active as a cadet in the Civil Air Patrol. After graduation, he joined the United States Air Force, where he served for 15 years on active duty. Wandell then joined the Ohio Army National Guard in 1991, and later transferred to the 200th Red Horse Squadron in December 1993. He was appointed as the point of contact for the transition of the Airman Leadership School from Rickenbacker Air National Guard Base to Camp Perry. Wandell is employed by ARAMARK Correctional Services as the food service director for the Medina and Huron County jails. He continues to be active with the Civil Air Patrol, with more than 32 years of service.

Senior NCO of the Year - Senior Master Sgt. Christopher E. Muncy

Operations Manager, 251st Combat Communications Group, Springfield

Senior Master Sgt. Christopher E. Muncy, a resident of Cedarville, is the operations manager for the 251st Combat Communications Group. Muncy was born in Dayton, and graduated from Carlisle High School in Carlisle. Muncy entered the Air Force in 1978 and attended the telecommunications operations course at Shepherd Air Force Base, Texas, where he was an honor graduate. Muncy serves on the Ohio Senior NCO Council. He is also the lead instructor-administrator of the Satellite NCO Academy's program at Springfield. He also has been an Airman Leadership School instructor and faculty advisor in both Ohio and West Virginia, and was the director for the 33rd Air National Guard softball tournament, held last year in Dayton.



First Sergeant of the Year - Master Sgt. Margaret J. Washington

Support Group First Sergeant, 179th Airlift Wing, Mansfield



Master Sgt. Margaret J. Washington, a resident of Mansfield, is the first sergeant of 179th Support Group of the 179th Airlift Wing. She was born in Mansfield and graduated from Mansfield Madison High School. She entered the Air National Guard in 1979 where she was an administrative assistant for the 179th Combat Support Flight. She was acting first sergeant for 10 years. She has been the first sergeant of the 179th SG for the last two years. She is a Total Quality Management instructor, coordinator and curriculum advisor. She also coordinates and executes family day luncheons. Washington is a learning disability math teacher-intervention specialist at Madison Junior High School. She also is a scuba instructor.

Second Lieutenant of the Year - 2nd Lt. Kimberly Norman

Military Personnel Officer, 178th Fighter Wing, Springfield

Second Lt. Kimberly L. Norman, a resident of Enon, is a graduate of Greenon High School in Springfield, and Antioch University. She enlisted in the 178th in 1987 and was commissioned in 1998. As an officer in the wing's 178th Military Personnel Flight, Norman developed and conducted a comprehensive survey to help recognize areas for improvement in base weight management programs. She also initiated a recognition program for new members where their photographs are taken, printed and presented to them at the time of enlistment. Initiatives supported by Norman enabled 178th recruiters to increase enlistments by 54 percent from last year. Norman and her husband, Chris, also a member of the 178th, have two children—Bailey, 6, and Jacob, 3.



Compiled by Command Chief Master Sgt. Earl Lutz and Master Sgt. Ealnor Grey, Headquarters, Ohio Air National Guard.



Overseas command visit
demonstrates Ohio Guard's

GLOBAL IMPACT

STORY AND PHOTOS BY SGT J.R. LEWIS, HQ STARC (-)

Aircrew members of Mansfield's 179th Airlift Wing prepare to fuel a C-130 'Hercules' transport aircraft at the Seeb-North, Oman airport.

Ohio Lt. Gov. Maureen O'Connor led an eight-day Air National Guard visit to military installations in Germany, Oman and Hungary shortly before the Christmas holiday.

The Dec. 12-19 visit allowed various Ohio military and civic leaders to get a firsthand glimpse of the Guard's global mission. Members of the delegation included Ohio's lieutenant governor; Civilian Aide to the Secretary of the Army William Willoughby; state Rep. Rex Damsschroeder; Ohio Adjutant General Maj. Gen. John Smith; Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve state Chair Phil Gubbins; a Columbus television station news crew; and other Army and Air National Guardmembers and civilians.

The tour allowed the delegation to observe and meet Ohio National Guardmembers supporting the active-duty military at Ramstein Air Base and Geilenkirchen NATO Air Base, Germany, and Seeb-North airport, Oman. The television crew documented the trip for a series of news stories on television station WBNS (Channel 10), and taped holiday greetings from airmen and soldiers to their families back home in Ohio.

Because of media coverage, the general public is aware of the increasing number of contingencies requiring guardmember support worldwide, however, the lieutenant governor said that seeing the men and women of the Guard in action really makes a difference.

"Seeing how well the Guardsmen do their mission, especially in support of the active-duty military components, especially in Germany and Oman, reinforces the value of a strong National Guard within the state structure," O'Connor said.

At their first stop, at Ramstein Air Base, Germany, the delegation was briefed on the Air National Guard's contribution to operations in Europe. More than 12,000 Air Guardmembers performed more than 636,000 days of work in the European theater in 1999 alone, which equates to 2,540 man years of added work force.

From Ramstein, the group flew to Geilenkirchen NATO Air Base, Germany, to visit the 121st Air Refueling Wing of Columbus. With their KC-135 refueling aircraft, flight crews refueled NATO E-3 Sentry airborne warning and control system



ABOVE: Ohio Lt. Gov. Maureen O'Connor checks out the cockpit of a MiG-29 Fulcrum jet during a tour of Kecskemet Air Base, Hungary. RIGHT: Cameraman Jeff Sheerer tapes aircraft footage at Ramstein Air Base, Germany.

(AWACS) aircraft flown by integrated multinational crews. There, the delegation learned the importance of weather surveillance, command, control and communications assets, and keeping them refueled and in the air.

The next stop was Seeb-North Airport, Oman, where members of Mansfield's 179th Airlift Wing had aircrew, maintenance personnel, medics, security police and other career field specialists deployed in support of Operation Southern Watch—which monitors the airspace south of the 33rd parallel in Iraq. The unit's C-130 "Hercules" mission was to transport people, equipment and supplies throughout the Middle East.

The trip ended with a visit to Hungary, where the delegation witnessed the fruits of Ohio's State Partnership Program with the European nation.

The program, which is part of the Department of Defense's Military to Military Contact Program, partners the National Guard in various states with emerging democracies of Central and Eastern Europe and the newly independent nations of the former Soviet Union in an effort to bolster these nations' national security and help them earn membership in NATO.

The delegation visited Hungary's 59th Tactical Air Wing at Kecskemet Air Base, and was treated to both static and aerial displays of the infamous MiG-29 Fulcrum and the F-39

Albatross. The senior-ranking members of the delegation were also given the chance to meet with several members of the Hungarian military and defense network in order to discuss the future relationship of the partnership, since Hungary is now a member of NATO.

According to Chief Warrant Officer Jim Vanas, Ohio Guard plans and security officer for military support operations and an integral part of the Ohio-Hungary partnership, these meetings were successful in establishing a dialogue for possible future interaction.

"These meetings reinforced Ohio's commitment to Hungary and its journey in meeting the responsibilities of NATO admittance," Vanas said. "Our strategy for Ohio National Guard engagement with Hungary remains realistic, meaningful, cost effective, and it focuses on the choices that the Hungarian Defense Forces make."

O'Connor met with Zoltan Martinusz, Hungary's deputy state secretary of defense policy, to discuss the future of the Ohio-Hun-



gary relationship, and said the benefits in such programs are numerous.

"I'm a firm believer in thinking globally, and our relationship with other countries presents us with economic opportunities because these countries, in turn, buy American products," she said. "From a humanitarian point of view, we also have an obligation to help these countries." ■

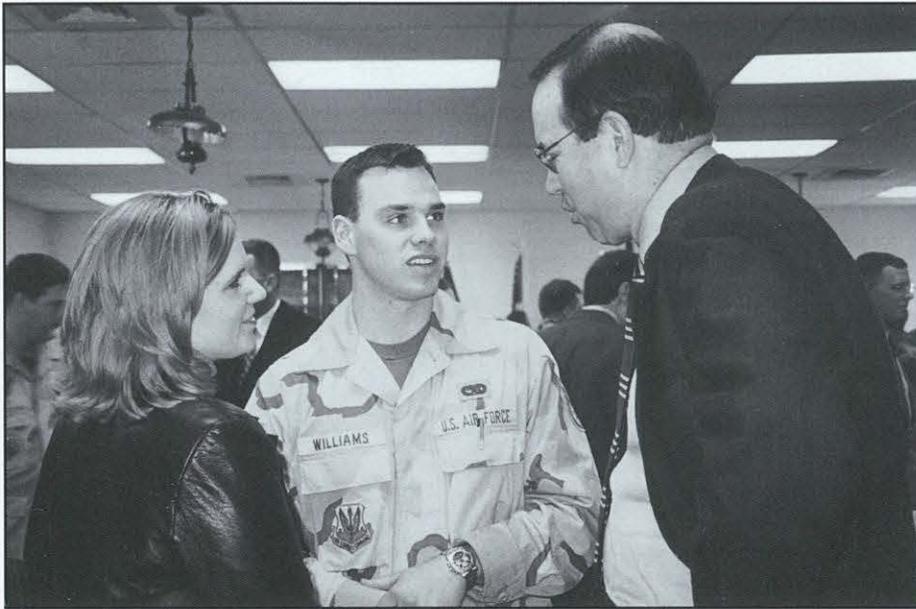


Photo by Christine Santiago Foons, Adj. Gen. Dept. Public Affairs Office.



Photo by MSGt. Dennis Koening, 9th AES.

LEFT: Gov. Bob Taft (right) talks with SSgt. Jason Williams, a ground radio journeyman, during the 123rd Air Control Squadron's send-off ceremony Dec. 7. ABOVE: Former President Carter (center) visits unit members Feb. 5 in Kuwait.

Christmas in Kuwait

Blue Ash's 123rd Air Control Squadron supports southern no-fly zone over Iraq

Story by Maj. Ann Coghlin
178th Fighter Wing

Determined to do their duty and confident that they would do a professional job—but with a few reservations about leaving home for four months—members of the Ohio Air National Guard's 123rd Air Control Squadron, Blue Ash, deployed to Kuwait in December with a motto of, "One Team, One Fight!"

The unit is part of an Aerospace Expeditionary Force (AEF) in support of the southern no-fly zone over Iraq. The unit's mission while there is to conduct radar surveillance, communication and data link operations in the Southwest Asia theater of operations. The unit's taskings range from coordination of mid-air refueling to surveillance for violations of the no-fly zone.

Seventy-three members of the 123rd, augmented by 27 members of the 109th ACS, Salt Lake City, left the Greater Cincinnati-Northern Kentucky International Airport shortly after 8 p.m. Dec. 12, beginning a 20-hour flight and ending a very emotional week at home for some. In the days prior to deploying, guardmembers prepared at the unit during the day and spent time with family and friends in the evenings as they

were forced to celebrate Christmas and other holidays earlier than usual.

Ohio Gov. Bob Taft and First Lady Hope Taft visited members of the 123rd during a Dec. 7 send-off ceremony. The Tafts were joined at the ceremony by U.S. Reps. Rob Portman and Dave Hobson.

"It's a sacrifice for guardmembers and their families to be separated during the holidays," Gov. Taft said. "Hope and I felt it was important that we let them know we appreciate all they do for Ohio and our country, and that Ohioans appreciate their sacrifices this holiday season."

Master Sgt. Pat Moran, acting 123rd first sergeant, said the advance notice given to the unit last September allowed for planning and for families to get used to the idea of the deployment, even if they didn't necessarily accept the timing—December through March—and length of the four-month deployment to Ali Al Salem, Kuwait.

Moran said in December that the hardest part of the deployment probably was going to be spending time away from his daughter Casey, 3, and twin sons, Kyle and Kody, 18 months. "The duration away from the kids will be the toughest thing. The holidays away will be tough, but my kids are everything," he said.

A Cincinnati police officer on the civilian side, Moran took two weeks vacation prior to the Dec. 1 report date and spent it with his family. He also made videos and audiotapes for the kids to watch and listen to while he was deployed. "I'm probably carrying more

pictures than the legal limit," he said of all the photos of his wife and kids that he was taking to Kuwait.

The seven-year veteran officer said the Cincinnati Police Department was supportive by continuing pay and—perhaps more importantly—benefits, especially his family health insurance. Staff Sgt. Jason Peckiney, aerospace ground equipment (AGE) specialist, and Master Sgt. Dennis Swingley, satellite communications technician, are Cincinnati police officers who also deployed with the 123rd. "They (the Cincinnati PD) bent over backwards to accommodate the three of us being deployed once it was official we were going," Moran said.

Airman Dennis Williams, a supply specialist, joined the unit in April 1999. He had returned from basic training and technical school and intended to enroll as a full-time student, using the new Ohio National Guard Scholarship Program, which pays 100 percent of a guardmember's tuition at a state-supported college or university.

"The deployment came at a good time for school. When I found out about the deployment, I cancelled school for the winter," Williams said. As a single guy, his parents are his closest family. An only child, Williams said that his father was handling the deployment pretty well, but his mother was having a more difficult time.

The unit came up with a slogan of, "One Team, One Fight!" during the days prior to their deployment. In the spirit of their new slogan, about 20 of the male airmen had their heads shaved.

"It kind of started and everyone joined in after some egging on," said Staff Sgt. Chris Spurrier, a ground radio operator.

Senior Master Sgt. Gary Rowland even parted with his mustache that had adorned his upper lip for the past 30 years. "Lieutenant Colonel (Norm) Poklar (123rd ACS commander) was the first in the chair and we followed suit," Rowland said. An operations superintendent, Rowland joined the Guard in May 1980 and became a federal technician in 1984. He felt the advance notice of three-and-a-half months came a little too soon because it made the whole process seem to drag out. "People had been ready to go for the last six weeks (prior to deployment)," he said.

Rowland said he felt the experience would be positive once it started. "It's (going to be) a great learning experience. Having everyone together for three-and-a-half months will allow for lots of training. Cross training for the four operations positions will be done. It will be very good on morale."

Added Poklar: "There's a real sense of pride to be called on to do something in a real-world mission that we've trained for."

The commander said he was proud of his

troops and the job they did preparing to deploy, especially since they would be gone during the holidays. The biggest challenge of the call-up would be trying to get everyone working together and concentrating on the mission, he said. People were taking on extra responsibility to get ready.

"People stepped forward to do jobs they weren't necessarily trained for and exceeded everyone's expectations," Poklar said.

There was a lot of community support of the troops as they prepared to deploy. The VFW presented 220 prepaid phone cards to Moran so the troops of the 123rd could call home, especially during the holidays.

In addition, Operation Orange Ribbon is still out in full force, with a new focus. The organization, founded by Cincinnati woman Ellen Lambing during Operations Desert Shield/Storm, continues the mission of supporting the troops and their families.

Lambing gave each deploying member a poster of the downtown Cincinnati skyline backed by the Ohio River, a certificate of appreciation and an orange ribbon made

from life preserver material.

"Keep (the orange ribbon) in your left pocket. It is a symbol of the care for military members and the support of your families by Operation Orange Ribbon," Lambing said at the Dec. 7 ceremony. "Goodbye, Godspeed, and we'll be here when you get back!"

The unit was activated under the Presidential Selective Reserve Call-Up. Under this policy, reserve forces can be called to active duty for up to 270 days. This is the first call-up of an Ohio National Guard unit for duty in Southwest Asia under the PSRC. Ohio units have been previously called up to support operations in Bosnia.

Coalition forces have been supporting the southern no-fly zone since the end of the Persian Gulf War in early 1991. The AEF concept evolved to support the high operations tempo that today's military maintains. It incorporates units from the active Air Force, the Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve to support contingency operations around the world. ■

179th AW sees action in Southwest Asia also

Mansfield's 179th Airlift Wing became one of the first players in the Air Force's dynamic structuring for the 21st century. The unit deployed two C-130 Hercules cargo aircraft and more than 200 airmen for a 90-day rotation in Oman, Sep. 28 to Dec. 28, in direct support of Operation Southern Watch, enforcing the southern no-fly zone over Iraq.

The 179th AW was the lead unit of a two-unit package, sharing the rotation with the 123rd Airlift Wing, based in Louisville, Ky.

The 179th and the 123rd were the first Air National Guard units to deploy to Oman under the new Aerospace Expeditionary Force (AEF) concept of organizing personnel, aircraft and equipment. This structuring allows the Air Force to better conduct military operations around the world while relieving the ever-increasing operations tempo demands on its active and reserve personnel.

While deployed in theater under the command of the 763rd Expeditionary before Airlift Squadron, the units flew 343 sorties (missions) totaling 486 hours, airlifting 1,122 passengers and 896 tons of cargo. Tours averaged 18-22 days, with several members deploying for tours of 30 days or more.

"The first ANG deployment under the AEF concept would not have gone as smoothly without the help of our active-duty counterparts," said the 179th's Maj. Gary McCue. Lt. Col. Carl Hunter, 763rd EAS commander, was instrumental in establishing a good working relationship between active and reserve personnel. "The Air National Guard could not have picked a more professional and receptive first commander," said McCue, who served as the 763rd operations officer while in Oman.

The 763rd EAS became a formal expeditionary airlift squadron in January 1999. Known as the Camelbacks for cargo hauling throughout the Saudi Arabian peninsula, the unit consisted of 84 professional active-duty and Air National Guard personnel.

"The hub of power in the 763rd was the people who executed the mission safely and successfully everyday," said McCue, referring to deployed airmen with such special skills as linguist, contracting, communications, finance, security police, aircrew operations and maintenance.

"The 763 EAS Camelbacks took great pride in leading all theater airlift squadrons in tons of cargo airlifted every month and hours flown," McCue said. "We were able to perform with a 100 percent reliability everyday due to our superb ANG maintenance team. Our mishap-free safety record is a direct reflection of aircrew training and constant safety awareness by all squadron members."

McCue said the 763rd EAS has set high standards for airlift and expeditionary forces deployed around the world. The Camelbacks were praised during a visit by Secretary of Defense William S. Cohen. "If it happens in Southwest Asia, then the 763rd must be there too," he said. ADJUTANT GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE

EDITOR'S NOTE: Maj. Gary McCue, 179th Airlift Wing, contributed to this article.



Members of the 179th Airlift Wing, Mansfield, pose for a photo during their deployment late last year to Oman.



GENE COLLINS WAS A MEMBER of the 37th Infantry Division during all three of its major campaigns during World War II—New Georgia, Bougainville and Luzon. This is the first of three articles highlighting his experiences. Collins, now 80, lives in Columbus and is an active member of the 37th Division Veterans Association.

HISTORY

From baseball to banzai charges

‘Buckeye Division’ veteran shares wartime experiences

BY SGT ANTHONY C. MELDAHL, CO. C, 118TH AREA SUPPORT MEDICAL BATTALION

NEW GEORGIA

In 1939, a 19-year-old Columbus boy, Gene Collins, joined the National Guard so he could play baseball.

Collins’ high school buddy was playing on the Ohio National Guard’s 74th Infantry Brigade team, the *Brigadiers* and Collins didn’t want to get left out of the action. But only in his wildest dreams could the tall, soft-spoken youth have imagined just how much action was in store for him.

Within a year Collins would find himself called to active duty and then thrown into combat with an inexperienced, green U.S. division against battle-hardened Japanese troops. As a cavalry reconnaissance scout, Collins would experience as much danger and intense action as few other combat soldiers ever did. His experiences ranged from long-range infantry patrols deep behind Japanese lines to commanding a tank and spearheading the 37th Infantry Division’s drive across the Philippine Island of Luzon. Collins fought with the 37th in all three of its major campaigns—



Courtesy photo.

New Georgia, Bougainville and Luzon. “When I joined the Ohio Guard in 1939, I was assigned to the brigade’s communications platoon,” Collins recalled. “My job was to string telephone wire between the brigade switchboard and the headquarters of the brigade’s two subordinate infantry regiments.”

Collins was a hard worker and a natural leader. Within a year he rose to the rank of technical sergeant and later became platoon sergeant. Collins’ brigade was one of two infantry brigades in the Ohio National Guard’s 37th Infantry Division, known as the “Buckeye Division.”

In September 1940, the draft was reintroduced in the United States and President Franklin D. Roosevelt ordered the Ohio National Guard’s 37th Infantry Division to active duty for a year of intensive training at Camp Shelby, Miss. In October of that year, Collins and thousands of other Ohio Guardmembers shipped out to Mississippi. Collins’ brigade commander, Col. Robert S. Beightler, was chosen to command the activated Buckeye Division and was promoted to the rank of major general.

“At Camp Shelby, the 37th was changed from a square to a triangularized division,” Collins said. This meant that the two brigades—the 73rd and the 74th—were eliminated to streamline the command structure, he explained. Collins and other personnel of the two brigade headquarters companies were used as the nucleus for a new unit, the 37th Cavalry Reconnaissance Troop.

The United States would enter the war on Dec. 7, 1941, marked by the Japanese bombing of Pearl Harbor. Two months

MARCH 1942—Collins wears his newly issued Army cavalry uniform at Indiantown Gap, Pa.



Courtesy photo.

JULY 1943-American soldiers trek five miles taking the wounded to a medical clearing station on New Georgia.

Guadalcanal by February 1943 in a great defensive battle fought by U.S. land, air and naval forces.

"In the spring of 1943, I shipped out with the 37th Cav Recon Troop to Guadalcanal, where the entire division was preparing to take part in an offensive drive up the Solomon Islands chain," Collins said. In mid-July 1943, Collins saw his first combat on the island of New Georgia. "Our mission was to drive west along the south side of the island to capture the Japanese airfield at Munda." A second division, the 43rd Infantry Division, composed mainly of National Guardsmen from

New York, would fight on their left flank along the coast.

War in New Georgia was different from anything else Collins experienced in the Pacific. Collins described the terrain as "covered with rain forest jungle so thick that it was nearly impossible to establish a front line in any normal sense of the meaning." Both front line and sectors between platoons, companies and

...Collins' friends.... "found a medical station ... (where) all the patients had been bludgeoned to death with bayonets...." News of this grisly incident... motivated the men to fight on.

battalions were quite fluid. "The density of the vegetation made it difficult at times to keep visual contact with soldiers just a few yards away," he said.

The fighting was close in, between small groups. This situation was ideal for

the Japanese who considered the jungle a great equalizer. The thick vegetation and the proximity of the combatants prevented the Americans from making good use of their artillery support.

The Japanese frequently infiltrated the front lines and at one point in the battle cut off and surrounded the Buckeye Division's leading regiment, the 148th Infantry. Collins' cavalry scouts were called into action and distinguished themselves, fighting as infantry soldiers against infiltrating Japanese who had set up road blocks on the supply road leading up to the front.

On a previous occasion, some of Collins' friends in another platoon had discovered an atrocity committed by infiltrators. "They found a medical station of the 43rd Infantry Division," Collins said, "(where) all the patients had been bludgeoned to death with bayonets, as they lay helpless in their cots and stretchers."

News of this grisly incident soon spread to all of the U.S. soldiers on the island and the hatred and disgust it invoked motivated the men to fight on. The island fell on Aug. 5, 1943.

The 37th shipped back to Guadalcanal for rest and training. "Once we got back on Guadalcanal, we gained a new appreciation for what we had learned on New Georgia," Collins said. "We learned some valuable lessons and utilized them for ourselves and the new replacements.

"I realized that previously our training consisted of rampaging around, flopping ourselves down behind trees. It ends up that in real combat in the jungle you don't run too much," he

remarked. "You try to move as stealthily and quietly as possible. On occasion you'd have to run, but as a normal tactic you're not running because you can't see as much when you're moving fast." ■

later, the 37th Cav Recon Troop was shipped to Indiantown Gap, Pa. There the troop received its vehicles and most of its officers, many of whom were cavalry officers from Fort Riley, Kan. Collins and the other soldiers were issued their distinctive cavalry uniforms, complete with riding breeches and tall leather riding boots. The troop trained intensively on mechanized patrol work using armored cars, motorcycles and trucks.

The 37th Infantry Division was originally slated to fight in Europe, but plans were changed in 1942 when the Japanese drive through the Solomon Islands to Guadalcanal threatened the lifeline from the United

States to New Zealand and Australia. While the Battle of Guadalcanal raged, the Buckeye Division was shipped first to Auckland, New Zealand, and then to Fiji, providing a defense force in case the Japanese were able to advance. The Japanese were defeated at

Ohio's Training Through Technology team serves as testbed for 'revolutionary' training simulator

Embracing Technology

Story by Staff Sgt. Diane L. Farrow
HQSTARC (-)

During Operation Desert Storm, military commanders were able to conduct corps-level war games through simulation. With the lives of thousands of service members hanging in the balance, strategic decisions were made based on the various courses of action that were played out during computer-simulated battles.

The minimal loss of life during actual battlefield operations of that war secured the credibility of computer-simulated battlefield planning, rehearsing and training.

Over the course of the last 10 years, all the services have invested in an increased number of training aids, devices, simulators and simulations (TADSS). The Ohio Army National Guard too, continues to add to its arsenal of computer equipment and software that enhance skills in marksmanship, air defense artillery, armor, field artillery, maintenance and staff-command training.

During its pursuit of a new desktop simulation trainer, the Buckeye State seized an opportunity to become a major player in "revolutionizing the way platoon, company and battalion operations are planned, rehearsed, coordinated and synchronized," said Lt. Col. Dan Allen, team chief of the Ohio Army Guard's Training Through Technology team. Allen and his team agreed to troubleshoot and make recommendations on the development of OneSAF, what is planned to be the base architecture for all future battalion-level and below simulation programs.

"While the focus (of TADSS) up to now has been on training, OneSAF will impact the future of actual battlefield operations," he said. According to Allen, the kind of wargaming capabilities used during Desert Storm have never before



Department of Defense photo illustration.

been available at battalion, company and platoon level by just using a personal computer.

"With OneSAF, a battalion commander will be able to download a current map of where they will conduct combat operations (via satellite), battalion staff will load both enemy and friendly units and capabilities, and they will work through the different scenarios until the best course of action is identified," Allen explained. What's key is that

the commander can pull in maintenance, engineers and all the major players to participate and coordinate operations through use of the simulation.

"Then the company commanders can take it to the platoon, and to each soldier, so they can see the terrain, see the vehicles to their left and right, and identify risk spots and key terrain through simulation."

But OneSAF is a work in progress. Its "Build A" release was basically a revival of ModSAF, a Department of the

Army desktop simulation training tool which, Allen said, "just didn't meet our needs."

Back in February 1999, Allen was sent to DA's Simulation, Training and Instrumentation Command (STRICOM) to train-up on ModSAF. He said it took four days in the classroom just to learn how to use it. "It was very complicated, labor intensive and it would not work using our existing technologies." It required UNIX sys-

tems, while the Ohio Guard is set up in a Microsoft Windows NT operating system environment, he explained.

"It just was not a very realistic approach to training, especially for reserve components," he said. "The success factor I was looking at was the ability for our soldiers to train at their units, using existing equipment, in four-hour blocks."

While there were 30 students in the class, Allen was the only service member. "Since I was the only one wearing green, the instructors asked me every day what I thought (about ModSAF)," he said. Allen ended up writing a five-page letter explaining why he would not recommend the use of ModSAF in Ohio—and STRICOM wanted a copy.

"We need the users' input on what they would like to see and how they want to use it," said Maj. Jim Vaglia, STRICOM public affairs officer. "The National Guard has missions that the regular Army does not, such as homeland defense and domestic preparedness. If we get their input, we can tailor our simulations to support them as well."

Inevitably, STRICOM asked Ohio to participate as one of OneSAF's 29 testbeds. Spearheaded by Allen, Ohio's Training Through Technology team, with technical support from the OHARNG directorate of information management readily took on its first task last June, when STRICOM released Build A of the OneSAF Testbed Baseline (OTB). By mid-July, they forwarded 10 high-level recommendations.

In preparation for Build B, the team gathered six training officers from various Ohio units, asking them to "build battles" that would effectively challenge their specific branches (in this case, field artillery, armor, air defense, military police, engineer, infantry). "Basically, we

wanted them to break down their company collective tasks into four-hour blocks of instruction," Allen said. These would provide baselines for future testing, begin building training packages for Ohio soldiers and present STRICOM with scenario-based recommendations.

Ohio received Build B in December, and, in mid-January, the testers met at Beightler Armory in Columbus, ready to load and test their training scenarios.

"(OneSAF) provides a great opportunity for young officers to go through a mission," said 1st Lt. Michael Hatfield, A Battery, 2-174th Air Defense Artillery, McConnelsville. "They can develop a battle plan based on terrain and threat data, and they'll learn to brief the commander. Watching the scenario play out

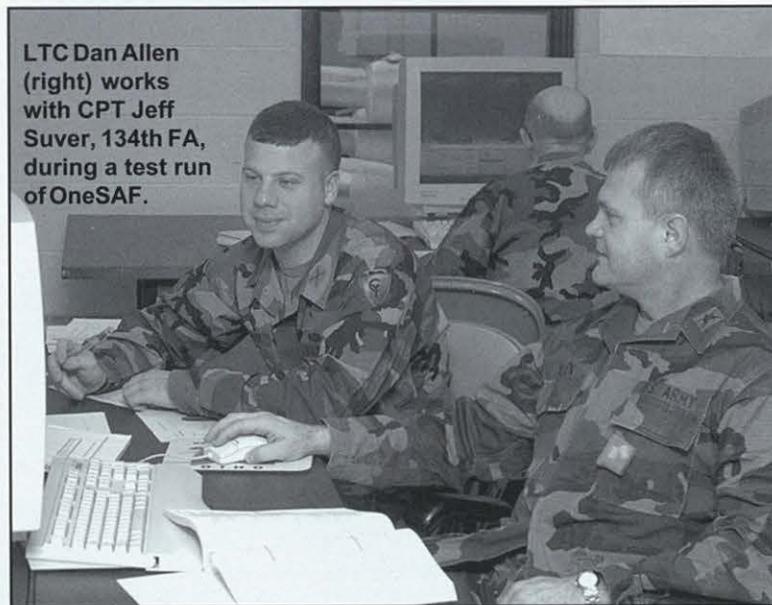
“ Ohio's participation will influence the future of our next generation of training tools and simulation for the **”** entire Army.

LTC Dan Allen, team chief
Training Through Technology team

on the computer is really the grand finale—getting to see if their plan is successful. It's a good way of being evaluated."

Allen agreed whole-heartedly. "With OneSAF, company commanders will have a way to train and validate unit leaders before they go into battle."

But even after the two weeks



LTC Dan Allen (right) works with CPT Jeff Suver, 134th FA, during a test run of OneSAF.

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

of testing Build B, the TTT team realized OneSAF still has a long way to go. "We came up with more than 140 recommendations that we consolidated to 86 for STRICOM," Allen said.

"Builds A and B are not the objective OneSAF simulation," Vaglia asserted. "OTB is now going through extensive testing to produce a stable version release in August 2000, but OneSAF will not be fielded until 2004."

Though the reality of OneSAF seems a long way off, its impact is expected to reach far into the future. "Ohio's participation will influence the future of our next generation of training tools and simulation for the entire Army," Allen said. "OneSAF is planned to replace Janus, BBS and a host of other current simulators. Our participation is important to help ensure that future simulations meet our needs."

"Currently we have many simulations out there," Vaglia said, "with each having to be fielded and maintained. When we buy or build a new system,

or even change our tactics, we need to build three or more models and behaviors to support the new system.

"By building OneSAF," he explained, "we will only have to build one model and field one simulation—this will reduce the life cycle costs for the Army."

While there are other testers involved in developing OneSAF, Ohio is the first state to represent the National Guard in this endeavor. "It's a real honor to be selected," Allen said. "We hope to demonstrate that Ohio is leading the way in embracing technology. We want STRICOM and Guard Bureau to recognize this so that we can be first in line to get and use new technologies as they come along." ■

EDITOR'S NOTE: A website, located at <http://www.oh-tagnet.com/tadss> was developed by Ohio's Training Through Technology Team to communicate the state's available TADSS.



SPC Chad Wilson (from left), CDT Travis Wilson and 1LT David Wilson are bonded as brothers and soldiers in the same unit.

A Family Affair

Brothers continue tradition in Guard

Story and photo by Sgt. J.R. Lewis
HQSTARC (-)

Three brothers, three soldiers, one unit. The Wilson brothers of Troop B, 2-107th Calvary, Lebanon, are making the Ohio National Guard a family affair.

All three were honor graduates from basic training and have continued successfully in the Guard ever since. It only seems fitting that the youngest brother is enlisted, the middle brother is a cadet and the oldest is working through the officer ranks. And it should come as no surprise that all three were born on base while their father was a standout soldier in the Army, at one time holding the honor as the youngest staff sergeant in the Army.

Each brother is enthusiastic about being a soldier. Each keeps his hair buzzed short, sits with enough posture for an entire platoon, displays neat uniforms even after a weekend at the rifle range and exhibits enough understanding and application of military

jargon to confuse Tom Clancy (none of the three uses “yes” or “no,” but rather “check” or “roger” and “negative”). A closer look at each brother reveals differences but an overall unanimous dedication to the Ohio National Guard.

THE SPECIALIST

Spc. Chad Wilson is a soldier any platoon leader would want to have in his command. Bright-eyed and idealistic about the Guard, the communications specialist can’t help but smile when he talks excitedly about his future in the enlisted ranks. But Wilson’s optimism is tempered with an extensive working knowledge of the Guard for which he credits his father and siblings.

“I feel I have a better overall picture of how the Guard works,” said the 20 year-old soldier. “I credit that to my brothers and my dad. They’re all good sources for questions about the military.”

Like his older brother Travis, Spc. Wilson credits the Guard with settling him down and helping him focus on his studies at Hocking Technical College near Athens,

and a future career as a game warden.

“I went to Wright State University (in Dayton) for a quarter before I enlisted. I realized I needed the change in my life. The Guard helped discipline me at school and helped my parents out with tuition.”

The youngest Wilson claims that all brotherly rivalries are left at home during drill weekends, and competition is friendly (a sentiment echoed by both of his brothers, although all three wore the same sheepish grin as they made the claim). In fact, because of their busy schedules, drilling with the Guard is often a family reunion.

“Honestly, we’re all in school, and this is the only time we get to see each other.”

THE CADET

Once the middle child, always the middle child: Cadet Travis Wilson finds himself between his older and younger siblings in a unique way. While the middle ground between enlisted soldier and commissioned officer is often confusing for cadets, Cadet Wilson finds himself in the unique position to identify with his brothers.

“Being in between the enlisted and officer ranks, I can communicate with both of my brothers easier,” he said. “I’m the middle kid, so I’m used to it.”

Cadet Wilson said that having two brothers in his unit “raises the stakes a little bit,” and that the bond of soldiering

combined with the bond of family increases their closeness despite their geographic separation.

Cadet Wilson joined the Guard after his second year of college and is currently wrapping up an elementary education degree at Wright State University. The pursuit of an education degree has put him in the classroom for student teaching and, like many other guardmembers, Wilson said his military experience is a great help in his civilian life.

"It's scary how close teaching is to the military," he said. "It's almost like my classroom is my platoon. The principal is the CO (commanding officer), and we work together to keep the troops moving forward."

THE LIEUTENANT

The oldest brother in many families has the tendency to be a "papa bear" and watch out for his younger siblings. While he does admit to caring about the best interests of his brothers, 1st Lt. David Wilson insists that favoritism is not an option.

"It's 100 percent professional 100 percent of the time," he said. "There's no good old boy system between us. If anything, we're more strict during drill because we know we're being watched."

And according to 1st Lt. Wilson, this professionalism carries over after drill when the three brothers, each using a different perspective of the military gears at work, conduct their own version of an after action review.

"We see the Guard from different levels," he said. "So when a drill is over, we can relax and discuss how things went from completely different points of view."

Being the oldest of the three Wilson brothers, 1st Lt. Wilson has memories that must seem like dreams to his younger brothers, images that might hold the key to the Wilson brothers' fascination and attraction to the military.

"Some of my very first memories were of us three kids watching my dad in a convoy rolling out to the field," the lieutenant recalled.

Now, as a new generation of Wilsons goes out into the field, new memories are being created.

"I think our time at this unit will be something that one day down the road we can look back at and say, 'Hey, do you remember when...'" ■

EDITOR'S NOTE: After completion of this article, Cadet Wilson earned his commission as a second lieutenant.

FORCE STRUCTURE

Army Guard's air assets undergo restationing



UH-60 'Black Hawk' helicopter

Department of Defense photo.

The alignment of Co. A, 1-137th Aviation Battalion with an active duty unit of the 101st Division has set in motion the restationing of nearly all the aviation assets in the Ohio Army National Guard.

Since its inception in 1996, Co. A's primary mission has been to transport personnel and equipment with the 15 UH-1 utility helicopters, or "Hueys," assigned to the unit. Early in fiscal year 1999, the Department of the Army selected Co. A as one of six National Guard assault companies to round out an active component assault battalion; this is in addition to their 38th Infantry Division mission.

This means that the unit's Hueys will be replaced with UH-60 Black Hawks, the Army's standard utility helicopter, according to State Aviation Officer Col. Craig Ceneskie. "Hueys are no longer fielded in the active Army, so Company A had to be modernized to meet its dual mission requirements," he said. As a result, the priority and readiness requirements for the entire battalion have increased.

In order to facilitate the training and mobilization preparedness of Co. A, the adjutant general agreed with a recommendation to consolidate all of Ohio's 1-137th Battalion units at Rickenbacker Army Enclave in Columbus. Since 1996, Co. A and the Headquarters Company have been located at Rickenbacker and supported by Army Aviation Support Facility #2, while Co. D, Command Aviation, and Co. E, Aviation Unit Maintenance, were both located at North Canton and supported by AASF #1.

"Consolidating the assault battalion at Rickenbacker without a corresponding shift of aviation assets to North Canton would have created a significant imbalance of force structure and aviation support requirements between the two existing facilities," Ceneskie explained. To resolve this, Troops D, E and F of the 2nd Squadron, 107th Cavalry, with their 16 AH-1 Cobra attack helicopters and their associated aviation maintenance assets have been restationed at North Canton.

This stationing plan results in 27 utility aircraft being located at Rickenbacker—to include 15 Black Hawks—and 25 aircraft at North Canton—a mix of 16 Cobras and nine Hueys.

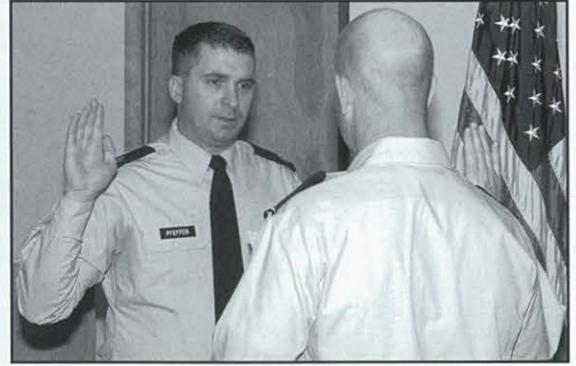
"This was the most significant re-organization of the aviation structure in Ohio since the Aviation Restructuring Initiative inactivated three aviation battalions and activated the current 1-137th Assault Battalion in 1996," Ceneskie said.

The official restationing date for the affected units was Jan. 16. The units accomplished the majority of the equipment relocation during December, taking advantage of the mild weather and the availability of personnel to perform inventories and move equipment in an annual training status.

Although some soldiers intend to commute in order to stay with their old units, the majority will switch units to remain in the same geographic location. This will result in a significant number of both officers and enlisted soldiers requiring some sort of initial qualification or MOS (military occupational specialty) transition training to become qualified in this new assignment.

"We expect short-term negative impact in terms of MOS qualification and unit strength, but we expect to fully recover in approximately two years," Ceneskie said. "Our goal is long-term success."

The last AH-1 Cobra was flown from AASF #2 at Rickenbacker to AASF #1 at North Canton Jan. 25. The first Black Hawks were scheduled to arrive in mid-February. ADJUTANT GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE



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

LEFT: Mike Viemeister (center) exchanges sergeant's shoulder epaulets for second lieutenant's with the help of his wife, Phetmany, and COL Al Faber, OHARNG deputy chief of staff for personnel. ABOVE: SGT Brian Pfeffer (left) takes his commissioning oath from his commander, MAJ Thom Haidet of HHD STARC.

Heading in the right *DIRECTION*

New opportunities arise with direct commission program

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

When Sgt. Mike Viemeister pinned on the gold bars of a second lieutenant Dec. 23, it marked a new opportunity to become an officer in the Ohio Army National Guard.

Viemeister received the first direct commission in recent history in a branch other than legal, medical or clerical.

"He's paved the way, and hopefully there will be more to follow in his footsteps," said Col. Al Faber, who administered the oath to Viemeister, helped put the new rank on the new officer, along with Viemeister's wife, Phetmany.

"I look forward to this obligation," said Viemeister, 28, of Columbus. He is now assigned to the 372nd Maintenance Company, Cleveland, and will attend Quartermaster Officer Basic Course at Fort Lee, Va.

Previously, direct commission appointments were open only to branches that traditionally pull their officers from the professional civilian ranks of doctors, dentists, nurses, lawyers and the clergy. Through new National Guard Bureau policy, direct commissions are now available to all basic branches in the Ohio Army Guard due to a shortage of second lieutenants statewide.

"It's a good initiative. There's a great need for lieutenants in all branches—combat arms, combat support and combat ser-

vice support," said Maj. Jonathon Bailey, OHARNG procurement officer.

While a direct commission appointment does offer an alternative to more traditional commissioning programs such as National Guard Officer Candidate School and ROTC at colleges and universities throughout Ohio, OHARNG leaders stress that the direct commission program is not meant as a replacement for OCS. "If you have the opportunity to attend OCS, you should do so because of the increased leadership training it provides," Bailey said.

Already possessing a bachelor's degree, Viemeister was not eligible for the ROTC program. He said since he met the criteria for the direct appointment, he applied.

A soldier must have at least two years of honorable active service (including traditional guardmembers) in any military branch; possess a bachelor's degree; have a minimum of one year active status in an authorized position in an ARNG unit; be qualified with a military occupational specialty that translates into a basic branch; and, be a maximum of 32 1/2 years old, or up to age 35 with a waiver from NGB.

There must also be an authorized position vacancy in the branch which the soldier is applying.

Sgt. Brian Pfeffer, a supply sergeant with Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, State Area Command, Columbus, followed Viemeister as a direct commissionee on Jan. 11. Branched Quartermaster Corps,

Pfeffer will work in the HQSTARC(-) directorate of logistics until attending his officer basic course in September.

"It's something I've always wanted to pursue in the Guard—I've been enlisted for 14 years, and I think I can contribute further to the organization as an officer," he said.

His rank was put on by Col. Greg Wayt, OHARNG chief of staff, and Maj. Thom Haidet, HHD STARC commander.

"(Haidet) was very instrumental in getting my paperwork through," Pfeffer said. "I was under a deadline to get it done." Jan. 12 was Pfeffer's 35th birthday, which would have made him too old to be commissioned by NGB regulations.

"The direct commission program is a great tool to identify qualified enlisted soldiers who are looking to become officers without going through OCS or ROTC," Haidet said.

Bailey said that as officer slots are filled, through the direct commission and other programs, NGB will eventually stop approving the direct commissions; so potential candidates need to act quickly on this opportunity. "For those soldiers who are considering a direct appointment, I encourage you to be prompt with your predetermination and application packet documentation," he said. ■

EDITOR'S NOTE: Prior to application, it is recommended that soldiers complete the Primary Leadership Development Course or have a strong recommendation from their company commander. For more information, call (614) 336-7187.

269th designs new field communications system

Story and photos by Capt. Paul Harrison
178th Fighter Wing

Though it never deployed, an Ohio Guard unit that's been on alert under a Presidential Selective Reserve Call-up for the past nine months put its time to good use by taking on an ambitious, high-profile project that filled a much-needed technological void in the combat communications community.

The 269th Combat Communications Squadron, Springfield, has originated what is affectionately known as RAMTEC, or Rapid Modular Tech Control—a state-of-the-art, mobile, “Ma Bell” and Internet service provider combined—intended for field use.

Since January 1999, engineers, tech controllers and a host of maintenance personnel have been designing, engineering and testing a viable alternative to the soon-to-be obsolete TSQ-111—the former “hub” for field communications. This heavy, expensive and technologically antiquated system was slated to be replaced by the Theatre Deployable Communication package, or TDC. But due to budgetary and delivery-schedule constraints, TDC has yet to be fully fielded into the Air Force communications environment.

This created a need for a stepping stone which could link the old with the new, according to Master Sgt. Joe Hessel, Air Force advisor for the 269th.

“RAMTEC boasts several advantages over the old TSQ-111,” said Hessel, whose background is in combat communications tech control. “From a logistical standpoint, it is far smaller and lighter, requiring less than



Unit Systems Engineer Maj. Rob Moser (left) explains some features of RAMTEC to SrA. Jason Craycraft, satellite communications-wide band technician.

half the airlift (three-and-a-half pallet positions versus eight). Moreover, the Air Force has pulled depot support for the TSQ-111, and it is very costly to maintain with unit level funding.”

“It's also fully compatible with Army and civilian telecommunications,” said Tech. Sgt. Mike Schierloh, 269th satellite communications-wide band technician. Historically, the ability to accommodate digital and analog signals for voice and data traffic proved to be a challenge, he said. “But with RAMTEC, the necessary conversions are done automatically, creating a seamless interface.

“This is a huge plus for tech controllers and our customers,” he said.

Though the majority of the unit members were released many months ago from the PSRC obligation (which ended for the unit in February), Schierloh—along with several other combat communication technicians—stayed on working toward the production of RAMTEC packages. To date, the Air Force has ordered 15 for its combat communications missions.

Probably the most conclusive field test so far was during a recent 30-hour exercise the

unit held in November. RAMTEC was fully integrated with the rest of the unit's communication systems (old and new) and proved its capabilities by handling everything it was tasked with, including secure and unsecure message traffic, local area networking and voice communication. This all took place while using a variety of transmission media—such as satellite, microwave, line-of-site and copper wire.

In May, the 269th plans yet another test of RAMTEC's enhanced functionality during a 50-hour exercise by providing an interface between a tactical switch and its commercial counterpart. And in keeping with today's ever-changing mission requirements, RAMTEC's modularity will be split to accommodate two communication sites simultaneously, which is impossible with the TSQ-111 that it is replacing.

Maj. Rob Moser, systems engineer for the 269th and RAMTEC's design engineer, likes the deployable versatility aspect of it. “It's lean and mean—you only have to take to the field the components necessary for that mission. I think this should make for a viable interim solution that will enable us to better serve our customers.”

Although designed to be integrated into the TDC, the future role of RAMTEC has yet to be determined. ■



TSgt. Scott Smith adjusts a cable on a RAMTEC satellite terminal during a November exercise.



An airman (left) in her sixth week of basic training at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas, discusses her experiences during lunch time with one of mid-Ohio's educators.

Educating the Educators:

Air Guard unit shows local teachers, guidance counselors, principals all about basic training

Story and photos by
2nd Lt. Shannon Scherer
179th Airlift Wing

It is no secret that the Ohio National Guard supports education. Deciding it was time to educate the educators in the local area about the Guard, the leadership of the 179th Airlift Wing, Mansfield, recently took a contingent of high school teachers, principals and guidance counselors to the place where it all begins for an airman.

As one of many community outreach programs with which the 179th is involved, this year's tour helped mid-Ohio area educators gain an understanding of the National Guard by visiting Lackland Air Force Base, Texas, home of basic military training for all Air Force personnel—active-duty and reserve component.

The Jan. 23 trip included 18 civilian educators and 11 Air Guardmembers who have benefited from the Ohio National Guard Scholarship Program, which helps pay all or part of a guardmember's college tuition.

Col. Rich Green, 179th AW vice commander and one of the unit members who went on the trip, used the time with the educators to tout the benefits of the educational opportunities available to members of the Guard, in addition to learning leader-

ship skills, responsibility and things that can help them in their everyday lives.

"The Guard is the greatest part-time job you can ever get," said Green, set to become commander of the 179th in March. "We need your help in spreading the word."

As the educators boarded the C-130 "Hercules" transport aircraft for Texas, they took one last look at Ohio's snow-covered terrain and strapped themselves in for the long and loud five-hour flight. However, when the plane landed in 75-degree weather at Kelly Air Force Base, Texas, the group seemed to instantly appreciate the 179th's mission of transporting people and cargo.

The group began their tour of Lackland with a briefing from the Col. Michael "Boots" Miller, 37th Training Wing vice commander. Miller stressed Green's prior message and said, "it is important for us to talk with each one of you because you can get the word out about the good opportunities the Air Force has to offer."

Miller went on to tell the group that more than 25,000 people were living, working or training at Lackland that very minute. And since the 1940s, Lackland had produced more than five million airmen.

"We tell you our story," Miller said, "because we know you are very influential in these young people's lives."

The group then visited such places as clothing issue, where more than 900 airmen a week are outfitted with their first issue of military clothing. They also were able to spend some time with a drill instructor, visit a dormitory and eat lunch with soon-to-be basic training graduates. The tour also included a visit to various Air Force technical schools—recruiting, services and security forces, which featured a demonstration of the training of security police dogs and a simulated firing range.

But the tour didn't stop there. The educators also visited the new "Warrior Week" training camp where airmen learn skills crucial to living in a field environment. There, educators had a chance to walk through the obstacle course.

Donnie Strine, a counselor for Madison Junior High School, said the tour was beneficial to the educators.

"The whole thing is very interesting," he said. "From the classes to the technical schools...even eating with the trainees. I think most kids want discipline. The Guard has a lot of different opportunities to offer."

In the end, the educators went away with a new understanding of what their neighbors in blue actually do.

"The Guard is a real viable option for educating yourself," said Kristi Kadlec, Knox County Career Center counselor. "I appreciate the professionalism of all the people we've met and their ability to explain what it is they do. In fact, I talked to my daughter for over an hour last night about joining the Guard." ■



SSgt. James Rabel (right), a basic training instructor, shows educators one of the obstacles that trainees must conquer as part of their 'Warrior Week' culmination exercise at Lackland.

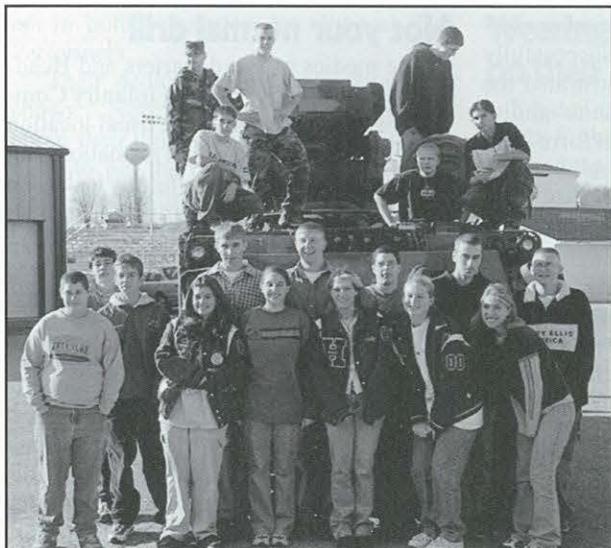


Photo by 1LT Phil McGonagill, DDR Office.

Students at Highland High School, located in northern Ohio, recently participated in a *Higher Ground* seminar facilitated by Ohio National Guardmembers.

Highland High students keep reaching for 'Higher Ground'

The Ohio National Guard ethics-based character education program, *Higher Ground*, is taking root in schools throughout Ohio.

Built upon the Josephson Institute of Ethics' Six Pillars of Character—trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring and citizenship—the program addresses ethical decision-making, conflict resolution and the impact of one's actions on one's self and others. Because of the program's flexibility, the Guard has been able to incorporate *Higher Ground* into the curriculum of Adopt-A-School.

Highland High School, in Sparta, was the location of a one-day *Higher Ground* seminar coordinated by Ohio Army Guard Sgt. 1st Class Rodney Ruehrmund, an area recruiter, and his staff of instructors.

For the day's events, students were divided into six groups. Instructors covered a bevy of character-related topics. At lunch time, the groups watched Guard helicopter pilots Lt. Col. Larry Hart and Chief Warrant Officer Michael Hoffner land a UH-1 "Huey" flawlessly on the 50-yard-line of the school's football field. At day's end, students participated in a Six Pillars skit competition, with the winners receiving T-shirts.

Higher Ground has reached students in other high schools and middle schools such as Medina, Toledo Woodward, Start, Waite, Libbey, Elgin, Mt. Gilead, Bellaire and Marion Franklin. It can be presented in many formats, from one-day sessions to

continuous instruction.

If you would like to implement *Higher Ground* into your Adopt-A-School plan, contact 1st Lt. Phil McGonagill, Drug Demand Reduction administrator, at (614) 336-7002 or send an e-mail to mcgonagill@tagoh.org. 1LT PHIL MCGONAGILL, DRUG DEMAND REDUCTION OFFICE

Female TEAM in search of coaches

The call is out for about 20 highly motivated female guardmembers interested in being cadre for a potential all-female Teen Education And Motivation (TEAM) camp, scheduled for July 21-29 in Perry

County. Personnel needs consist of :

- 1 – officer in charge (01 to 03)
- 1 – noncommissioned officer in charge (E6 to E8)
- 3 – 4 cooks (E1 to E5)
- 3 – 4 medical personnel (E1 to E5)
- 10 – 12 general instructors (E4 to E6)

TEAM assists high school-age youths in developing leadership skills and self-discipline while learning about drugs, alcohol, sexuality and a better quality of life through education. Currently, two camps are conducted each summer for high school-age males.

One day of instruction will be provided by cadre of the male TEAM Camp in Perry County on July 21. Female candidates with experience as drill instructors are a plus. Pay will be in an Active Duty Special Work (ADSW) status.

Interested personnel should contact 1st Lt. Phil McGonagill at (614) 336-7002, or by e-mail at mcgonagill@tagoh.org. ADJUTANT GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE

Counterdrug operations work to end feelings of Ecstasy

The Ohio Counterdrug Task Force recently assisted federal law enforcement agencies in the Columbus area with seizing a large amount of the drug Ecstasy. Ecstasy is a synthetic (designer) drug that acts as both a stimulant and a hallucinogen. Users sometimes take Ecstasy for the sense of well being, the sensory distortions caused

by the drug, or to stay awake through an hours-long "rave" party.

The operation did involve the delivery of a vehicle containing the drugs from a port in New Jersey. The vehicle was delivered via trailer through the New Jersey counterdrug program to Ohio. This counterdrug operation is still on-going, therefore more details can't be disseminated at this time.

Once delivered, Ohio drug enforcement agents allowed the suspects to claim the vehicle, at which time they were arrested for trafficking. This case not only highlights the increased prevalence of Ecstasy in Ohio, but also the involvement of high-level organizations. All of the suspects in this case are foreign nationals.

You say you haven't heard of Ecstasy before? You're not alone. Many of the designer drugs, which target teenagers and college students, are so new most of the detectives investigating the case aren't that familiar with the drugs.

In an attempt to assist law enforcement, the CDTF is distributing a course on CD-ROM that helps identify different drugs, their various street names, and effects on the users. The course was developed by the Army Military Police school. The CD-ROMs are available to any law enforcement agency or community-based organization at no cost.

The Ohio CDTF recently acquired a new piece of equipment called an ion scanner, which basically analyzes the particles left on the outside of containers or packages thought to contain illegal drugs (think electronic drug dog). This technology will be of tremendous benefit in supporting the Ohio State Highway Patrol, U.S. Customs Service, U.S. Postal Service and the Drug Enforcement Administration.

The CDTF is currently working to develop a standard operating procedure for this equipment. It is anticipated that the ion scanner will be ready for operational use this spring.

On a national level, the CDTF recently merged with the Army Substance Abuse Program. This merger represents a trend to combine all efforts related to eliminating illegal drugs into one section. In addition to conducting the urinalysis program for the Army National Guard, the substance program will also start developing training and programs to educate guardmembers and their families on how to identify possible substance abuse and what to do about it. LT COL ROBERT BAYLOR, MILITARY SUPPORT BRANCH



Courtesy photo.

SSgt. Brenda Moore (left), inventory inspection specialist for the 200th RED HORSE Squadron, conducts weapons sign-out during the unit's Operational Readiness Inspection (ORI).

200th RED HORSE shows true colors during ORI

Being ready to deploy is the name of the game for most military units. During a recent weeklong Operational Readiness Inspection (ORI) exercise, members of the 200th RED HORSE Squadron, Port Clinton, had the chance to show just how ready they are to be called upon.

Both the 200th RHS and its counterpart, the 201st RED HORSE Flight, located at Fort Indiantown Gap, Pa., participated in the exercise.

These types of units specialize in rapid runway repair, airfield lighting, quarry operations and well drilling.

The exercise began with a simulated deployment to a bare base in Turkey, according to Capt. William Gieze, the 200th assistant squadron commander. Within the first 24 hours, the 200th horsemen built the base from the ground up and made preparations for the arrival of an F-16 fighter squadron. Members set up tents for housing and a command post, as well as dining, supply, vehicle maintenance, security, communications, services and water purification detachments within the first six hours of the exercise, he said.

At the same time, the horsemen had to build the infrastructure, barrier system and lighting for the runway while sustaining terrorist attacks, Gieze said.

Members wore their chemical warfare suits and protective masks during the different levels of simulated conditions.

ing exercises, once each in Ohio and Pennsylvania leading up to the ORI. "These exercises enabled everyone to build very good camaraderie between our unit (the 200th) and our sister unit (the 201st)," Brazeau said. MSGT EALNOR GREY, HQ OHANG / SSGT TONY UNUM, 200TH RED HORSE SQUADRON

Students become leaders at Springfield NCO Academy

The Air National Guard Satellite NCO Academy will start on June 20 at the Springfield Airport. The class will run every Tuesday and Thursday from 6 to 10 p.m. through Sept. 21. Students will finish the course by attending a two-week NCO Academy final phase Sept 25-Oct. 6 at McGhee-Tyson Air National Guard Base, Tenn.

Satellite program students must meet standard NCO Academy requirements. All technical sergeants, and staff sergeants with at least eight years time in service, are eligible.

The class is a combination of satellite instruction from the Air Education and Training Center at McGhee-Tyson ANGB, home station instructor-guided discussion, CD-ROM-based lessons and student hands-on participation. The course counts as nine semester college credit hours.

The deadline to apply is April 21. Interested airmen should contact their unit training managers. For more information, contact Senior Master Sgt. Christopher Muncy at DSN346-2305, commercial (614)327-2305 or send an e-mail to christopher.muncy@ohspri.ang.af.mil. SMSGT CHRISTOPHER MUNCY, 251ST COMBAT COMMUNICATIONS GROUP

The entire exercise successfully demonstrated the two units' ability to perform and survive in a real-world crisis. "We performed outstandingly in every way, leading up to the ORI exercise, during and after the exercise due to the combined efforts of everyone," said Col. Richard Brazeau, 200th RHS commander. Both REDHORSE units conducted combined training

Not your normal drill

The medics of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1-148th Infantry Company, Lima, gathered at the usual location on Nov. 6 for the usual first formation. But what seemed to be shaping up to be the same regiment of early morning dissemination of information from the first sergeant and other noncommissioned officers was about to take an interesting and educational twist.

On that November morning, Dr. Tom Kneadler, faculty member in the department of ecology, evolution and organism biology at the Ohio State University-Lima branch campus and Lima Technical College, set up and provided a lab session for unit members involving a human cadaver.

With this unique training, unit medics participated in lecture and lab on all body systems and obtained a better understanding of organ locations and their proximity, with emphasis on possible damage and complications from projectile weapons. For a handful of medics this experience only reinforced training from civilian occupations, but for the majority it provided the first look at the insides of a human aside from pictures previously seen in textbooks.

Knoedler packed the basics of two college quarters in anatomy and physiology into a 45-minute lecture and a 45-minute hands-on cadaver lab. This training was provided at no cost to the unit or the Ohio Guard. SSG URLIN D. MATHEWS II, HHC, 1-148TH INFANTRY BATTALION

178th recruiters have record year, tops among peers

Truly caring for individual recruits and doing the basics led to a record setting half-year for the recruiters of the 178th Fighter Wing, Springfield, and an increase to the highest unit manning in the state.

For fiscal year 1999, the recruiting office of Master Sgt. Mike Patrick and Tech. Sgts. Rob Williams and Pam Daulton enlisted 126 people compared to 82 in fiscal year 1998—in the second half alone, they recruited 86.

Second Lt. Kim Norman, director of personnel for the 178th Mission Support Flight, said the recruiters earned recognition in both of the "Hard Charger Award" categories for the fourth quarter. This was a national and regional competition for effective recruiting (placing recruits into critical career fields) and general recruiting (all enlistments). All three recruiters received the designation of Top Performers in both categories—the 178th had the only recruiting team in the nation to place all three recruit-

ers in both categories, let alone as Top Performers.

"Their dedication and professionalism shows," Norman said. "They truly care about their enlistees. They're not just out there to get the numbers, they are interested in end-strength for the Ohio Air National Guard and the Air National Guard.

Challenged by Assistant Adjutant General for Air Brig. Gen. Paul Sullivan, Patrick, Williams and Daulton also nabbed the fourth quarter award for the state. They enlisted the most airmen, beating the other Air units in the state and earning a dinner with their spouses courtesy of the general.

MAJ ANN COGHLIN, 178TH FIGHTER WING

Family Readiness Conference ready for registrations

The 2000 Ohio National Guard Family Readiness Conference will take place April 14-16 at the Wyndham Hotel, Dublin.

The purpose of this conference is to familiarize guardmembers and civilian volunteers with the State Family Readiness Program, train volunteers as family support group leaders and improve personal and family preparedness in order to enhance overall readiness of the Ohio National Guard.

Army Guard unit commanders and their Family Support Group military liaisons are strongly encouraged to attend.

In appreciation of the "Year of the Family 2000" theme promoted by National Guard Bureau, April's conference will be all inclusive of the families. Children's activities will be planned for the entire weekend.

The deadline for registration is April 3. For more information, contact Chief Warrant Officer Carmen Coventry at (800) 589-9914 or (614) 336-7192. CW2 CARMEN COVENTRY, STATE FAMILY READINESS OFFICE

Guardmembers prepare supplies headed to Kosovo

The 200th RED HORSE Squadron, Port Clinton, recently collected more than 400 pounds of supplies to send to the children in Kosovo. The 200th's collection effort ran from after its November drill through mid-December.

Lt. Col. Richard L. Brazeau, 200th RHS commander, said the supplies will have an immediate impact with the children in Kosovo. With the winter months that were ahead for these Kosovar children, the supplies that were sent could possibly provide comfort and hope of better times to come.

SSGT ANTHONY J. UNUM, 200TH RED HORSE SQUADRON

Wearing their pride on their intakes

Several crew chiefs of the 180th Fighter Wing, Toledo, wanted to give something back to their respective communities for their support and dedication to the Guard. And recently, they did just that.

During the unit's December drill, mayors from three northwest Ohio towns were presented with certificates dedicating one of the unit's F-16 "Fighting Falcon" jet airplanes to each of their respective communities.

About 75 people rallied in the wing aircraft hanger to celebrate the unit's appreciation to the villages of Delta, Bowling Green and Swanton. The name of each town now is displayed in vinyl lettering on the intakes of the three F-16s. The crew chiefs from the three towns stood with their respective mayors at the ceremony.

Delta Mayor Don Gerdes described the dedication as "an honor for the village." He added that he was impressed with what congressional representatives have done for the base and the community.

"It feels like coming home. It's a great honor. We appreciate the initiative taken to make this happen," said Bowling Green Mayor Wesley Hoffman, himself a retired Air Force B47 pilot.

Crew chiefs from Delta were Master Sgt. Gary Swartz, Staff Sgt. Brian Schart, Tech. Sgt. Gary Byers, Tech. Sgt. Rick Schweitzer, Tech. Sgt. Alan Graber and Flight Chief Senior Master Sgt. Bob Cain. Tech. Sgt. Mike Zuver and Staff Sgt. Frank Zbierajewski represented Swanton, and from Bowling Green were Tech. Sgt. Mike Aring and Senior Airman Dan Slater.

Helen Jones, a Delta Village council member and president of the Delta Chamber of Commerce, presented the Delta crew chiefs with personalized coffee mugs.

Senior Master Sgt. Bob Cain, flight chief and aircraft mechanic supervisor, said the hometown lettering project included a competition for the design and logo.

"We wanted to have the aircraft represented by someone in the village, someone who could take pride in the aircraft, who maintains the appearance of the jet (the crew chiefs)," Cain said. "It's also good for visitors touring the base because the towns are a point of interest they can relate to."

SSGT JOSEPH POIRIER, 180TH FIGHTER WING



Photo by TSgt. Scott Ridge, 180th Fighter Wing.

The 180th Fighter Wing's TSgt. J. Michael Lapoint, a sheet metal-corrosion control specialist, applies lettering honoring the northwest Ohio village of Delta on to one of the unit's F-16 fighter jets.

Competing for charity

This year's Combined Federal Campaign, which raises money for local, state and national charities, took on a new feel for Ohio Air National Guard units. Instead of just setting goals and raising the money for the sheer humanitarian aspect, Ohio units were positioned to compete against each other for the sake of charity.

Maj. Gen. Paul Sullivan, assistant adjutant general for Air, said it would be a good idea to encourage some friendly competition among Ohio's Air units.

The 179th took a whole new approach in organizing its campaign for 1999 by cashing in on the hype and excitement of professional wrestling. As part of the competition, the Mansfield Post Office challenged the wing to see who could donate more.

The unit sent its representatives (Master Sgt.) Mark "Wingman" Wolfenden and (179th Commander Col.) Don "Stone Cold" Eby to meet (acting Mansfield Postmaster) Jim "Male Man" Green at a press conference. The event turned ugly as shouts, and chairs, were hurled across the room, but in the end laughs, cheers and open wallets prevailed.

Mansfield took the top honors in per capita contributions by members, collecting nearly \$95 per full-time employee. But this is certainly not the story of a lone winner. Because of the generosity of all the Ohio Air Guard units, this year's contributions were up by nearly 15 percent over last year's. Overall, Ohio Air Guardmembers donated \$98,429.

"We put a different spin on raising money," Sullivan said. "And I think the units had fun with it." 2ND LT SHANNON SCHERER, 179TH AIRLIFT WING



Photo by 180th Fighter Wing Visual Information.

Col. Harry W. Feucht (right) presents state Rep. Lynn E. Olman with a U.S. flag flown over Northern Iraq.

Toledo Air Guard honors Olman with flag

Symbolizing the 180th Fighter Wing's appreciation for unwavering support, Col. Harry W. Feucht presented state Rep. Lynn E. Olman, of the 51st District, with a U.S. flag that was flown over Northern Iraq during Operation Northern Watch.

The flag was on board the aircraft of Air Force Brig. Gen. Bob D. DuLaney, as he flew his first mission since becoming U.S. co-commander of the Joint Task Force. DuLaney's mission was launched by 180th Fighter Wing crew chiefs and flown with 180th pilots, making it a premier example of the Air Force's total force concept.

"I consider (the presentation of the flag) one of the most significant honors that could be paid to me as one of your elected representatives," wrote Olman in a letter to Feucht. "All Americans and especially the citizens of northwest Ohio owe a tremendous debt of gratitude to the men and women of the 180th who have placed themselves in harm's way to assure freedom that we too often take for granted.

"(The flag) shall occupy a prominent place in my office as a constant reminder of the sacrifices made by the 180th."

This was the 180th's third deployment to Incirlik, Turkey, since the end of the Gulf War. The mission of Operation Northern Watch is to enforce the northern no-fly zone in Iraq and monitor Iraqi compliance with appropriate United Nations Security Council resolutions. **LT COL CAROLE ALLAN, 180TH FIGHTER WING**

Retirees honored

Four men who shared three common threads gained a fourth on Jan. 8 at the Air Force Museum, located at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Dayton. Their longevity in military service, membership in Headquarters, Ohio Air National Guard, and close retirement dates set in motion "Dining under the Wings," a celebration for four honorees ready to hang their hats after serving a total of 130 years in the military.

Col. William L. Howland, executive assistant officer for Headquarters, retired Dec. 5 after 40 years in military service. Chief Master Sgt. James W. Mock, Sr., state human resource advisor, with 27 years of military service, transferred to the Air Force Reserve Individual Mobilization Augmentee program last September. Col. J. Dwight McEntire, executive officer for Headquarters, with 31 years of military service, will retire March 30. Command Chief Master Sgt. Earl W. Lutz, senior enlisted advisor, will retire in June; currently, he has 28 years in military service.

"These four people have touched the entire Air National Guard. I know them all," said Adjutant General Maj. Gen. John H. Smith, the event's keynote speaker. "Each of them have devoted themselves to the success of others...an endeavoring quality of leadership."

More than 50 awards, certificates, trophies, letters of recognition and the like were presented to the honorees. Their wives received gifts for their staunch military support, and the 555th Air Force Band, Toledo, provided entertainment during the dinner. **MSGT EALNOR GREY, HQ OHANG**

DoD honors Ohio justices

The Department of Defense recently honored the Supreme Court of Ohio for its support of National Guard and Reserve members.

The defense department's National Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve recently presented each justice of the court with the "My Boss is a Patriot" award, which publicly recognizes employers who support employees serving in the reserve forces. Certificates and lapel pins were presented to each of the seven justices.

Congrats 'TOP' from the

State Command Sgt. Maj. Michael O. Howley wishes to recognize soldiers who exceeded course standards during training year 1999.

DISTINGUISHED HONOR GRADUATES

PFC David Glasgo, HHC 37th Armor Bde
TATS Radio Operator-Maintainer Course

SGT Sean A. O'Connor, HQ STARC
Telecommunication Computer Operator Course

SPC Brian Neill, HQ STARC
Information Systems Operator Course

HONOR GRADUATES

PFC Mary L. Petrini, HHC 37th Armor Bde
Signal Support Systems Specialist Course

CPL Shawn Ambrose, 237th PSB
Primary Leadership Development Course

COMMANDANT'S LIST

CSM Thomas B. Payne, 1-134 Field Artillery Bn
USA Sergeants Major Academy

SSG Edward D. Sells, Troop E, 2-107th CAV
Aircraft Maintenance-ANCOC, Phase 2

SGT Lisa C. Powers, HQ STARC
Primary Leadership Development Course

SPC Philip Whitesell, 1-134 Field Artillery Bn
Primary Leadership Development Course

SGT Mark Pancake, 1-134th Field Artillery Bn
SP Field Artillery System Mechanic Course

SSG John Johnson, HQ STARC
Personnel Services Specialist Course

SFC Janice Lewis, HQ STARC
Finance/Accounting Specialist-ANCOC, Phase 2

SGT Ronald Overstreet, HQ STARC
Personnel Services Specialist Course

SSG Joan Wiegleb, HQ STARC
Food Service Specialist Course

SPC Sean Clifton, HQ STARC
Primary Leadership Development Course

SGT Brian Farneth, HQ STARC
Primary Leadership Development Course

OC Donald Flowers, HQ STARC
Primary Leadership Development Course

SGT Jane Friend, HQ STARC
Primary Leadership Development Course

SSG Robert Florek, HQ STARC (Det 4)
Advanced NCO (AC) Course

PROFESSIONALISM AWARD

PFC Brian Womack, Troop B, 2-107th CAV
Initial Entry Training, Fort Knox

BEST SCOUT AWARD

PFC Todd Long, Troop B, 2-107th CAV
Initial Entry Training, Fort Knox

Thomas Brandt, marshal of the Supreme Court for the last 12 years, nominated the full court for the award. Brandt also serves in the Ohio Army National Guard. CW5 THOMAS BRANDT, HQ STARC (-)

Ohio recognizes fallen airman

An airman first class who was chosen to carry the Ohio flag during graduation from basic training died just five days before the scheduled commencement ceremony.

On Sept. 12, Airman 1st Class Micah Joseph Schindler died from heat stroke, complicated by overhydration and pre-existing medical conditions. He died two days after collapsing near the end of a 5.8-mile road march at Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio.



Schindler

Attracted by the Ohio National Guard's college tuition assistance program, Schindler joined the 123rd Air Control Squadron, located in Blue Ash, on March 2, 1999.

He participated in several unit training assemblies and graduated from Roger Bacon High School with honors before leaving for basic training on Aug. 5.

The airman represented the high standards of both his unit and the Ohio Air National Guard with his academic performance during basic training; he had previously been selected as honor graduate for his class.

Schindler was slated to attend two different military schools: the basic electronics school at Lackland and the satellite communications school at Fort Gordon, Ga. He was scheduled to return home sometime in May 2000.

Schindler is remembered for his love of music and laughter. He began strumming a guitar at age 12 and played the trumpet in his school's marching band for three years. According to his family and friends, he was also a born entertainer—a natural at joke-telling and performing impersonations.

Representing the entire Ohio National Guard, Adjutant General Maj. Gen. John H. Smith conveys his deepest sympathy to family and friends. MSGT EALNOR GREY, HQ OHANG

Transforming ice to art

While most artists take a paintbrush to canvas to express themselves, Master Sgt. David Bear takes chainsaws and picks to large blocks of ice, creating graceful figures that can add elegance to any occasion.

And though ice sculptures can't withstand the test of time like most works of art, it takes just as much skill and imagination to attain the desired result.

Bear, food service supervisor for the 121st Air Refueling Wing, Columbus, pulls a 300-pound block of ice out of the freezer two hours before he starts. "When the ice has tempered, I draw out the image I want on paper; then I begin to shape the block of ice," Bear said.

Using a 16-inch chainsaw, Bear carves a rough outline of his chosen design. "The outline is something like the vague shape a child would cut out of paper with scissors." Before long, Bear begins choosing from his nine chisels to carve out the details of the sculpture.

In Bear's hands, blocks of ice have transformed into Cinderella's carriage, nativity scenes and Santa's reindeer and sleigh. It is the eagle, however, with its out-stretched wings, that's a favorite among fellow service members. "I have carved eagles for many military events," he said, including Air National Guard Day at Andrews Air Force Base and the Redtail Angels Dining Facility dedication at Rickenbacker Airport, Columbus.

His sculptures also add sparkle to events he caters for Bath and Body Works Corporation, where he works as director of food services. Bear credits his military training with leading him to his present civilian occupation and to his ice sculpting hobby.

When Bear enlisted in the Ohio Air National Guard in 1980, he was given a choice: "I could become a cook or a cop. I chose to become a cook," he said. After enjoying the Air Force's food service training so much, Bear decided to attend the Cincinnati Culinary Arts Academy, where he first carved from ice.

Bear is still happy with the decision he made 20 years ago. "Cooking turned

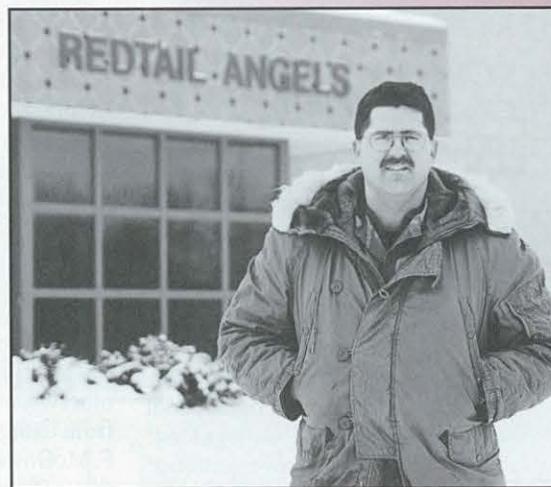


Photo by 121st Air Refueling Wing Visual Information.

MSgt. David Bear stands in front of the Redtail Angels Dining Facility at Rickenbacker Airport, where one of his ice sculptures was displayed.

out to be a passion," he said. "I stumbled into what I love." SPC MICHELLE MORGAN, HQ STARC (-)

121st ARW historian aids Hurricane Floyd victims

In October, Tech. Sgt. Jackie Slemmer, historian for the 121st Air Refueling Wing, Columbus, lent a helping hand to the victims of Hurricane Floyd in North Carolina. She volunteered to go out on national assignment with the American Red Cross as a disaster coordinator.

She worked logistics and damage assessment at the Red Cross Headquarters in Smithfield and visited numerous sites along the coast. "I saw lots of downed trees and power lines, high water and damaged bridges, but the most startling sight was seeing homes on top of cars," Slemmer recalled. Houses had been lifted off their foundation by the floods and had set down on nearby cars, she said.

Victims of the hurricane were glad to see the Red Cross emblem, according to Slemmer. "People were pleased with our non-discriminatory giving—the Red Cross gave assistance no matter what your background, no matter what your financial history," she said.

She also helped dispense food, clothing and furniture, and helped coordinate temporary housing.

Slemmer said she worked a minimum of 12 hours a day, spending her only free time eating and sleeping. But she wasn't complaining, "It was worth it to help those in need." TSGT GREG RUDL, 121ST AIR REFUELING WING



One of Bear's eagle sculptures, finely carved from a block of ice.

New educational programs will increase opportunities for Army service

Two new pilot programs designed to increase educational opportunities for Americans who serve in the Army and to open up new recruiting markets were announced in February.

The two pilot programs are "GED Plus—the Army's High School Completion Program" and "College First." Both programs will run through Sept. 30, 2003.

"GED Plus, the Army's High School Completion Program" and "College First" are in keeping with the Army tradition of providing outstanding military and civilian training opportunities to soldiers and offering America's youth a proven route to success, teamwork and self-improvement," Secretary of the Army Louis Caldera said. "We expect these two programs to expand significantly the benefits we offer the quality young men and women who serve this nation with pride."

"GED Plus—the Army's High School Completion Program" will be open to as many as 6,000 non-high school graduates annually—about 4,000 active component and 2,000 reserve component recruits—who score in the top half of the country on the Armed Forces Qualification Tests and who score in the top 75 percent on the Assessment of Individual Motivation test. The Army will sponsor applicants to complete an attendance-based General Educational Development program while the individual serves in the Army's Delayed Entry Program.

"College First" offers college-bound men and women the option to enlist, attend college, then serve a term of service in the U.S. Army. The Army is allowing participants to attend college for up to two years while the individual serves in the Army's Delayed Entry Program or in a drilling reserve status. Individuals in the Delayed Entry Program also will receive a monthly allowance of \$150. ARMY NEWS SERVICE

Civilian guests now allowed at base commissaries

Thanks to a recent change, authorized customers can now bring guests in while they shop at most commissaries.

Under the policy, identification cards are checked at the checkout lane instead of the door. This still limits purchases to

authorized customers. Visitors are not allowed to purchase commissary goods, officials said, and only visitors accompanied by an authorized shopper are allowed to be in a store. Commissary officials maintain the right to spot check for unauthorized people in their stores.

"The new visitors policy allows access to the benefit for patrons who otherwise might be inhibited from using what is rightly theirs," John F. McGowan said. McGowan is chief executive officer for the Defense Commissary Agency.

For instance, commissary officials said, shoppers have asked if they could bring in relatives visiting from out of town rather than making them wait in the car.

"This policy was established as an enhancement to the quality of life of our commissary patrons," DeCA spokesman Timothy C. Ford said. "Many patrons, both active-duty and retired, have complained about having to leave a visiting mother, father, brother, niece or other family member at home or waiting in a car while making routine grocery purchases.

Commissary officials added that installation or higher-level commanders may still require ID checks for entry because the policy allows exceptions due to security concerns.

Currently serving guardmembers as well as all military retirees are eligible to utilize commissaries on military bases. In Ohio, a commissary is located at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base near Dayton. For information or store hours, call (937) 257-7420. AMERICAN FORCES PRESS SERVICE

Reservists eligible to fly to drills at federal contract rates

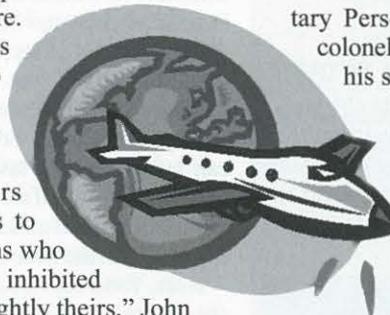
Military reservists, who travel by air to and from their weekend drills, can now buy tickets at government contract rates as of Oct. 1. This benefits reservists by giving them greater flexibility and potential cost savings when traveling to perform military duties.

Reservists traveling to and from their weekend drills are required to pay for their own transportation. The General Services Administration City Pair travel contract with the airlines previously excluded members of the Reserve and National Guard from using the government fares even though

they were in an official duty status.

U.S. Rep. Stephen Buyer, who serves on the House Armed Services Committee, is the chairman of the Subcommittee on Military Personnel, and also a lieutenant colonel in the Army Reserve. Through his sponsorship, Congress passed Public Law 105-261 directing the General Services Administration to include members of the National Guard and Reserve in the GSA airfare contract.

Executives from several airlines in the Civil Reserve Airlift Fleet program heartily supported the bill's passage. DEFENSELINK



Military uniforms available through Internet catalog

Shopping for military uniforms can be as easy as browsing the Internet. Catalogs from the Army and Air Force Exchange Service are available worldwide for authorized customers, instantly, at www.aafes.com. The Internet catalog provides shopping convenience regardless of the customer's location.

In addition, Air Force military clothing catalogs have a variety of optional uniform items and accessories from which to choose. Though identical in product selection, the electronic catalogs do not replace the paper versions, still available in clothing sales stores or by calling (888) 768-3204. AIR FORCE PRINT NEWS

Veterans' small businesses now eligible for federal help

President Clinton signed the Veterans Entrepreneurship and Small Business Development Act of 1999 last fall, designed to help veterans, particularly the disabled, develop small businesses.

Clinton noted the bill also includes measures to minimize impact on small businesses when owners or essential employees who are reservists are activated.

"By providing loans, loan payment deferrals, technical and managerial assistance for these citizen-soldiers, we can help ensure that they do not have to risk their livelihoods while they risk their lives," Clinton said.

For more information, contact the local district Small Business Administration office, listed in the blue government pages of the phone book. AMERICAN FORCES PRESS SERVICE

www.oh-tagnet.com

Wealth of information awaits at touch of keys

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

A concise, more than 200-year history of the Ohio National Guard; benefits and job opportunities for current and potential members; recent events regarding the ONG; how to attend college tuition-free....

All of this information and more is available on the Internet at www.oh-tagnet.com, the public website of the Ohio Guard and Adjutant General's Department.

The ONG public website began in 1997, according to Officer Candidate Don Flowers, a visual information specialist with the Ohio Army Guard's directorate of information management. Flowers is the "webmaster" who updates and maintains the design and content of the ONG public site, the Ohio Army Guard website and the Army Guard's Intranet system.

"It's original intent was supposed to target younger people, what questions they would have on the National Guard, and whom to contact if they wanted information about joining," Flowers said. "Now, the focus has gone from a recruiting effort to more of a general public website."

But, the website still does get its share of recruiting leads. Flowers said people who may be reluctant to call recruiters to find out about the Guard probably appreciate the low-pressure atmosphere of cruising the Internet. "I've received several responses from people who said they wouldn't have joined the Guard without seeing the web page," he said.

Currently, the ONG public website also features information on qualifications for membership, and educational benefits, including

the Ohio National Guard Scholarship Program, which pays all or part of a guardmember's college tuition for a six-year enlistment.

The ONG public website also provides links to the Ohio Army and Air National Guard websites, as well as many unit-level websites.

An interesting and useful feature of the Ohio Army Guard's website, located at www.oh-tagnet.com/Army, is a statewide job site map. When one clicks on a particular unit, basic unit information is displayed, as well as the types of military occupational specialties that personnel in the unit employ. If a current soldier or potential recruit is interested in a specific skill, he or she can see what units have those type slots and where the units are located.

"I believe that people are more in tune with the aspect of obtaining information immediately," said Master Sgt. Ealnor Grey, a public affairs specialist with Headquarters, Ohio Air National Guard. Grey is the webmaster for the Air Guard public site, www.oh.ang.af.mil.

"Our site is so informative, that if someone would just take the time and look through it, they can learn a lot about the Ohio Air Guard," Grey said the public can learn about such things as the community involvement of Air Guardmembers and the economic impact of each of the four major flying units in Ohio.

"Our goal now and in the future for the website will be recruiting," Grey said. "We're going to be talking more about educational benefits including the Scholarship Program. We'll also feature opportunities for various deployments in the Air Guard."

While both the public and guardmembers can use the public websites, the Army Guard also has an Intranet site specifically for its

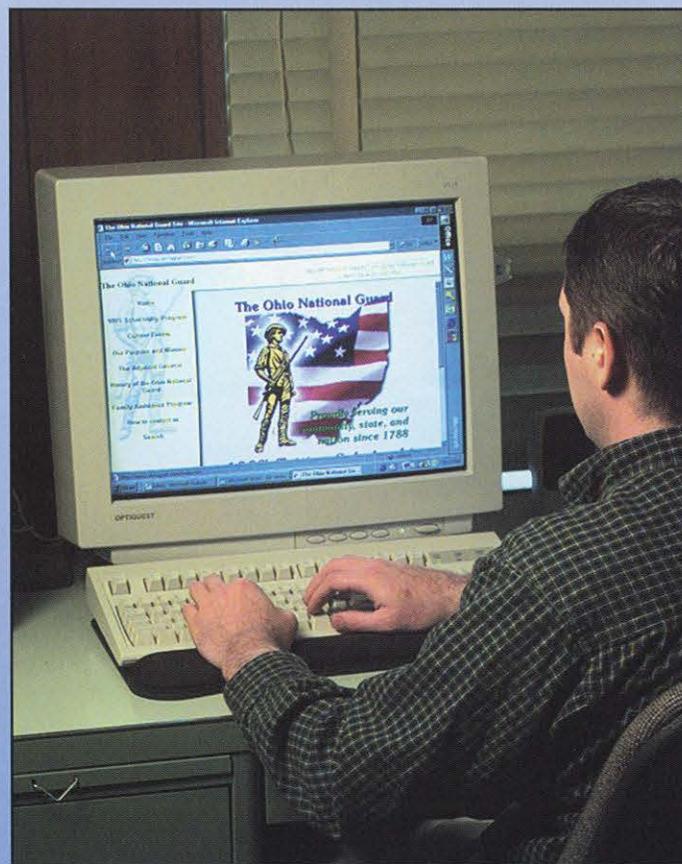


Photo by Todd Cramer, Adj. Gen. Dept. Photo Lab.

By logging on to www.oh-tagnet.com, one can cruise the Ohio National Guard public website as well as link to sites for the Ohio Army and Air National Guard and individual units within the state.

members' use. Conceived in January 1999, TAGNet, which stands for "The Adjutant General's Network," is accessible only on computers at Army Guard armories and installations connected to Ohio Guard computer networks. The TAGNet features a searchable phone directory of full-time employees in the Army Guard, federal job postings and information in areas such as training, logisites, personnel and recruiting.

Grey said the Air Guard is working on development of a "members only" section of the public website, similar to the Army Guard's TAGNet. Each Air Guardmember would have a personal password to gain access to the site.

She said the members-only site may feature information on space

available flights, electronic forms and job opportunities. Grey said she also envisions on-line chat rooms so that airmen and officers in the same career fields could conduct private, on-line discussions about their professions.

"We want to make the (Air Guard) web page more user-friendly for the members," Grey said. ■

For any questions or comments about the ONG public website, Ohio Army Guard public website or TAGNet, or to inquire about having an Army Guard unit website linked to the ONG public site, send an e-mail to flowersd@oh-arng.ngb.army.mil. For questions or comments about the Ohio Air Guard website, send an e-mail to ealnor.grey@ohhqtr.ang.af.mil.



Taveuni, Fiji — Jan. 1, 2000

Dawn of the new millennium

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Photo by TSgt. Lori King, 180th Fighter Wing.

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