Ohio Engineers lay groundwork in Iraq

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FAREWELL TO A GENTLEMANLY GENERAL

John H. Smith retires as adjutant general
TRADITIONAL PROGRAM
Up to 18 drill weekends at Rickenbacker Airport, Columbus; and two annual training periods during the summer in consecutive years, at Camp Ripley, Minn., and Fort Lewis, Wash.

CRITERIA
Screened by Unit Commander
U.S. citizenship
Pass an APFT
GT score of at least 110

Minimum of 90 college credits for the accelerated program
Minimum of 60 college credits for the traditional program
Letter of Recommendation from your Battalion Commander
Meet Height and Weight standards of AR 600-9

CONTACT
MAJ JOE GABRIEL at (614) 336-7077/(614) 336-7187 or joseph.gabriel@us.army.mil

SUMMER ACCELERATED PROGRAM
Up to five drill weekends at Rickenbacker Airport, Columbus; and three phases of active duty in Summer 2006—14 days at Camp Ripley, Minn., 28 days at Fort Meade, Md., and 14 days at Fort Lewis, Wash.
Several months have passed since I officially retired. The first week was the most difficult as I struggled to adjust to the daily routine to a much different set of requirements. However, I am even more confident today that this next phase will be as exciting and interesting as the previous one. As it was for many of you in this organization, some of the most difficult days of the past few months occurred when we heard the sad and tragic news that two of our Soldiers from the 216th Engineer Battalion were lost during a mission in Iraq. We vividly recall the farewell ceremonies of the 216th, both from their hometowns and at the airport in Indianapolis. And the real cost of what our profession can ask of us becomes more vivid when we know that a Soldier who has been lost in combat. I understand how difficult it is for those who knew and loved 1st Lt. Charles Wilkins and Spc. Ryan Martin, and the four other Ohio Guardmembers who have passed away serving in the Global War on Terror—Staff Sgt. Matthew Zensa, Pfc. Samuel Bowen and Sgt. Michael Barkey. Hopefully, in due time all of us will come to understand that having died in service to country and others will somehow lessen the pain and anguish for those that suffer.

The enormous participation of our Guard men and women in Iraq, Afghanistan, Kosovo, the Middle East and Europe serves as a testament to the model of service in the National Guard has indeed changed, especially in the Army National Guard. Before 9-11 and the creation of the Air Expeditionary Forces (AEF), the mission, with few exceptions, was one 21 day week a month and two weeks of annual training (AT) which was then, and is now, not only a burden but a perquisite to many who served.

While drill weekends are still a part of the Guard regimen, much more than two weeks of AT are being asked. Many of our men and women are no longer able to plan their time and services beyond the two weeks of prescribed AT. And many, of course, who are single with young children, are no longer able to mobilize, extended active duty. We are all aware of the Guard’s mobilized participation in World War II and Korea. But until 9-11, we had become accus- tomed to life in the Guard with the belief that mobilization and deployment for extended periods to locations like the Middle East would be unlikely. How the times have changed.

The Cold War reductions in the early 1990s and the redesignation of our reserve component and the reserve component, especially in the Army, exposed all the components to extended and often repeated periods of mobilization. We need to keep in mind however, that the model hasn’t changed entirely. During my tenure as the adjutant general, I attended virtually all of the unit send-offs that were conducted in hometowns across Ohio and leaders within the Ohio National Guard, strongly believed that it was important to be present for two reasons—first, to show our respect and understanding for what it was that the outgoing leaders and men were doing; and second, to remind them that the values of military service that have endured for more than 200 years within this nation’s military are not changing today as they were in the 1770s, the 1860s, and the 1940s and all the other times that our country has asked its citizens to respond. Those values, as I stated to the units before they embarked on their missions, were selfless service and personal sacrifice. Very few of us enjoy the misery and hardship of difficult and long deployments. Very few of us volunteer because we enjoy the thrill of battle. As long as the citizens of Ohio and of our other 53 states and territories respond to our nation’s request for assistance, our organization is one that is free and strong for our nation. It remains necessary, of course, that our political leadership never loses sight of the courage and sacrifice of those others that serve beside us in a common and noble cause.

One other feature of military service remains as sacred and important today as it did in times past. The greatest responsibility that the Adjutant General’s Department has is to ensure that its forces are properly organized, trained and equipped. Space does not permit me to emphasize the importance of being properly organized and equipped, except to say that we owe it to our Soldiers and Airmen that our organizations be as effective and efficient as the mission requires.

The degree of personal responsibility that our individual Soldiers and Airmen accept is extremely important. Understanding that they owe it to not only themselves but to the service that serves alongside them is a necessary element in building a cohesive and effective organization. More important, however, is the role of leadership in achieving high levels of readiness. Of all that might have been achieved in my 5½ years as adjutant general, nothing more than the fact that I had a viewpoint of the leadership role laid in ensuring that our units were highly trained. Leaders at all levels have a job to do.

I enjoined all of you to continue this great effort on behalf of our men and women. And today, National Guard, it is noticeably different. While drill weekends are still a part of the Guard regimen, much more than two weeks of AT are being asked. Many of our men and women are no longer able to plan their time and services beyond the two weeks of prescribed AT. And many, of course, who are single with young children, are no longer able to mobilize, extended active duty. We are all aware of the Guard’s mobilized participation in World War II and Korea. But until 9-11, we had become accus- tomed to life in the Guard with the belief that mobilization and deployment for extended periods to locations like the Middle East would be unlikely. How the times have changed.

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As long as the citizens of Ohio...respond to our nation’s call, we will remain a strong and free nation.
Taxpayers getting money’s worth from National Guard

OAHG CWS Dave Taylor (right) pins the engineer branch’s castle insignia on a fellow Buckeye, CW3 Feucht, during a ceremony which was part of an Army-wide milestone marking warrant officers replacing the “Eagle Ring” insignia with insignia specific to their career fields.

Warrants integrate more into Army officer corps

The OAHG’s warrant officers were part of the ARNG’s nearly 7,000 warrant officers nationwide who observed their corps’ 86th birthday, July 9 with more than a traditional cake.

Most of them replaced today’s rather distinctive “Eagle Ring” insignia on their left collar with appropriate branch insignias. And the highest-ranking members of the corps, the chief warrant officers, pinned on new rank insignia that is significantly different from the square “dots” that had previously denoted warrant officers’ rank. Those who have earned the CW1 insignia of four black dots with silver trim now wear a silver star with a single black stripe centered down the length of the star.

The rank is currently worn by senior warrant officers in the Navy and Marine Corps. According to the Army, the increasing joint nature of operations within the Defense Department and the expanded use of most senior warrant officers in joint operations validated the need to standardize CW3 rank among all the services that employ them.

Active-duty and Reserve warrant officers have also changed their insignia, effective in July. More than a symbolic change, the ceremony represented a milestone change in the Warrant Officer Corps.

New TAG tops several changes to ONG leadership

The June 30 retirement of Maj. Gen. John J. Smith, state adjutant general, the accompanying selection of Col. Gregory L. Wayt as Ohio’s 80th adjutant general, and a chain of upper-level Ohio National Guard leadership changes throughout the past several months, have served as Ohio Army Guard chief of staff, was replaced, effective June 21, by Col. Matthew L. Faber, who was named deputy chief of staff for operations and plans for the Ohio Army Guard. It would be a short-lived tenure for Kambic, as he was tapped to move up and replace Brig. Gen. Ronald G. Young as Ohio’s assistant adjutant for Army.

Young was selected as the director, manpower and personnel (J1) at the National Guard Bureau in Washington, D.C. Young’s new position comes with the rank of major general.

The changes in Ohio Army National Guard leadership include Col. Alfred C. Faber being named the command chief of staff; Chris Munday, formerly command chief of staff at the 251st Combat Communications Group in Springfield.

The adjutant general’s personal staff saw a major change as well. Retired Air Guard Brig. Gen. Stephen M. Koper was selected as Ohio Adjutant General of the Ohio National Guard since 2000, assuming the position of command chief master sergeant of the entire Air National Guard on Aug. 1. He now is based at National Guard Bureau in Washington, D.C.

Smith was replaced as command chief master sergeant of the Ohio Air National Guard by Command Chief Master Sgt. Chris Munday, formerly command chief of staff.
Love of art leads to vocation, renewed Guard career

In the northeastern Ohio postindustrial city of Youngstown, community pride and a sense of history shine through in many places. Thanks to one Youngstown native, these emotions have been captured through creativity and artistic talent.

Staff Sgt. Bob Barko Jr., a member of the 196th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment (MPAD) in Youngstown, lives in Youngstown all his life. Last year, when he was offered the chance to become a photojournalist, Barko saw a chance to capture the city’s history in a unique way, seize the opportunity.

Out of 181 applicants considered by a community review board, Barko’s proposal was chosen, along with those of 30 other local artists, to decorate a penguin, mascot of Youngstown State University, for the “Penguin Parade.”

Like similar projects in other Midwestern cities, including the decorated fiberglass cows in Chicago, pigs in Cincinnati, and frogs in Toledo and corn on the cob in Columbus, the penguins were placed in city parks, venues and other public places. Each artist had creative control over the 5-foot-tall penguin and its 2-foot square base.

Barko, a YSU alumnus, named his penguin “Pete and the Multi-Landmarked Memory Coat.” His idea to create a historic Youngstown collage on the “memory coat” grew from his love of local history and his nostalgic illustrations of area landmarks. In keeping with Barko’s chosen theme, “Even as I look forward, I remember.” Pete was decorated with favorite landmarks and historic scenes depicting the evolution of Youngstown—its founding in 1796 to the present and Youngstown 2010, the city’s future development plan.

The Schwebel Baking Company sponsored Barko’s artwork. He showed his appreciation for their support by portraying their historic bakery building on the “memory coat.”

Barko said he was pleased to be in the company of the many talented people involved in the project. “It was an honor to be chosen along with so many heavy-hitting local artists for this project,” Barko said. “I had heard about the cows in Chicago, the guitars in Cleveland and the buffalo in Buffalo. I was thrilled to think the penguins could be a part of Youngstown’s cityscape for many years to come.”

The Penguin Parade is not the only artistic endeavor with which Barko has been involved. In 2008, he opened his own business, Steel Town Studios, in the heart of Youngstown. Three years later, the business became Steel Town Studios Gallery and Shoppe, a not-for-profit endeavor highlighting 20th century popular culture in Youngstown through his illustrations, and a collection of memorabilia and artifacts.

“This is such a terrific mechanism to be able to share so much of the city’s history with the public, as well as allow me to earn a living doing something I truly enjoy,” Barko said.

Barko has also incorporated his civilian talents into a military career. He combined his passion for art and love for his country in October 2001 when he rejoined the Ohio Army National Guard and retrained to become a photojournalist, which followed a break in service after spending his first six years in the OHARNG as a military policeman nearly a decade earlier. Besides writing articles and taking photos for the Buckeye Guard magazine, he has also created illustrations for the magazine, miniature postcards, and T-shirts for the 196th.

“I was driven to the public affairs field because I’m fascinated with history. As a photojournalist, I have the opportunity to record history in the making,” Barko said. “I enjoy covering these events and then sharing them with others.”

Barko admits that his artistic abilities have always found an outlet for expression. For many years, he has tried to use art as a means to enrich lives. Barko said he hopes the Penguin Parade will have a continued impact on area residents and will also show off the city’s commitment to displaying community pride.

He fondly recalls one particular project he accomplished over the course of several years on the YSU campus. He hand-painted more than 100 fire hydrants to look like Pete the Penguin, the school mascot.

A moment of satisfaction came later when a college student told him he chose YSU over other schools due to the display of school spirit.

The Penguin Parade was unveiled to the public during the summer Festival of the Arts, July 16-11, on the YSU Campus. The float was on public display through a charity auction Oct. 29. After that, the penguins were displayed by the winning bidders throughout Youngstown.

For more information on the Penguin Parade or to see the other artists’ versions of Pete, visit www.ysu.edu/penguin parade.

After 5 1/2 years at the helm of the Ohio National Guard, Maj. Gen. John H. Smith retired June 30, 2004, as the state’s 79th adjutant general

During his tenure as adjutant general, the National Guard emerged as an organization vital to U.S. security interests at home and overseas. He guided Ohio’s Soldiers and Airmen through a time of high operations tempo that resulted from the Global War on Terrorism, the response to the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks on the United States.

“Although we have seen a watershed event for our nation,” Maj. Gen. John H. Smith, Ohio’s 79th adjutant general said, “since we have moved (more than) three years beyond that event, certainly the effects of 9/11 have demonstrated that our nation cannot secure itself without the National Guard.”

His term also was highlighted by the expansion of the Ohio National Guard Scholarship Program in 1999. After working with the Ohio Legislature and Gov. Bob Taft, funding for the program was increased to pay 100 percent of eligible Ohio Army and Air National Guardsmen’s tuition at state colleges and universities, up from 60 percent previously. As a direct result, the Ohio Army National Guard met its annual personnel strength goal for the first time in several years, proving the scholarship program’s worth as a top Guard recruiting and retention tool, aiding in providing ready trained Soldiers and
Reminiscing with the General

Mag. Gen. John H. Smith served as Ohio’s adjutant general from Jan. 13, 1999 to June 30, 2004. In the last days before his retirement, he shared anecdotes from his career that spanned more than 42 years and his perspective as the head of the Ohio National Guard. The following are excerpts from that interview.

A

Several people have influenced me—those that left a great impression and those that left not so great impression. My first memorable experience was a squadron commander at Ramstein (Air Base), Germany. He (Ted Dowd) took over a squadron that was floundering…that had lost focus. But he came in and emphasized teamwork, and he was able to communicate that effectively. The lesson that had a great impact on me, and that eventually stuck with me a long time was that you have to accept responsibility. He greatly emphasized individual responsibility. He was able to have an impact on a lot of these veterans coming back from Vietnam who were not accountable to anyone. He didn’t raise his voice; he didn’t threaten people. He emphasized that each individual in an organization has a job to do. If everyone’s responsible, then teamwork becomes much easier.

The other is my Vietnam experience. I was there 1965 to 1966. Almost overnight they built a second runway. Within a very short period of time it was round-the-clock operations. Within the next nine months or so….we realized that this was going to go on for a long, long time. We could sense, and certainly I could sense, we were not winning the effort with respect to winning the hearts and minds of the South Vietnamese people.

In the end I learned a great deal from that—that even though we could win battles, we could not win the war.

As we have seen, 9-11 has been a watershed event for our nation. As we have moved more than three years beyond that event, certainly the effects of 9-11 have demonstrated that our nation cannot secure itself without the National Guard. The challenges, I think, that arose, first of all, were in the types of missions. The first year, we were doing Operation Noble Eagle. We mobilized units, for example (the 1-148th Infantry Battalion) to perform a mission that, for the most part, they had not trained for: security force protection at various installations across the Midwest and the East Coast. Any time you take companies and deploy them for those types of missions, there’s always uncertainty about whether or not they will be able to sustain themselves. But to my surprise, and again because of the great leadership we have in the Ohio National Guard, they did that…Any time you don’t know specifically what your mission is and the duration, it becomes a challenge in terms of leadership.

What I will cherish the most is the way our folks responded. I feel very good that 5 1/2 years ago we emphasized this feature of ‘service to nation.’ As I have said many, many times, no matter the reason that people join, they must understand that once the bell rings, they must respond, and once they do respond, that they have the training and are ready to go. As with Desert Storm in the early 1990s, or an even larger scale, as in World Wars I and II. In short, the top mission he set for the organization was: “When called, we respond with ready units and personnel.” It proved to be both prophetic and integral.

A

During your tenure as adjutant general, this nation and our state faced some of the toughest times. Talk about some of the issues and challenges of those times.

What has been your leadership philosophy?

I think there are several features that are very important. In terms of leadership, we all know that integrity is extremely important. It’s something I have called myself to each day I have done this job.

The other feature that extends from integrity is to be inclusive. It’s so easy in this profession, as it is in other types of professions, to rely on a very small group of people…it can be very comforting to rely on one or two or maybe three people you feel comfortable with, but I feel it is something a leader must avoid. There are so many types of people that we have in our National Guard…so I can’t emphasize enough, how important it is to be inclusive. It can be challenging at times and uncomfortable. All voices must be heard, but it doesn’t mean that leaders are not responsible. It’s very important that leaders make decisions. It can be difficult at times to make the tough decisions, but not to make a decision when required sets up an organization for failure, disarray and confusion. While all decisions can’t be correct…it is important to make a decision so people can reasonably anticipate what’s expected of them.

What are the main challenges that the Ohio National Guard will face over the next several years?

“General from page 7

and Airmen serving the United States, Ohio and its communities in a variety of missions.

The end of the 20th Century saw the Ohio Guard already facing increasing deployments. Air National Guard units became more integrated into missions with the active Air Force, and Army National Guard units were used more frequently for peacekeeping operations in places such as Bosnia and Kosovo, as well as humanitarian missions in Central America. All the while, Ohio National Guard units were used on state active duty to help communities recover from tornadoes, floods and snowstorms, while still providing service to the communities where they are located.

The tragic events of Sept. 11, 2001, added the need for the Ohio National Guard to join in the fight to protect the United States from rogue nations and terrorist organizations worldwide. Since then, more than 7,000 Ohio National Guard members have answered the nation’s call, serving everywhere from installations in the Midwest, to the mountains of Afghanistan and the sands of the Persian Gulf.

Before 9-11, Smith’s leadership focus stressed the need for Ohio’s units and personnel to be properly trained and equipped in the event they ever were called to serve on a large scale, as with Desert Storm in the early 1990s, or on an even larger scale, as in World Wars I and II.

In short, the top mission he set for the organization was: “When called, we respond with ready units and personnel.” It proved to be both prophetic and integral.
The biggest challenges will come from what we are currently faced with, which is a huge demand on our units in the contingencies we currently have. I don’t know how long it will go on based on what I see and hear today, but it will go on for some time. To have done it once for 12-18 months is in itself a huge requirement. And the fact that they have done it for that time makes it all the more difficult to do a second time. They have got to have time to come back and re-establish their lives, their jobs. Second is the role of the National Guard in terms of homeland security. There is more to be defined in terms of what that will be. I believe that we need participation from our communities in terms of homeland security exercises. We need more joint participation with our communities. Of course, we are the first responders for the governor in order to do his array of missions, but in terms of homeland security, the roles are not fully defined yet.

What has been the most memorable aspect of your tenure as adjutant general?

The one thing I will cherish the most is the professionalism and manner in which our men and women responded when called upon. I think that if we ever felt that maybe our nation’s…young men and women don’t feel an obligation in terms of their service to their nation, then I think those feelings have been largely dispelled by what we have experienced in the National Guard—because your young people have responded and the exceptions have been quite rare. So, I think that bodes well for our nation.

I think the other thing I will cherish specifically…is the tremendous teamwork and cooperation that was shared between the Army and Air National Guard. I think it’s been unheralded. Cer-  tainly in my 27 years in the Ohio National Guard we have never had this degree of cooperation. I am not trying to take credit for it, but it is a reflection of the tremendous leadership we have.

How important has the support of your family been throughout your career?

We all have phases in our lives when we are uncertain in what direction we are going. I had those moments as well. After returning from Vietnam back in 1966, I stopped to consider whether I wanted to continue my career in the Air Force. On active duty, I had been accepted to go to pilot training...and I was excited about it. It was the reason I joined the Air Force. Instead they sent me to navigator training. So I volunteered for Vietnam again and they sent me to pilot training. I met a wonder- ful school teacher (his future wife, Anita) out in Sacramento, Cali- fornia, while waiting to go to pilot training. I fell in love, I guess, is the way to say it, and decided maybe I wouldn’t continue with my Air Force career. But we had a long conversation about it and she said, “This is something you’ve always wanted to do, so you better do it.”

I realized that I was going to have to make a lot of choices between my family and a career in the Air Force. Nothing got into my blood more—other than falling in love—as flying fighters. So I turned down a promotion to major and left active duty to be- come a civilian. So we left active duty with no benefits and no compensation and off we went. It was five years before our lives became stabilized. I got a full-time job with the Air Guard. All that time through the turbulence, the anchor in the storm was my wife. Family and faith are the two things that can get you through anything.

What would you consider to be your most significant achievement?

The effect that I have had on others and the effect a lot of people had on me. Something I have learned from others is there are those who will work hard and unconditionally and truthfully to make sure that those that work beneath them are successful.

The other tangible achievement was keeping Rickenbacker open as an Air National Guard base. When I took command of that unit I learned (the Defense Department was) going to close the base; I realized that made no sense. It just goes to show that if you make a persuasive argument and get the facts, you can change the law.

As you pack up your office and gather the many awards, trophies and mementos, is there one in particular that you are especially fond of?

One that stands out is the duck with a ball cap. A former secretary gave that to me. When I come back in a second life, I want to come back as a duck. They spend winters in Mexico, summers in Canada and spring and fall in Ohio. All they do is fly, eat and goof around. I can’t think of a better life.

What advice would you give to a young Soldier or Airman enlisting in the Guard today?

First, I would commend them for joining and second, I would encourage them to participate. It isn’t enough to just show up for drill. I respect that they are there, but when the opportunity is there to go beyond the normal requirements, take advantage of it, particularly because it re-enforces what I’ve always believed, which is this profession requires a lot of ball carriers and everyone has to be a ball carrier.

What is your advice for the next adjutant general?

The key areas that will be important are homeland secu- rity and the transformation initiatives in both the Army and Air Force.

Can you give us a snapshot of your first day of retire- ment?

I plan to sleep in until 6 a.m., get up and jog three miles, come back, have a cup of coffee and read scripture. That’s the first two hours. If I can get through those first two hours then everything else will fall into place.

Governor taps Wayt as Ohio’s 80th adjutant general


“Colonel Wayt’s extensive background in military affairs and deep personal commitment to his country will serve Ohioans well,” Taft said at the time of the appointment. “He is committed to ensuring that Ohio’s military is prepared to serve at the call of duty.”

As adjutant general, Wayt is responsible for the operation of the Adjutant General’s Department and the military preparedness of the Ohio Army National Guard, Ohio Air National Guard, Ohio Military Reserve and Ohio Naval Militia, totaling more than 18,000 personnel.

He previously served as Ohio Army National Guard chief of staff. He also was commander of the largest major subordinate command within the Ohio National Guard, the 73rd Troop Command, headquartered at Rickenbacker Airport in Columbus.

Commissioned a second lieutenant in November 1975 from the Ohio State University ROTC program, Wayt served on active duty in Germany as an air defense artillery officer. A graduate of the U.S. Army War College, he also has a master’s degree in public administration from the University of Dayton. With 29 years of military service overall, Wayt has been in the Ohio National Guard for the past 25 years.

What is your advice for the next adjutant general?

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Teamwork of 179th flight crew helps avert C-130 crash landing over Iraq

By Staff Sgt. Martin Jackson
386th Air Expeditionary Wing PA

In June 2004 a C-130 from the 710th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron, with 65 people on board, came within minutes of making a crash landing. But thanks to the experience and level-headedness of the crew, all from the 179th Airlift Wing in Mansfield, three and a half hours of suspense ended with a safe return to the ground.

After leaving Balad Air Base, Iraq, in what seemed to be a normal takeoff, the crew gained altitude for their scheduled 90-minute flight. But when attempting to retract the landing gear, the aircrew received indications that the C-130’s right main landing gear would not retract. Upon inspection they discovered the gear had become wedged.

“We had the loadmasters check out the gear and they found that the arm was nearly all the way down and the forward one was retracted wedging them at an angle,” said Maj. Bruce Fogle, pilot. With 59 Soldiers on board the crew had to quickly plan their strategy, all the while working out their landing-gear quandary.

“We immediately began assessing our situation determining our flight and landing options,” Fogle said. “The decision was to make our way to the Persian Gulf (a spec- fied fuel level), then we would attempt to make an emergency landing when they finally freed the wedged gear.

“The gear is designed that if you have malfunctions that gravity will help force it down...we just had to get it to dislodge,” said Tech. Sgt. Shane Adams, flight engineer. “We repeatedly worked it for quite a while in a side-to-side rocking motion, when it finally freed the wedged gear.

Doing all they could to help us as we stepped through each and every possible troubleshooting technique: Running out of fuel and time they had left, in their one-and-a-half-hour orbit over the water, they called for their approach to make an emergency landing when they finally freed the wedged gear.

“The gear is designed that if you have malfunctions that gravity will help force it down...we just had to get it to dislodge,” said Tech. Sgt. Shane Adams, flight engineer. “We repeatedly worked it for quite a while in a side-to-side rocking motion, when it finally started to free up and slowly work its way down into the full down position.”

In an attempt to secure the gear in the down position for landing, the loadmasters braced it in place with heavy cargo chains strapped across the belly of the C-130. They then turned their attention to their new concern—their passengers’ safety.

“We had more than 100 people on the ground working through and troubleshooting this situation with us,” said Maj. Jeff Charette, aircraft co-pilot. “They were doing all they could to help us as we stepped through each and every possible troubleshooting technique: Running out of fuel and time they had left, in their one-and-a-half-hour orbit over the water, they called for their approach to make an emergency landing when they finally freed the wedged gear.

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“With 59 passengers we were configured for maximum capacity,” said Senior Master Sgt. Mike Cyphert, loadmaster. “With the chains running across the inside of the aircraft and threats of metal from the props if the gear were to give way on landing, we had to rearrange their seating, moving several of them to the floor of the aircraft where we ran cargo straps across their legs to secure them in place.”

With everyone secure it was now all on the shoulders of the pilot and the strength of the chains as the 65 servicemembers braced themselves for the landing.

“It was the smoothest landing I have ever seen,” Charette said. “He (Fogle) put it down very soft and gentle getting us all safely back.”

Safely on the ground the crew received genuine thanks from their passengers and heard elated cheers through the radio from the passengers and crew from the ground.

“This was a huge team effort, not by just our crew of six but of everyone on the ground working with us to fix this problem,” Fogle said. “Even if it would have come to landing on a wedged gear, you never give up, that’s not an option when you’re flying.”

Just five days later the crew was back in a C-130 and it was business as usual flying the exact same mission, this time making it back in the scheduled 90 minutes.

The 179th Airlift Wing crew involved in overcoming a mechanical failure aboard the C-130 “Spirit of Galion” is composed of Maj Bruce Fogle (from left), pilot; Capt Matt Muha, navigator; SM Sgt Mike Cyphert, loadmaster; TSgt Shane Adams, flight engineer; SMgt Mike Keller, loadmaster; and Maj Jeff Charette, co-pilot.

Photo by Ed Shulik

1-107th Soldiers stay ready during Iraqi foot patrols

Story by Spc. Sherree Casper
196th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

FORWARD OPERATING BASE COBRA, JALAWLA, Iraq—“Mount Up!” With those words from U.S. Army 1st Lt. Shaun Robinson, Soldiers from 2nd Platoon, Company A, 252nd Armor climbed into their assigned humvees and prepared to exit through the front gate of the base.

Their mission? A foot patrol of nearby Jalawla, home to a crowded market place. It’s also an area prone to be targeted with improvised explosive devices.

With ready units and personnel

Ohio Guardmembers continue answering nation’s call to duty

Story by Spc. Sherree Casper
196th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Continued on next page

Photo by Ed Shulik

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A member of the Ohio Army National Guard, Robinson, the platoon leader, led foot patrols into the city and adjacent area for several months during the unit’s deployment. A familiar sight often greeted him as his Soldiers as they left on their patrols. A shaggy, large mixed-bred dog was often found lying in the middle of the road—way just outside the gate of Forward Operating Base Cobra. “Just keep driving, he’ll move,” Robinson advised the Soldier behind the wheel. Almost like clockwork, the tired canine lifted his head to stare straight at the approaching vehicle. He slowly rose up and dragged his dirt-caked body to the side of the road and plopped down again.

“Told you,” Robinson said, smiling with an air of authority on the matter.

Robinson mounted up for both day and nighttime patrols. He and his men normally pulled the mission three times a week. Other Soldiers attached to the company rounded out the patrols that were carried out three times a day in Jalalwa and Seda. Although the Ohio Guardsmen were actually assigned as tankers to Company C, 1-107th Armor, they were meshed with a North Carolina Army National Guard unit in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, said Robinson, a resident of Stow.

“It’s nice that they kept our whole company together,” he said. “We became Alpha Company, 252nd Armor so none of us would have to be split up.”

For any outsider looking in at the Soldiers, one conclusion can be instantly drawn. They had some others’ backs and knew the mission had to be done.

This was evident as the four-humvee convoy pulled outside the National Guard station on the outskirts of Jalalwa. Here, Robinson and his men linked up with some members of the North Carolina National Guard. They were no strangers, as they shook hands and exchanged pleasantries. They had been through this drill more than a dozen times.

After deciding which Soldier would take point on the patrol, the men started up a steep, rocky hill leading to the center of the city, which gave way to a bustling market.

“They are nice people,” Robinson pointed out as he

Written by Mike Haeckler, National Guard Bureau

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for some shade in the swelling afternoon sun. “I have a heart for animals,” he said.

Point man on the patrol, the 30-year-old SPC Sheree L. Davis, said pulling foot patrol versus a mounted one on a tank was a mounted one on a tank.

Turning the corner on to the main thoroughfare and was greeted by streets and waves from by-standers, who appeared at times to bottleneck the streets.

“Sometimes though it gets hectic,” he said, as he carried his M-16/A2 rifle at the ready. When there were no children playing on the streets, out its owner. Oyster looked up at the child and was greeted by a splash of colors in the sky, which gave way to a rocky hill leading to the center of the city, which gave way to a bustling market.

The nearly 60-inch-square coverlet, featuring mostly needle−thread−appliqued, records Troy’s service commitment in nine intricately threaded blocks. “I used an eagle for the center,” he said. “Because they’re a tank unit, I incorporated a tank (done in desert camouflage),” she added. Also included are maps of Ohio, North Carolina (their pre−mobilization sites), Iraq (depicting the Sunni triangle), the American flag, and an infantry Soldier with Troy’s name on the pocket. She also used reproduced Civil War fabric and recreated a poem by Civil War poet James W. Thornhill on the quilt’s back. Wochler wrote on the back of the quilt dedicating it to all the Soldiers who served in Iraq during Operation Iraqi Freedom and especially to the Soldiers of her son’s unit, requesting that they sign the quilt to help commemorate their presence in Iraq.

Wochler already had her next “therapy” in sight: quilt−squaring for each of the 15 other Soldiers in her son’s original company. JEWELL CARDWELL / AARON BEECHER JOURNAL
Rebuilding Iraq: One Project at a time

Buckeye Soldiers lead bridge building

Story by Spc. Joe Alger
1st Infantry Division Public Affairs

Building bridges may not have been what the Soldiers of the 216th Engineer Battalion expected to be doing in Iraq. But with the help of Marines from 6th Engineer Support Battalion, they participated in the $4 million Tikrit Bridge rebuilding project in Tikrit, Iraq.

“Bridge work is an extension a little beyond our normal scope of activities,” said Maj. Wayne Moening, 216th Engineer Battalion operations officer. “Usually, we’re more involved in road building, quality of life improvement, campmenty and force protection.”

While building bridges may not be their specialty, the Soldiers of the 216th were ready for the challenge. “Building bridges is an engineer mission, so we’ll be up to the task whether it’s our primary job or not,” said Sgt. Kristoff, noncommissioned officer in charge of bridge inspections for the 216th. To aid them in the bridge rebuilding process, the 216th Soldiers worked together with Marines from the 6th Engineer Support Battalion.

“We’ve conducted a few operations on bridges like this before,” said Staff Sgt. Martin Kenny, staff NCOIC, Bridge Company Bravo, 6th Engineer Support Battalion. “We’re one of only two bridge companies in country right now, so we work with engineers who may not have as much experience on bridges. We’ve had good success working with them in the past.”

Kristoff said he’s confident this project would be no exception. “The relationship between us and the Corps is very strong,” he said.

In addition to getting help from the Marines, the 216th Soldiers also received a three-day class on bridge building at Forward Operating Base Anaconda prior to starting the project. Sgt. First Class Abraham Johnson, 216th Engineer Company, 1st platoon sergeant, said a representative from commercial bridge makers Mabey Johnson joined them to answer any questions they had about the process. Rebuilding the bridge was a three-phase project, Johnson said. During the first phase, the Soldiers removed the temporary Mabey Johnson bridge that covered the holes in the main bridge. Next, the Iraqi workers placed beams over the gaps and put the Mabey Johnson bridge back in place to allow for two-lane traffic on the bridge. In the final part of the project, Johnson said, engineers replaced the Mabey Johnson bridge with asphalt.

“This is the main crossing over the Tigris River in this area,” Moening said. “It was bombed during the war and we’re retrofitting it to eventually give back to the Iraqi people. For now, the Mabey Johnson bridge will provide for the support for almost any military or civilian vehicle that needs to cross. If you’re hauling heavy equipment, this is the bridge you want,” Kristoff said. “It can be crossed by pretty much any heavy military vehicle.”

Dillenge of OHARNG engineers saves money

FORWARD OPERATING BASE DANGER, TIKRIT, Iraq—Efforts by an Ohio Army National Guard engineering unit deployed to Iraq under the 23rd Brigade Combat Team, Freedom II saved the 1st Infantry Division about $30,000.

The 1st ID was able to save the money when Charlie Company’s 2nd platoon, 3rd Engineer Combat Engineer Battalion, in April 2004 took on the project of building the Division Tactical Command Post (DTAC). The division would have had to hire a contractor had the engineers not been able to do the job. The money saved instead would be used for projects that directly benefit Iraqi, officials said.

Construction of the DTAC took about six days. But in a normal situation, the DTAC would be constructed within six hours and operational in 18 hours, said Maj. Larry Reeves of Fayetteville, Ga., the DTAC’s officer in charge, stationed with the 1st ID in Germany.

In addition to building the command post, the engineers, stationed at Forward Operating Base (FOB) Speicher, did the electrical wiring. The platoon of 31 Soldiers also built four 16-foot by 16-foot detainment structures that were attached to the main DTAC tent and served as dual purpose bunkers, said Sgt. First Class Timothy Lewis of Youngstown, the platoon’s noncommissioned officer in charge. “The engineers make this...a more livable and serviceable place to work,” Reeves said.

The 23rd BCT now houses several groups to include the division engineers, intelligence unit, fire support unit, aviation, air defense and communications, Reeves said, adding that about 100 people and 162 vehicles are on site.

The 216th Engineer Battalion brought more than 540 Soldiers in support of Operations Iraqi and Freedom II. When it landed in Iraq, the unit’s Soldiers were dispersed to more than five FOBs within Task Force Danger.

A car salesman from Cleveland, Spc. Joseph Reinert said his military job and the deployment had been a different experience compared to his civilian career. “At work I use the gift of gab, but here it’s physical labor,” Reinert said. CPL. PAULA WYDENSTRICKER / 1ST INFANTRY DIVISION PUBLIC AFFAIRS DETACHMENT

216TH ENGINEERS

SPC Aaron Maurice helps construct a tactical command post.

Engineers upgrade bases

Story by Sgt. Kimberly Snow
19th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

EDITORS NOTE: 1st Lt. Charles L. Wilkins, III, who is quoted in this article, was killed last August when an improvised explosive device detonated near the nuisance in which he was riding. See the memorial on page 28-29 for more on Wilkins and the first other Ohio National Guard Soldiers killed while serving in Iraq.

FORWARD OPERATING BASE DUKE, Iraq—ROME was not built in a day—but that may be because the Romans didn’t have the help of the Soldiers from the 216th Engineer Battalion.

When a task force from the 216th was needed to build a detention center and make improvements to one of the forward operating bases, Ohio’s engineers responded with quick efficiency. Later receiving the mission on a Sunday night, the engineers had the 2,000-person center up and running by Tuesday night.

Teambuilder South, the task force, was comprised of the 216th’s constructing observation and traffic control points, and creating earthen berms to protect the Soldiers from observation and direct and indirect fire. Eventually, they were to help build a helipad, roads within the camp, living areas and perhaps a gymnasium.

The engineers allowed the Army to resource from within rather than having to contract out to civilian workers, Talarico said. He added the engineers’ work was excellent. “The reason is because they’re National Guard guys who do this on the outside,” he said.

Staff Sgt. David Hall, a truck driver with Headquarters Support Company, 216th, explained how the Soldiers in his section cross train on everything, so that every Soldier in his platoon can operate just about any piece of equipment they have. An operations officer for a facilities maintenance company when he is a civilian, Hall explained that many of the 216th’s engineers have extensive experience in their civilian jobs.

“I have guys that own their own carpentry and construction businesses,” he said. “...you add all that experience together; it makes one hell of an engineer company.”

Hall said the engineers were excised for the opportunity to join the operation. “It’s what we want to do. The busier we are, the happier we are,” he said.

“We just want to get the job done. We’re not here to be heroes; we just want to get it done and get home. That’s what’s about.”

four companies, and Guard engineers from Wisconsin and North Dakota.

“We just finished here was the earthenwork, the horizontal work for a 2,000-man holding facility,” said 1st Lt. Charles L. Wilkins, III of A Company. The detention area consisted of roughly 5,000 feet of earth berms and a wall of triple-strand concertina wire.

“There was a lot of work involved, and with the wire, there’s a lot of physical labor,” he said. “A lot of it was done by hand. It was done in 48 hours. I don’t know if it’s a record but they did really well.”

The troops also worked on numerous smaller projects to improve living areas, boarded up windows to protect from the sand and wind, and set up latrines. Their next big project after those was to build a firing range for small arms and track vehicles, according to Capt. Thomas Waugh, Teambuilder South and A Company commander.

In addition, the Soldiers were tasked with doing force protection upgrades for the camp, said Capt. Ronald Talarico, assistant brigade engineer. The upgrades consisted primarily of placing concertina wire, building observation and traffic control points, and creating earth berms.

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Supporting the Force
371st CSG completes mission in Kuwait, returns home

Story and photo by Spc. Sherree Casper
196th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

In April 2003, the 371st Corps Support Group was assigned perhaps its most important mission to date—preparing thousands of troops on their way to war in Iraq. It also was the first time the Kettering-based unit deployed at a tenier command level, said Lt. Col. Michael E. Beasley, deputy group commander. The unit returned home from overseas in March 2004 after nearly a year of service in Kuwait.

In April 2003, more than 120 members of the 371st Corps Support Group (CSG) deployed to Kuwait and set up operations at Camp Virginia. The unit served as the corps support headquarters for the 3rd Corps Support Command (COSCOM), and then later served the 13th COSCOM. The unit also provided guidance, orders and plans to all Corps elements in Kuwait, the troops’ final stop before crossing the border into Iraq. The 371st CSG oversaw a personnel services battalion and three subordinate corps support battalions.

The 371st troops were in country a month before the president declared the end of major combat operations, Beasley said. When the unit arrived in country, it was responsible for the deployment of 4th Infantry Division Soldiers to Kuwait and Iraq. “We got in and made sure there was a steady flow of material, equipment and supplies to support the war effort,” Beasley said, noting that the 371st had offices in base camps throughout Kuwait and Iraq.

The 371st also was responsible for contracting services in Kuwait as well as managing everyone from laundry to food services. Beasley said Soldiers in the base camps in Kuwait can thank the 371st CSG for hot meals, showers and fresh desert camouflage uniforms. When the unit first arrived in country, Beasley said, it was almost solely overseeing transportation management.

“We have been very transport heavy in our mission,” said Maj. Maria E. Kelly, the unit’s operations, plans and training officer. The 371st CSG was tasked to convert light-medium truck companies to gun trucks for convoy missions, she said. The unit was also instrumental in establishing a training program for all transportation companies, as well as specific training for gun truck crews, she said. The training program was adopted and implemented for all units rotating into Southwest Asia for Operation Iraqi Freedom II.

“The Soldiers have accomplished each mission and met my expectations,” said Col. Rufus J. Smith, then-371st CSG commander. The broad mission given by V Corps allowed the 371st CSG a lot of latitude when providing critical support to subordinate elements, said Smith, who also served as V Corps commander of Kuwait. “Our mission was so diverse,” Smith said. “There were various entities from theater, 3rd Corps and 13th COSCOM that will pick up our missions.”

Smith said most of the combat service support units have been tasked with missions not within their doctrine.

When it came time to redeploy Soldiers to the United States, Beasley said the 371st helped Soldiers from the 3rd Infantry Division—“which fought the brunt of the war”—get home.

The 371st CSG processed about 60,000 Soldiers from the active Army, National Guard and Reserve for their return home after serving overseas, Beasley said. After arriving in Kuwait, 371st CSG Soldiers worked 17 consecutive weeks before getting their first day off, said 371st CSG Command Sgt. Major David G Collins.

“That’s a pretty significant sacrifice right there,” he said. The command sergeant major said the 371st CSG served as a liaison between the airport and shipyard in Kuwait.

“Every task they were assigned they perfected above the standard,” he said. “They were at the right place, at the right time in the right uniform.”

When the unit first arrived in Kuwait, about 11,500 Soldiers shared the various facilities there, waiting two hours to eat in the chow hall, use the showers and shop in the post exchange.

Thanks to all those Soldiers and Airmen who serve!
ALL GAVE SOME, SOME GAVE ALL

A Tribute to our Fallen Soldiers
Ohio Army National Guard

SGT Michael C. Barkey
1484th Transportation Company
Akron, Ohio

SGT Barkey, 22, of Canal Fulton, Ohio; assigned to the 1484th Transportation Company, Army National Guard, Akron, Ohio, killed July 7, 2004, when a tire was shot out on the military vehicle in which he was riding, the driver lost control and the vehicle turned over in Ramadi, Iraq.

PFC Samuel R. Bowen
216th Engineer Battalion
Hamilton, Ohio

PFC Bowen, 38, of Cleveland; assigned to the 216th Engineer Battalion, Army National Guard, Hamilton, Ohio; killed July 7, 2004, when a rocket-propelled grenade exploded near his vehicle in Samarra, Iraq.

SPC Todd M. Bates
135th Military Police Company
Brook Park, Ohio

SPC Bates, 20, of Beaver, Ohio; assigned to the 135th Military Police Company, Army National Guard based in Brook Park, Ohio. Bates was on a river patrol on the Tigris River Dec. 10, 2003, when his squad leader fell overboard. He dove into the water after his squad leader, Staff Sgt. Aaron T. Reese, but did not surface.

SPC Ryan A. Martin
216th Engineer Battalion
Chillicothe, Ohio

SPC Martin, 22, of Mount Vernon, Ohio; assigned to the 216th Engineer Battalion, Army National Guard, Chillicothe, Ohio; killed Aug. 20, 2004, when an improvised explosive device exploded near his vehicle near Samarra, Iraq.

1LT Charles L. Wilkins III
216th Engineer Battalion
Chillicothe, Ohio

1LT Wilkins, 38, of Columbus, Ohio; assigned to the 216th Engineer Battalion, Army National Guard, Chillicothe, Ohio; killed Aug. 20, 2004, when an improvised explosive device exploded near his vehicle near Samarra, Iraq.

SSG Aaron T. Reese
135th Military Police Company
Brook Park, Ohio

SSG Reese, 31, of Reynoldsburg, Ohio; assigned to the 135th Military Police Company, Army National Guard based in Brook Park, Ohio, killed while on patrol Dec. 10, 2003, when he fell into the Tigris River south of Baghdad.

SSG Ryan J. Wilkes
135th Military Police Company
Brook Park, Ohio

SSG Wilkes, 22, of Columbus, Ohio; assigned to the 135th Military Police Company, Army National Guard based in Brook Park, Ohio, killed Aug. 20, 2004, when an improvised explosive device exploded near his vehicle near Samarra, Iraq.
Ohio field artillerymen: GUARDing Europe

Story by Cpl. Susan James
Joint Force Headquarters-Ohio

When they deployed in February 2004 in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, not only did the 47th Soldiers of the 1st Battalion, 143rd Field Artillery Regiment have to leave their friends and families behind, but also their howitzers.

Since December 2002, Army National Guard members supported Task Force Reaper Sentinel, a mission to help secure military installations around the globe. Soldiers of the 1-143rd Field Artillery had been to Iraq for a year. Some had been in their military Occupational Specialty (MOS), the artillerymen focused their once-a-month military-specific training on Soldier-common tasks and gun-lane and fire direction safety tests—tasks in which the Soldiers must qualify annually to maintain their certifications as field artillery troops.

“We are trained to fire field artillery on any terrain,” said Capt. Thomas D. Dement, 1Bn. guidon commander. “But training on this mission was different. We had to train for a year to train the other day.”

Capt. Kevin Brodzinski, F Battery, commander, whose troops were primarily stationed in Vicenza, Italy, said the mission in Europe allowed the unit to come together much more than it had just by training on weekends and a few weeks a year. He felt any upcoming deployment to a trouble spot would find the unit in better shape. “The only part of their jobs they weren’t doing,” Brodzinski continued, “was firing the howitzers.”

The Guard’s support allowed the 100th Air Refueling Wing, Royal Air Force Base (RAF) Mildenhall, England, to function with enough to implement its Selectively Trained and Readied, or STAR, program, where staff sergeants and below are pulled from their normal jobs to augment security forces.

“The wing has no idea about the impact these guys have made,” said Capt. Paul Harris, 100th Security Forces Squadron commander. “The posts they fill are the same posts STAR troops would have to fill. There are sections and offices that would not be as far down the road as they are without these Soldiers.”

The guardsmen not only helped RAF Mildenhall units to accomplish their missions, but they also made it possible for 100th Security Forces Squadron members to work eight-hour shifts, instead of the 12-hour shifts the Airmen routinely pulled prior to the augmentation.

Soldiers stationed in Belgium realized how impressed the Belgian citizens were to have them on their homelands on July 30, 2004. When a police raid by Belgian emergency respond- ers in Ghislenghein erupted into flames, members of Task Force Reaper Sentinel helped the victims, controlled traffic and searched the area for casualties.

When they got there it was still a little hectic, said Pvt. 1st Class Demitiso Bradford, Service Battery, 1-143rd. One of the civilian Emer-
gency Medical Technicians asked them to go through a wheat field and look for casualties. “They needed us to do the field sweep which is what we do when we have a police call,” said Sgt. Alan Stiles, also with Service Battery.

“We freed somebody else up who was more in touch with the situation,” said Spc. Matthew Scarc. “We freed them up to do something more important. So, we still did an important job. Sometimes that’s part of the job description and you’ve got to accept it,” the Service Battery artilleryman continued. The task force Soldiers working the disaster quickly saw that the Belgians very much appreciated their presence. “It was very impressed by the way they accepted us when we walked on the scene,” Stiles said. “They got us someone who spoke English because we have the language barrier. They broke that time for general Army and they said, ‘This is what we need to do.’ Everybody worked as a team. They had everything set up just the way it should go.

“It seemed everybody was happy to see us,” Scarc said. “I guess if I were on the other side, I would have said something (thankful) if another country came over here to help us. And I kind of noticed that look on a couple people’s face. They were just happy to see us."

“I saw the same thing,” Sgt. Philip Waldren said, “but I didn’t get that vibe until later. Like, ‘We had some help here and maybe they’re not after all.’ It might be that down the road, they’ll be helping us out.”

On June 24, six Task Force Reaper Sentinel Soldiers stationed at RAF Mildenhall—F Battery Staff Sgts. Justin Eriett and Brian Maxwell, Unangst, Spcs. Benjamin Albert and David LaPlante, and Pfc. Shawn Wheeler, and a Battery Spc. Aaron Stark—identified and apprehended three Iraqi Kurds attempting to gain entry on to the base in the back of a semi-truck.

The successful search of the vehicle at the main gate to the base, one of the soldiers heard suspicious noises coming from inside the truck, looking for an increase of security in the search a-
cility. Once secure, the trailer was opened and three men, aged 18 to 26, were found with their baggage and a limited supply of food. The three were detained and searched by task force Soldiers before being turned over to U.S. Air Force and British Ministry of Defense offi-
cials for questioning. The stowaways’ explanation was that they were seeking diplomatic asylum, but it is feasible to imagine how danger-
ous the situation could have become had the Iraqis had malicious intent and gained access to the base.

For nearly a year, these Citizen-Soldiers from Ohio guarded the gates of Army and Air Force bases in the United Kingdom, Italy, Netherlands, Belgium, Germany and Turkey. The welcome home for these Soldiers on Dec. 8, 2004, also meant an end to the overall two-
year Task Force Reaper Sentinel mission that was supported by Na-
tional Guard units from throughout the United States.

“The world’s going back to being field artillery as soon as we get back,” Rogers said prior to coming home. “And we’ve got some new equip-
ment to train on.”

Working with the Air Force has been great, C Battery Sgt. Robert Shattuck said prior to the December homecoming. “It’s been fun, and I’ve done a lot of travelling, but I just got married before I deployed, so I can’t wait to get home.”

“It is easy to do this job when the people we’re working with are so appreciative of what we’re doing,” said Roose. “We will miss the cama-
raderie and friendship that’s developed between Army and Air Force personnel but we are, of course, anxious to get home to our families and careers.”

The Ohio National Guard had more than 3,600 members mobilized for the Global War on Terror, as of mid-January 2005. “The Soldiers of the 1-143rd have performed their duties defending against and deterring potential security threats to U.S. military bases in Europe with honor and distinction,” said Brig. Gen. Ronald G. Young, then-Ohio’s assist-
tant adjutant general for Army. “We recognize that they and their families made significant sacrifices while they were away from home.

We appreciate the enduring support which our communities have shown for our Citizen-Soldiers and their families.”

EDITOR’S NOTE: Members of the 196th Mobile Public Affairs De-
tachment (Rear) contributed to this article.

SFC Glenn Barber of F Battery, 1-143rd Field Artillery Battalion, embraces a loved one Dec. 8 at a homecoming ceremony, after a nine-month force protection mission in Europe.

BUCKEYE GUARD WINTER 2004/2005
BG Miroslaw Rozmus (second from right), presents Ohio's BG Tod Carmony (third from left), commanding general of Multi-National Brigade (East), with a ceremonial gift during a Polish-Ukrainian Battalion change-of-command.

Cpl. Susan James JFHQ-Ohio Special Forces, 364th MPAD (ISR) Spec. Chad Menegay, 196th MPAD (Rear)

While the nightly news focuses on U.S. armed forces serving in Iraq and Afghanistan, Soldiers from the Ohio National Guard continue to execute other important missions worldwide. Assignment in Kosovo, 1998 Ohio Army National Guardmembers, from more than a dozen units throughout Ohio, conducted peacekeeping operations for the Kosovo Force (KFOR) 6A rotation. Most of the troops belong to the 37th Armor Brigade, the largest combat arms organization in the Ohio Army National Guard. For many of these Soldiers, it is the second time they have been mobilized since 9-11; for other 37th Soldiers, it is a third deployment in that time frame.

Kosovo continues to be a major peacekeeping operation, requiring thousands of Soldiers to fulfill the ongoing mission. “It’s a mission that started here,” said 1st Lt. Dustin Debelohof, referring to the Dayton Peace Accords, signed in 1995, that ended a four-year war in Bosnia among Muslims, Croats and Serbs. “It's good to continue the mission,” said the member of Headquarter’s and Headquarter Troop, 2-107th Cavalry, located in Beavercreek.

Just because the peacekeeping rotations to KFOR have been continuing for years doesn’t mean it is one of the safest deployments. “Where we are going, ethnic cleansing and genocide are real,” stated Lt. Col. John C. Harris Jr., 2-107th squadron commander, before the deployment. “If we were to pull out (today) thousands of people would per-...
"Lest We Forget..."
37th Vets Association dedicates new monument honoring sacrifices of Buckeye Division

Members of the 37th Division Veterans Association and others honor the new monument dedicated in August 2004.

Story by Spec. Chad Menegay
19th MPAD (Rear)

Exactly 50 years ago, to the day, retired Maj. Gen. Robert S. Beightler, Commander of the 37th Infantry Division throughout World War II, unveiled a sandstone monument at a small park in Columbus that honored the division’s service throughout three major conflicts of the 20th Century.

Five decades later, on Aug. 22, 2004, members of the 37th Infantry Division Veterans Association unveiled a new bronze and granite monument to replace the original one—which had deteriorated significantly over the years—in that same park at the geographic heart of Ohio, a fitting location to honor the “Buckeye” Division, which drew its Soldiers from all corners of the state.

The 37th ID—an all Ohio Army National Guard division—was formed in 1917 for combat service during World War I. Veterans returning from that war formed the 37th Division Veterans Association (DVA), in order to assist the widows and families of Soldiers who died while serving their country.

The 37th ID was reactivated in October 1940 for training at Camp Shelby, Miss. The unit then deployed to the South Pacific theater in 1942 to stop the southeast advance of the Japanese Empire in World War II. Buckeye Division Soldiers helped win key battles in the Philippines, including the liberation of Manila.

During the Korean War, the division deployed to Fort Polk, La., but some individuals were sent overseas to fight in Korea. The division was deactivated on Feb. 15, 1968.

“This monument represents the fallen individuals from all three of those wars,” said retired Col. Cyril Sedlacko, 37th Infantry Division Veterans Association executive secretary.

According to Sedlacko, the drive to replace the deteriorating sandstone monument began two years ago when Robert Carpenter, who was present at the first monument dedication ceremony, wrote to Sedlacko’s attention that the original monument was in bad condition and needed to be replaced. Through the generosity of living 37th DVA members as well as many widows, family members and friends, more than $18,000 was raised to purchase a solid granite stone weighing 6,500 pounds, a bronze plaque, a new flag pole and a roadside sign to inform passersby of the monument in the park.

“This granite stone will stand the test of time and will physically perpetuate the legacy and heritage of the 37th Division well into the future,” Sedlacko said.

Retired Maj. Gen. David Hartley, currently deputy director of joint operations for the Ohio Adjutant General’s Department, presented the keynote address. Hartley is a former commander of the 37th Armor Brigade, which carries the colors and lineage of the 37th ID. Units of the 37th Armor Brigade recently served in Kosovo.

Attending the ceremony were four war veterans and members of the Mahoning Valley Chapter of the 37th DVA—James McGinnis, Brownie Shafie, Edgar Davis and William Skelly—who were present at the first ceremony in 1954.

“Ohio is very proud of this division, most notably its wartime accomplishments, and its contributions to the values and ideals so courageously and bravely held close by its members and their families,” Hartley said. “More importantly, Ohio is proud of the 37th Division’s Soldiers, who have bravely fought and died to further the cause for freedom and democracy.”

The Aug. 22 ceremony held in Hilliard Township Memorial Park—exactly 50 years after the first ceremony—dedicated a sturdy, new monument; one that would ensure that Ohio’s storied “Buckeye” Division is not soon forgotten in the annals of American history.

Veterans Association changes eligibility, offers benefits

The National World War II Memorial dedication ceremony, which took place in May 2004 in Washington, D.C., was a long overdue opportunity to honor the American forces who served in the global conflict that lasted from 1939 to 1945. For 44 veterans of the famed “Buckeye Division,” it was a reverent setting for their 86th Annual Reunion.

Though 53 others—primarily family and friends—also attended the reunion, the 37th Division Veterans Association recognizes that its membership continues to dwindle with each passing year.

In an effort to boost its numbers, the Association changed its by-laws governing membership at the 2003 reunion at Camp Perry. Previously, “Active and Life Memberships” were reserved for “any person who served honorably in any unit of the 37th Infantry Division, in any status, from its inception on July 18, 1917, until its deactivation on Feb. 15, 1968.”

Now, persons who served or who are serving honorably in any “Heritage Unit” of the 37th Infantry Division—mainly comprised of those subordinate units of the Ohio Army National Guard’s 37th Armor Brigade—also may be eligible for membership upon application and payment of dues. Spouses, widows and all descendants of eligible applicants can submit for membership as well. The 37th DVA Executive Committee determines individuals’ eligibility status.

The benefits of membership are many—including a quarterly newsletter, reunions, social functions and the 37th DVA Scholarship Grant Program. This year, 14 applicants were awarded scholarship grants in the amount of $500.

The most significant reward for membership, however, is keeping the association, and the memory of the Ohio National Guard’s most honorable unit, alive for future generations to appreciate.

Questions regarding the 37th DVA can be directed to (614) 228-3788 Mondays and Wednesdays from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

37th ID: WWII

37th DVA Membership Application Form
35 E. Chestnut Street, Room 425, Columbus, Ohio 43215

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Navigating a new MOS


They say you can’t teach an old dog new tricks. But with the help of the Ohio Army National Guard’s 145th Regiment, Regional Training Institute, seasoned Soldiers are mastering the skills of a new MOS.

In fact, last summer about 20 Soldiers spent two weeks proving their proficiency as cavalry scouts and graduated from the 19 Delta military occupational specialty reclassification course.

The 19D reclassification course is one of many courses offered by the RTI, located at Rickenbacker Army Enclave in Columbus. Each year about 100 Soldiers from a five-state region that encompasses Ohio, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota and Wisconsin, annually train on and graduate from a variety of courses, such as the 19D, 19K and 145 reclassification courses, basic and advanced NCO courses, Officer Candidate School, Janus and combat lifesaver courses.

About 75 students have graduated from the RTI’s 19D course since it began three years ago. Last year’s class was particularly significant, however, because the Quality Assurance Office at Fort Knox, Ky., evaluated the course as part of the RTI’s national accreditation process.

Cavalry scouts, aka 19 Deltas, are the eyes and ears of the Army; their mission—reconnaissance. In order to become a fully-trained scout, students must complete the RTI’s multiphase 19D course, which is composed of six months of individual training weekends and a two-week annual training at Camp Grayling, Mich.

Sgt. Maj. Stephen Machin, the RTI operations sergeant major, explained that during the weapons phase, Soldiers learn how to operate and shoot the weapons that are a part of a scout squad, such as the MK19 grenade launcher, M-40 machine gun, M-2 machine gun and the M-203 grenade launcher. Next, they receive instruction on demolitions and must master disassembling landmines. The maintenance phase teaches them to maintain their weapons, equipment and vehicles. In addition, they must recognize friendly and enemy vehicles and aircraft.

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The 121st Civil Engineering Squadron, based at Rickenbacker Airport in Columbus, sent 26 personnel in May 2004 to Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., to assist the Army’s 557th Engineer Battalion with several construction projects to improve the installation’s heavy equipment training area. That particular training area is a true joint services complex, as all branches train there on various pieces of heavy equipment, according to Maj. Mike Troxel, 121st Civil Engineering Squadron commander.

The training projects included a new warm-up building for the bulldozer operations site and three sunshades—for the compressor site, roller site and Army loader site. In addition, 121st electricians installed four separate underground electrical services to buildings throughout the complex, and nearly completed a lightning protection project for another large storage-training building.

“The deployment was a win-win situation for all,” Troxel said. “The CE squadron received invaluable training in areas that they cannot train on at home, while the Army received much-needed assistance in providing quality of life services to the students they support.

“And the (121st CE) personnel (who) deployed gained memories to last a lifetime,” Troxel said.
Senior Airman Anthony Hanson
Air Surveillance/Interface Control Technician, 123rd Air Control Squadron, Blue Ash

Tech. Sgt. Elizabeth Brocklehurst
Recruiter Specialist, 220th Engineering Installation Squadron, Zanesville

Master Sgt. Ottis LeMaster
Military Support Group First Sergeant, 178th Fighter Wing, Springfield

Sergeant Richard Bennett
Informaiton Manager, 269th Combat Communications Squadron, Springfield

Sgt. John Chupa
Infantry Noncommissioned Officer, B Company, 1-148th Infantry Battalion, Bowling Green

Spc. Francis Martynowski
Parachute Rigger, 234th Aviation Battalion, Columbus

**Ohio’s Best**

The best Soldiers, Airmen, noncommissioned and junior commissioned officers in the Ohio Army and Air National Guard from 2003 were selected and announced in 2004. The people chosen were deemed among the best and brightest in their career paths from among the 15,000 men and women in the Ohio Guard. Winners for calendar year 2004 were announced in early 2005 and will be featured in a future issue of the Buckeye Guard.

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Senior NCO of the Year - Senior NCO of the Year

Senior NCO of the Year - Airman of the Year

Traditional NCO of the Year - Traditional NCO of the Year

Traditional Soldier of the Year - Traditional Soldier of the Year

Ohio National Guard

Ohio Army National Guard

Ohio Soldiers face challenges of regions


These Soldiers competed against six other states that make up the 1st Army West Region. All Soldiers competed in several events: individual weapons qualification (IWQ),Common Task Testing (CTT), Army Physical Fitness Test (APFT), written exam, land navigation, written essay, mystery event and appearance board (in Class A uniform).

Both Soldiers went away with a greater appreciation of what it means to compete at the regional level. They learned how fierce the competition is, and how stressful those three days can be. The weather, as usual, did not cooperate for IWQ, land navigation or CTT. The temperature hovered around 37 degrees and it rained continually throughout that day. However, on the day of the APFT the weather cleared, and it bode well for Chupa, who was the only competitor to max the event with a perfect score.

The Ohio National Guard Enlisted Association (ONGEA) recognized each Soldier at the organization’s state conference, held in May near Cleveland, by presenting them with several awards and gifts.

“I would be honored to serve with these outstanding Soldiers any time, any place,” said Command Sgt. Maj. Bill Gilliam, OHARNG state command sergeant major. “Congratulations to Spec. Martynowski and Sgt. Chupa for their outstanding achievements and also to their leadership, who encouraged them to achieve at this level.”
1-107th Armor Soldiers train at Fort Bragg, N.C.

The Ohio Army National Guard’s 1-107th Armor Battalion trained in their tank busters for a lighter version in preparation for a deployment to Iraq. All members of the unit were excited about going to help Iraqis. Some of our Soldiers last year said they were ready.

In January 2005, all members of the unit were ready. The Soldiers learned the valuable lessons with the 30th Enhanced Separate Battalion. The Ohio National Guard Enlisted Association Auxiliary said, “With so many of our ONGEA members currently deployed and with additional deployments imminent, I encourage all spouses to join the Auxiliary in order to better support our troops and to serve as a source of comfort for one another.”

Soldiers of the 1-107th Armor Battalion were ready.

Buckeye briefs

ONG hasn’t forgotten its hometown missions

The Ohio National Guard Enlisted Association is looking for its members’ support. ONGEA is the voice for Ohio’s Soldiers and Airmen. As a member of the U.S. Armed Services, you stand up for what you believe.

Now help the ONGEA and the Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States (EANGUS) stand up for your rights and benefits as a servicemember. This was the message at the association’s annual conference conducted in 2004 near Cleveland. The larger the organization’s membership numbers, the more collective power it has to work with Congress to enact legislation favorable to the Guard.

While we have answered the call, we must remain vigilant to our own organizational needs,” said Command Sgt. Maj. William L. Gilliam, Ohio Army National Guard state command sergeant major. “Your membership helps turn up the volume on issues that affect all of our enlisted personnel, whether deployed or at home. The more voices that are heard to recommend these changes and improvements for our service personnel, the more successes we can have. If you are already a member of ONGEA and EANGUS, discuss the benefits of membership to another individual in your unit and get them to join. Our most valuable resource is our people, so we must strive to take care of their needs.”

Spouses of servicemembers have come together to support ONGEA by joining the Ohio National Guard Enlisted Association Auxiliary. “With so many of our ONGEA members currently deployed and with additional deployments imminent, I encourage all spouses to join the Auxiliary in order to better support our troops and to serve as a source of comfort for one another,” said Nancy J. McDowell, ONGEA Auxiliary President.

For more information on ONGEA or to become a member, go to www.ongea.org on the Internet, or call (800) 642-6642.

Equally as important is to maintain unit cohesion, and establish work environment for military members free of discrimination and harassment. To accomplish this goal of a discrimination- and harassment-free environment, the Guard Bureau (NGB) enacted the Equal Opportunity (EO) Program. The objective of this program is to formulate, direct, and sustain a comprehensive effort that ensures fair treatment of all Soldiers.

“Equal Opportunity in all our employment programs and diversity at all levels of the workforce is a firm commitment of the Adjutant General’s Department and the Ohio National Guard,” said Maj. Gen. Gregory L. Wayt, state adjutant general. “In addition to fair treatment and equal access to employment opportunities, we must build and perpetuate a culture that values the diversity our employees bring to the organization.”

Since 9-11, guard members have been deployed more than 200 times.

Not only do they interact with other service members throughout the world, but they deploy to countries with cultural values and cultures, and their job is to maintain peace with people from different cultures. It is very important that these Citizen-Soldiers understand that there are differences in another person’s belief system and they need to learn how to adjust and accept another’s values. This is an important contribution the EO program makes to its servicemembers.

Freedom Tree

Log on to www.ohionationalguard.com to voice your opinions on Army programs that affect you and your family members.

First Lady of Ohio Hope Taft announces the “On the Ohio Homefront” initiative to help families of deployed servicemembers

In response to the outpouring of love and concern by Ohioans for the families of military personnel who have recently been deployed, First Lady of Ohio Hope Taft has created the “On the Ohio Homefront” initiative.

Taft announced the launching of her new website, www.hoomefront.ohio.gov, on November 13 in St. Mary’s at the send-off ceremony for Company A, 617th Engineer Battalion, which deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The purpose of the project is to connect families of deployed servicemembers with a network of organizations and businesses that offer volunteer assistance and discounted services to help ease the family burden while they are away supporting the nation in the Global War on Terrorism.

Volunteers can help out with everything from home repairs to cooking. “Volunteers can help out with every- thing from lawn care to home repairs, even cooking,” Taft said. “I am proud to be a part of this effort to give a helping hand to our Ohio military personnel who are actively serving our country.”

Several businesses and organizations have already registered, offering various services. Families of military personnel can access these services by browsing the list of organizations, searching by county or family member, and then accessing the service provider’s website.

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First Lady’s website links families with services

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Ohio Army National Guard Scourers are among those who competed in the Marksmanship Advisory Council Region 4 matches last summer at Camp Perry. Ohio shooters compete in MAC Region 4 matches

Ohio Army National Guard par- ticipated in the Marksmanship Advisory Council (MAC) Region 4 matches last summer. The rifle match was held June 12 at Camp Perry. Team members—Ohio, Michigan and Indiana—competed.

Some states had more than one team competing. Indiana’s gold team won the competition; Ohio’s No. 1 team placed fourth.

Buckeye briefs

GuardCare is hosted in a differ- ent medically underserved Ohio community each year. This marked the first time that GuardCare reached out to an urban commu- nity. Guardsmen/admins created a record-setting week for an urban pa- tients over the two weekends; nearly 75 percent of patients were children. Medics provided services such as physicals, immunizations, blood work, and hearing, eye and dental exams. Follow-up is coordinated by the county health department, which, along with the Ohio Depart- ment of Health, are partners with the Ohio Guard in this endeavor.

“WE realize a great number of people are not getting the checkups they need. We make sure they’re up to date health wise, and let them know where they stand,” said 1st Lt. Bernie Anderson, officer-in-charge of the mission. “They also get to come and see us do what we do as Citizen-Soldiers. We’re doing the same for them as we do for our Soldiers.”

In 2005, GuardCare will be visiting Wauseon in the Northwest Ohio area.

Ohio Army National Guard Scourers are among those who competed in the Marksmanship Advisory Council Region 4 matches last summer at Camp Perry.

612th joins other engineering units supporting Global War on Terror

On a day to remember those military veter- ans who have paid the ultimate sacrifice for freedom as well as those currently serving, a young soldier stood at a door holding a red rose near his camouflaged uniform as he saluted for his loved ones following a funeral cer- emony for elements of the 612th En- gineer Battalion.

The sergeant, a member of Company C of the 612th, spent Veterans Day paying respect to the sacrifice of those that went before him—his fellow soldiers in his own sendoff ceremony on the eve of the unit’s deployment to Iraq. More than 100 family members joined him at Camp Perry, as well as joining his fellow Soldiers in their own sendoff ceremony on the eve of the unit’s deployment. The event was attended by three states—Ohio, Michigan, and Indiana, making it the Ohio Army National Guard’s first time in a while is unbelievable,” said Davis as she directed guests to parking areas. She and Cottingham were assigned to welcome the guests for the unit’s return home.

The unit was notified in April 2004 that it would be extended for about 90 days be- yond its one-year “boots on the ground,” making it the Ohio Army National Guard unit with the longest deployment in Iraq to date. Prior to this mobilization, the unit was called up after the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks to Alaska for Army National Guard support during Operation Noble Eagle at Ohio airports and Fort Bragg, N.C. They were also mobilized for Opera- tion Desert Shield/Desert Storm in 1990.

The unit’s diligence paid off as it re- ceived an excellent rating, the sec- ond highest rating a unit can earn. That rating meant the 612th’s overall performance or operation exceeds mis- sion requirements in areas such as the unit’s initial response, employment, mission support and ability to operate in a national emergency or war-time situation.

About 860 Airmen from the 180th from the 180th's overall Operational Readiness In-

The 180th FW's primary mission is to provide free health ser- vices while contributing to the Guard’s military training in medical services. National Guard medics from across Ohio convened on two separate weekends in August at the Lucas County Health Depart- ment in Toledo for the 11th annual GuardCare program.

The 323rd Military Police Company supported the traveling Dignity Military Vietnam Wall Experience that was on display July 2-4 in Toledo. After a request for support from Ottawa Hills Memorial Park, the event’s local hosts, CPT Jeffrey Buck (above), company commander, and the unit worked overtime setting up a replica of the wall on Buckeye soil.

The 323rd Military Police Company supported the traveling Dignity Military Vietnam Wall Experience that was on display July 2-4 in Toledo. After a request for support from Ottawa Hills Memorial Park, the event’s local hosts, CPT Jeffrey Buck (above), company commander, and the unit worked overtime setting up a replica of the wall on Buckeye soil.

Ohio Army National Guard Scourers are among those who competed in the Marksmanship Advisory Council Region 4 matches last summer at Camp Perry.

The 180th FW's primary mission is to support units capable of deployment rapidly worldwide in the event of a na- tional emergency or war.

Equipped with the F-16/CD Figh- ting Falcon jet fighter, the unit trains to employ conventional air-to-surface and air-to-air weapons against targets of precision guided munitions and air-to-air weapons against targets of precision guided munitions.
Ohio Military Hall of Fame inducts Air Guard member

To be inducted into a hall of fame is a tremendous honor. It means that you are the “best of the best,” have overcome a great challenge, and have brought great respect and admiration to those in your profession.

This is the case with Master Sgt. Stephen Thompson from the 178th Fighter Wing Civil Engineering Squadron, Springfield. On May 7, Thompson was inducted into the Ohio Military Hall of Fame. On average, only 12 people receive the award each year. To become eligible for this distinction, the recipient must have either been born in the state of Ohio or spent an extended amount of time in Ohio and must have earned a U.S. military medal for valor.

Thompson was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with “V” Device for serving in the Air Guard in the Vietnam War. To read more about Thompson’s valorous actions on July 23, 1970, check out www.ohioheroes.org or visit the permanent Ohio Military Hall of Fame exhibit at Motts Military Museum in Groveport.

MSGT GREG HUGH - 178TH FIGHTER WING

Retired Airman receives promotion to Ohio EMA post


As Ohio OEMA president, Dragani leads the state’s coordinated response to both man-made and natural disasters, ad-

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Reserve Pay for 4 Drill Periods
Unofficial Copy (Effective Jan. 1, 2005)

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ONSP now offers online registration option
On Line Registration is as Easy as 1...2...3...

1. **Loc On**
   - Visit www.ongsp.org and enter your user-name and password.

2. **Select your action**
   - Term Renewal
   - Check Application Status
   - Change of Application

3. **Complete your Term Application**

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The guardmember's access to Internet cafés, digital photographs, cell phones, video teleconferencing and other things unheard of during previous wars.

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Buckeye Guard  Winter 2004 / 2005

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